

A Salute to Minor Hockey Week

Esso Minor Hockey week is a prime example of how hockey is such a prominent part of Canadian identity. During this hockey season the event will run from January 9th to January 17th, 2015. This event is recognized as the largest ice hockey tournament in the world. The tournament is prestigious in the minds of so many Canadian kids across our great country. It's a chance for players from novice to junior levels to get together for fun and friendly competition.

In the City of Calgary, the tournament has brought teams together for over 40 years and this year will be Esso's 35th

year as title sponsor. No event of this size could run so well without a dedicated group of volunteers, coaches, officials and parents. So hats off to the countless number of volunteers each year who provide the kids in Calgary and across Canada with the opportunity to play the game they love. Throughout the week in Calgary, more than 600 teams and 12,000 players ranging in age from 7 to 21 will take to the ice for this annual tournament. In addition 2,500 coaches and 4,000 volunteers will be involved to make sure the event runs smoothly.

Tucker Hockey - Back Again to the Homeland

Speaking about the "true spirit" of dedicated volunteers and minor hockey coaches, Coach Rex had the pleasure to return to his native province of Newfoundland back in November, 2014. Tucker Hockey held a 3 day mini camp from November 7th to 9th, 2014.

This power skating, puck control and shooting camp was operated at the local arena in the Town of Springdale, app: population 2700 situated within the Green Bay District Area just 12 miles from Little Bay Islands where I grew up and played hockey as a young boy. The camp consisted of 56 skaters within 3 age groups.



Cavelle Johanson

It was truly an enjoyable and memorable experience being back to the homeland again and working with a dedicated group of volunteer coaches whose sole purpose was to help give the local kids an opportunity to develop their skills and have fun! Players in the camp ranged in age from Squirt to Bantam levels and were a joy

to instruct. The players really watched, listened and worked hard throughout the weekend camp.

Congratulations to Christian Morgan and Cavell Johanson on winning the Calgary Flames autographed camp promotional jerseys of Mark Giordano and Sean Monahan!

Special thanks are extended to Springdale District Minor Hockey Association Past President, Jamie Tizzard for his dedication and endorsement of Tucker Hockey which provided Coach Rex with an opportunity to visit his homeland again and work with the local kids. It was truly a special experience to return to the Green Bay area where I was raised and help give back to the local players. It was indeed one of my best hockey projects / experiences this year! It felt gratifying to work with keen players and coaches. The volunteer minor hockey coaches were very amicable, eager to help on the ice and learn. Thanks to minor hockey coaches - Jamie Tizzard, Doug Keough, Jason Sparkes, Trenton Johanson, Bill Adams, Christian Pelley, Peter Lilly, Ryan Cull, and Emily Edison.

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Back Again to the Homeland (Cont'd from 5)



Also, a warm thank you to Sharon Pelley, Lori Spurrell and the off ice volunteers for their assistance to make the camp a success. To the rink attendants Boyd and Dwayne – thanks gentlemen for your ice making diligence – I have to say it was the best ice I have skated on all year!

Tucker Hockey's mission was to instil the love of the game, improve on the skating and hockey skills and for the players and coaches to have fun on the ice. As well as to pass on a few new skating and hockey drills, teaching points and coaching methods to the local minor hockey coaches. I hope we succeeded.

Reflecting back to December 2002, nearly 12 years ago Tucker Hockey operated its first hockey camp in the Town of Springdale. One of the biggest thrills for Coach Rex was seeing a little 5 year old girl who had quite a few falls on the ice but each time she fall she got up with a smile on her face and the determination to keep going as I had taught her how to get up using her hockey stick. At the time, I hoped this little girl and all the kids I taught that year would keep their determination and stay with hockey and that their love of the sport would continue to grow. I was not disappointed! That 5 year old girl was Emily Edison who is now 17 years old and who has blossomed into a fine young lady. The smile is still there but the skills sure have improved! Emily is a

very good skater and hockey player and now plays on the Newfoundland Central under 20 girls team. Emily helped out as an instructor at this year's camp and it was very special to witness the personal growth and development and to see Emily giving back to the young kids in her community. It warms my heart that maybe Tucker Hockey played a small part in giving her the "Right Start" in hockey. Emily good luck with your future academic and hockey endeavours!

In concluding, Tucker Hockey salutes the many minor hockey coaches and volunteers within the Springdale District Minor Hockey Association for their enthusiasm and dedication to helping the kids play, develop and enjoy their hockey throughout the season! Wishing Bill Adams, the new President and his fellow executive members a great Minor Hockey Week and many successes throughout the 2015



hockey season! Coach Rex hopes to have the opportunity to visit again in the fall of 2015 for some more fun times on the ice. And yes I know... even though there's a very strong Toronto and Montreal fan base down east ...don't forget as well to cheer a little for our Calgary Flames this season! Our team has ignited! Keep enjoying your hockey Springdale whether it's NHL or at the grass roots level!

