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Major Midget League Team Staff

BC Hockey announced Monday, May 31 the Major Midget League Managing Director and head coaches for the 2010-11 season. The Major Midget League (MML) will be entering the seventh season of play.

Joe Downing (Abbotsford, BC) has been selected as the Managing Director of the MML for the 2010-11 season. Joe's passion and his technical knowledge will play a major role in taking the MML to the next level.

"Having been involved with the BC Major Midget League (BCMML) for a few years now, it is an honour and privilege to be appointed to the Managing Director role," said Joe Downing MML Managing Director. "My expectation and goal of every player that plays in the BCMML, is to see each of them excel to the next levels in hockey, while at the same time understanding and being accountable for their development both on and off the ice. "

Downing is taking over from previous MML Managing Director, Chris Erhart. BC Hockey would like to thank Chris for the work he has done over the past two (2) seasons in the role of Managing Director. He dedicated himself to the League and played an integral role in the growth and development over that time.

Trevor Sprague – Cariboo Cougars – trevor.sprague@sandsbulk.ca

Trevor is entering his third year as the head coach of the Cariboo Cougars and will look to build on the disappointing loss to the Vancouver North West Giants in the 2009-10 MML Championship series. Sprague was named Major Midget League Coach of the Year for the 2009-10 season.

Pat Ansell – Fraser Valley Bruins – pansell@corp.delta.bc.ca

Ansell has been a head coach in the MML since the League's inception in 2004. The Bruins fell just short in their playoff aspirations last season finishing in seventh place. The Bruins overcame a devastating bus crash in early December, but through the leadership of Pat and his coaching staff, the team was able to come back and fight for a playoff spot.

Leland Mack – Greater Vancouver Canadians – lelandmack@hotmail.com

Mack will be entering his second season as the head coach of the Canadians. Under his leadership the Canadians finished fourth in the 2009-10 season, but fell to the eventual MML Champions, the Vancouver North West Giants in the semi-finals.

Steve Parsons – North Island Silvertips – steve-parsons@shaw.ca



The 2009-10 season was Parson's first year as head coach of the Silvertips. He led the team to a 20 point turnaround from the 2008-09 season and their first playoff berth in three (3) years. The Silvertips finished in fifth place in the regular season and fell to the Greater Vancouver Canadians in a tightly contested Quarterfinal match-up.

Misko Antisin – Okanagan Rockets – misko@telus.blackberry.net

Antisin will be entering his second season as the head coach of the Okanagan Rockets. The Rockets finished in sixth place in the 2009-10 season and fell to the Vancouver North East Chiefs in the Quarterfinals.

Craig Didmond – South Island Thunderbirds – coachdidmon@shaw.ca

Didmond will be entering his first season as the head coach of the South Island Thunderbirds. The past two (2) years he has been an associate coach with the Victoria Grizzlies of the BCHL. Didmond will look to improve upon the Thunderbirds 10th place finish in the 2009-10 season.

Tyler Forsythe – Thompson Blazers – tyforsythe@yahoo.com

Forsythe will be entering his first year as a head coach in the Major Midget League for the Thompson Blazers. The Blazers finished at the bottom of the MML standings last year. Prior to joining the Blazers, Forsythe was the general manager/assistant coach for the Merritt Centennials of the BCHL.

Ryan Weber – Co-Head Coach – Valley West Hawks – weber@hockeyinside.com

Rob Rogers – Co-Head Coach – Valley West Hawks – rbr@hdas.com

After a one (1) year hiatus, Weber and Rogers will return to the MML as co-head coaches for the Valley West Hawks. Rogers and Weber were both assistant coaches on the 2008-09 Greater Vancouver Canadians team that fell 2-1 to the Vancouver North West Giants in the thrilling MML Championship series.

Doneau Menard – Vancouver North East Chiefs – hardcorehockey@shaw.ca

Menard has served as the head coach of the Chiefs since the 2006-07 season. He will build upon the team's best season in history after they finished the 2009-10 season with 22-12-6 record which slotted them in third place. The Chiefs fell to the Cariboo Cougars in a hard fought Semi-final series.

Todd Harkins – Vancouver North West Giants – todd@nswc.ca

Harkins will be entering his first season as the head coach of the Giants after Jon Calvano was hired as the head coach for the Coquitlam Express of the BCHL. The Giants are the reigning MML Champions winning this past season and in the 2008-09 season. Prior to being selected as the head coach of the Giants, Harkins was the Director of Scouting and Player Personnel for the Coquitlam Express of the BCHL.

The head coach of the Kootenay Ice will be announced at a later date.

The BC Hockey Major Midget League was established in 2004 to provide elite level 15, 16 and 17 year olds an opportunity to play within their own age group at a high level and be developed for the next level of hockey. These teams have an opportunity each year to compete for the National Midget Championship.



For more information about BC Hockey, please visit the BC Hockey website at www.bchockey.net or email info@bchockey.net.