

President's Report for the 2020-2021 Season

Submitted by Lauri Neufeld

This past season has been one for the books. We ended the 2019/2020 season abruptly due to Covid – 19 and had hoped to be able to have a somewhat “normal” season start up in September. How wrong we were. We began our season in Stage 2, which made it difficult to accommodate team sizes into change rooms and volunteers to help getting the kids on the ice, yet not exceeding maximum capacity of the arena. Rules changed weekly and the teams made the appropriate changes with ease. Our association has shown that we are all adaptable when we know we are here for the kids. We managed to move into Phase 3 for a short time to allow for a few games between teams, but then in November we were moved back into Phase 2 for the remainder of the season. I believe this was challenging for the coaches to keep the kids excited as they were limited to the types of drills and practices they could do, knowing that there would not be the reward of a game in the end. I must give great credit to Ken Gillis and the Covid Committee, for all their work putting together our guidelines to have the kids be able to play safely this season. Ken's incredibly detailed guide allowed players, parents, coaches, managers, and volunteers to know exactly what was needed for the kids to get out and play safely. I cannot thank you enough for the numerous hours you put into that Ken, it was incredible!

I would like to thank Kim Bullcock (our Statistician), Dallas Macdonald (our Equipment Manager), Sandra Barker (Referee Assignor), Melissa Berrigan (Ice Allocator), James Harvie (Coach Coordinator), the 8 amazing Division Managers, all the executive members, and our Administrator for everything you did this year. Thank you to all the volunteers on each team/division, many of you had extra jobs put on you this season due to the restrictions, just know it did not go unnoticed. Welcome to our new RIC Steve Brown, we look forward to next season so we can see you in action mentoring the new referees.

Our Association relies on the donations of businesses and families and to show how grateful we are, we continued our association wide give back project to our community and adopted families in need over the Christmas season and fill food and household item hampers. Thanks to the individual teams who went over and above this challenge to give back more to our community. We also continued our raffle this season, which was another success. Thanks Trevor and Luisa for organizing and implementing this. It is a huge undertaking and with this season leading into our rebranding of the CVMHA logo, we managed to set aside a portion raised to help offset the cost that we will be anticipating in the upcoming years.

This year made it a challenge for me to watch every team play at least one game throughout the year as I have made my mission over the past few years. Unfortunately, due to the arena restrictions I, like every parent who was not volunteering for the team, was not permitted in the arena unless there was a situation that required me to be there. I wanted to be around the arenas to meet parents and answer any questions that may have come up, hopefully in the future.

It has been my pleasure volunteering for this Association. I hope to continue giving back to CVMHA in some way over the next few years. I wish everyone a happy and safe summer and hopefully I get to see you around the arena soon.