

FREDERICTON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Presented at the Annual General Meeting
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Adam Humphrey, Atom Co-Coordinator
EMPLOYEE(S)
Jonathan Brown, General Manager
Kelsey Henderson, Sport Management Intern UNB (September- November 2014)

PRESIDENTS REPORT BY JOHN SAUNDERS

GENERAL MANAGER RENEWAL

Over the past three years, FYHA has benefited from the experience of Jon Brown. Mr. Brown has done a tremendous job in his duties and workmanship. Well done Jon!

ICE ALLOCATION

The past year, with the closing of the York arena, FYHA had a great challenge to allocate ice to our membership. I can say our Director of Operations with the help of the Division Coordinators, past the test with great success! Excellent work!

RECOGNITION OF TEAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Booster Juice Capitals won Peewee A Provincial Championship.

Nashwaaksis Midget A Lions 2nd place at Provincials.

Atom A DQ Blizzards 1st Place District 3.

Atom AA Kent Kanucks 2nd Place District 3.

DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND

Many thanks to all the great volunteers that made the event a huge success. Special thanks to Darren Shakotko for taking the lead on our organizing committee.

Note: HNB recognized FYHA as hosting the best Development Weekend for 2014-15. Prizes were donated and given to Darren and other volunteers on our committee.

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 (2015-2016 Season)

Our challenge this upcoming hockey season is to find more fundraising opportunities to off-set the rising ice costs of \$17 per hour which translates to an estimated hit of \$50,000 per year to our association.

VACANT BOARD POSITIONS

The following positions on the FYHA board require to be filled for the upcoming 2015-2016 season: Peewee Coordinator, Atom Coordinator and Novice Coordinator.

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITIES

Without our sponsors support and commitment, we would not be able to put a product on the ice or manage costs to allow kids or parents to participate. Thank you so much.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

I would like to extend a huge thanks to the FYHA board members for their hard work and dedication with special thanks going to retiring board members - Rob Chase as Pee wee Coordinator, Holly Grasse as Atom Coordinator and Steven Clarke as Novice Coordinator. 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 near future!

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT BY JONATHAN BROWN

As we turn the page on the 2014-15 season it is important to note that it takes extraordinary individuals to volunteer their time to youth sports. I would like to think that in one way or another all of our volunteers have positively impacted a child's life at some point this season. On behalf of the 2014-15 Board of Directors, I would like to thank all of our volunteers for developing skills in our youth that will be able to impact their life both on and off the ice.

REGISTRATION

<u>Division</u>	2013-14	2014-15
Initiation	177	182
Novice	183	230
Atom	229	226
Peewee	185	167
Bantam	176	198
Midget	175	146
Juvenile	26	0

TOTAL 1151 1149

In 2013-14 there were 96 females registered on teams. 2014-15 seen that number increase to 103.

Approximately 55% of membership used the online registration option to register. Members also welcomed a debit/credit in-house payment option this season verses cheque/cash only in previous years.

BAUER FIRST SHIFT

This was FYHA's first year offering the new program – Bauer First Shift. This program is geared towards those children ages 6-11 who have never had the opportunity to try hockey before. Participants pay \$200 dollars, receive 6-weeks (FYHA provided an additional 2 weeks) of free instruction, outfitted head to toe in new Bauer equipment and have the chance to continue after the first 6 weeks.

This year we had 36 kids registered in the program. 27 continued after Christmas. We will be reoffering the program in 2015-16. Registration info will be posted in the fall with our Welcome Event happening the week of October 26-30.

FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIPS

I am very pleased to say that we had another successful season fundraising from the following events.

- **2014 Summer Hockey - \$7800**
- **Frozen Faceoff - \$2,000**
- **Capital Invitational - \$12,000**

SPONSORSHIP NOTES

- **Pita Pit** sponsored pucks for the 2014-15 season. (*This was a new partnership.*)
- **Nashwaaksis Lions Club** continues to be the title sponsor for our Capital Invitational.
- **Allstate Insurance** continues to offer discounts for FYHA Members and sponsor FYHA events.
- **Wendy's** continued it's free frosty program for FYHA players who wear their jerseys in-store.
- **Scotiabank Community Hockey Program** continues to support FYHA.
- **Steven Clarke** (FYHA Novice Coordinator) through **Enbridge Gas** helped secure a \$1000 dollar donation (*new partnership.*)
- **Northside Canadian Tire** continues to support our Novice Jamboree with donations and pricing rates.
- **FYHA** partnered with **Northside Wal-Mart** as part of their community partnership grant - \$2000 (*new partnership.*)
- Other new partnerships include **Saint Mary's Entertainment Centre**, and **Fredericton Sports Investment** who helped sponsor our Capital Invitational for the 2014-15 season.
- **Papa John's Pizza** reoffered fair play program.
- Our Atom Rec players continue to benefit from **McDonalds AtomC** program in being able to keep their uniforms at the end of the season.

Corporate Sponsors provided over \$17,000 dollars this year to the FYHA to support our events, purchase new uniforms and to help provide a quality program at a reasonable cost to our members. A huge thank you goes out to all sponsors:

Tim Hortons
Wendy's
Dairy Queen
McDonalds
Pita Pit
Papa John's
Dodge Caravan Kids
Swiftly's Oil Chance
Images by Nevin Magee

Kent Building Supplies
Nashwaaksis Y's Men
Nashwaaksis Lions Club
Northumberland Dairy
Allstate Insurance
Delta Fredericton
Enbridge Gas
Canadian Tire
Northside Wal-Mart

Booster Juice
Costal Graphics
Scotiabank
Colpitts Developments
St. Mary's Entertainment
Ramada Fredericton
Fredericton Sport Investments
DKC Disaster Cleanup

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FYHA would like to thank the following programs for helping kids participate in hockey who otherwise may not be able to afford registration:

- **Kid Sport New Brunswick**
- **Canadian Tire Jumpstart**
- **Brendon Oreto Foundation**
- **Mitch Clarke Sports for Kids Fund**
- **St. Mary's Entertainment Centre**

SUMMER LEAGUE

On July 6th, FYHA will continue to offer its summer hockey program. Like last year, the program is designed to bring together players of both recreational and competitive calibers to play in a relaxed, safe, and fun hockey environment. All teams will play 10 games over an 8-week period.

There are very few player spots left open and limited goalie spots available. The deadline to register is Friday, May 22.

STUDENT INTERN

This year we had a 2nd staff, Kelsey Henderson as part of her internship with UNB's Sport Management Program. Kelsey was responsible for the following tasks:

- FYHA Registration
- Bauer First Shift Welcome Event
- Frozen Faceoff Sponsorship
- Frozen Faceoff/Capital Team Registration.

This was my first experience mentoring someone in the work place and a very positive one. We will be receiving another student intern in the fall and my current plan is for the student to take a more detailed "Program Coordinator" role. I would have this person assist with the tasks above and take a major role as the Program Administrator for the Bauer First Shift.

DISCIPLINE

I would like to thank all parties who sat on both our discipline and appeals committees for the 2014-15 season. As a resource person on these committees this is not an easy undertaking – especially for volunteers. That being said, the 2014-15 season was very positive in terms of discipline and behaviour at the rink. We had only a few major issues outlined below.

- No player suspensions were imposed greater than the Minimum Standards.
- 2 coach suspensions in excess of Minimum Standards.
- 2 parent warning letters.
- 1 appeal.

In Midget Rec, to ensure player safety FYHA imposed a return to play agreement be signed following any suspension for the months of February and March. I am pleased to say only 2 of these had to be signed prior to the Bronze/Gold Medal games - all following suspensions based off the Minimum Standards.

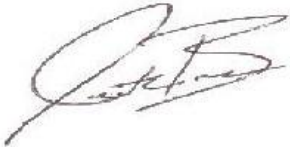
RECOMMENDATIONS

- More member recognition, ie team, player, coach of the month.
- Continue to offer clinics throughout the season to further train and educate our members.
- Appoint Disciplinary Chair for final say on all disciplinary matters within the association.
- Establish a fundraising committee at the start of the 2015-16 season. This could help offset costs associated increased ice time.
- Continue to look for Grants/Corporate Sponsors to help offset costs to our members.

THANK YOU

Again, I would like to thank all of our board members, parents, coaches, players and other volunteers who played a helping hand in having a successful 2014-15 season. It is my hope that FYHA as an organization continues to improve and meet the needs of our membership.

Yours in Hockey,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Brown', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Brown
General Manager
Fredericton Youth Hockey Assoc.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the countless volunteers who put forth their time and knowledge to make FYHA such a success. Without you our organization would not be as successful as it is.

I also want to thank the coordinators, division managers and board members. Your dedication to detail and adaptability to the circumstances presented to you daily is a testament of the people we have in this community.

Minor hockey has changed over the past 5 years. Player's expectation of development as well as our association's expectations has improved drastically. FYHA has taken upon themselves to put forth extensive development opportunities for its volunteers that help in the growth of our Coaches and Assistants to develop with the necessary skillset to meet the demands of its members who want more than just to be able to play hockey. The vision of our current board is to grow the players understanding and development as well, compliment this growth with the growth of its Coaches through mentorship and additional classroom and on ice sessions with qualified knowledgeable instructors. From what I have witnessed over the last couple of seasons, this vision is paying off greatly.

In the weeks following the end of March signifying FYHA year-end, I reflected on the positives and negatives that were presented this year. I must say there were more positives than negatives. Having the right people in the right places at the right times enabled the association to be extremely proactive. The board was always informed of the goings on within our organization on a daily basis. This was in large part to the Division Coordinators and Division Managers that were in place and who took it upon themselves to be actively available and oversee games of their division. This involvement by them made all participants aware that FYHA was there to address issues that came up immediately rather than the normal 24-48 hours. This dedication has become a norm for our Board members and volunteers and will be so for years to come.

HNB and Hockey Canada has been playing a large part in addressing the unwanted frustration factor that happens in the stands from individuals who take a minor hockey game and make it personal. Over the last couple of years we have seen or heard of incidents involving individuals in the stands who take what happens on the ice to serious and as a result lose all common sense and take things to a level that never should be seen at a Minor event. This year is the first in the last 4 that has seen these incidents at a minimal number. Hats off to all those involved in the education of this behavior, through rink signs, news ads, and Minor Association stepping up and letting people know that this behavior will not be tolerated any longer.

2014-2015 season presented itself with the closure of the York Arena and the task working with the City Recreation staff to rearrange ice allocations for FYHA and all other users of the ice facilities. In the end after numerous attempts, a draft Ice allocation was presented. Although not ideal, but after a few weeks of reworking the hours assigned to FYHA we were able to make it work. Again this year and in years past, ice availability during the weekday evenings were limited. Therefore, FYHA was heavy on the weekend ice time slots. This is and will always be the case because of the number of user groups within the city.

The good thing that came out of this was the Timbits program, other than weather related closures, they had very close to a 100% ice usage for the year. I know the times were not perfect but I think this year was the first year that age group always had their assigned ice every week.

With FYHA able to utilize the LBR more than in years past we were able to limit the losses associated with the City's Special Events and allow for all divisions to get in some hockey during these events. It was never ideal but in all cases we tried to assign enough ice per division to get some if not all teams out during these weekends. The teams themselves took it upon themselves to participate in tournaments during these limited weekends which was a win - win for all. Great job of working with what we were given.

The fall of 2015 should bring the York Arena back online. This should give us more, "prime ice" availability than in the past. My hope is that we can work out an additional 6-8 hours of ice from Monday through Thursday. This additional ice will help in the overload we currently have on Saturdays.

The city has put forth an increase in hourly rates for all users of these facilities. The increase is \$17/hour. This may seem minimal but in our case where we purchase around 120 hours/week, this increase is substantial. In the past few years we had increases in the hourly rates and have managed to keep our registration amounts the same. But with this increase there may be a chance that membership rates may increase slightly. We want to assure our membership that any increase will be in line with other similar sized associations in NB who have and are experiencing the same rise in hourly rates from their respective city's Recreation Department.

Overall my first year as Director of Operations has been very good. I think with my previous 12 years as a member (parent-Coach) within this association, I was able to input my ideas towards what works and what does not. Because I currently have no children in the program, and am actively involved as Coach at the Midget Comp level, I did this job with no personal agenda. This is the same I see from others who are on the board. We all are doing this for the betterment of membership only. I will say that FYHA has the best support system of any associations I have been involved in. I feel that having a Full-time General Manager Jon Brown, and what he brings to the table with his knowledge of hockey, his dedication to detail, his management abilities and personality, that I must say without this support system in place I may have been overwhelmed. Thanks Jon!

In closing thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be part of such a great association and just to say I will be re-offering as Dir. of Operations for the 2015-2016 FYHA Hockey season.

Yours in Hockey,

Alan Underhill

DIRECTOR OF COACHING & DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

As the FYHA Director of Coaching & Development, I would like to thank all of our FYHA volunteers this past season that helped our young hockey players develop in a fun and safe environment. Coaches have the greatest influence on a young player's hockey experience and their commitment to providing a fun and safe hockey environment, contributed greatly to our success again this season. Also, team managers, division coordinators and on-ice helpers worked diligently to ensure our leagues operated effectively given some significant challenges with scheduling and ice availability.

Coaching Certifications

To maintain our commitment to complying with coach certification requirements, the FYHA continued its focus on ensuring all coaches and volunteers met the minimum standards. Again, our goal was to ensure all our coaching staff had or achieved the required certifications prior to the December 15, 2014 deadline.

HNB supported our association by directing two "Hockey Canada Coach 2" certification courses in a classroom setting for 48 of our coaches and bench staff. In addition to these certifications, we had 55 FYHA coaches or volunteers successfully complete the on-line version of Speak-out called "Respect-In-Sport", bringing the total number of certifications completed to 103 for 2014-15. As a result, it will be easier going forward to comply with HNB directives regarding coaching certifications and to retain coaches and encourage further development.

Once again, the FYHA made it very clear to our membership that to volunteer with our association you must formally apply through the Volunteer Application process. Criminal background checks are required every 3 years for all our volunteers. This year, many of these background checks were due for returning coaches, however, we received almost 100% compliance to our request to provide a new one. The FYHA, along with HNB will continue to monitor closely to ensure all our coaches and bench staff are properly certified and have met the requirements outlined. The FYHA will also continue to support any individual that meets the requirements and wants to volunteer and become certified.

Coach Selection Process

Prior to the start of the 2014-2015 season, the FYHA received 165 coaching applications for various divisions. Volunteer Applications and Criminal Background Checks were received by the General Manager prior to the start of the season and certification credentials were verified. The coach selection committee comprised of the FYHA Director of Coaching, Vice-President, General Manager and Director of Operations met to initially select the Head Coaches for each division based on the volunteer application & certification requirements being met, coaching experience, and previous disciplinary infractions or incidents. Division Coordinators were given an opportunity to provide input into the selection process as well. Applications for several assistant coaches team managers and bench staff were submitted for approval in a second phase of the selection process and that resulted in another 39 assistant coaches and 80 other volunteers (managers/bench staff) being approved. This brought the total to 284 volunteers for the 2014-15 season.

Development Weekend

FYHA was chosen by Hockey New Brunswick as hosting the best overall HNB Development Weekend this past season. Following the HNB guidelines, the FYHA organized a “Development Weekend” that was held Saturday, November 1 to Sunday, November 2. An organizing committee lead by Darren Shakatko planned an extensive weekend of hockey player and coach development sessions both on and off the ice for all of our divisions. Guest coaches and speakers volunteered their time to lead these sessions and the feedback from the membership was very positive again this year.

Other Development Initiatives

Bauer First Shift Program – 36 “new to hockey players” participated in a program for players aged 6-10 interested in trying the sport of hockey with the option of joining the FYHA recreational programs after the 8 ice-sessions. Thanks goes out to Hockey Canada, Bauer Canada and the City of Fredericton for sponsoring and subsidizing this well-organized program. Also, thank you to FYHA GM Jonathan Brown for coordinating the administration of this and to Darren Shakotko for leading the on-ice sessions with 10 other volunteers. This program was a great success and has been approved again for next season.

Coaches of Significance – An off-ice Saturday morning breakfast program for developing coaches was launched this past season by Darren Shakatko. The program was very well-received by coaches from various divisions in the FYHA that attended regularly. A video presentation followed by coach roundtable discussions were the common format for these development sessions.

Goalie Skill Development Sessions – Again this season, Eric Pye lead regular goalie skill development clinics for FYHA goalies. These clinics were free of charge for any FYHA goaltender. Eric also offered a “new to goalie” session during development weekend and we will continue to work with Eric to promote the goaltending position in the future.

Dr. David Scott Presentation on The Power of Positive Thinking for Goaltenders – FYHA General Manager, Jonathan Brown organized a seminar after several requests from members to provide “mental training” for goaltenders. Dr. David Scott is currently a sport psychologist for the Montreal Canadiens and has worked with several professional hockey teams in the past. Turn out for this seminar was excellent with over 40 participants.

The Drillbook On-line Coaching Program – FYHA provided all coaches with a link and opportunity to create an account with the Drillbook. The Drillbook is a free, interactive website/mobile app that allows coaches to manage their team, access to pre-built practice plans, create instructional videos and much more.

Overall Assessment

The 2014-2015 season was successful for our association in terms of coach development and the number of volunteers that participated. Hockey New Brunswick recognized the FYHA Development Weekend as the best overall program in the province this year which our organizing committee is very proud of.

Also, there were some very positive reports sent by our membership about our coaches and some good stories that exemplify the commitment and leadership qualities of the majority of our coaches.

Our coaching group this season included several younger coaches that are not parents but had a desire to coach minor hockey. These individuals performed very well and as an association, we recognize the benefits of attracting and retaining more of these coaches in the future.

Our disciplinary committee seen an overall decline in the number of incidents reported involving the misconduct of FYHA coaches, however, we did have some cases that required disciplinary action to be taken.

Coach Evaluation Survey

At the end of the season, the FYHA General Manager developed and made available a web based evaluation survey to our membership to provide feedback to the association about the coaching as it pertains to the hockey experience over the season. This survey tool allows our membership access to a more user-friendly means to provide the association with feedback. Results were not complete at the time of this report.

Next Season

Again, we have listened to feedback from our coaches and membership and for the upcoming season. Here are some of the key areas we will be focusing on next season in terms of coaching and development:

- We will be organizing a learning session for parents that coincides with our continued emphasis on minimizing the incidents involving parents and minor hockey games.
- We will be hosting a “Pre-season Coaches Meeting” shortly after registration to provide important information to our new and returning FYHA coaches. We have done this in the past with the IP coaching group but recognize the need to do this for our other divisions.
- Development Weekend – 1st weekend in November- will feature a similar format but with include additional topics for off-ice sessions. This is a great opportunity to provide developmental opportunities for players and coaches specifically in areas that don’t always get the attention they need in regular practices or coaching clinics.

Yours in Hockey,

Sterling Brown

Director of Coaching and Development

TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited financial statements are not available at this time. Report to be updated when complete.

DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

With over \$9000 dollars in sponsorship money being brought in for equipment directly. FYHA was able to provide the following:

- Pucks provided by Pita Pit.
- New Midget Rec Uniforms.
- New Female Uniforms.
- McDonald's provided 9 sets of Uniforms for Atom Rec – Approved for 9 more next season.
- Tim Hortons provided 3 new sets of uniforms for Timbits.
- Wendy's provided 2 new sets of Novice uniforms.
- Nashwaaksis Y's Service Group provided 2 new sets for the Atom Wildcats.
- Northumberland partnered for 2 new sets of Peewee jerseys.
- Two new sets for Bantam Rec provided by the Scotiabank Community Hockey Program.
- Nashwaaksis Lions Club provided 2 new sets for Midget Comp

FYHA purchased the following:

- Other Jerseys – \$2015.05
- Socks - \$6262.92
- Goalie Equipment - \$4340.24
- Other bags, pucks and coach boards - \$3307.27

Total Spent – \$15, 927.48

Requesting a Budget of \$20,000 for the 2015-16 Season.

Yours in hockey,

Raymond Curtis
Director of Property and Equipment

DIRECTOR OF FEMALE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014-2015 hockey season, once again, proved successful for the female Furies Atom and Peewee division programs. The season was well represented with 18 girls registered on the Atom team and 15 girls on the Peewee team. The interest in the Atom team was so positive, eligible players were turned away since our quota was reached early for the Atom team. This season boasted both an Atom and Peewee team registered in the SNBFHL.

The overall skill level for the Atom C Furies team showed dominant early in the season indicating the team was too strong for the Atom C division. By mid-season the team had a perfect record, winning all games played against their Atom C opponents. A mid-season review identified the need to place the Atom C Furies into a higher level division. It was agreed to, at the SNBFHL level to place the Atom Furies into the Peewee C division for the remainder of the season. The competition level for the team improved, validating the decision, and demonstrating that the correct path forward was chosen. The Atom Furies completed their season competing well at the Peewee C division level and performing at an acceptable level in the Peewee C division Day of Champions.

The Peewee Furies played a strong season in the Peewee C division and as a result finished the year off in a higher division competing in Peewee A for both the Provincial Championship and Day of Champions.

Fredericton Frozen Face-off Tournament

The Atom Furies won gold in the Frozen Face-off Tournament, showing great skill, determination and leadership, from start to finish. The Peewee Furies went undefeated in the round robin, demonstrating the strength of their team, but fell short in the semi-finals losing 2-1 to Carleton in a very close, hard fought, battle. Once again, Jon Brown, did an excellent job executing a very successful and organized tournament.

Hockey Development Sessions

As part of this year's development weekend (November 1-2), FYHA hosted two "female only" sessions. These skills and drills sessions were run by Bantam AAA Phantoms coaches Cynthia Lohnes and Lucerne Nussbaum, along with help from a few of the Peewee and Atom Furies coaches. The ice times were offered to all FYHA female players (IP, Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam).

Further, Eric LaFrance organised the 3rd annual spring girls hockey program. This year the program was divided into a "Skills and Drills" Program for all IP, Novice, and 1st and 2nd year Atom aged players (players born 2004-2008). The program offered 5 ice times, which included skills and drills, power skating, and scrimmages designed to focus on player development. The program was led by Bantam AAA Phantom coaches Cynthia Lohnes and Lucerne Nussbaum, with help from Bantam AAA players. The program also offered a spring hockey portion designed for 2nd year Atom, Peewee, and first year Bantam aged players (players born 05-00). This portion of the program had a maximum of 30 skaters and 3 goaltenders playing 3x 12 minute stop time periods with officials.

SNBFHL Championship

The Atom Furies team finished the regular season in first place and qualified for the SNBFHL day of Champions in the Peewee C division. The team went on to win gold at the Day of Champions.

The Peewee Furies team completed a successful season and were placed into the Peewee A division for both the Day of Champions and Provincials. In both events the Peewee Furies had a strong showing, placing second, and winning silver.

HNB Provincials

The Peewee Furies completed the season winning silver at the Provincials in a close game against the Peewee Carleton team. A Provincial jamboree was not completed this year for the Atom Furies, so the year ended with the Day of Champions event.

Double Carding - Atom C Players

The Atom Furies were permitted to double card again this year, allowing players to compete on both a girl and boy team at the same time. For the 18 players registered on the Atom Furies roster, 9 elected to double card, playing on both a girl and boy team. The double carding issue is contentious, with some co-ed teams expressing concern about the fairness of this practice. On a positive note, the double carding practice contributes greatly to the development of our female hockey players; enhancing our program and improving our development strategy. The extra ice time, provided to our girls through double carding, has developed them to a very competitive female level, a level high enough to support competitive female hockey programs in the future. As a result of this development strategy, many of these girls will chose to remain in the girls program next year, affording our program the ability to potentially offer both a competitive and recreational division.

Next season

We are excited about the upcoming season and hope to continue to see an increase in the number of girls interested in being part of the Furies hockey program. We are hoping to register enough girls to field teams in the Bantam, Peewee and Atom divisions and are very excited to possibly offer a competitive division.

Acknowledgements

We need to thank all of the volunteer Coaches, Managers, Board members and parents for the time they spent making this a successful and enjoyable year for the FYHA Furies hockey program. I would like to especially thank Eric LaFrance and Carl Spencer, head coaches for the Atom and Peewee teams, and all the assistant coaches. An extra big thanks goes out to Barry Waters who did an incredible job of managing both the Furies teams. Great job guys!! Thanks also to the Bantam AAA Phantoms coaches Lukie Nussbaum and Sara O'Toole, along with several of their players who led the skills and drills sessions for our spring girls program. And finally, we need to note the continued commitment made by the members of the SNBFHL, ensuring our girls are playing hockey and developing year after year.

Sincerely,
Freda Burdett
Dir. Of Female Development

TIMBIT COORDINATOR REPORT

This year, 182 players were registered to play hockey in the Initiation Program (IP/Timbits) in Fredericton. We had 5 more players registered this year compared to last year. We were fortunate to have 44 volunteer coaches supporting FYHA's youngest players this season.

The approach to Timbit practices and games were conducted much the same as in past years, with the focus on "fun"amentals (development and fun) in both weekday practices and Saturday games.

Ice Time:

The Timbit program was given 8 ice times/week at 1 hour each giving each team 2 hours a week on the ice. Timbit's only lost one weekend of ice time over the whole season. Timbit's early morning Saturday ice time was a key factor in losing very little ice all season.

Teams:

This season we introduced the Timbit minor/major division.

Timbit Minor consisted of 8 teams of 4 and 5 year olds each team averaging 12 players and minimum 2 volunteer coaches.

Timbit Major consisted of 6 teams of 6 year olds, each team averaging 15 players and minimum 2 volunteer coaches.

Each team only played and practiced against other teams in their own division.

Creating the minor/major division allowed the 4 and 5 year olds to progress and improve significantly through the season without the frustrations that were experienced in the past. It also allowed the 6 year olds to practice more advanced drills that will aid them in the transition from IP to Novice.

Jerseys and socks:

The IP program received 3 new sets of jerseys this year from Tim Hortons and FHYA purchased 3 complete sets of socks for the Bruins, Vintage Penguins, and Penguins. They also purchased many pairs of replacement socks for many of the other teams.

Bauer First Shift:

Seven players were added to Timbit's from the First Shift program. These players started the week of January 5th, 5 joined Timbit Major and 3 joined Timbit Minor. All of the kids transitioned really well onto existing teams. The only problem we encountered was a shortage of jersey's and socks, next season we will take the First Shift kids into account when doing up teams to ensure that everyone gets the proper equipment.

Thank you to all our volunteers, players, and parents for a great season of Timbit Hockey in Fredericton.

Sylvia Plume,
Timbit Coordinator

NOVICE COORDINATOR REPORT

A total of 230 players were registered over 14 teams in 2014-15. There were 138 players on 8 Novice Minor teams (6 teams of 17, 2 teams of 18) and 92 players on 6 Novice Major teams (4 teams of 15, 2 teams of 16). Total Novice registration increased over the prior year by 47 players or 25.6%, with the majority of the increase in Novice Minor due to an additional 39 players, an increase of 39% over the prior year. The First Shift program graduates created larger team sizes in the Novice Minor program, as 11 of the 13 new players in Novice were placed on Minor teams. There were 19 females registered in Novice this year, an increase of 6 girls over 2013-14. A total of 77 special requests were made by parents to have their son or daughter placed on a team because of travel or conflicting personal schedules.

We started off the season with a coaches meeting to ensure all coaches understood the certification rules, understood the format for Novice Major and Novice Minor, and how groups/teams would be evaluated and selected. Players were placed into 7 groups (4 Minor, 3 Major), evaluated, and groups were split into equal teams by mid-November. Steve Flynn and Roy Hickey ran a successful Novice Development Weekend. By accommodating too many special requests to fit players into a fixed weekday ice time, the groups were not as balanced as they could have been, resulting in a couple stronger teams in Minor and Major, but for the most part there was parity in each division. Novice Minor and Major teams followed the same format this year in terms of practice to games ratio. For the October and November ice times, teams practiced and in December began playing games and scrimmages. The normal routine for December to March was to practice during a fixed weekday ice-time and play a game on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Referees were introduced in games in Novice Major starting in January.

The 2014-15 Novice season was successful but was not without some challenges. The loss of the York Arena was felt by all, especially in Novice. Early morning ice times were distributed as equal as possible but with teams away at tournaments and exhibition games, the schedule had to be balanced and some teams may have had a few more early starts than others. Initial complaints at the start of the year about the early ice times quieted down by the end of December.

The large registration increase in Novice Minor created an additional two teams that were forced to use two sets of jerseys ready for retirement until new replacements arrived in mid-December. Because of jersey and sock delays in November, team photos were postponed until January. In the Novice Minor program, which operates using cross ice until the end of January, each team should have received two sets of goalie equipment in November. Unfortunately, there was only enough to distribute one set to each team, and the additional goalie equipment ordered in November did not arrive until mid-February, which reduced exposure to the goaltender position and limited the effectiveness of phase 1-3 of the Novice Minor program. Coaches either used a player in the net of one cross game, or used the ice for drills.

Our season ended with a successful Novice Jamboree. The City of Fredericton had 3 other special events booked during the same weekend as the Jamboree and ice availability was limited. For this reason, Timbits moved their Jamboree games to the weekend prior. In addition to our 14 FYHA Novice teams we also had 3 Novice Minor and 4 Novice Major teams from out of town. Both divisions played full ice with referees at the jamboree. This year we had the pizza party and prize draw at the Nashwaaksis Middle School, over three different group sessions on Saturday afternoon. The cafeteria layout and set up was excellent and it was easy to turn over the parties. Images by Nevin Magee (Facebook) and SAMEASFOREVER (onsite printing) were on hand photographers for the weekend and did an excellent job.

The 14 Novice teams ended up with roughly the same number of ice-times within FYHA. The range was between 47 and 53 ice times, with variances explainable by storm cancelations and forgone ice times due to out of town Jamboree commitments. All teams were given opportunities to play an exhibition game against an out of town team. All teams were also offered extra 6:45am ice times throughout the year and when no team took advantage of the extra ice, open Skills & Drills for all players were held 3 different times during the winter. Attendance for 6:45am Skills and Drills was between 14 and 22 players. Overall, we met our objective in terms of ice-times with each team averaging 2 ice-times per week throughout the season.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

1. The 4:00pm, 4:15pm, 4:30pm ice times received a lot of initial complaints.
2. The Friday practice ice time was often used by Special Events.
3. Replacement ice during Special Event weekends was not always received in a timely manner, causing late schedule releases to parents. Al Underhill did a great job given distributing ice when he had it.
4. Penalties in Novice Major, when a player is penalized the player goes to the penalty box, play continues 5 on 5, a few coaches advised they felt some players were intentionally taking 'bad' penalties as they felt it didn't hurt the team as play continued 5 on 5. (Brian Ashfield suggestion carried forward)
5. Although Special requests were removed from the registration form, we still received a substantial number of special requests.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Have the weekday Novice ice times start at the same time, so that parent's do not all want the latest available ice time. Novice Minor could have start times all starting no earlier than 4:30pm on various weekdays. Novice Major could have start times all starting no earlier than 5:00pm on various weekdays.
2. Keep each teams practice on a fixed day and time between Monday and Thursday.
3. In Novice Major, consider a penalty shot for every penalty called. The penalized player would still go to the penalty box, play would continue 5 on 5, but the opposition would be awarded a penalty shot. I would not recommend that play goes to 5 on 4 in Novice (Brian Ashfield recommendation carried forward)
4. Ensure the players get re-distributed each year, so they are exposed to more coaches and teammates. Continue with the ranking system of 1-5, to help ensure all groups/teams are as equal as possible in terms of skill level.
5. Continue to have the Coordinator be the point of contact for exhibition games with outlying associations, to ensure all teams are given the opportunity for these extra exhibition games.

Overall, the year was a success because we had a great group of coaches and parents whose efforts throughout the year helped our players develop their hockey and personal skills. I witnessed a lot of relationships formed both in the stands and on the ice, and the memories will last a lifetime. Thank you to all who contributed to making this year a great one.

Steven Clarke
Novice Coordinator

ATOM COORDINATOR REPORT

It was an excellent year for the Atom Division, which was only possible with the hard work of parents, players and volunteers. In particular, thank you to St Thomas Tommies players who participated in the assessment of players during competitive evaluation games.

Development weekend and the subsequent Coaches' Breakfasts were successful and greatly appreciated by players and coaches.

There were four Competitive teams who each received 51-57 hours of practice.

A Division Champions were the DQ Blizzards.
AA Division 2nd place team was Kent Kanucks.

There were 9 Recreational teams who each received:
50-53 ice times,
27-29 games
21-23 practices
2-3 full ice practices.

During the evaluation of recreation players each coach was asked to evaluate each team once, thereby enabling the coaches to see each player at least once.

At the End of Year tournament, the Atom Recreation Division top three teams were Sharks, Flyers and Devils.

The recreation teams continue to enjoy and appreciate the 'penalty free game' pizza draw sponsored by Papa John's – Always a hit.

Recommendations

1. It is highly recommended that double carding of female players be discontinued.
2. All effort should be made to have even number of recreation teams.
3. Goalie development remains a priority.
4. At the draft players should be required to wear plain hockey socks, and not be permitted to wear socks associated with "select" teams. It was found that players who had the "select" socks (regardless of their participation on select teams) were evaluated with higher scores. During the evaluation process players' on ice appearance should be neutral.

Thank you,

Holly Grasse

PEEWEE COORDINATOR REPORT

Thanks to all volunteers, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, parents and supporters of Peewee hockey this year. A lot of work goes into Minor Hockey each season and it is a group effort.

The Draft at both the Competitive and Recreational levels went well, resulting in 2 competitive teams and 8 recreational teams.

Rec Division

We went into the Rec Draft with only 6 coaches and the player numbers to create 8 teams, which we did. We were extremely fortunate that parents from the two teams without a coach stepped forward and took on the coaching duties.

The main issue with the Rec division this year was Ice time. 9 of our 12 ice times were from Friday to Sunday, and with the numerous events booked at the beginning of the season that took up every weekend for 5 weeks – we were challenged to get games and practices in so that the teams could develop some cohesiveness.

There were other hiccups along the way as well, some parent and coaching issues that were addressed, I believe in the end that the kids enjoyed their season and that is why we are all here.

Competitive Division

Two competitive teams were drafted this year. They were also challenged with ice times, which fortunately were resolved early in the season. The Peewee Booster Juice Caps went on to win the Peewee A Provincial Championship, with the Kent Canucks having much success as well, making the finals and winning a few tournaments including Petitcodiac.

Issues/Concerns

1. Officiating – it continues to be on everyone’s list of concerns. Inexperienced, young officials, sometimes unsure of the rules. Often only two officials per game.
2. Challenge with ice time
3. Coaching concerns.
4. Communication

Recommendations

1. Officials be two years older than division they are officiating; with evaluation and feedback given on a routine basis. No improvement can be made if they don’t have feedback or regular evaluations. Also, as stated in previous years – two linesman and one referee for every game.
2. There is a decline in the number of goaltenders coming up through the divisions, or so it appears that way. Goaltending equipment can be extremely expensive so to attract players to the position, could FYHA give a discount in the registration fees for goaltenders?

3. Adhering to standards and code of conduct. Coaching staff should not be allowed to set foot on the bench right from day one without their required certifications. We have a lot of great, dedicated coaches in FYHA and it only takes one or two to create issues. Ensuring that bench staff have their qualifications prior to start of the season may alleviate some issues further down the road.

Respectfully,

Robert Chase

BANTAM COORDINATOR REPORT

Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to this year's Bantam Division. The work of these dedicated coaches, assistant coaches and managers was reflected on how well this season went. The evaluation and drafting process for this year's Bantam Competitive teams as well as Recreational teams proved to be the most successful as we resulted in three equal competitive teams and nine equal recreational teams

RECREATIONAL

This year we had nine rec teams. Each team had three games to one practice ratio that was scheduled as evenly as possible around each team's away games and tournaments. Each team played 21 regular season games; this number does not include exhibition games between teams in our league due to extra ice or teams being away, it also does not include the Christmas playoff tournament or the Year end tournament. Every team was given at least one full ice slot to use as they liked for practice/ exhibition game or invite outside teams for an exhibition game.

Many of the nine teams competed very well in their tournaments winning gold and silver. The FYHA Christmas playoffs witnessed the Blue Jackets take first place. This led to the Blue Jackets playing a best of three game series against the Grand Lake Wild for the C Zones and the chance to play at provincials.

At the FYHA Year-End playoffs, the Blue Jackets took home the gold with the Senators claiming silver and the Panthers were proud recipients of the bronze. Fourth placed team was Canadians.

All in all this was a great season for the Rec division.

COMPETITIVE

The FYHA Bantam Competitive division had a very successful season in 2014-2015. Each team was drafted very evenly and competed very well against each other. There were 5 teams in the district including three Fredericton teams. This year each team had 16 regular season games, about 40 regular practices (including a weekly 6am). These numbers do not include any tournament play that the teams attended.

At the beginning of the season District 3 announced that it would divide the league into AA, A and B by the end of regular season play which was February 13th. Based on the standings after regular season was completed, the top team in the division would be AA, second would be A and third would be B. Two Fredericton teams placed and went to B Zones and the Swifty Caps finished AA and would attend provincials.

Fredericton hosted the B zones the weekend of March 13,14th. The zones were run as a round robin play with the top two teams playing in the finals. The FYHA Canucks won the B zones tournament and would go on to the provincials. Both the Colpitts Canucks and Caps played well in provincials and saw some very tough competition. Well done teams.

In conclusion this was the best season that I had the privilege to be coordinator for, everything for the most part ran very smoothly, I am very pleased with the new ref request system. There were some issues in the beginning with times and lack of week day ice on the comp side of things but I think that I was able

to maneuver things enough that everyone one got enough time, this I cannot see being a problem once the York is back up and running.

Thank you again to everyone that was involved in Bantam this year! I couldn't have asked for better coaches, managers, parents or players. I am excited to start 2015-2016 seasons!

Thank you

Heidi Boulter
Bantam Coordinator

MIDGET DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

I would like to thank all the coaches, players, parents, officials and countless volunteers that have made for a successful hockey season. Without your participation and continuous efforts this season, our hockey season would not have been possible. I would like to thank Dan Crabbe and Tanya Whynott who worked with me behind the scenes this hockey season. The support I have received from my fellow FYHA board members has been very much appreciated.

I would like to recognize the FYHA Operations Manager for all his efforts in assigning ice times for all FYHA divisions including the Midget Division. With the 2014-15 hockey season closure of the York Arena, Alan was challenged to provide all divisions and teams with their preferred ice times. The four ice times assigned to Midget Recreational on Saturday night meant that each team would play every Saturday night which is not practical for this age group. This meant that most weekends one Midget Recreational ice time on Saturday was given back to the City. Thanks Alan for all your efforts. For next season, I would recommend that the number of ice times assigned to Midget Recreational on Saturday night be reduced from the current four to two and the other two ice times be moved to the early part of the week.

The 2014-15 FYHA Midget Division had 9 teams: 1- Competitive Team (Midget A) and 8 – Recreational Teams.

Competitive

The 2014-15 Nashwaaksis Lion Club Midget Lions hockey team was picked from 36 Players and 6 goaltenders. The team selection was completed by 26 October 2015 with the cooperation of the Fredericton High School Black Kats, Leo Hayes High School Lions, and Midget AAA Development teams.

The 2014-15 Nashwaaksis Lion Club Midget Lions were ranked as a Midget A team and finished 2nd in the Central Midget Hockey Provincials held in Saint John the last weekend of March 2015.

Congratulations to the coaches (Alan Underhill, Dwight Ganong, and Brian Whitters) and the Lions players on a successful season: Contributing to a successful season was team manager (Bonny Harvey).

Looking forward to the next season (2015-16), I expect a similar number of players will try out for Midget Competitive.

Recreational

The 2014-15 FYHA Midget Recreational Division had 8 teams made of 129 players, 14 goaltenders and 13 Bantam Affiliates. The cross city draft was held on 26 October 2015. After the draft, each team had 14 players and all teams but 2 teams had 2 goaltenders. For next season, I would recommend that the minimum players per team should be no less than 15 players even it means only having a 7 team division.

FYHA Midget regular season and tournament play was very competitive with each game's outcome on any given night being very much an unknown: No single team swept the division. I give credit to the coaches for their preparation for the draft and the drafting of their teams. During the evaluation phase,

both the coaches and independent evaluators were used to evaluate players and those combined results were used to prepare the draft list order. For next season, I would recommend that the use of both coaches and independent evaluators be used.

In the Midget Recreational Division, the ratio of games to practices set out in the FYHA Operations Manual was not achieved. The reasons include:

- Players have lost interest in practices;
- Players believe that they have nothing more to learn about hockey once they reach the Midget level;
- Players do not show up for ice times if a practice is scheduled; and
- After the FYHA Christmas tournament, Midget Recreational teams are looking to play games.

All Midget Recreational teams had on average 3 to 4 practice ice times in addition to the Hockey New Brunswick Development Weekend sessions. For next season, I would recommend that FYHA seek out guest instructors to lead the Hockey New Brunswick Development Weekend Midget sessions.

The Y's Men Canadians were the winner of the FYHA Christmas Tournament. The Canadians played off in a best of the three game format against the Stanley Bulldogs. Stanley Bulldogs were successful in advancing as the zone representative.

The FYHA Midget Year End Tournament was very competitive with all teams playing very good hockey and a great demonstration of team play. The DKC Hurricanes were the gold medal winners of the year end tournament. Congratulations to Jeff Braun, Greg Gatto, Greg Tims and the Hurricane players on your Gold Medal performance.

A coach's meeting was held on April 15th in the Community Room at Willie O'Ree for Midget Division coaches and 2nd year Bantam coaches moving up to Midget next season. This meeting included a review of the past season, discussion of what it is like to coach at the Midget Recreational level, and questions and answers session between Bantam and Midget coaches. This meeting was the first of its type and based on the meeting discussion, coach participation and feedback received: I would recommend we consider this meeting becoming annual event.

Player Safety

For the 2014-15 hockey season the number of suspensions assessed was up from the 2013-14 hockey season: with most suspensions being localized to a few specific players and teams. In order to address player safety concerns, the following remedial measures were put in place to curb unwanted player behaviors: Use of a four man officiating system using senior officials for all Midget Recreational games (January 2015) and "Return to Play Agreements" being required for all players receiving a suspension (February 2015).

For next season, I would recommend the use of a four man officiating system for all Midget Recreational games from the start of the regular season; and "Return to Play Agreements" being required for all players receiving a suspension after at the December until the end of the season.

Celebrations

At the end of the 2014-15 hockey season, the following coaches will leave FYHA ending their FYHA coaching career:

Coach	2014-15 Midget Team
Bob Daigle	Y's Men Canadians
Chris Hunter	Canadian Tire Sabres
Jeff Braun	DKC Hurricanes
Greg Gatto	DKC Hurricanes
Greg Tims	DKC Hurricanes
Serge Pelletier	FYHA Midget Kings

Thanks to all these coaches for all your coaching efforts during your coaching career with FYHA. You will be missed on the team benches next season.

At the end of the 2014-15 hockey season, the following players will end their minor hockey careers with FYHA:

Player	2014-15 Team	Player	2014-15 Team
Adam McFadgen	Y's Men Canadians	Alex Gatto	DKC Hurricanes
Alex Harrison	Canadian Tire Sabres	Ben Case	Canadian Tire Sabres
Brennan Daigle	Y's Men Canadians	Brett Tims	DKC Hurricanes
Christian Gilbey	Y's Men Canadians	Cole Stewart	Coast Tire Capitals
Colin Waters	DKC Hurricanes	Craig Tellenbach	FYHA Midget Kings
Craig Ganong	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions	Derrick Cosman	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions
Igal Tichonov	Canadian Tire Sabres	Jack Sequin	FYHA Midget Flames
Jacob Hunter	Coast Tire Capitals	Jacob Jean	Coast Tire Capitals
Jacob Martin	Y's Men Canadians	Jake Stillwell	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions
Jarrold Ryan	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions	Jeremy Pelletier	FYHA Midget Kings
Joel Clark	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions	John Harris	Kent Canucks
Joshua Braun	DKC Hurricanes	Kalem McCarthy-Furey	Y's Men Canadians
Kyle Price	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions	Liam Chase	Scotiabank Bruins
Liam Pyke	FYHA Midget Kings	Luke Lacey	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions
Matthew Hunter	Canadian Tire Sabres	Matthew Neal	Coast Tire Capitals
Ryan Schatz	Coast Tire Capitals	Steven Manning	Y's Men Canadians
Travis Allen	Nashwaaksis Lions Club Midget A Lions	Tyrone Perley	DKC Hurricanes
Wesley Kitchen	DKC Hurricanes	William Whitehead	FYHA Midget Flames

A Celebration / Recognition event for Third Year players was held on April 16th in the community room at the Grant Harvey Center. There was a great turnout of players, coaches, parents and hockey fans that contributed to a great send off for the third year players. Each player received a personalized wooden plaque to commemorate their achievement. Good luck to players in the next chapter of your life and hockey life, wherever that may be.

FYHA Tournament Results Summary

Christmas Tournament		Year End Tournament	
1st	Y's Men Canadians	1st	DKC Hurricanes
2nd	Kent Kanucks	2nd	Y's Men Canadians
3rd	FYHA Kings	3rd	FYHA Kings
4th	Canadian Tires Sabres	4th	FYHA Midget Flames

Recommendations

1. I recommend that the minimum players per team should be no less than 15 players even it means only having a 7 team division.
2. I recommend that Midget Recreational teams round out their team roster to the maximum of 19 players using Bantam affiliates.
3. I recommend that the use of both coaches and independent evaluators be used for the Midget Recreational evaluations.
4. I recommend that we seek out and use guest instructors for Hockey New Brunswick Development weekend Midget Division sessions.
5. I recommend that future Midget Division Coordinators hold a Bantam / Midget meeting at the end of each hockey season.
6. I recommend that the number of ice times assigned to Midget Recreational on Saturday nights be reduced from the current four to two and the other two ice times to times be moved to the early part of the week.
7. I recommend the use of a four man officiating system for all Midget Competitive and Recreational games at the beginning of the regular season using senior officials starting with the 2015-16 season and every season thereafter.
8. I recommend the use of "Return to Play Agreements" be required for all players receiving a suspension after at the December 2015 until the end of the season starting with the 2015-16 season and every season thereafter
9. I recommend that FYHA discuss with the Fredericton Minor Hockey Officials Association the need for officials to complete incidents reports for all non-minor and misconducts penalties not just game misconducts.

Respectfully,
Steven Meade

