

President's Report, 2008 – 2009

As we bring the 2008 – 2009 season to an end and begin looking forward to 2009 – 2010, we should take this opportunity to look at our accomplishments in the past year and some of the challenges that we face in the future.

Firstly I would like to extend my thanks to those who have helped to make minor hockey the success story that it is. Volunteerism is alive and well in Nanaimo as evidenced by those who have stepped forward at the team level; coaches, assistants, managers, safety persons, fundraisers, tournament chairs, etc. Without their time and dedication there would be no minor hockey program.

I would also like to thank the parents who drive the players to the rink, run the clock, do the game sheets, help fund raise and sit in the stands and cheer on their team.

The players, who come out to learn, develop and compete, must be recognized as well. Their interest in the sport is our “raison d-etre”. We must never forget that.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Board of Directors. They all took on the task of managing their own portfolios as well as the responsibility for ensuring that 860 players had a positive hockey experience. It is a daunting task and, while you may sometimes disagree with their decisions, you cannot question the level of their commitment.

Finally, I would like to thank our Administrator, Vicky Long. She leads us through the myriad of rules and regulations of HC, BC H, VIAHA and umpteen other organizations and always has a smile on her face and a word of encouragement.

We have made some strides forward this season but there is always room for improvement and some challenges facing us.

We have a waiting list in most Divisions. This is directly related to the availability of ice and it is not likely that this problem will be resolved in the short term. We must continue to try to make the best use of a finite resource.

Financially, we are on sound footing as will be evidenced in Kevin's financial reports. We had to make a small increase to our registration fees for next season to offset some of the increased costs we face from the Provincial and District organizations. We did well in sponsorships and fundraising and will end the year with a small surplus. Given the effects the ongoing economic crisis may have on our ability to raise funds, it is prudent to have a financial cushion.

Our players have been competitive on the ice but we should strive to improve their skills development. Not every six year old is destined for the NHL, or even the Atom Development Team, but they will be a better player if the coaches take the time to teach them the basic skills of the game at an early age and then help them progress from season to season. There are manuals available if we are prepared to make use of them.

We have made some changes in our Policy & Procedures Manual, primarily in the area of player evaluation and placement, but also in Discipline and Equipment. This will be an ongoing process for the next Board of Directors and changes will be available on the

Web as they are instituted. The Board welcomes and encourages input from the membership and there is a process available for members to initiate changes.

The most significant challenge we face is the ongoing lack of respect, both on and off the ice. Unfortunately this frequently originates at the adult level and children can be quick learners and are soon emulating their coaches and parents. We are encouraged to teach our players work ethic, skills and leadership. Perhaps more time should be spent on teaching

sportsmanship and respect; respect for teammates, coaches, rules, opponents and, most importantly, respect for oneself. Adults could take a few lessons themselves.

In closing, I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of Nanaimo MHA for 2008-2009. In May 2008 I said I was somewhat hesitant to accept the position and quoted the old adage “you can never go home again”. Happily, that was not the case this year.

Respectfully Submitted:

David Beatty

NMHA COMPETITIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – 2008-09

I would like to thank all of my fellow volunteers for their efforts and all of the support we received this past season throughout the association as a whole. The season went rather smoothly and I feel NMHA is making great strides in its development goals for not only players but for coaches as well. The teams were all fairly successful and competitive in their respective divisions and tiering placements. The end of the year time trials were successful and will free up more time for player evaluations in game situations this coming September which will enable this association to continue to move forward with its goals of bettering our tryout system. No association is perfect but I do sincerely believe we are on an altruistic path designed not for one or two children but for eight hundred and sixty-three children.

This past season as competitive director has been an enjoyable one for me and it has been a great learning experience as well. I look forward to seeing the continued success of NMHA and its players in the upcoming season and I would like to thank all of the players for their commitment to this division and all of the parents for supporting their children in their hockey endeavors. We would not have had the success we did without our wonderful coaching and managing staff as well. Once again thank you all for your contributions and enjoy your spring and summer.

Mike Collier
Competitive Director NMHA

2008-2009 ATOM RECREATIONAL REPORT

Here is my final Atom report for the 2008/2009 season. I am actually sad to see it all come to an end even considering all the unpleasanties a person can be faced with during a season.

For the most part the season went well; I had 7 teams with 17 players per team. As the season went on some teams did lose players to moves.

Teams were balanced on paper however proved to not be balanced when the season started. Some trades were made and I believe they were moves that did help to balance things out better. All teams with the exception of one seemed to have great chemistry with coaches, players and parents. The weaker teams by the New Year had all progressed to the point where our games were much more exciting and players were enjoying success they had not seen at the start of the season. All teams had an average of 25 games this season, home and away combined not including tournaments. I had teams traveling a lot this year some as far away as Gold River for exhibition games. We also had visitors from all over one as far away as Saanich for an exhibition game. All teams participated in Spring tournaments, 4 teams were on the island and three were on the mainland. My understanding is that they all did well and had great fun.

For the most part I had a great group of coaches that did their best all season for their teams with a few stand outs that were really great. For the team that had troubles this year I feel bad for the players but it was a learning experience for me and will help me to make better choices in the future so as not to repeat mistakes made this season. Thanks to Steve and Dave for their help along the way.

See you next season,
Roberta Bortolotto

2008-2009 PEE WEE RECREATIONAL SEASON REPORT

Pee Wee Director - Lynn Arneson

This season the recreational Pee Wee division consisted of 7 teams. The head coaches were: Peter Creighton, Shawn Berry, Alex Mattes, Lee Pow, Danny Cheng, Rob Ross, and Gerry Boutin.

The Pee Wee division was part of the mid-island VIAHA league, in which the 7 Nanaimo teams separated into 2 divisions. Three of the teams went South and four of the teams went North, which unfortunately made it that all the Nanaimo teams did not have the opportunity to play against one another. We will be trying to change that for next season, as that was one of the major complaints. The Nanaimo kids want to play against their friends!

Nanaimo Pee Wee hosted their tournament Nov. 21st-23rd which was very successful! We had many compliments from out of town teams on how great the tournament was and how they hope to come back next year. Also financially it turned out that all 7 of the Nanaimo teams profited by receiving \$970.00 each.

Before I wrap things up, I just want to take this opportunity to thank some people for all their help & support this season:

Thank-you to all the head coaches, assistant coaches and managers for volunteering your time, it is very much appreciated!

Thank-you to Janelle Olson the tournament coordinator (you did a great job), and all of the other tournament volunteers, we couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks to Gerry Boutin and all the NMHA executives and staff for all your support and help when needed.

Last but not least, Thank-you to Robin Edwards for handing me my completed ice schedule...you made my job much easier!

I hope everyone had fun and I am looking forward to seeing you next season.

Lynn Arneson Pee Wee Director 2008/09

Nanaimo Bantam Division - APRIL 2009

I will start off by saying , “I think every parent that has an opinion of what should be done to accommodate 863 kids in an amateur sport should step up and be a director of a division for that sport” I learned a lot and I still don’t know everything but I do know that it was a great experience and there are a lot of good people trying to do what’s right for the majority of the young people playing here in Nanaimo.

The bantam division went very well from a directors view I hope the feelings were felt through the division, we tried to make the season exciting for all the players and I think we achieved that. There were a lot of victories for some teams and that being said we were able to keep the development of the kids moving ahead . I hope that the same young men and women come back next year to do it all again, if they do we know we did something right

Thank-you for the experience,
Reagan Robinson, Bantam Director 2009

NANAIMO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 2008 – 2009 Female Division Year-End Report 13th Season of Female Hockey within NMHA RECREATIONAL DIVISIONS

ATOM, Female Division

This was the second year that VIAHA hosted a Female Atom Division.
NMHA’s Atom C team participated in VIAHA’s Female C Division.
Team comprised of 13 players, 7 – 2nd year and 4 - 1st year Atoms + 2 - 2nd year Novice
Playoffs – Nanaimo finished tied for 4th

PEEWEE, Female Division

The NMHA Pee wee C team participated in VIAHA’s Female C/Tier 2 Division..
This season VIAHA hosted a Female Pee wee Tier 1 & 2 League.
Team comprised of 14 players, 6 – 2nd year & 8 - 1st year Pee wees
NMHA Pee wee Tier 2 team - VIAHA League & Playoffs Champions!

BANTAM, Female Division

This season VIAHA hosted a Female Bantam Tier 1 & 2 Leagues.
The NMHA Bantam C team participated in VIAHA’s Female Bantam C/Tier 2 League.
Team comprised of 13 players, 5 – 2nd year and 8 – 1st year Bantams

MIDGET, Female Division

This season VIAHA hosted a Female Midget Tier 1, 2 & 3 League.
The NMHA Midget C team participated in VIAHA’s Female Midget Tier 2 League.
Team Comprised of 22 players, 5 - 3rd year, 7 - 2nd year, 9 - 1st year + 1 - 4th year (OA)
NMHA Midget Tier 2 team - VIAHA League & Playoffs Champions!

FEMALE COMPETITIVE DIVISION

NMHA hosted the second Annual Female Hockey Tournament, October 10th – 13th, the Extreme Cup 2008. This very successful Competitive Tournament hosted 4 Bantam Tier 1 and 5 Midget

Tier 1 teams.

Thank you to the Bantam Tier 1 Extreme parent group for making this tournament such a success!

Bantam Tier 1, Female

VIAHA's Female Bantam Tier 1 teams once again participated in the Female Midget Tier 2 League as Exhibition teams, for standings see the Midget Tier 2 League Stats. The NMHA Bantam Tier 1 Extreme finished with a strong 2nd place finish in the Midget Tier 2 League after only 10 League games!

NMHA Bantam Tier 1 Extreme – VIAHA Champions!

Midget Tier 1, Female

Playoffs – NMHA Midget Extreme Tier 1 finished 2nd

Female Division Individual Accomplishments

Graduating Atom Player, Recreational –	Desirae Laviolette
Graduating Peewee Player, Recreational –	Cassidy Green
Graduating Bantam Player, Recreational –	Caitlin Langelier
Graduating Midget Player, Recreational –	Alyssa Zado
Graduating Bantam Player, Competitive –	Hailey Hall-Taylor
Graduating Midget Player, Competitive –	Chantelle Battie
Coach of the Year –	Dale Yamasaki

U16 2009 Cup selection - *Taryn Ashdown '94, *Zoe Battie '94, *Madison Krassman '94, *Madison McIntosh '94, Hayley Hall-Taylor '94, Zoe Walker '94, Maggie Paugh '94, Ashlyn Mottershead '95

U18 2009 Cup selection – *Tessa Lawson '92, Bria Sharkey '93 (*second year/season selected to same age division)

Thank you to all the Coaches, Managers and parents within the Female Division for your willingness to give your time to one of the fastest growing sports in Canada, Female Hockey! To our Ice Coordinator, Robin Edwards thank you for all you have done for the hockey players of Nanaimo!

Sonia Branter

Female Division Managing Director

Safety & Risk Season End Report 2008/2009

Fellow association members:

This was my second year serving on the board of the association as Safety & Risk Manager.

This season, we were able to implement new strategies developed last year that allow us to protect the safety and security of the participants, while still preserving the privacy and dignity of the volunteer applicants. Criminal record checks and certifications are monitored on an annual basis under this system. The association staff is instrumental in the effective collection and administration of this documentation.

The revamped Hockey Canada Safety Program for team safety people now lasts for 6 years instead of the original 3. The old 3 year certifications may no longer be renewed by attending just the afternoon 4 hours of the program; the entire 8 hour program must be attended. We remind members that every team must roster an HCSP certified safety person. Once again, enrolment was high in our locally held speak out, and HCSP certification clinics. We would also like to remind everyone that the cost of attended clinics will be reimbursed to NMHA members.

During this past season, there was less opposition than anticipated to the new safety measures such as the coaches' helmet regulation. This was perhaps as a result of the publicity that has resulted from serious recent head injuries sustained by coaches across Canada.

Thankfully, there were no life threatening injuries to our players or members reported this year. Team safety people, players, and coaches have done an excellent job in managing and mitigating the risks. Concussions and fractured bones were among the more serious reports. The board continues to work diligently to find ways of improving our safety measures and reducing the risks in and around our sport in Nanaimo.

As there is always much to learn, I continue to find the Safety and Risk area to be challenging and rewarding.

We encourage you to become involved and to bring forward any suggestions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Pearson
NMHA ,Safety & Risk

NMHA Development Coordinator's Report May 5, 2009 Annual General Meeting

This past year has been busy and very productive for the development of coaches and players in the association. There are still many improvements and projects to be completed. The highlights of the past year include:

- participation in the process for competitive coach selections. This included establishing selection criteria, interviews of candidates and final selection of coaches
- participation in the committee to review appeals of residency by players moving into NMHA from the Oceanside and Comox Valley associations
- attended Pee Wee and Bantam coaches' meetings to outline development plans, practices and coaching priorities
- conducted player checking clinics for Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget players prior to September tryouts
- participation in the tryout time trials and evaluations for competitive and house teams
- -identified and communicated with players and coaches for the U-17 Pee Wee Skills Challenge in December 2008
- ran checking clinics for Pee Wee and Bantam players and coaches from Atom to Bantam in January 2009. This led to certification of 8 coaches as checking clinic instructors.
- throughout March 2009 I met with various coaches in meetings and individually to review post task work books to ensure completion for certification at Coach Level. This was a catch up year because coaches who had not competed during the last 5 years faced a March 30th deadline to complete their post task or lost their coaching qualification.
- in April participated in conducting spring time trials for players from Atom to Midget to begin to collect times for the 2009 – 2010 competitive team tryouts.

It is with mixed feelings that I move on to other projects as I leave the Board of NMHA. I have enjoyed my work as a member of the Board. There is still much to be done by my successor. I must thank President Dave Beatty and Administrator Vicky Long for all their support over this past year.

Respectfully submitted
Brian Sugiyama

Registrar – Year End Report for 2008/09 Season

Registration numbers were nearly identical to last year with a total of 863 Registrants.

From the 863 Registrants, there were a total of 56 teams.

Initiation: 8 teams

Novice: 8 teams (4 C teams and 4 D teams)

Atom: 2 Competitive, 7 Co-ed Recreational, and 1 Female Recreational team

Peewee: 2 Competitive (carded), 7 Co-ed Recreational, and 1 Female Recreational team

Bantam: 2 Competitive (carded), 1 Competitive (carded) Female, 6 Co-ed Recreational, and 1 Female Recreational Team

Midget: 2 Competitive (carded), 1 Competitive (carded) Female, 5 Co-ed Recreational, and 1 Female Recreational Team

Juvenile: 1 team

All in all, it was a successful year and I'm looking forward to doing it all again next year!

Dawn Borrelli

NMHA Registrar

2008-2009 Year End Ways and Means Report

Thanks for a great year everyone.

We had all but 4 sponsors return and we were very lucky to have 4 local businesses eager to replace them.

As recommended to the board last season that we increase our sponsorship cost by \$50 for this season do to the increasing cost of ice officiating and jersey replacements and this was very well received by the sponsors.

Our NHL Jersey Raffle went well a special thanks to the teams and executive who chose to take advantage of this fabulous team and association fundraising opportunity and to both Sean from Reaction Sports for acquiring these jerseys for us. Way to support NMHA, Reaction. Also to Shoot for a Cure forgiving us this opportunity. We had about a 60% participation rate and I believe that the teams that participated were more than happy with the extra income that they earned.

Thank you again to the teams that were prompt in submitting their month end reports it makes my job much easier.

Finally a special thanks to all the coaches managers and parents who where so good about getting in their Fundraising Request forms as soon as they knew the dates so as we had time to get everyone approved and insured ahead of time. And thank you Vicky Long for going above and beyond your job description once again, you were a great help.

Many Thanks again

Sonya Zado-Ways & Means, NMHA

Head Coach Report - April 7, 2009

Submitted by Steve Paul, Head Coach

I would just like to sum up the hockey season in saying, based on observations of all divisions, that we need to really focus on player development at all levels.

At the Initiation level we need to follow strict guidelines using the Hockey Canada skills manuals to develop all players of the future. I feel we have made a good start, unfortunately not all coaches were on board. Progression is a huge part of skill development and the manuals show a coach how to progress from the beginning of the season.

Novice level, same as Initiation. We need to follow the plan and progress through the season. If the coaches are all on board using the manuals then the continuity will be there for all players.

Atom, Peewee and Bantam recreational went well, considerable improvement over last year. We still need to carry the continuity on to these levels, again by following the program.

Midget recreational is different because of the three year age spread. Some players are serious and committed, many are there for fun and friendship only. It is difficult to have a program in place and have everyone on board, players aren't able to be as committed for many reasons, school, work, etc. I recommend if possible to have one or two travelling teams at the Midget level and the rest in a house league, this would allow for those more serious players to have a team for them and the bulk of the players can enjoy the recreation of the sport. This is the end essentially for their minor hockey careers and we should make it as attractive as possible to stick around. Bantam is much the same as Midget in the sense that most of the players just want to play for recreation, possibly a travelling team at the Bantam level should be considered.

The female divisions are lacking in player development, we really need to focus on back to basics and bring these players up to the best level they can achieve. Our numbers have continued at a fairly consistent rate, however we seem to be falling behind in the area of development. My recommendation is to look at the Bantam competitive team, do we really have one? Possibly combining the Bantam/Midget levels and making two tiered recreational teams and one competitive team, all three playing at the Midget level would be the way to go. I also suggest a juvenile or junior female team for the girls graduating from midget to continue to play locally, which will eliminate girls playing overage in the Midget division.

I would like to see coaches at all competitive levels, starting at Atom, developing systems that will be taught in progression and with each year and level, the systems will become more sophisticated allowing continuity and growth for players. In theory as a player graduates from Midget, they will be equipped to play anywhere and will have been learning the same systems from Atom, just with increased difficulty at each level. As you are aware the Bantam tier 1 team and the Female Bantam were the only teams to represent Nanaimo Minor Hockey at the provincial level, congratulations Bantams! Let's work on developing coaches and players so that in the future Nanaimo will have more teams at provincials.

With respect to try-outs, I think we are on the right track in hiring evaluators to take care of the player draft. I believe waiting to choose coaches, until the first cuts are made, will prove to be a good decision.

Time trials went well, we had a good turn out and hope to have an easier start to next season because of this. It will free up at least one weekend for player evaluations. Thanks to Vicky's organization the process went smoothly!

I would like to thank all of the coaches, assistant coaches, managers, safety people, parent volunteers and referees, without such a great group working together we wouldn't have such a successful association. You all gave of your time and committed yourselves to these players, thank you. Thank you to the Board of Directors, you keep the association running smoothly and give willingly of your time to attend the many meetings throughout the season and make critical decisions benefitting everyone. I'd especially like to thank Vicky Long, she is the backbone of Nanaimo Minor Hockey, she puts up with an awful lot and puts in time off the clock and I truly appreciate the job that she does.

Another special thank you to Mr. Robin Edwards, "the ghost", who has kept Nanaimo Minor Hockey ice times in order for many, many years. How could we ever thank you enough? You certainly will be missed but I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of your dedication! You will be missed, I recommend you change your phone number, just a thought...

In conclusion I would like to say that we as an association owe it to our players to develop them the best that we can. Let's work together to achieve this goal and remember to keep the best interests of all the players at heart. I have watched hockey in many parts of Canada and what I have observed is that the areas excelling are all following set programs. We owe it to the players to be pro-active not re-active, let's develop the best plan we can.

My parting comment is I would like to see something for the graduating Midget recreational players, such as a banquet or gathering to celebrate the end of their minor hockey careers. I believe we should let them know they have been appreciated throughout their years in minor hockey and we should send them off with good wishes and encourage them to continue to play for fun and think about how they can become involved in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Paul, Head Coach

Dear Nanaimo Minor hockey Association

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Nanaimo referee committee.

As officials we are supported greatly by all of you. We wanted to send you a letter to let you know just how your support has helped us.

4 years ago we formed this referee committee in Nanaimo. At that time we had very few home grown Nanaimo officials working above Minor hockey and none that I can recall being selected to work any high performance hockey for BC. It was a goal of our committee to change that. We wanted Nanaimo to produce as many top level officials as we could. Well I want to say that we are well on our way to achieving that goal. This goal would not have been attained if it wasn't for the support we have received from the association.

I want to take this moment to highlight some of our officials and some positive comments that we have heard back. As far as we are concerned, any positive comment that we receive is a compliment to the entire association, not just the committee.

Dustin Dawes:

Dustin officiated 97 hockey games this season for NMHA. He would Ref or line and no matter at what level or time. I noticed Dustin this year take on a leadership roll and worked very hard to help out the young officials starting out. He would line so he could help them ref their 1st game. He was selected to work Lines for the Junior B league this year. He ended up doing 12 games for them this year including 2 in the play-offs. This was a great accomplishment because he didn't do his 1st game until November. In his 1st game he was 16 years old. The supervisor from Victoria had very positive comments about his work.

Dustin was also a regular linesman for the Major midget boys this year as well. He was nominated for official of the year by Pacific sport and was selected to ref the zone try-outs for the Female U-18 program held in Port Alberni. He was recommended for his level 3 by Mike Fraser. This has been a great year for Dustin and he is a product of the support given in Nanaimo. For his accomplishments we have selected Dustin as the official of year for Nanaimo Minor Hockey

Nathan Taekema:

Nathan has been an official that keeps improving each year. He continues to do us all proud in Nanaimo. This year he officiated in 87 games for NMHA. Nathan also took more of a leadership role as well and was very willing to help out the younger officials. He continued to be a linesman for the Jr. B league this year and we are confident that he will be moving to Jr A shortly. He was a regular linesman as well for the Major midget league and was also selected to officiate the Female U-18 try-outs in Port Alberni. His last accomplishment was to be recommended for his level 3.

Cody Gessner:

Cody continues to be a great representative of NMHA. He passed his on ice certification for his level 3. Continues to line in the Jr. B league. He is comfortable reffing at any level in Nanaimo Minor hockey. Cody had a heavy workload and school schedule this year but still managed to officiate 40 games for NMHA. This is proof of his dedication to the program. He also sat on our officials committee and helped mentor the younger officials whenever he could. He too was selected to officiate the Female U-18 in Port Alberni.

Jamie Scriver:

WOW! Jamie has stepped right up to the plate this year. Last summer she was selected to attend a females officiating camp at UBC (I believe) and she has not stopped since. She has taken on several roles this season, volunteering her time where she can. She became the female official's

advisor on our Referee committee. She has recruited more female officials and has been the person the female officials go to when they have concerns. She officiated more than 90 games for NMHA this season. She was also going to Vancouver to officiate many games over there in the female division. She was chosen to officiate the Midget Female provincials in Nelson this spring. Her drive and dedication as well as your support have put her on the radar to be selected to represent North Island for many high profile assignments.

Tamara Dawes:

At 15 years of age, Tamara has had some accomplishments that many don't see until age 18 or 19. She officiated more than 85 games for NMHA this season. Unfortunately all of them on the lines. We would like to see her start reffing next year. Recently Tamara went to 100 mile house to officiate the BC Female U-16 games. She was selected to line the Bronze medal game. She also lined the Midget tier 1 females this season. For a 15 year old this is a great accomplishment. Tamara has been selected as the Most improved official for NMHA.

Alyssa Zado:

Alyssa is another great news story. I remember her just 2 season ago, starting to progress but running into a few bumps along the way. She persevered and came out strong this season. She has a great attitude and gladly accepted over 50 games this season for NMHA, both reffing and lining. For her efforts this year, she too was selected to go to 100 mile house for the U-16 games and was chosen to line the Gold medal game.

Meghan Pranke:

Meghan continues to impress me. She is one dedicated hockey person. She managed to officiate more than 40 games for NMHA this year. As well as playing in Nanaimo and in Vancouver, she would come out any chance she could. Meghan was not only selected to go to 100 mile house for U-16, she was chosen to Referee the Gold medal game. My only fear is we may lose her next season for school.

We are very proud of the officials in Nanaimo. I personally have watched all the officials listed above in the beginning of their officiating careers. I think I have shadowed each of them in their early years. It is good to see the progress they have made. 4 years ago we did not have much coming out of Nanaimo in the way of officials, now we have 4 men working above minor (1 in the ECHL: Tim Bilyk). We have 4 female officials that are being recognized around the province for their efforts. These men and women are proving what can be done with a supportive association. We are proud of the support we (the officials committee) give these officials, but Nanaimo Minor hockey as an association should also be recognized for the support you have given them and us.

Thank-you for doing what you do.

I would like to relay a couple of comments that came from out of town this season.

Jamie Scriver was told by head of the female officiating program (Theresa Anderson). Nanaimo is producing some of the best female officials in the province, I don't know what they are doing there, but it is working.

Recently, in my dressing room I had an Uncle to one of our younger officials watch his nephew. This gentleman was from the Ontario Hockey association and was part of the officiating program out there.

His comments to me after watching 2 games was: I have never seen such young officials know there job as well as what I saw today. They know where to stand and how to conduct face-offs. They are not afraid to make a close call. Whatever you people are doing in Nanaimo, keep it up because it is working.

This comment from a gentleman who has seen thousands of officials.

What are we doing in Nanaimo? We are getting support from our association. You have provided us with financial support for clinics and schools. You have provided us with ice sessions to practice our procedures. You have given us monthly meetings where we discuss rules and interpretations. You have provided financial support for supervisions. You have provided moral support and backing when there is trouble and you have strived to make the Nanaimo arena's a less abusive place to be.

Thank-you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Hank Aarsen

Nanaimo Referee committee Advisor