

## ***From the Presidents Corner – September-October 2009***

Welcome back hockey players, parents and fans! Another hockey season is underway and your Crowchild Hockey Association Board is looking forward to making it the best ever. As part of my new role as President I am initiating a bi-monthly electronic newsletter that will be available on our website to keep parents and players informed of activities in and around our hockey association.

First order of business is to thank the following outgoing Board members whose terms finished recently: Bill Langer – Director of Referees; Jim Matheson – Equipment Director; Nicole Caputo – Tournament Director and Steve Oldale - Crowchild Challenge/NWCAA. I would also like to welcome Danny Yeung as new Referee Director and Terry Martin and Tania Booth who join us as community reps for Scenic Acres and Silver Springs. Also new to the Board is Glenn Snarr who joins us as Treasurer.

### **Evaluations**

Each year a tremendous amount of time and effort is spent in preparing for and implementing player evaluations for Timbits to Junior C age categories. It can be a stressful time for players, parents, coordinators and evaluators. We ask you to remember that our coordinators and evaluators are volunteers and that if you have questions about the process or how certain aspects are handled to please follow the Evaluation Review Process posted on the website.

I want to thank everyone who was involved in evaluations this year for their time and commitment. While our current evaluation process is one of the best, we recognize that there are always areas to improve and this year is no different. The Board will be reviewing feedback from this year's evaluation process to consider improvements for the 2010-2011 season. A special thanks to the Division Coordinators for their perseverance, diplomacy and the ability to stay awake very late at night for team presentations. I would like to recognize the following coordinators and their assistants for a job well done.

Timbits – Rouge Ashmead – Coordinator

Novice – Rob Thomas – Coordinator; Andy Parkkari

Atom- Orest Massitti- Coordinator

Pee Wee – Ken Comeau Coordinator; Assistant Coordinator – Frank Kemerli/Gary Makar

Bantam – Wayne Fischer

Midget – Dave Tickner

Junior C – Greg Wenzel

Due to a shortage of Bantam aged players this season, we were faced with the possibility of having to cut players. A situation we never want to find ourselves in. Springbank offered to take some of our players but at that point we had no volunteers willing to move. Our Past President and now Varsity Community rep, Bob Benson, was approached by Westwood, who was in a similar situation, to see if we would be interested in forming a combined team. This option made a great deal of sense and had been done before at the Midget level. As a result, our Bantam 5 team is comprised of both Westwood and Crowchild players. Practice and game ice will be shared and the team will wear home and away uniforms of both associations depending on which arena is home for that game. Coaching staff and team roles will also be

shared and will come from both associations, including Head Coach Jim Lee from Crowchild. A great opportunity for all players involved and we hope this season is a successful one!

### **Respect for Sport**

Hockey Calgary recently announced a new partnership program with Respect in Sport aimed at educating parents and coaches about respect, safety and the capability to enhance an organization's ability to protect its youth in a team atmosphere. Hockey Calgary is the first amateur sports association in Canada to adopt the Respect in Sport Parent Education Program. This one hour online certification program can be completed in one sitting or over multiple days and focuses on a number of topics including player development, and a parent's interaction with their own children, other children, and coaches and parents. All parents are urged to learn more about the program by visiting <http://hockeycalgary.ca/ris.php>. This program may become mandatory in 2010-2011 so checking it out now will put you ahead of the game!

### **Hockey Radio**

For those of you who are driving to a practice or up to Tim Horton's on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am, try listening in to the FAN 960. Hockey Calgary Magazine hosted by Rob Kerr is a hockey radio show aimed at Minor Hockey in Calgary and includes a variety of relevant hockey-related topics. If you are a late riser, you can catch Hockey Canada's program from 11 am-12 pm on Saturday called FREQUENCY also on the FAN 960.

### **Hockey Calgary Fall AGM**

The Fall AGM took place Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Coast Plaza Hotel. One of the discussion topics was the new Novice Development League (NDL) sponsored by the Hitmen and Wendy's. The intent of this program is skills-based and is being administered by the 16 hockey associations across Calgary. Its focus is to address the issue of increased skill development at the 7 and 8 year old age groups. For those of you not familiar with the program, the NDL is intended to provide four weeks of skill development prior to evaluations and then a focus on skills once the teams are chosen with no games played prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a change for the second year Novice groups however those in first year Novice and subsequent years will be immersed in this program as they move up to Novice.

There is also a move to build a closer working relationship between the Central Zone Referees, Community Referees and Hockey Calgary. One initiative that is currently being pursued is to encourage referees to continue refereeing as they move on to post-secondary learning by offering scholarships. While the details of this program were not discussed, it appears to be something that would be well-received by those student referees who plan to attend college and university. Stay tuned for more information as this proposal unfolds.

### **What happened to the team \$500 ice grant?**

After careful consideration and recognizing that we would need additional ice this season to replace the ice we provide to Girls Hockey, the Board chose to purchase additional ice at Spray Lakes Sawmills Family Rec center in Cochrane. This allows our teams to have Saturday and Sunday morning ice that will be rotated through the teams throughout the year. If you have not been to the new facility, it is quite a showcase and all the reports have been very positive from teams that have already had ice there.

Carolynn Anderson, President

