

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
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President

As my first year as President concludes I have to say that its been an interesting one. I say this in a positive tone. The year started in early June with planning and preparation for the upcoming season. The amount of work that goes into running an Association this size requires a large team of volunteers. Our volunteers are the ones who give their time to make sure all areas of our Association are covered and ensure that all members have an equal success for there hockey experience.

The one person who made my life easier this year is John O'Toole our General Manager. He is the face of FYHA. He handles the day to day operational aspects of our Association, he is the one who receives the phone calls and emails, he is the one who keeps me in line and informed. Without John we all would have been in a bad place!

Competitive Hockey Change 2017-2018:

As a pilot project we introduced an electronic player rating system, Team Genius, for our Atom, Peewee and Bantam Competitive tryouts. Other than a few hiccups on the first night of games, the rest of the week of tryouts went without a hitch. The goal was to take away the politics and strictly evaluate on player skill to give all players trying out a fair rating. In the end we had players with a minimum of 30 evals up to 70 evals, over 3 tryout games. The Atom Division alone had as many as 34 evaluators at once inputting evaluations for players. The greatness of this system was that you could see the rankings after each session and you could see that the evaluators were actively evaluating players on there skill levels. I personally think that moving forward this system be kept in play and ultimately be used for all levels of tryouts and as a coach tool for evaluating players at different times throughout the year.

As an added change we also changed the coach selection process for these divisions as well. In the beginning and throughout the tryout process coaches had to submit an application to our Director of Coaching. He then approved a list of coaches and assistants who met the HNB criteria for coaching minor hockey. Once the list was approved the Director of Coaching then checked each and every one of the approved applicants credentials and provided a final approved Head Coach list. At this point and after the player evaluations were complete those selected to be head coach were informed and only those head coaches were permitted to be present at the draft. At this point players were selected, and assistant coaches were identified. This process was very efficient and ultimately produced very competitive teams at all three levels. Moving forward tweaks will be made to this process from what was learned last year and our hopes for the Director of Coaching is to build on this experience and further refine this process for the betterment of the Association.

Recognition of Teams Accomplishments at Provincials:

A big congratulations to the following teams for winning their respective Provincial banners:

- Midget AA Nashwaaksis Lions - Provincial AA Midget Champions
- Bantam B Nashwaaksis Lions - Provincial B Bantam Champions
- Peewee AA Coastal Graphic Ice Dogs - Provincial AA PeeWee Champions

Development Weekend:

Many thanks to all the great volunteers that make this event a huge success. I think that development is not just a weekend but a progression throughout the hockey year. It's important to set goals and successes for each player and to follow up on numerous occasions to provide feedback as to their

current level of development. Its important for the Association to continue to offer this development to all age groups especially the Novice and Atom levels. This year we recognized the need to give Novice players a viable shot at playing goal by way of offering a weekly Goalie Clinic. The positive response from the attendance weekly was great to see. Usually anywhere from 10-17 Novice aged goalies attended weekly. A big thank you to Peter McWilliam who took the lead on this with on ice help from FHS Men's Hockey, ESA Men's Hockey, Midget AA Lions. Our plan is to continue this and introduce additional weekly development times for skating, defense, forwards, in hopes to give all who are interested the chance to gain valuable hockey skills to help them out and continue forward with hockey.

Clinics:

FYHA will still be providing clinics for our membership, with emphasis still being on development for coaching staff and player development (concentrating on specific areas to advance coaching on how to deal with officials, parents and players).

Challenges (2018/19 season):

Our challenge this upcoming hockey season is to find more fundraising opportunities to off-set the rising costs to our Association. Some new costs this year will be additional charge for HC Player/Coach Insurance. This will be going up just under \$6.00 per player/coach.

With player safety at the forefront we will be using the 4 man officials system to be used in Bantam and Midget as well we will continue to offer to our FMHOA ice time to further train and recruit officials to make sure we have a full circle of support for our minor hockey Association.

We as an Association have kept the registration fee's the same for the last 3 years, but with the rising costs to facilitate and operate a successful minor hockey Association we will be looking at raising our registration fees to make sure we cover our costs. The new rates will be decided end of May for the upcoming season.

As always ice is a big part of our Association. This year our Director of Operations has developed a solid working relationship with the City and with 1 year under his belt he will strive to maintain a balanced ice schedule for all Divisions for the 2018-2019 hockey season.

Recognition of Volunteers:

I would like to extend a huge thanks to the FYHA board members for their hard work and dedication. I can't thank the coaches, managers, time keepers and families enough for volunteering and contributing to the success in teaching the kids how to play hockey and become a valuable part of the Fredericton Community. Your unselfish contribution was and still is key to FYHA's success. I look forward to working with you all in the 2018-2019 minor hockey season!

Alan Underhill
FYHA President

General Manager

Registration:

Registration fees for the 2017/18 season remained static for the third consecutive year. The on-line registration option for FYHA members went active August 20, 2017. In an effort to reduce processing fees, FYHA contracted the services of Playpay, a payment collection provider. Members wishing to register on-line were required to follow a two-step process that included entering player information directly into the Hockey Canada Registry and then making a payment via Playpay. After some initial growing pains, this new on-line registration process proved to be very efficient and cost effective.

The in-house registration took place September 8 – 10 at the Willie O’Ree. Once again, City of Fredericton staff were on site to confirm residence information. In October, the City launched a Residency Audit of all user groups to insure compliance of residency guidelines. I would like to thank all FYHA members who took the time to provide the necessary documents. Our membership numbers dropped a bit for the 2017/18 season (please refer to the table below).

<u>Division</u>	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Initiation	182	200	193	172
Novice	230	235	239	231
Atom	226	202	216	252
Peewee	167	173	188	176
Bantam	198	173	167	140
Midget	146	157	178	171
Juvenile	0	0	0	0

TOTAL **1149** **1140** **1178** **1152**

Canadian Tire First Shift:

FYHA was awarded two Canadian Tire First Shift programs for the 2017/18 season. This development program is extremely popular in the Fredericton area as witnessed by the fact that the on-line registration for the Fall 2017 program was at full capacity within 10 hours of opening. Both the Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 programs were full – 46 participants for each session. At the conclusion of the Fall 2017 program, participants were given the opportunity to transition to FYHA by joining a team - at no charge. Thirty-two participants took advantage of this opportunity. Many others were interested but were restricted by the Residency guidelines.

The success of the Canadian Tire First Shift program in Fredericton can be directly attributed to the fantastic job done by the volunteer coaches who make the commitment to participate in this program and provide a positive experience to the participants. I would like to thank the over 20 FYHA coaches, led by Darren Shakotko and Rob Allaby, for their generous contribution. FYHA would like to also acknowledge the support of Canadian Tire, Bauer, Hockey Canada and the City of Fredericton.

Fundraising and Sponsorship:

The Fredericton corporate community continues to illustrate generosity and support of FYHA. This year we were very fortunate to develop some new partnerships.

Highlights

- **St. Mary's Entertainment Centre** agreed to come on board as the PeeWee Rec Division sponsor. Three sets of team jerseys were purchased for the 2017/18. An additional 3 sets will be purchased for the 2018/19 season and two sets for the 2019/20 season. St. Mary's Entertainment Centre's financial contribution to the PeeWee Rec Division illustrates their commitment to the hockey community.
- **Ramada Fredericton, Winmar Fredericton and Williams Seafood Restaurant** each sponsored a team in the Midget Rec Division and supplied new jerseys (home and away) to their respective teams.
- **Coastal Graphics** renewed sponsorship of the PeeWee Comp Coastal Graphic Icedogs and donated a set of jerseys.
- **The Nashwaaksis Y's Service Club** renewed sponsorship of the Atom Comp Wildcats and purchased a new set of jerseys.
- **Wendy's Restaurants (Fredericton)** purchased a new set of jerseys for the Novice Division and continued support of the annual Wendy's Novice Jamboree.
- **The Capital Invitational Tournament** featured 58 teams and generated over \$10,000 in profit. This year's tournament format - taking place over two weekends – proved to be very popular.
- **The Christmas Poinsettia campaign** was expanded to include the TimBit, Novice, Atom and PeeWee Divisions. Individual prize winners were – Jacob Hood (TimBit), Jaedan Lewis (Novice), Kai MacFarlane (Atom) and Graydon Coy (PeeWee). The TimBit Leafs, Wendy's Novice Kings, Atom Stars and PeeWee Kent Canucks were awarded pizza parties.
- **Scotiabank Community Hockey Program** provided \$2000 dollars towards our Bantam Rec Division.
- **Wayfair.ca** contributed \$500 for logo placement on the FYHA website.
- **Tim Hortons** supplied medals and mini-sticks for the Mitch Clark Memorial Jamboree participants.
- **McDonalds Atomc** program supplied sets of jerseys to the 12 Atom Rec teams. Once again, each Atom Rec player was able to keep their jersey.
- **Nashwaaksis Lions Club** renewed as the title sponsor for our 42nd Annual Capital Invitational Tournament with a \$3000 contribution.
- **St. Mary's Entertainment and Fredericton Sports Investment** returned as Division sponsors of the Capital Invitational - each contributing \$1000.
- **Canadian Tire** supported our TimBit & Novice Jamborees with donations and pricing discounts.
- **Papa John's Pizza** reoffered the fair play program (Penalty Free Game) and 5 teams were awarded Papa John's Pizza parties. Those five teams were – Midget Rec Flames, Bantam Rec Sharks, Midget Rec Sabres, Bantam Rec Canucks and Atom Rec Wild. Papa John's also donated pizza to the Capital Invitational.
- **Esso Medals Score Big Contest** selected the FYHA Novice Major Red Wings as the recipient of a \$1000 cash prize. In addition to this, FYHA received a \$5000 prize. Special thanks to Linda Hoyt who took the time and effort to enter this contest! Her hard work paid off!

FYHA is proud to be associated with the following Corporate Sponsors;

Tim Hortons	Kent Building Supplies	Wayfair.ca
Wendy's Restaurants	Nashwaaksis Y's Men	Costal Graphics
Dairy Queen	Nashwaaksis Lions Club	Scotiabank
McDonalds	Fredericton Hyundai	Colpitts Developments
Ramada Fredericton	Winmar Fredericton	St. Mary's Entertainment
Papa John's	Bauer	Fredericton Sports Investments
Dodge Caravan Kids	Jake Allen/NHLPA	ET Mechanical
Swiftly's Oil Chance	Canadian Tire	Images by Nevin Magee
Business Fredericton North	William's Seafood Restaurant	

Financial Assistance:

Over 65 children were able to play hockey this year due to the generous support from a number of organizations that contributed over \$26,000 in financial assistance. FYHA would like to thank the following for their tremendous support;

- Kid Sport New Brunswick
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart
- Brendon Oreto Foundation
- St. Mary's Entertainment Centre
- Lace'Em Up

Discipline:

A total of 7 Discipline Committees/Appeal Committees were convened during the season to deal with submitted Incident Reports. Various Board Members, as well as independent individuals, served on these Discipline Committees. At this time there is one matter yet to be resolved.

Member Survey:

FYHA members were given the opportunity to share their feedback concerning the 2017/18 season. A total of 343 anonymous surveys were submitted via the Survey Monkey link. The feedback received will assist FYHA in planning for the future. I would like to thank those individuals that took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is appreciated and necessary if FYHA is going to continue to meet the needs of its membership.

Novice Goaltender Development Sessions:

In an effort to promote goaltender development, FYHA initiated a Novice Division Goaltender Development session. This session took place every Monday at 4:30 at the York arena from December 18 to March 12. On average 15 to 18 young goaltenders participated each week in these sessions – Atom rec goaltenders were invited to attend to sessions in late February and March.

Peter MacWilliam did a fantastic job overseeing these sessions and had tremendous support from the ESA Castors, FHS Black Kats, Midget Comp Lions, Andre Ouellette and Brian Whitters. Many times there were more instructors on the ice than goaltenders. Hats off to everyone for a successful development program.

FYHA Chaplain:

Prior to the start of the 2017/18 season, the FYHA Board was approached by Chris Bennett about the possibility of having an FYHA Chaplain. The Board agreed to provide this service for a one year trial period. Below is a report from Chris Bennett;

Over this past season I have been privileged to interact with a number of hockey families. In this, the first season of the FYHA Chaplaincy I was pleased with the openness and opportunity this program presented for the FYHA.

Throughout the season regular chapels were held at the rink with the Bantam Swiftys Capitals. It was very evident the chapels were welcomed by the 4-5 participants. Getting to know these families proved to be an encouragement for them, and me. On one occasion I was privileged to be at the hospital and pray for a family who had just experience the death of a loved one.

Hospital visits happened on a couple of other occasions when an assistant coach from one of the FYHA teams faced surgery and I was able to be present to provide spiritual support.

I was grateful for the opportunity to hold a chapel during the first weekend of the Capital Invitational.

During these tournament weekends I was reminded of the importance of being present for people.

Conversations about life, its ups and downs, lending a listening to the game of life.

In closing, one key observation from this first year is that the interaction I was able to carry out involved (for the most part) the two teams my boys played on. From the number of interactions I was struck by the need for the other teams as well. We are all aware of the Humboldt Broncos tragedy. In the midst of this unspeakable tragedy the community, yes, the family of the hockey community needs spiritual support for the well being of their athletes and families. It has been an honour to serve the hockey family of the FYHA. I look forward to next season should the board desire to continue the chaplaincy program as it partners and supports the hockey community.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bennett

FYHA Chaplain 2017-18 season

Recommendations:

- Open on-line registration by July 1, 2018 (or sooner)
- Improve the lines of communication to all FYHA members
- Identify and develop new sponsorship opportunities

I would like to thank Alan Underhill and Heidi Boulter for their guidance and support during the year. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment from all Board members. As an Association, FYHA could not function without the tremendous support of its many volunteers. A sincere thank you is extended to everyone who contributed to providing a positive hockey experience for Fredericton's youth.

John O'Toole
General Manager

Director of Operations

Thank You:

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to an amazing 2017-18 Board; without you and your incredible selfless effort this year would have not gone as well as it did. Because of you, so many children were able to have a fantastic year playing the game we all love. Your patience and support while I was learning the Director of Operations position was deeply appreciated. You all are fantastic people who inspire me.

Without our coaches, managers, and other volunteers we wouldn't have a program. Our coaches and managers give valuable time and effort to ensure that our children are getting the best experience from FYHA. Your dedication does not go unnoticed – you're appreciated. You are the unsung heroes of FYHA and the Board recognizes how important you are to our program; thank you!

A HUGE thank you goes out to John Burns from the City of Fredericton and his team: Dana Fradsham, Mike Bungay, and Colin DeCoursey. You guys made my first year as Director of Operations very easy. John Burns, your communication, dedication, attention to detail, support, and banter made my experience working with the City enjoyable. Dana, Mike, and Colin; you guys did amazing work to accommodate us and I know you put in hours that were above and beyond your normal working hours. This year our relationship with the City grew and has been fostered in to a great partnership which I hope will continue. Thank you!

Finally, I would like to thank John O'Toole and Alan Underhill. John, your welcoming attitude and support this past season has been unwavering and appreciated. You are a great leader and definitely the right guy to have as our General Manager. To Alan, thank you for taking me under your wing this year and sharing your knowledge. Every time we get together I seem to learn something new from you and I enjoy our hockey conversations. You made my first year as Director of Operations enjoyable and I can't tell you how much I appreciate your guidance and support – thank you!

Strengths:

With the support and guidance of our President, Alan Underhill, I feel that I was able to catch on to how the Director of Operations position is supposed to function. I was given a great template to build off of and it helped me understand each division's need. Once John Burns and I came together to sort out special events and weekly issues we figured out a system that worked for us and our communication was key to sailing a smooth ship. I feel that moving forward, with the growth in our relationship with the City, next year will be more planned out and efficient.

Weaknesses:

One of the biggest weaknesses that I experienced as Director of Operations this year was not realizing how big our Association is and how many ice slots we use. We have an enormous need for ice times and it was difficult having to allocate times week to week due to other user group's needs, special events, or finding alternates due to storm days.

Challenges:

The biggest challenge I had this year as Director of Operations was ice times. It was difficult doing week to week changes, accommodating special events, moving slots for other user groups and trying to keep everyone happy at the same time.

A challenge that rivals the above was unused ice by the Association. There had been some miscommunication through the season about ice times not being used which caused us to leave some ice slots vacant which we had to pay for. For next year I am proposing an educational meeting with coaches and managers to target this issue; we need to be informed of unused ice so we can send it back to the City to avoid unnecessary rental fees.

With the City having many other user groups for ice surfaces it makes it challenging for FYHA to have enough "prime-time" ice slots. This makes it so we're very heavy on weekend ice times which is not an ideal situation for most Divisions. Moving forward, it would be great to see each Division have their ice times appropriately spaced out more in order to meet the needs of our children and youth which will aid in skill development. It is very difficult to have a fluid season when a Division is stuck with only a couple ice times during the week and predominantly all on the weekend. This doesn't appear to be best practice by other Associations, but unfortunately for us it's a reality due to the amount of ice the city has versus how much they can offer us. Next fall, we're hoping to work with the City and see how we can improve this.

Closing Comments

This year was a good year for me. I was extremely excited to accept the role of Director of Operations and I feel that I have learned an enormous amount while growing as a professional. I think that knowing what I know now will help me excel for next year and my practices will become more efficient – especially with the relationship we have with John Burns of the City of Fredericton and with the support of Alan Underhill, our President. This year has been a learning curve for me and I have embraced the experience. The Board has been extremely patient and supportive throughout the season and I cannot stress how much I truly appreciate each one of you. I am looking forward to improving for next year!

Mark Somerville
Director of Operations

Director of Coaching and Development:

Introduction:

As the FYHA Director of Coaching & Development, I would like to thank all of our FYHA volunteers and staff for another successful Minor Hockey season. As an active coach, I understand the time, commitment and passion that is dedicated to the development of our young athletes, on and off the ice. Coaches carry an extremely vital role within the Association as they are the primary contact for our young hockey players, leading by example and often becoming influential role models.

I've been the Director of Coaching since late December, 2016, and during this short time span, I have seen the amazing work by volunteers of other positions. Countless hours have been dedicated by these volunteers that often go unnoticed, however, you are to be commended for it. It is the care and work of each and every FYHA volunteer and staff member that ensures a great hockey experience by all in a safe and fun environment.

Coaching Certifications:

Our goal is to ensure that all coaches and volunteers meet the minimum standards for their involvement within the FYHA. Again this year, it was our goal to have all coaching/bench staff achieve the required certifications prior to the December 15, 2017, deadline.

HNB supported our Association by hosting "Hockey Canada Coach 2" certification courses in a classroom setting.

In addition, HNB further supported our Association by hosting a "Coach – Development 1" course in a classroom setting.

As in previous years, the FYHA was clear that to volunteer with our Association you must formally apply through the Volunteer Application process. Criminal background checks (CRC/VS checks) are required for all new volunteers and are further required every three (3) years for all volunteers. The FYHA, along with HNB, will continue to monitor closely to ensure all our coaches and bench staff are properly certified and cleared through the CRC/VS screenings. The FYHA will also continue to support any individual that meets these requirements and wishes to volunteer within our Association.

Coach Selection Process:

As in previous years, coach's certifications and credentials are initially verified. After verification, a coach selection committee is comprised of FYHA Board Members to initially select the Head Coaches for each Competitive Division based on a number of factors. Division Coordinators were invited to provide input in these selections and were a part of the selection committee.

For Recreational Divisions, the coaches were selected by the Division Coordinators with approval from the Director of Coaching after they made their selections.

Development Initiatives:

Canadian Tire 'The First Shift' program – This program is truly an incredible initiative to provide young hockey players the opportunity to play and fall in love with the game of hockey. This year, the FYHA participated in two (2) First-Shift programs, each proving to be a successful venture. Next year, the FYHA GM has made application to participate in two (2) more of these programs. Thank you to Hockey Canada, Canadian Tire, the City of Fredericton, and all that were involved in this fantastic venture.

FYHA Development Weekend – In the 2016 season, this weekend did not take place. FYHA did hold a Development Weekend during the 2017 season with some success, however, improvements can be made. Initial planning had lots of ideas initiatives, however, interest and involvement levels dipped as the Weekend approached.

Some of the Weekend's developmental opportunities included a classroom session around Concussion Training and Using technology in Practice Planning (Steve Flynn) and goalie clinics.

Including the above training, some suggestions for the 2018 Development Weekend include:

1) all ice time should be allotted to the Director of Coaching Development in order to properly plan different practices, ice sessions, goalie clinics, etc;

2) instead of individual teams running regular practices throughout the weekend, divide the ice into special groups for developmental sessions

- practice sessions that focus on skating techniques (IP – Atom)
- practice sessions that focus on individual skills and/or tactics (PeeWee - Bantam)
- practice sessions that focus on small area games (Bantam – Midget)
- goalie sessions, etc.

Overall Assessment:

The 2017-2018 season was a successful one for our Association in regards to coaching and development. In 2016, I intended to add more input from the Division Coordinators regarding the coach selections. This was implemented and I believe it was a positive approach for the coach selection process and I hope it continues.

Next Season:

This will be my last year in a very short tenure as Director of Coaching Development. I've enjoyed the role, however, my profession has taken its toll and has made this role very difficult for me to properly do it justice. There are still outstanding matters that I would like to have accomplished before stepping down and hope that the incoming Director may be able see its completion. Practices/Skills Development are more dynamic in today's hockey and I would like to see FYHA continue to stay current by providing coaches some extra tools to assist in developing our youth on ice. Examples of this would be smaller nets for IP, barriers/obstacles (delineators/tires can be an option) to be available for use, stick handling aids (ie. the ladder, attack triangles), rebounders, etc., all of which could be available for coaches to use during practices. I believe these tools would enhance skills development and the experience our youth enjoys through FYHA.

Terry Francis
Director of Coaching & Development

Director of Female Development

The number of females for the 2017/18 season was 127. This is a decrease in female players compared to last year by 6 players.

Initiation – 20	Novice - 35
Atom – 21	Peewee - 19
Bantam – 18	Midget - 1
First shift – 13	

There was not any development planned specifically for the female players within FYHA, due to the Central Female Hockey Association planning for the season. Though they were unable to operate this season, all information pertaining to any event for female hockey players was forwarded to all parents of FYHA female players.

Director of Female Development
Kristy Cairns

Director of Property and Equipment

No socks were purchased for 2017-18, going forward we will continue to use up the existing supply on hand. Sponsors purchased team jerseys for the following Divisions;

1 Novice set	12 Atom sets
1 Atom Competitive set	3 Peewee sets
1 Peewee Competitive set	3 Midget sets

Expenses:

Novice goalie sticks (16)-\$662.40
Novice elbow pads (1)-\$34.50
Hoodies, sticks, wax and tape for Novice jamboree-\$328.10
Hockey bags for new jerseys-\$257.60
Pucks for all divisions (1800)-\$2576.00
Novice uniforms (2 sets)-\$2035.50

FYHA total spent: \$5894.10

2018-19: FYHA board is looking at options to ensure prompt return of jerseys. Requesting a budget of \$8500.00.

Darren Goodine
Director of Property and Equipment

Timbit/Initiation Division

This year, 182 players were registered in the Initiation Program (IP/Timbits) with FYHA compared to the 191 players registered last year. This winter we were fortunate to have 39 volunteer coaches supporting FYHA's youngest players.

The approach to IP practices and games this year were conducted much the same as in past years with the focus on fundamentals in both weekday practices and Saturday games.

Ice Time:

IP was given 8 ice times per week, each being one hour in length giving each team two hours a week on the ice. In November and December, we lost a bit more ice than normal due to the high demand of City Special Events. I feel due to the early morning Saturday times we lost much less than other divisions.

Teams:

We had a total of 14 teams this year! All the team's averaging 13 players. Having smaller teams and lots of volunteers gave a higher coach to player ratio, resulting in a more hands on approach. IP Minor consisted of 8 teams of 4&5 year olds. IP Major consisted of 6 teams of 6 year olds.

As in the past, all Minor teams only played and practiced with other Minor teams and Major only played and practiced with other Major teams. This allows the Minors to progress and improve significantly throughout the season without the frustrations that were experienced in years past (prior to division separation). It also allows the 6-year-old group to practice more advanced drills that will aid them in the transition to Novice.

Goalies:

In the last couple of months of the season we introduced goalie equipment to the IP Major group during practice time. This was met with great enthusiasm from all! I feel in having the kid's try the equipment in IP will alleviate some of the fear of wearing it in Novice games and in time hopefully encourage new long-term goalies.

Canadian Tire First Shift:

We had 6 children from the Canadian Tire First Shift join our teams after Christmas; the transition was met with no issues. Plans were made at the beginning of the season to accommodate the First Shift players, which eliminated the problems we encountered in the 2014/2015 season.

Closing remarks:

I would like to thank all my volunteer coaches; the program is a success because of you. Heartfelt thanks go to all the Timbit parents for always being understanding, patient and great role models for your kids. Thank you to all the Timbit skaters, for always bringing smiles and hard work to all your ice times. This has been such a memorable season for me and I can't wait to see what next season brings.

Yours in hockey,

Christa Reynolds
Timbit Coordinator

Novice Division

This year, over 240 players were registered in the Novice program with FYHA. This winter we were fortunate to have 55 volunteer coaches supporting FYHA's young players. The approach to Novice practices and games this year were conducted much the same as in past years with the focus on "fun"amentals in both weekday practices and Saturday games.

Ice Time:

Novice was given 16 ice times per week, each being one hour in length giving each team two hours a week on the ice. In November and December, we lost a bit more ice than normal due to the high demand of City Special Events.

Teams:

We had a total of 16 teams this season. All the team's averaging between 12 and 15 skaters. Novice Minor consisted of 8 teams of skaters born in 2010. Novice Major consisted of 8 teams of skaters born in 2009. As in the past all Minor teams only played and practiced with other Minor teams and Major only played and practiced with other Major teams.

Goalies:

FYHA provided 16 sets of goalie gear to the novice teams, this gave the coaches a chance to encourage more players into the net. Hopefully this will continue to increase the amount of goalies moving forward.

Jersey's and socks:

We received 1 new set of jersey's and socks this season from Wendy's. FYHA purchased an additional 2 sets.

Bauer First Shift:

We had 19 First Shift kids join our teams after Christmas; the transition was met with no issues. I made plans at the beginning of the season to accommodate the First Shift players.

Novice Jamboree:

We had 40 teams participating in the jamboree this season, 16 local teams and 24 away teams. Each team played 3 games. This season we decided to give out pennants to the players instead of medals.

Suggestions for next season:

There were many of the goalies that had no jersey to fit that matched the rest of their team, it would be good if we purchased one goalie jersey for each set of uniforms.

Closing remarks:

I would like to thank all my volunteer coaches; the program is a success because of you. Heartfelt thanks go to all the Novice parents for always being understanding, patient and great role models for your kids. Thank you to all the Novice skaters, for always bringing smiles and hard work to all your ice times. This has been such a memorable season for me and I can't wait to see what next season brings.

Sylvia Plume
Novice Coordinator

Atom Division

Competitive

Player/Coach Selection:

The app for player selection was used for atom competitive this year. The first night it was a bit off for a couple of games but ended up being a very resourceful tool. Having 4 Head coaches instead of 8 and waiting until the tryouts were done led to quality head coaches. It was a steep learning curve but I think will be positive moving forward.

Ice Times:

We had decent ice times for atom competitive- 430pm Monday was a bit early but the rest of the times were decent. Mornings were challenging because there is a goalie clinic on Wednesdays and most atom goalies participated- we were able to switch to Fridays, but that is tough whenever there's a tournament or a Friday game.

Jerseys:

Wildcats received new jerseys this season. Kent Canucks are probably the next team in need of new jerseys. Socks were hit or miss depending on the team. Most players are now buying their own socks to match the team- MacTavish's was able to get them quickly when ordered.

Teams:

All teams were competitive with each other by the end of the season- leading to believe that the draft was successful. All 4 teams made the finals in at least one tournament, with a couple of them winning multiple banners.

Concerns:

- lost ice times due to weather and double booking, and no times available to make up
- especially hard to make up weekend games when each team has 5 tournament
- Coaches were not all following the same guidelines, which led to disgruntled parents
- **Perceived** inconsistent Refereeing because of less experienced refs

Recommendations:

- Possibly keep an ice time or two during the week available so coordinators can use it if there are cancellations/makeups needed. Spread it out around all divisions as equally as possible.
- Meetings with head coaches, GM, Coach Coordinator and Division coordinator at the start of the season outlining expectations and consequences. Follow up meetings bi-monthly at set time.
- Referee rep attend parents meeting for each team at the start of the year to explain that refs are in training and to be patient. Also early in season team up experienced ref with young refs to lay ground rules early on.

Recreation

For the 2017/18 season the Atom C Division had 179 players and 13 goalies spread across 12 teams. Three first shift players were added in January. It was a struggle getting enough head and assistant coaches for 12 teams. Some of the volunteers that were signed up for Rec coaches were also signed up for Comp coaching. We were still looking for coaches the day before the draft. This did not allow for us to be able to properly assess the coaches and this led to some difficulties throughout the season.

Spreading the 179 players over 12 teams made for quite an imbalance. In the future, we probably should keep it to 10 teams to avoid this problem.

In the future, there should be a coaches meeting, especially for the ones coming up from Novice, to better prepare them for the season.

With 12 teams it was very difficult scheduling the round robin for the Christmas tournament and year end tournament with teams participating in away tournaments. We should have a cut of date of the capital invitational for tournaments. If teams want to participate in away tournaments during the round robin of either the Christmas or year-end tournament, they should be asked to forfeit their position in the FYHA tournament.

Overall, we had a pretty successful season.

Thanks so much to all coaches, managers, board members & other volunteers for their hard work and dedication to hockey in Fredericton.

Special thank you to Kristy Cairns for taking over the coordination of the Atom Rec division - 12 teams made it very challenging and she totally rocked it!

Robin Ferdinand
Atom Division Coordinator

Peewee Division

Thank you to all volunteers, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, players, parents and supporters of the peewee division. Making a sports league work is a group effort and without your dedication, it simply wouldn't be successful.

Both divisions were relatively balanced throughout the season. The competitive division was highly skilled and the teams were well-matched, which can be partially attributed to the Team Genius app. In the recreational division, all teams developed over the season and many games were close or ended in ties.

The Team Genius app used for evaluating competitive tryouts was incredibly useful and made the entire process much easier. Once the kinks were worked out on the first day, it provided us with accurate evaluations and sped up the creation of the draft list. We plan to use the app for comp and rec evaluations going forward.

I am pleased to announce the peewee division volunteers of the year are Arrah McKinley and Gary Leroux. Thank you to Arrah and Gary for their hard work and dedication in ensuring their players developed and had fun this season. Please join me in congratulating them.

During the season, there were concerns with officiating. Through education this was largely dealt with and the majority of games in the second half of the season went smoothly, although there remain a few areas where development is needed. Many officials are young and learning, and some coaches can be assertive. This coming off-season is an opportunity for further education and training for all.

At the beginning of the year, we ran into issues with ice times – specifically the early weekday evening start times and how many ice times we had on certain days. Next season, I recommend start times no earlier than 5:30 p.m. during the week. I also recommend having ice times spread out throughout the week to facilitate more games and avoid teams hitting the ice twice in one day. Mark did a great job in handling the many requests of the co-ordinators all season long – thank you, Mark!

Overall, teams in both divisions had successful years and performed well at tournaments around the province. Congratulations to the Peewee AA Ice Dogs for winning provincials and the St. Mary's Peewee Rec Sharks for winning the FYHA Year-End Tournament. The Blue Jackets and Kings took home silver and bronze, respectively.

Once again, a huge thank you to the coaches, volunteers, and parents for their continued support. Your dedication and passion does not go unnoticed. I would also like to thank my fellow FYHA Board members for lending their support and expertise throughout the season.

Kelsey Pye
Peewee Coordinator

Bantam Division

I would like to thank all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, volunteers, parents and players for all their efforts in making this a great season.

The draft for both competitive and recreational levels went well, resulting in two (2) competitive teams and seven (7) recreational teams. A new electronic system (Team Genius) was used to evaluate the competitive level. There were a few minor challenges with the system early on, but overall it was considered a success.

Recreational Division

The league this year consisted of seven (7) recreational teams including ninety-eight (98) players and eight (8) goalies.

Ice allocations for the division fell within FYHA guidelines. Each team played twenty-seven (27) regular season games, twelve (12) FYHA Tournament games (including consolation games) and had between fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) total practices. This does not include exhibition games or tournaments external to FYHA.

All teams were given several opportunities for extra ice times that became available throughout the season which they could use for practice or exhibition games with outside teams. The Bantam Division Page (website) was regularly kept up to date with the latest league information. This was where the regular season schedule, playoff schedule, team standings, and important communications were maintained throughout the year. This seemed to be appreciated by both players and parents.

The FYHA Christmas tournament, witnessed the Panthers beating the Senators. This led to the Panthers playing a best of three game series against the Grand Lake Wild for a chance at the C - Zones and ultimately a chance to play at provincials. Unfortunately, after three well played games they lost the series 2-1.

At the FYHA year-end playoffs the Blue Jackets brought home the gold with the Canadians claiming silver.

Christmas Tournament	Year End Tournament
1st – Panthers	1st – Blue Jackets
2nd – Senators	2nd – Canadians
3rd – Devils	3rd – Panthers
4th – Canucks	4th – Senators

All seven teams competed in external association tournaments throughout the season, many winning gold and silver medals.

Competitive Division

The FYHA Bantam competitive division had a successful year. There were two teams, Nashwaaksis Lions Club and Swiftys Capitals with thirty (30) players and four (4) goalies on their rosters. Many Recreation players were affiliated with both teams.

Both Swiftys and the Lions came away winners multiple times in external association tournaments held throughout the season.

The Lions played a best-of-three Provincial qualifier against Woodstock in March and won two games straight earning them a spot in the Division B Provincials. After a great weekend of hockey and a convincing win in the finals, they returned to Fredericton as Provincial Champions.

Swiftys earned a spot to play in the best-of-three District 3 AA competitive championship final. Oromocto won a close first game, but Swiftys rallied the next two games coming up with solid wins earning them the title. Raucous fans packed Willie O'Ree 2 for the game three win.

In Conclusion,

I would like to say that I was appreciative of the opportunity to act as the Bantam Coordinator and for the support received from Leslie Plaster (Division Manager), John O'Toole and other Board members to make is a successful season.

Darrell Sharpe
Bantam Coordinator

Midget Division

I would like to thank all volunteers, coaches, assistant coaches, managers and parents for a great season. The draft for both competitive and recreational levels went reasonably well, resulting in one AA competitive teams and 9 recreational teams.

Recreational Division:

This year we had nine recreational teams. There were 142 Players and 12 Goalies the league for 9 teams with 15 or 16 players and 1 goalies for 6 teams and 3 with two. Ice allocations for the division fell within or exceeded FYHA guidelines. Each team played approximately 36 regular season games.

All teams were given several opportunities for extra ice times that became available throughout the season which they could use for practice or exhibition games with outside teams – not everyone took advantage of these times so practices ranged between 4 and 7 per team. All times were listed on the website for all to see. This open access to information seemed to be appreciated by the parents.

The FYHA Christmas tournament, witnessed the Bruins beating out the Leafs. This led to the Bruins playing a best of three games series against a strong Doaktown team for a chance at the C-Zones and a chance to play at provincials. Unfortunately, after three well played games they lost the series 2-1.

At the FYHA year-end playoffs, in a very exciting shoot-out the Ramada Flyers prevailed and brought home the gold with the Flames claiming silver.

All of the nine teams competed in external association tournaments throughout the season, many winning gold and silver medals.

Competitive Division:

The Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget AA Lions competitive team had a successful year winning Gold at the Provincial AA Level.

Challenges:

The biggest challenge that I faced this year was the moving target with ice times. Overall there were very few issues with players and coaches both. In conclusion, this was a great season that I had the privilege to be coordinator for.

Nancy Wilson
Midget Coordinator

Annalee Brewer
Midget Division Manager

Director of Special Events

The 2017/18 FYHA Hockey Season was a very successful season for our Special Events.
Poinsettia Campaign: approx. 280 plants sold, revenue generated was \$2100.00

Tournaments:

Midget Comp Tournament Nov. 24-26th, 2017

- 10 teams participated

Timbit Jamboree: Feb. 10-12th, 2018

- 17 teams participated

Wendy's Novice Jamboree: March 16-18th, 2018

- 40 teams participated

Capital Invitational Atom Division: March 2-5th, 2018

- Atom C winner: FYHA Atom Oilers
- Atom A winner: Oromocto Eagles

Capital Invitational PeeWee Division: March 2-5th, 2018

- PeeWee C winner: FYHA St. Mary's Sharks
- PeeWee A winner: FYHA Coastal Graphics Ice Dogs

Capital Invitational Bantam Division: March 9-11th, 2018

- Bantam C winner: Restigouche Ouest Coyotes
- Bantam A winner: FYHA Swifty's Capitals

Capital Invitational Midget Division: March 9-11th, 2018

- Midget C winner: Edmundston Predateur #2

Recommendations:

1. Novice Jamboree to be revisited and the decision to move dates to throughout the March Break weekdays. All Fredericton Teams be responsible for registration, rebate of volunteer hours to be reimbursed at the 20hr/team mark. Decision to accept more outside teams based on ice availability.
2. Timbit Jamboree was a huge success. In keeping with including Mitch Clarke Park, this year we were able to hold the Opening Ceremonies and 2 games on Friday evening there. It was a great to celebrate with local dignitaries, BFN, FYHA, the Clarke family and our Timbit hockey families. On Saturday, we offered Skills & Drills sessions offered by local Hockey Teams and Groups weather permitting. The rain and snow did not hold off for us, but the kids did get to take advantage of one session with Champions Hockey. Next year it would be great to grow this event even more!!
3. This year hosting the 42nd Capital Invitational over the March Break weekends seemed to be very well received. We lacked volunteers on the Bantam/Midget weekend since there were not many Fredericton teams taking part.
4. For the 2018/19 season it would be great to offer a couple of extra options. Ie. Intermission play with the UNB Reds, or STU Ladies. Discover any partnership with HNB, or other Hockey groups to offer additional development to our Female Players.

I would like to thank the many volunteers that helped us make these events so victorious.

Melissa Lockhart
Director of Special Events

2017/18 FYHA Volunteer of the Year Awards

HNB Award

State Farm Volunteer of the Year Award

- Peter MacWilliam

FYHA Division Awards

TimBit/Initiation Division

- Rob Mullaly
- Charles Hoyt

Novice Division

- Jessica Bleasdale
- Joel Dickinson
- Jeremy Kinney

Atom Division

- Kyla Harriott
- Amanda Snowdon
- Tanya Porter

PeeWee Division

- Arrah McKinley
- Gary Leroux

Bantam Division

- Leslie Paul
- Todd Pye
- Brian Williams

Midget Division

- Jasen Golding
- Jim Melanson