



# Annual Membership Report to the Members

Kerry Park Minor Hockey Association 2020-2021



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# President's Report

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There is no doubt this was an extraordinary year, which shouldn't be too surprising given the abrupt ending of the 19/20 season. Certainly, it was also to the Board, especially early on, as it was significantly more difficult to provide our members with answers as to what the season would look like and what efforts were necessary to get our 20/21 season back online. The main elements of our season required us having to consider requirements of the Provincial Health Officer, ViaSport, Hockey Canada, BC Hockey and VIAHA, and with the utmost respect to the hard work of our governing bodies, an extreme amount of effort was necessary to coordinate and facilitate the actions necessary to get our hockey season in operation.

## **Volunteers Were Key**

KPMHA was not any different than any of our peer-Associations, having to adjust to the new and extraordinary situations brought on by having to manage its affairs during restrictions and requirement brought on by COVID-19. And it almost goes without saying that there was an amazingly higher level appreciated of our volunteers across the Association given they had to deal with a new set of challenges. Every volunteer should be commended for the outstanding dedication they made to ensure our youth were able to experience hockey this past year. The vitality of our Association is founded on volunteerism and, as President, this is why I have absolutely no tolerance for members and players who treat our volunteers unfairly and disrespectfully.

As a Board member of KPMHA, I always find it difficult to uniquely recognize individuals amongst all the hard-working volunteers. At the team levels, our team managers were extraordinarily tasked with ensuring we had enough volunteers for our practices and our games. These were mainly the same members on each team who volunteered to be the Group Hosts, or safetys, and they were the spirits that stayed at the arena, while most of just dropped off our kids and returned to pick them up. In saying all that, we did have one volunteer whose tireless commitment and dedication to the hockey players in our MHA stands out as exceptional, and that is Michele Taron. Her herculean efforts, leadership and dedication, made our season the best it could be, and we all should be thankful of her. We were proud to nominate her for the VIAHA Volunteer of the Year award.

## **Development Triumphed**

Due to the limited games, there isn't much to report from the year with respect to games. To ensure our practices and limited games were possible we had to work very closely with our facility providers. We are blessed having our partners at the Cowichan Valley Regional District and Shawnigan Lake School and in working with us to ensure that we were able to provide the best hockey experience and programming under the circumstances.

These partnerships are crucial and provide a platform that makes our Association distinctively different than other MHAs in the South Island. As a Tier 3 level MHA, we have access to two ice sheets. We are able to deliver an extensive hockey program and our success of obtaining funds through gaming grants affords us the opportunity to provide an exceptional development experience for our players. I kid you not, this is what makes our Association special. Whether it be extra ice and our suite of development coaches, our players have ample opportunity for development.

This was an amazing year for development, and our coaches did a tremendous job even through the on-ice restrictions.

## **Challenges Ahead**

I felt it important to share one of the most challenging moments I had as your President over the past year. Very early on in the season, VIAHA made the decision to continue with the Tier 1 shared player arrangements which allows for our players to try out and play for Juan de Fuca's (JDF) Tier 1 teams in U13, U15 and U18. Our support for this was based on not supporting BC Hockey's plans for a U15AAA and U16AAA in the South Island. Our Board, and of which many of you have brought up, have had concerns that with an ever-growing array of competing options for our players (especially at the U15 and above levels), it is making our A level hockey (rep) in our Association less and less sustainable – I can assure you that this is the case and this is why I share this with you.

In response to VIAHA's decision not to support BC Hockey's AAA programs, BC Hockey organized a town hall to discuss its program and VIAHA's decision. MHA President's on the South Island had been given no prior notice than any other member of BC Hockey on the South Island. We were not presented with an agenda, nor did we know the specifics of meeting. I attended the meeting to listen in on the discussion, and quickly realized that the Chair of BC Hockey intended to do an unexpected roll call of all South Island MHA Presidents to provide their views and express their support or not for AAA hockey in the South Island. While I had an opportunity to briefly express our challenges about the continuous competing draw of our players, I can assure you that a more thorough reflection of these challenges and carefully crafted response would have been given, if I was provided the format of the meeting and what the Chair of BC Hockey intended to do. It did not afford a more wholesome understanding and discussion of the challenges our Association and other MHAs are facing. I remain perplexed with how this was conducted.

There is a delicate balance between supporting programs that allow for options for our players to develop, while ensuring we create a sustainable program for the players who stay behind. Some of our members may not have the family resources, supporting dynamics or interest to play elsewhere. The Tier 1 program has been successful for the last three years, and our partnership with JDF has been excellent, and gives players an affordable opportunity to play a higher level of hockey.

I tell you this story, because we are going to be continuously challenged with keeping our representative program sustainable as time moves ahead, challenged that the allure of rogue leagues is now infiltrating into our community at earlier and earlier ages. Our Board of Directors will be immensely challenged with keeping the viability of our hockey programming going, and it is becoming ever more stressing. We will be challenged to appease everyone with the decisions and/or support for specific programs that compel players to play elsewhere. However, we have to be guided and vigilant to ensure our Association remains viable and sustainable, especially for those that remain behind.

## **Gratitude For Understanding**

As a hockey parent, this had been one of the most challenging hockey years there has ever been. Like a lot of you there were moments of not feeling connected to our childrens' hockey season, just dropping the kid off for practice or, on the rare occasion, a game, and then driving off not being able to enjoy watching.

The number of trips we all made to both Kerry Park and Shawnigan Lake without being to watch our children practice or play throughout the season was often daunting. But we did it to keep our kids connected to the sport, to keep them physically active and to keep them hanging out with their friends.

It was a year where the Board may not have had any of the answers, but we certainly sought them to clarify. It was a year where we had to enact on rules and processes which hindered parents, family members and friends from fully experiencing the season with their children. We found new avenues to bridge these gaps, like Livestreaming, which, while didn't replace the quaintness of being there live, allowed for friends and family who don't even live in our community to watch games and practices, some for the very first time and from long distances away.

In reflecting on the season, I leave the season with a sense of gratitude to all in our small hockey community, pulling together to make the season the best it can be.

**Aaron Lamb, President**

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## Vice President of Operations

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Firstly, I need to send a big thank you to our entire membership for their commitment to the game of hockey and for adhering to KPMHA and PHO guidelines throughout a really challenging year. Our board of directors (and primarily Michele Taron) did an excellent job creating safety plans and getting our kids on the ice (probably faster than any other association on the island). In a year of constant change and uncertainty, I am very proud that we were able to consistently deliver a quality hockey program.

Even without competition for most of the season, kids regularly showed up to the rink with smiles on their faces. Our focus shifted from wins and losses to player development and individual skills and tactics. The KP development program continued throughout the year with professional coaching from our contracted development coaches and support from our Head Coach Darren Van Oene and our Coach Mentor Jason Taron. I observed huge developmental growth over the year and it is obvious to me that many of our kids benefited from the focus on skill development.

Many things were different this year, but many things were similar too. We started the season with pre-ice sessions; we had tryouts, selected representative teams, and balanced recreational teams and even got to play a few games at the beginning of the season. As always, there were a few bumps along the way, but the disciplinary committee assembled only once, and for the most part we had fewer incidents than in years past.

Our coaches, managers, safety's and hosts all deserve to be recognized for their monumental efforts this year. And an extra thank you goes out to the coaches that had to work harder than ever before with ever changing rules and regulations. It is my pleasure to represent KPMHA and work with an excellent board of directors and look forward to return to normal programming for next season.

With thanks,  
**Josh McKamey**  
**VP-Operations**

# Vice President of Admin and Finance

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I am sure nobody will forget the words of Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry this past year, “Be Kind. Be Calm. Be Safe”. In our hockey world, it was the season of restructuring with many new protocols. Right after the May AGM for the next couple of months, discussions were had, Zoom calls scheduled and protocols were handed down from BC Hockey and ViaSport, based on the most up to date Provincial Health Orders. The GOAL was to get the kids back on the ice, SAFELY. In June BC Hockey announced that each Minor Hockey Association was to have a Communication Officer and they were to develop a “Return to Play plan” within the guidelines of ViaSport and the protocols from each of their home arenas.

## **Return to Play**

In June I became the KPMHA Communication Officer and worked with other Board members that made up our “Return to Hockey” team. *Thank you* Aaron Lamb, Josh McKamey and Shane Kendall for all your contributions to the RTH team 😊

KPMHA was one of the first Associations on the Island to submit Return to Hockey plans to VIAHA. Sheena from Kerry Park Rec, Kevin and Roger from Charlie Purdy Arena, (our local arena contacts) were excellent to work with on these plans.

As the PHOs changed in BC, safety plans with each arena were updated by the RTH team and communicated to membership through TeamSnap. Attendance was taken at every ice season and Health Checks were performed through the TeamSnap App. Managers and Safeties were the boots on the ground and a huge support for making our Safety Plans successful this season. *Thank you* Team Managers and Safeties for all your dedication this past season!

## **TeamSnap**

We continue to use the TeamSnap platform and our currently in our second season of registration within TeamSnap. This season the TeamSnap support group provided us with the Health Check options that helped eliminate most of the manual health questions required before entering the arenas. These Health Check questions changed slightly over the course of the season.

## **Admin support**

We are currently looking for an Admin Assistant that can provide much administration support to the Board. Many hands make light work! Please email [VP-admin@islanderhockey.ca](mailto:VP-admin@islanderhockey.ca) if you are interesting in helping. *Thank you,* Amber Champ for assisting with the meeting minutes and consolidated Director’s report this past year.

## **Team Accounts**

COVID restricted multiple ways of doing business and in order to limit unnecessary in person team financial activities, we pivoted. For team accounts Pam K., Team Management and myself started completing Etransfers from team accounts to pay for expenses and return of seed funds. This alleviated the outstanding cheques of the past and provided a transparency on Team bank statements. The bookkeeper position will now assist with future Team finances. *Thank you* Pam K. for the countless hours of assisting Team Managers in the consistency of reporting team finances.

### **Gaming Grant Funds**

We were successful in receiving a Community Gaming Grant in the sum of \$47,100. These funds were strictly spent on development coaches and extra ice for each KPMHA player and/or goalie.

### **Draft Budget for AGM Vote**

Nothing substantially has changed with the proposed budget in comparison to last season's budget. A couple of expenses have gone up slightly due to fee increases from the vendor. VIAHA fees and ice have gone up a bit and we have not yet received final confirmation of BC Hockey fees.

### **2021/22 Registration**

Registration was again divided into two phases. The first phase was Early Bird Registration (Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>) for returning players. It also provided returning players with min "COVID" credit. Phase two started on March 25<sup>th</sup> and was open to returning players as well as new players. This phase had a slightly different registration rate for U9 thru U18 Divisions.

*Thank you* to the 94 volunteers at KPMHA this past season. GOOD JOB on working together to keep the kids active on the ice and achieving a 100% COVID free season in our two home arenas.

*"The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping stones is how you use them."*

--Unknown

Stay safe and healthy everyone,

**Michele Taron**

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## Registrar

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This year was not without its challenges and wanted to thank everyone for their patience and understanding. I think we made it through quite successfully. With our first complete season using team snap from start to finish I think things went well and it was a blessing to have the electronic health checks available.

I am continuing to work on streamlining coaching requirements and applications so there is consistent flow of coaching interest information and allowing us to get a jump on any coaching requirements needing to be filled for next year.

Looking forward to another year,

**Pam Kendall**

# Ice Management

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Ice Management was an interesting adventure this past season. Normally I pride myself on getting practice schedules out with lots of notice to families and then dependent on VIAHA League schedules, game ice follows. Due to COVID, ViaSport phases and protocols were ever changing. We never knew how long each of the phases for Sport would last and if protocols within the phases would change. Despite the different season we had many successes through player and goalie development which I am sure all will see those results once game play returns.

## ***Ice Success***

Every team exceeded their budgeted allotment of ice during the 2020/2021 season.

Preseason ice sessions in August were successful again this year with;

- U11 transition sessions, a refresher of what the players learned in Feb 2020

- Multiple Recreation and Rep Prep sessions, which allowed the kids to shake off the rust before tryouts/evaluations started

- For Rep Prep, these sessions prepared players on the drills that they would later be evaluated on.

- It takes a bit of the unknown out of the tryout process.

- We added three “Goalie Prep” sessions which were very popular and run by Goalie Development Coach Leighton.

## ***Development Ice Success***

We expanded on extra development options this season through our “Parent Paid” sessions, which had a min fee to the parents of the participants.

Adam Geric ran these throughout the season on Friday evenings. New this season were holiday camps ran by Jeff Compton; two development camps took place during the Christmas break (U13/U15 and U11) and two camps during Spring break for U8/U9 and U11. We had 27 sessions and they were extremely popular.

We were very lucky to have an excellent group of development Coaches this season:

- Adam Geric, joined us for a second year providing development sessions on Fridays,

- Brandon Wong, joined us for a second season in a more consistent Monday development sessions,

- Brian Passmore, has been part of our development program for many years now

- Leighton Williams (Goalie Coach), new to our program this year and worked with flexibility in order to work with goalies at team practices and

- Provided a pre-season goalie prep,

- Jeff Compton, was new to our program this year in the Special Camps category

*Thank you* Development Coaches, we are pleased to have your enthusiasm and expertise as part of our program!



### ***Ice Challenges***

Due to COVID cleaning procedures at the rink, we had to adjust schedules so there were 40-45 minutes in between sessions at KP and 15 minutes in between sessions at the Shawnigan arena. At KP our team staff had to sanitize the warm room after the team was out and then by November our older teams were able to have some use of dressing rooms. At Shawnigan each team had different entrances and exits and by late fall teams were able to have dressing rooms.

With minimal games allowed to be played, 90 percent of our ice sessions consisted of practicing and development sessions for goalies and players. In January we purchased new development on ice tools to help with the creativity of team practices. Part of these tools were foam dividers at the Shawnigan rink that will allow for more cross ice games once game play returns.

### ***Off Season Activities***

New to KPMHA we will start a 2021 Spring/Summer Development program for the following age groups; U8/U9, U11, U13/U15/U18 and goalies. Much work has been put in to this program, stay tuned for sign up options.

Recently I have submitted the Kerry Park Arena ice requests for next season. Early Bird registration is very important to this process as it provides me an idea of how many teams we will have, therefore how much ice will be required.

Respectfully,  
Michele Taron

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## **Head Coach/Competitive Coordinator**

Another great season of development at all levels. Our development coaches Brandon Wong, Brian Passmore, Adam Geric and Leighton Williams all did a great job for our kids this season. We are very fortunate to have such a great group of development coaches working with our kids at Kerry Park.

We also added a coach mentor to the mix this season. This addition was invaluable to help out new coaches with some pointers and also to introduce some new ideas to our more experienced coaches. The Coach Mentor was a great addition to the KP development program, I hope this invaluable position will continue for years to come!

I know we were all disappointed to not have a regular season of games and tournaments but the positive is our kids got a ton of practice time! Thank you to all the coaches that put in the time and effort to make practices fun and enjoyable as possible for the kids. I know a lot of time and effort went in to researching new drills and games to keep the kids interested and I thank you all for your efforts.

I would like to also thank all of our amazing volunteers for making this season another great season of hockey at Kerry Park! This season we were faced with many challenges along the way and it took a lot of volunteered hours to make it happen. Coaches, safety's, check ins, board members and every one in between,

Thank You!

Darren Van Oene

KPMHA Head Coach/Competitive Coordinator

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## Risk/Equipment Management

### **Equipment**

This season was challenging for coaches having to for the most part to conduct practices with players doing drills only. To aid in that, the association purchased additional development tools which were well received at all levels.

### **Risk Management**

With the challenges that all teams were faced this season with regards to Risk Management (COVID), I would like to commend all teams in keeping with the action plan that was put in place that allowed our kids to continue to be on the ice this season. This season presented challenges for everyone and everyone did their part to ensure the safety of everyone that were at the rink.

This season we had teams set up using EPACT. This process went smoothly, and we will continue to use this platform going forward.

Thank you to all the coaches, managers, fellow Executives, parents, and especially the players that made this past season from happening!

**Shane Kendall**

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## Referee in Chief

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What a crazy year for hockey. Some of our officials got a couple of games in while others didn't get any at all. We had some new officials sign up got them all ready to hit the ice and everything stopped. It was really too bad they didn't get any ice time as the only way to really learn the game as an official is to be out there doing it, developing their own style and having some mentorship along the way. My hopes are that we didn't lose any of these young up and coming officials. I have asked that BC Hockey cover the costs of the officials clinics for the next season but have heard nothing back. Let's hope this pandemic is a thing of the past when the puck drops in the fall. Thank you to all for the patience and understanding during the word season of hockey. Have a great summer and I hope to see all returning officials in the fall with the possibility of a few new ones.

**Lonnie Goodfellow**  
KPMHA RIC

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## Marketing and Tournaments

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It was a pleasure to serve for another hockey season alongside my fellow board members and hockey parents at Kerry Park. Due to the unusual circumstances of this pandemic year, we were sadly unable to execute on our "Welcome Back" event for all KP families. We will continue to monitor the situation and determine if this is feasible over the coming months for the 2021-2022 season. Though there were no tournaments this season, we were able to accomplish some key areas through marketing and communication.

1. We continued our communication efforts with the KP community through outreach on social media.
2. We awarded post-secondary bursaries to deserving graduating players.
3. We featured our 2019-2020 Association Award recipients on Twitter (congrats to all the MVPs, Unsung Heros and Most Dedicated players!)
4. We have applied to host another First Shift program to encourage new families to join hockey.

We have identified and disseminated options for Mission, Vision, and Values to KPMHA membership for the upcoming 2021-2022 season

**Zahra Rasul**  
Marketing and Communications Director

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# Gaming and Sponsorship

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This was the first year for this position and I am thankful for the membership entrusting me in this new role. Given the nature of the position and what it would entail in a normal year, it was evident that Covid affected normal successes. Typically I'd be securing sponsorships and filing gaming licenses but that will come no doubt.

What I was successful in doing this year included:

## **Sponsorship**

- Creating a new sponsorship package
- Soliciting and securing two returning sponsorships in Good Used Cars and Great Greens Market. Both at the \$500 level.
- Assisting with the acquisition of a Live Streaming sponsor in Rate Desk
- Fulfilling sponsorship benefits where able. There were some such as sponsor signs that just did not happen due to lack of spectators.
- Following up with sponsors during and at the end of the season.

## **Gaming**

- Following up on outstanding licences at the beginning of the year
- Creating an online form for Managers to use to submit licence requests to me
- updating the licence section of the polices and procedures
- Filing one licence application
- Submitting post event report for that license

In addition I helped where necessary with branding and community outreach. I helped promote our association and highlight successes on our Facebook, helped pull together a new look for the trophy case and wrote a season end thank you that was posted on Facebook.

Huge thanks to everyone on the Board for their amazing contributions and being such supportive team players. You are the reason the kids gave hockey in their lives!

I look forward to a more normal season ahead

**Marsha MacMurchy**

**Gaming & Sponsorship Director**

# Junior Coordinator

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## U7

Under 7 started with a large contingent of returning families. New volunteers were extremely helpful as coaches and on-ice helpers. The coaching staff did a tremendous job maintaining on-ice safety protocols while providing a fun, safe environment for players.

## U8

This group purchased many extra ice slots.

There was a strong player and parent engagement.

Had an incident where team funds had to be used to cover a broken window in KP Warm Room. Parents reimbursed later for window.

## U9

2012 age group parents had another strong fundraising year and purchased a lot of extra ice.

Conclusion: With many different health restrictions in place the volunteers with this group did an amazing job to keep the majority of players engaged in this difficult year. A large “thank you” to all those involved.

Best Regards,  
**Nate Boersen**

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# Intermediate/Senior Coordinator

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A big thanks to Aaron Vaillancourt for doing the early season heavy lifting at this position. He managed the backend of the try-out process for the rep/development teams, recruited managers for each team, and communicated with managers and families during the uncertain period that characterized the start of the season. Intermediate teams were able to play a handful of games before we scaled back to Phase 2, and the players spent the remainder of the season working on skills and development. A big thank you to the managers, coaches, and parents of all intermediate players for their patience, cooperation, and support during this unprecedented season!

**Zahra Rasul**  
**Intermediate Director**

# Senior/Female Coordinator

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I would like to thank this season's board of directors, KPMHA players, coaches, managers and families for all of their contributions during these unprecedented times. Their dedication and hard work has helped make it possible to have a fun and successful season. Our volunteers put in countless hours to deliver both a safe and high quality program. We all came together despite of the COVID-19 situation to make sure the kids in the community could continue to remain active and play the sport we all love.

For the 2020-2021 season we rostered four (4) teams including:

- U15 Representative
- U15 Recreational
- U18 Representative
- U18 Recreational

We continued our partnership with neighboring associations including having multiple players come over to join the KPMHA rep program.

As a member of the KPMHA board, I would also like to extend extra thanks to our non-parent volunteers including U15 Rep Head Coach, two (2) Assistant Coaches on our U18 Rec team, Coach Mentor, and Development Coaches.

**Kim Downie**

**Senior Divisions/Female Programs Director**

**KPMHA**