



News Release

June 17, 2008

Hockey Alberta AGM Wraps Up in Red Deer

For Immediate Release

RED DEER, AB - Hockey Alberta wrapped up the Annual General Meeting yesterday Sunday, June 16, 2008 at the Capri Hotel and Conference Centre in Red Deer. The following outlines some of the highlights.

During the council meetings on Saturday morning Kim Marsh of Red Deer was elected as Senior Council Chair. In Minor Council, John Erkelens of Cold Lake was acclaimed the new Chair of Minor Council.

Following the council meetings, a minor hockey summit was held which was used to discuss the future of minor hockey in our province. The key topics discussed were: player and coach development, officiating and leadership were discussed and debated with the goal of gathering information to move the game forward in the future.

Saturday afternoon concluded with the hot stove forum, a new addition to this year's list of events. The panel of guests discussed a variety of "hot topics" and fielded questions from the floor regarding fighting/bullying/violence in the game, both on the ice and through use of the internet, player & coach development, hockey in the schools and competitive vs recreational. Attendees were encouraged to get involved and the panel guests did an excellent job addressing all questions and issues presented.

On Saturday evening, in addition to the new induction to the Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame, the following Hockey Alberta award winners were recognized during the 2008 Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame Induction and Hockey Alberta Awards Banquet presented by Wynalta inc.:

Minor Hockey Association of the Year – Fort Saskatchewan Minor Hockey
Minor Hockey Executive of the Year – Marv Seibel, Red Deer
Meritorious Awards – Gary Bruce, Edmonton
Donna Curry, Grande Prairie
Randy Hupka, Boyle
Joyce and Roy Ruptash – Edmonton
Development Awards - Brian McNaughton, Lethbridge
Curtis Nichols, Red Deer
Lois Pohlod, Calgary
Wayne Vandermark, Manning
Marty Alexander , New Sarepta

Sunday morning concluded with the formal Annual General Meeting where it was announced that Hockey Alberta is recommending all on-ice coaches should be wearing helmets while performing on-ice duties. It was also announced that Jerold Lemko, vice chair, hockey development committee, was the winner of the President's Award which is presented annually to a specific Hockey Alberta volunteer who has made an impact on the sport of hockey in Alberta. This award is picked independently by the President of Hockey Alberta.

The AGM meeting also acclaimed the following individuals into Board of Directors positions for the 2008-2009 season; Randy Hupka of Boyle will represent Zone 2, Graham Parsons of Sylvan Lake will represent Zone 4 and Ken Morris of Calgary will represent Zone 9.

The 2009 Hockey Alberta AGM will be held June 12 – 14, 2008 in Red Deer at the Capri Hotel and Conference Centre.

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