



This is the first of what is planned to be regular newsletters to keep our members informed about what is happening within the club and what plans there are for the future. The club was formed by the joining together of the recreational soccer clubs serving the communities of Gaspereau, Hantsport, Wolfville, New Minas and Port Williams, which play locally from Windsor to Yarmouth, with Valley United which plays in the provincial leagues. The merger actually happened in 2020 but the Covid disruption of the past two years has made it very difficult to get things running as planned.

This structure allows players to play at whatever level is appropriate for them, from U5 to Nova Scotia Soccer League (NSSL) Premier Division, to Masters or Ladies 7-a-side within the same club.

The club is seeking accreditation from Canada Soccer under their Club Licensing program which requires clubs to achieve certain standards of organization and performance in terms of administration, financial management and player, coach and facility development. There are 4 levels of accreditation and we hope to achieve the first level by the end of this year.



## **VALLEY UNITED APPOINTS FULL TIME TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.**

Valley United is pleased to announce the appointment of Findlay MacRae as their full time Technical

Director, commencing Monday July 4th. Findlay

has been coaching teams in the Valley at different levels and age groups, from U14 Tier 2 to Men's Premier League, for many years. He has also coached the Acadia Men's soccer team since 2006 and has been Coach of the Year at the Atlantic University Sport and Canadian Inter-university Sport level. He currently coaches the Valley United Men's Premier League team. His main role within the club is to help recruit, retain and develop coaches at all age levels from U5 upwards. He will also be delivering Soccer Nova Scotia's grassroots programs locally as well as delivering Canada Soccer's Community Stream coaching clinics. He will be running soccer camps and supervising summer students hired as technical assistants.

Valley United would like to thank Soccer Nova Scotia for their financial contribution towards our Technical Director.

# VALLEY UNITED RUNS SUCCESSFUL VALLEY KICK-OFF TOURNAMENT.

On the weekend of June 10-12th, in beautiful weather, VUSC ran the traditional season opening Valley Kickoff Tournament for Girls and Boys U13, U15 and U18 at fields in Wolfville and New Minas. 30 teams from 9 different clubs competed in the 6 divisions.

Winners of the various divisions were:

U13 Girls: Winners: Valley United      Runners up: West Hants

U13 Boys: Winners: Yarmouth      Runners up: Kings West (Coleman)

U15 Girls: Winners: West Hants      Runners up: East Hants

U15 Boys: Winners: Kings West      Runners up: Yarmouth

U18 Girls: Winners: Kings West      Runners up: West Hants

U18 Boys: Winners: West Hants      Runners up: Yarmouth

Congratulations to all who participated and hope to see you back next year.

VUSC had also planned to run the Gunn Baldursson Tournament for Girls and Women which had been running since 1988 but unfortunately a severe shortage of referees made this impossible. We hope that it will be possible to resurrect the Gunn next year.

Valley United would particularly like to thank EdenValley Poultry for their generous support of the tournament.



## U18AA BOYS: TEAM OF THE MONTH



The first Team of the Month award goes to the U18AA Boys team who are currently in first place in the Nova Scotia Soccer League with a record of 9-0-0, with 32 goals scored and 4 against. The leading scorers are Ben Leblanc with 13 goals, Dan Bower with 9 and Camdyn Burgess with 6. Goalkeeper Braydon Smith has 5 shutouts. The team also recently won the Central Queens Clippers tournament in PEI with a 5-0 win in the final. The core of the team has been playing together since U13 and the team truly represents Valley soccer, with players from Yarmouth, Middleton,

Greenwood, Aylesford, Coldbrook, Kentville, Centreville, Wolfville and Windsor. The current coaches, David Crabb and Troy Lenihan, coached the boys at U17AAA and now U18. Due to the pandemic, the U17AAA was a challenging season but through hard work and dedication to practices the boys made great progress and that has formed the basis for their success this year. Several of the boys are finishing high school this year and going on to post-secondary studies at Acadia, UNB, St. FX and NSCC with some planning to try out for the varsity soccer team. This team is a great example of the benefits of playing soccer at Valley United. Through not-so-good and good seasons the boys have grown to become great friends and hope to continue their future soccer path together in some way.

Congratulations to the players, Braydon Smith, Ira Johnson Lenihan, Will Isenor, Noah Burch-Pottie, Will Whitewick, Alex Burns, Isaac Veinot, Tyler Robertson, Camdyn Burgess, Zach Albright, Ben Leblanc, Cameron Brown, Drew Easton, Ben Waterbury, Dan Bower, Owen Sanford, Mason Arsenault, KaWon Jung, Sol Cantieni and Rob Bower, coaches David Crabb and Troy Lenihan, and manager Krista Robertson.

## STEPHANIE LABBE VISITS NEW MINAS.



On July 10th Canadian National Women's Team goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe visited New Minas as part of the Victory Tour after the Canadian Women's triumph at the 2020 Olympics in Japan last year.

In the quarterfinal she shut out Brazil then saved 2 of their 5 attempts in the shootout. In the semifinal she shut out the Americans in Canada's 1-0 win.

In the final, with Canada and Sweden tied 1-1 after extra time, she saved 4 of the 6 Swedish penalties to ensure Canada's first Olympic gold medal in soccer. While in New Minas, at Lockhart-Ryan Park she put on a clinic for young soccer enthusiasts and had her picture taken with young fans hold-

ing her Olympic medals, bronze from the 2016 games in Brazil and gold from the 2020 games in Japan. The picture shows Stephanie with Lilly Sherwood of the U12A Girls holding her medals.

Interest in Women's soccer continues to increase as 87,192 fans packed London's Wembley stadium for the Final of the Women's European Championship while another 17.4 million watched on TV in England alone.

In the match, England beat Germany 2-1 after extra time.