



## Skate. Shoot. Soar! into 2022

### Support for Hope/Agassiz Communities

Everyone knows that BC faced recent adversity with numerous mudslides and flooding. What you may not know is we had 47 TBird members from across two teams caught out in the Hope/Agassiz area. These amazing communities made sure that everyone, including our group, had food, provided shelter and in general kept spirits up as everyone involved all dealt with very little information and a tremendous amount of uncertainty. If your travels in the future take you through this area, if time allows we would love for you to plan a lunch/gas fill up/quick snack stop at the local convenience or grocery store so we can show our thanks for their generosity as they continue to recover.

### Food Bank Drive

So far we have collected 22 boxes of food and raised \$1015 in cash donations as part of the TBirds Annual Food Bank Drive. Online donations will be accepted until December 31. The Food Bank is able to turn every \$1 cash donation into \$3 of food - so far we have raised \$1015 or \$3045 in food through our online link. If you haven't already supported the food bank elsewhere, please consider joining the TBird drive and [click here to donate](#).

### Covid Protocol Updates

We anticipate there may be some additional information around the restrictions in the coming days/weeks. We will do our best to keep everyone apprised as soon as we are able to, but a reminder that we are not the ones making the rules and we do need to wait until we are provided the information from viaSport and/or our sport governing bodies. We ask that families who are travelling internationally over the break continue to monitor the [federal government website](#) to know how your personal situation needs to be managed and keep your team manager updated if your TBird attendance is impacted.



The past couple of days has shown us we are not quite through listening to press conferences or reading about new PHO orders. While we continue to have new challenges to face, we have also learned that we can overcome whatever comes our way. We don't know what new restrictions or shifts we will be facing over the coming days and weeks, but we know we have enormous capacity within our group to manage and maximize whatever we can do within the rules.

We have just passed the half way mark of the season, and there have been some awesome moments! We have hosted two outstanding tournaments - thanks Betty! We have welcomed almost 200 new TBird family members across all divisions. We have continued to grow our partnerships within the community and with businesses including renewing our sponsorship with Scotiabank for another three years. We have also had a chance to remember what it's like to celebrate as a bigger group at things like the TBirds Minor Hockey Night at the Canucks where we had 348 TBird players, families and friends in attendance.

I want to take a moment to thank all of our parents who are finding ways to stay positive and keep the focus on allowing the players to love the game - no matter what is showing on the scoreboard. It's not always easy, but it is so important in ensuring that players want to go to the rink - now and when they are 60.

We will be involved in a few exciting initiatives in the new year. The First Shift program will be led by Gary Hunter and Jeff Churchill and will give 30 brand new hockey players a chance to play for the first time. Thunder-NO-Ball '22 will return for a second consecutive virtual event. We are already receiving some amazing auction items that we can't wait to share with you in January. And we are planning for our biggest Family Day U6-U9 Tournament in February.

For now, I hope you all get a chance to take a bit of a break. Enjoy some time with friends and family, and please stay safe.

Happy Holidays everyone!

Tanya Foley, Executive Director  
[tfoley@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:tfoley@vancouverbirds.ca)

## Volunteer Opportunities

Our association relies on our families to volunteer throughout the season. A refundable \$75 fee is collected during registration that is returned once 1) a minimum of three hours of volunteering per player is done for the association (ie roles signed up for on the Volunteer portal) AND 2) some type of support is given to their team. These are two separate elements with the same goal - creating a strong environment that will allow our players to develop both on and off the ice.

Division Ambassadors, team coaches and managers are automatically accounted for as they cover off far more hours than the base requirement, but all other families do need to look for ways to get involved.

We hope everyone is helping their team in some way already but if you have simply been coming and going to the rink, and hopefully cheering loudly, check with your team manager how you can help. Many things do not require hockey knowledge and most don't take a lot of time, but everyone needs to participate in making their team as great an experience as it can be - it is not only up to the team staff to make that happen.

In every newsletter we provide examples of current volunteer opportunities that are required for association programs that can be signed up for on our [Volunteer portal](#). The portal is how we track if people have achieved their minimum three volunteer hours for the association element, so it is important to ensure you use the portal to sign up to help. Many roles can be filled by U15 or U18 players so their parents can sign up for them as it is only parents who are listed in the portal, but those hours will go to the family.

You are able to volunteer for any role that interests you and fits your schedule as your help is not limited to the division of your player(s). Often times it works better to volunteer for a division that needs help at a time/day that doesn't conflict with your own player's schedule. We are currently recruiting for a number of programs including Thunder-NO-Ball, First Shift, and the Family Day Tournament with [more information here](#).

## viaSport Newsletter

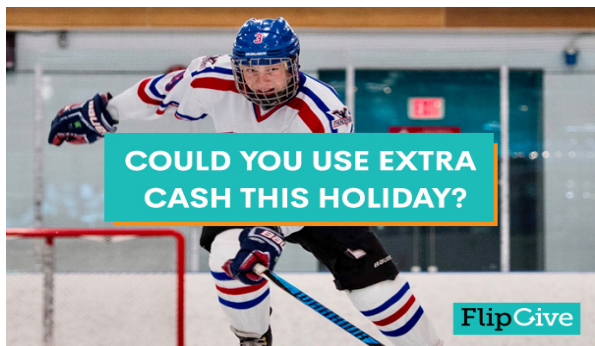
viaSport BC is the provincial body recognized by the BC government to provide oversight to the sport community. In their December newsletter they have included a few items of interest to our TBird community - [click here](#) to read more about their December contest, a chance for women and girls to try para ice hockey, and your chance to volunteer at an international hockey event.

## Send us your pics!

Each team has great stories within their group - on and off the ice. Help us celebrate them with you by sharing the information, videos and pictures with our Communications Specialist, Taylor, [via email](#).

If each team has one or two parents who want to be the team official communications volunteers who sends a couple pictures/stories each week, imagine how much of our TBird story we can share!

## Get the Gift of Free Money this Season!



It's no secret that the holiday season can be expensive. Between the many presents for family and friends, food for your big dinner and travel to see loved ones, the toll it takes on your budget can be overwhelming at times. Thankfully, we've partnered with FlipGive to help Vancouver Thunderbirds families raise money for their team just through making everyday purchases, and of course, holiday spending as well.

Did you know that multiple Thunderbirds teams have already earned over \$300 in just two months? Don't miss the chance to capitalize on earning big for your team over the holiday season.

You might be wondering, "How does FlipGive work?" Teams can earn cash back toward expenses, balance the budget, accept fee payments, open a team bank account, and more. Managers and parents save time and energy while lowering the cost to play.

And to help kickstart your earnings, all Vancouver Thunderbirds teams are eligible for a matching grant. Sign up for FlipGive today and receive a bonus \$100 when you raise \$100! See Terms & Conditions.

We've created your team for you - all you have to do is claim it and invite your roster. [Click here to start earning instantly!](#)

**Thunderbird teams have raised over \$20,000 using FlipGive over the past three seasons!**

## Winter Break Contact

Our Thunderbird office will be closed from Monday, December 20 to Monday, January 3 inclusive. During this time, emails to Audrey and Tanya will be monitored occasionally for urgent needs. All other messages will be answered when the office re-opens on January 4.

## 50/50 Draws @ World Jrs

BC Hockey has been given the opportunity to partner with Hockey Canada for nine 50/50 draws in conjunction with the World Jrs and the Women's Rivalry series - with all proceeds from tickets bought in BC going to help grow the game in BC!

[50/50 tickets can be purchased online through Hockey Canada here - scroll down to select the link under the BC Hockey logo.](#)

All draws will close at 8 p.m. PST on game nights and the winning number will be posted on BC Hockey's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), [BCHockey.net](#) and the Hockey Canada 50/50 website shortly after.

## Thunder-NO-Ball '22

In support of the Thunderbird Bursary Program, this year's Thunderball will be online for the second straight year. There are two ways to participate including an online silent auction and an opportunity to order in dinner - more details can be found below. Proceeds from the last two year's events have allowed for 39 TBird players (and counting!) to play hockey, so we hope Thunder-No-Ball '22 can support even more kids in the future. All profits from the event go to the Thunderbird Bursary program.

If you would like to help with the event, please see the [Volunteer Portal](#) for the options available.

### Virtual Silent Auction

**Opens:** February 1, 2021 at 9:00am PST

**Closes:** February 9, 2021 at 9:00pm PST SHARP!

### Donations

- All Thunderbird teams are asked to provide either 2 bottles of wine (min value of \$25 per bottle) and/or craft beer (min value \$50). Drop off location and times will be provided to the team managers in early January.
- Any team, individual or business interested in donating to our silent auction are asked to complete the form on the [Thunder-NO-Ball '22 web page](#) by January 20. Gift cards or items will be happily accepted.
  - » Donors will be connected with the auction winner to arrange for pick-up/delivery at the conclusion of the event.
- Cash donations to the Thunderbird Bursary program can either be made directly on the auction website when launched (fees will be incurred) or via e-transfer at [etransfer@vancouverbirds.ca](mailto:etransfer@vancouverbirds.ca) (no fees) with Thunderbird Bursary noted in the comments. *Note that we are not able to provide tax receipts for donations as we are not a charitable organization.*

### TBirds Dinner Night In - Wednesday, February 9

While we can't come together as an association, we want to encourage you to join your Thunderbird family across the city with your family by ordering as part of the Dinner Night In. With 15% of the order and all delivery fees (\$10 per order) will be donated to the Thunderbird Bursary program.

BierCraft is back for another year and we are looking for 1-2 more restaurants to partner with - contact [Jody Yau](#) if you have a connection.

We will have more information in early January including when the official ordering window will be and menus. Stay tuned!

## President's League Joe Morellato U18C Scholarship Tournament

Last weekend, we had twenty players and three team staff invited to join in the 16th annual Joe Morellato U18 C Scholarship Tournament. This event promotes the ideals of scholastic achievement and sportsmanship. It showcases the talents of the players in the U18C division and provides them with the opportunity for scholarships. Three teams participated in round robin play over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Three players from each of the teams are selected to receive a \$500 scholarship and TBirds were well represented in the results!

Congratulations to all those involved, and well done to the five TBird players who were awarded with Scholarships shown below: (Left to right) Ryan Becker, Jonah Bogart, Carson Davis, Burke Morrison, and Jacob Wong. Congrats also to the MVPs selected in the games: William Thompson and Ryan Becker.



TBirds hosted one of the games and it was a fast, highly skilled game with a fun environment thanks to Tim Dale (music), Dave Issar (announcer) and special thanks to Brynn Issar for being the first person ever to sing the national anthem for one of the scholarship games! [Pictures from all three games can be viewed at this link.](#)

PCAHA President's league leads the pack when it comes to their scholarship games and we are looking forward to the U18A and U21C tournaments happening in January.

## 2021-22 TBirds Volunteer Wall of Fame

In our last newsletter, we put out a call for nominations for volunteers to be recognized for things they have done so far this season and the response was outstanding. So much so that we couldn't narrow it down to a couple and have opted to start a 2021-22 TBirds Volunteer Wall of Fame that we will add to in our spring newsletter.

As already mentioned in this newsletter, volunteers are what makes TBirds programming happen. We have over 500 team staff, ~50 program coordinators or leads, and dozens of worker bees who are continually doing something to make a player, team staff or parent feel special. Thank you to all of the following people who have been identified from the membership as volunteers to be recognized.

If there is someone you think should be recognized in our Spring newsletter, please let us know anytime [by completing this nomination form](#).



### ***Dave and Brynn Issar***

The best hockey environments are those that have a lot of atmosphere and this father/daughter duo have been making sure the rink is a special place for the U13A4 team with Dave announcing and Brynn starting the game off with singing the national anthem. The two have been tapped to help with the Remembrance Day Cup tournament and most recently the U18C Scholarship game.

### ***Amber Bethell***

Always ready to help, no matter the task, no matter who it is for, Amber is one of TBirds super volunteers. Not only does she help with both teams her children are on, she has also been leading the Thunderbird Marketplace Facebook group, is working with Audrey to develop a Blood Drive program, and she has also put up her hand to help with some of the logistics for the Family Day tournament.



### ***Brian Ounsted and Terry Neill***

TBirds was so excited to launch a U21C team this season for the first time and it all happened because of our two coaches. They have had their share of referee no-shows and game shuffling but have been taking it all in stride and making it a great experience for the players.



### ***Nancy Lis***

The last two seasons have seen continual change and the need for constant communication with our HCSPs across the association. Nancy joined as co-Risk Manager last year and has taken on the mantle by herself this season. She has been an amazing resource and calming influence for our team safety staff and had multiple nominations come in for her efforts.

### ***Ann Mukai***

Hockey is a game that needs ice, and our ice allocation is nothing short of a 50,000 piece jigsaw puzzle that requires a master behind the scenes constantly finding new ways to get pieces to fit. This role starts long before skaters hit the ice and the amount of time and energy that Ann puts into is truly the primary reason all our teams can fit in all their games.



### ***Division Ambassadors across the divisions***

Most people know them as a name behind an email, others use them as sounding boards for questions or concerns, and still others know they are the best people to run the world! Our Division Ambassadors are what keeps the information flowing and they are the primary support for our teams. To do so, they are always at the ready to help and deal with anything that may come up so that the kids can have a great time. Thank you to Niki Colley and Cherie Mah (U6), Diana Power and Dana Berzina (U7), Kristen Snyder and Anita Gee (U8), Carrie Linegar and Chris Wai (U9), Yuki Namekawa and Joanne Sharples (U11C), Ernest Au (U13C), Dian Moon and Gina Nasrabadi (U15C), and Kalpna Dhanda and Karrie Bogart (U18C).



# hockey for all

Vancouver Thunderbirds congratulates Scotiabank, presenting sponsor for our recreational and rep divisions, for being inclusion leaders in the corporate world

