The Team BC Lacrosse high performance program was created to offer young lacrosse athletes from BC an opportunity to receive a high level of training and compete at National Championship tournaments. In 2004, the OLA hosted the first true CLA National Youth Box Lacrosse Championship for provincial teams in over two decades. It all started with nine Pee Wee teams in Whitby, Ontario.

Fast forward to 2014. After planned growth and a national focus on youth national competitions, a decade later, the Team BC Lacrosse program has grown to ten teams comprised of both boys and girls teams, both box and field disciplines. That means ten teams competing at national and international tournaments. One group has taken huge steps and impressed many coaches along the way. Take notice, the Team BC U19 Women's Field Lacrosse program is turning heads!

In recent history, few BC Lacrosse Female athletes have been recruited to play lacrosse in the NCAA. One of the more recent players, Savanna Smith (Surrey) is a Senior goaltender at Division 1, La Salle. Now, just three years in the making, Team BC added the U19 Women's team to the portfolio and began a transition of introducing Box Lacrosse trained athletes to the Women's Field Lacrosse discipline. A transition that has produced very marketable athletes!

"Team BC's Women Field Lacrosse athletes have made a seamless transition from the Box game to Field," stated Team BC Field Lacrosse Coordinator Reynold Comeault. "There is no question that some of the fundamentals that the girls have learned in the Box game have made them stronger Field players."

Fresh off a gold medal at the 2013 U19 Women's Field Lacrosse National Invitational last July, the Team BC U19 Women's Lacrosse squad attended the deBeer President's Cup Field Lacrosse Recruiting Showcase, November 21-25, 2013 in Orlando, Florida. The 30 grass fields at the ESPN Sport Complex were full of lacrosse athletes and college coaches scouting the next stars for their college lacrosse programs.

The coaching staff and athletes trained hard in the months leading up to the tournament, not only to compete at a high level, but to put on a good performance and get noticed by the college scouts. Their overall successes may have even been a surprise to themselves.

Team BC came out firing in their first two games defeating the New Jersey Elite squad 11-5 and Team IAS (Boston) 17-5. Team BC's defence became more comfortable with the new tactics coaches Dan Stroup, Pat Coyle and Jamie Stewart implemented keeping the competition to 5 goals against each match. The goals came fast and often with a well rounded attack and superior stick skills. Goal scorers included Bianca Santucci, Chloe Nottingham, Kaitlin Browning, Brianna Stroup, Megan Kenna, Harlowe Steele, Shaelyn Oglivie, Elle Hamilton, Nadine Stewart, Madisen Obrivac, Emily Manville and Nikita Bagg. Most notably, were a pair of backhand goals Selena Lasota netted versus New Jersey.

Ex-U19 Team Canada Men's Field Lacrosse goaltender, and current Limestone College Women's Assistant Coach, Remington Steele, took in much of the President's Cup action and was astounded with Team BC's athleticism and keen sense of utilizing their Box Lacrosse skills.

"You can definitely see where the Box experience pays off," noted Steele. "The ability to handle the ball and finish under pressure was the thing that stood out the most to me. The girls were willing to dodge hard to the goal, absorb contact, and finish the play -- a skill that will definitely help set them apart at the college level."

The next match, Team BC played Team Velocity (Cincinnati) in front of a huge crowd of 125 College Coaches who lined the sidelines to watch Team BC play. The team didn’t disappoint as they handily defeated Velocity 11-2 with a fine display of Canadian-style lacrosse. Team BC was lead by stellar goaltending by Regan Eaton who made several great saves on penalty shots. Alexandra Antignani, Ciara Curran and Courtney Gemmell were solid on defence sliding and helping on...
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SAT, MAR 29
7PM

SAT, APR 5
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7PM

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BCLA Names Award Winners at AGM

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

The British Columbia Lacrosse Association (BCLA) held the 2013 Annual General Meeting on October 18-20 in Whistler, BC. Every year, this event includes meetings for various directorates, a lacrosse trade fair, a hospitality social gathering and the annual merit awards banquet. Over 250 delegates were registered for the meetings and close to 500 participants attended the BCLA Annual Merit Awards Banquet.

This year’s Carnival theme proved to be a colourful gala event! This AGM had all the bells and whistles of a festive evening and was another resounding success!

“It’s amazing to see how this event has grown over the years and piques the interest of so many volunteers,” stated BCLA President Sohen Gill. “I’ve been attending AGM’s for decades and it’s great to see all the new faces experience such a quality event.”

The 2013 BCLA Executive was named. They are as follows: President - Sohen Gill, Treasurer - David Soul, Secretary - Myra Cable, VP Administration - Don Scott, VP Operations - Greg Toll, VP Performance Programs - Ron McQuarrie, VP Development - Terry Modsell and Director at Large - Dave Jenkins.

On Saturday October 19, the BCLA hosted the world famous buffet breakfast for the delegates, families and sponsors. Over 350 people attended the breakfast in preparation for meetings and the afternoon AGM.

In the evening, the gala BCLA Merit Awards Banquet took place on the main stage at the Whistler Conference Centre. The Carnival theme was apparent with many people dressed up in clown garb and colourful clothing – it was quite a gag! Guests were welcomed at the entrance by our knowledgeable fortune teller and boisterous Ring Leader. Many banquet participants dressed up in costumes to celebrate the achievements of the volunteers – none more apparent than the numerous tables full of Salmonbelllle and Adanac representatives in their colourful matching costumes.

The evening was once again emceed by lacrosse’s own Dave Evans and with co-emcee Paul Dal Monte. The banquet crowd was entertained by the incredible dancing of TheFaculty (and friends) hip-hop dancing group. Once again, Paul Winterton created an incredible year-in-review DVD that wowed the crowd.

The BC Lacrosse Association annually presents the BCLA Merit Awards to the many lacrosse volunteers who commit their free time to the sport of lacrosse.

Nineteen Merit Awards were handed out during the 2013 Merit Awards Banquet held Saturday October 19 at the Whistler Conference Centre.

The 2013 BCLA Merit Award recipients were as follows: The Modsell Family (Terry, Bev, Ryan, Krista), Surrey; Hugh Gifford Merit Award (Box & Field Lacrosse - accomplishments of instilling sportsmanship in their players, their leadership and contribution toward improving the image of lacrosse) – Box Lacrosse: Debbie Heard (Burnaby Minor Lacrosse) and Field Lacrosse: Jane Decou (Juan de Fuca Minor Association-Vancouver Island); Ruth Steward Merit Award (Box & Field Lacrosse-award to recognize an individual at the local level for their voluntary, extraordinary contributions to an association or team) – Box Lacrosse: Tom Kellett (Burnaby Minor Lacrosse Association) and Field Lacrosse: Nicole Ferrie (Vancouver Field Lacrosse); Norm Wright Merit Award (award to member of the media who is deemed to have contributed to the promotion of lacrosse) – Dan Olson (Tri-City NOW Newspaper); Dal Martin Merit Award (Trainer of the Year) – Karen Nichol (Coquihalla Senior A); Jimmy Gunn Merit Award Senior Official: Greg Pepper (Vancouver Island); Jimmy Gunn Merit Award Minor Official: Andy Watson (Vancouver Island); Jimmy Gunn Merit Award Field Official: Ryan Nose (BCLA); John Carrell Merit Award Senior Coach: Peter Thomasen (Port Moody Senior B Lacrosse team); John Cavallin Merit Award Field Coach: Dan Stroup (Women’s Field - Port Coquitlam & Team BC); Bill McLain Merit Award Minor Coach: Len Cardiff (Victoria-Esquimalt Minor Lacrosse Association); Art Doubot Merit Award (Box & Field Lacrosse award toward fostering and promoting the game, improving the image and stature of lacrosse at their level and provincially) – Box Lacrosse: Jamie Stewart (New Westminster Minor Lacrosse Association) and Field Lacrosse: Mary Clare (Canada West Senior Men’s Field Lacrosse); Leon Hall Merit Award (Minor Box Lacrosse Association of the Year) – Port Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Association and Minor Field Lacrosse Association of the Year – Pacific Rim Field Lacrosse Association; and the Irvine-Calder-Nevard Merit Award (award in recognition for volunteer who has made more than one public service in the community) – Kolowla Kinsman Club (Kolowla). And the most prestigious BCLA Merit Award an individual can receive; the Tom Gordon Plaque, given to an individual who has done the most for lacrosse in the past year, was awarded to longtime official clinician and Chair of the BCLA, Doug Wright.

Congratulations to all merit award recipients, President’s Award winners and executive members for their continuous hard work in making lacrosse one of the greatest sports organizations in BC. In the SPIRIT of the game, we thank you!

BCLA Presidents’ Award Recipients

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

The BC Lacrosse Association recognizes more volunteers in the lacrosse community. Thirty BCLA Presidents’ Award recipients were announced at the 2013 AGM over the October 18-20 weekend.

The President’s award is to promote and celebrate the spirit of volunteers by annually giving BCLA organizations an opportunity to acknowledge and thank an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to lacrosse within their organizations. Each nomination is the selected winner for their local community senior league or minor box lacrosse or youth field lacrosse associations.

The 2013 BC Lacrosse Association Presidents Award winners are as follows:

Manuela Barlowe, Abbotsford Minor Lacrosse Association
Jason Boshard, Richmond Minor Lacrosse Association
Ellie Bradley, Kamloops Minor Lacrosse Association
Mary Briten, Prince George Senior Lacrosse League
Chris Comerford, BC Intermediate Lacrosse League
Casey Cook, Western Lacrosse Association
Raury Dalpe, Saanich Lacrosse Association
Heather Davis, Shuswap Minor Lacrosse Association
Angela Del Bianco, Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Association
Jody di Paula, Penticton Minor Lacrosse Association
Sandy Fletcher, Quadra Minor Lacrosse Association
Shannon Hanks, Ridge Meadows Minor Lacrosse Association
Bridge Hughes, Vancouver Island Intermediate B League
Gord Johnson, Chilliwack Minor Lacrosse Association
Gina Jung, Cowichan Valley Minor Lacrosse Association
Perni King, Penticton Minor Lacrosse Association
Melody Kurt, Vancouver-killarney Minor Lacrosse Association
Denna Lamen, New Westminster Minor Lacrosse Association
Drew Lams, New Westminster Field Lacrosse Association
Chris Locher, North Vancouver Minor Lacrosse Association
Bob Maloney, Peninsula Minor Lacrosse Association
Diane Manolovic, Delta Field Lacrosse Association
Jim Martin, North Okanagan Field Lacrosse Association
Richard Mardy, Ridge Meadows Minor Lacrosse Association
Tara May, Namaimo & District Minor Lacrosse Association
Tina McIntosh, West Kootenay Minor Lacrosse Association
Kelly McKay, Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association
Glen McLaughlan, Penticton Minor Lacrosse Association
Amber Miller, Burnaby Minor Lacrosse Association
Bryan Poole, Langley Field Lacrosse Association
Dave Ramsey, Semiahmoo Minor Lacrosse Association
Terry Ratcliff, Sunshine Coast Minor Lacrosse Association
Amber Robinson, Campbell River Minor Lacrosse Association
Kelley Robinson, Delta Minor Lacrosse Association
Deanna Shaw, Prince George Minor Lacrosse Association
Chris Sheridan, Pacific Rim Field Lacrosse Association
Curtis Smith, North Delta Minor Lacrosse Association
Lynn Spraggs, North Okanagan Minor Lacrosse Association
Myron Sywak, Coquitlam Senior A Lacrosse Team
Randy Tait, Cranbrook Minor Lacrosse Association
Dave Van De Leur, Langley Minor Lacrosse Association
Web Weaver, BC Junior A Lacrosse League
Kerry Williams, Surrey Minor Lacrosse Association
Rhonda Wilmshurst, Comox Valley Minor Lacrosse Association
Scott Worley, Mission Minor Lacrosse Association
Travis Wrye, Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League
Individuals in attendance at the 2013 BCLA AGM were honoured in a short ceremony during the merit award banquet and received a nice watch from a representative of their league or association to commemorate their volunteer achievements. Thank you for all you do for lacrosse.
Lasota, Kinna Northwestern Bound

Selena Lasota

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

They grew up playing Box Lacrosse in two different regions of BC on boy’s teams at an early age. Two of BC’s brightest stars, Campbell River’s Selena Lasota and Maple Ridge’s Me- gan Kinna, have persevered and stuck with lacrosse to be their ticket to college.

In an age when traditionally male dominated sports have been infiltrated by female athletes, lacrosse has followed suit to make Canada’s National Summer Sport more accessible for many and all disciplines. Ironically, in the past decade, Box Lacrosse for all-female teams has grown to be one BCLA’s fastest growing disciplines. Now, Women’s Field Lacrosse has experienced a resurgence of its own.

Enter Lasota and Kinna.

Their stories are similar to many other young girls’ growing up in BC towns where young girls competed on boy’s teams – Box Lacrosse was no different. Lasota and Kinna were left little choice but to join the boy’s teams -- a challenging situation that paid off for both.

Both began playing Box Lacrosse at young ages (Lasota-6; Kinna-4 1/2) beside their male counterparts. It wasn’t so much their choice, rather the love for the game each had for lacrosse that drew them to it.

“I grew up watching my brother play lacrosse and I wanted to be able to play the same sport as him,” explained Kinna. “When I tried playing I loved the fast pace of the game, loved the feeling of catching a ball, making a great pass or scoring. I loved every aspect of the game.”

“I didn’t choose to play lacrosse over any sport, it was just the one I had enjoyed the most and ended up playing,” explained Lasota.

Lasota toiled in Box Lacrosse up to Midgets, while Kinna competed in both Box and Field Lacrosse until she was 13 years old, until Female Box Lacrosse was offered in Ridge Meadows as a Bantam.

After years of playing Box Lacrosse with the boys, in the tight confines of the arena, Lasota and Kinna shed all the equipment for a stick, goggles and cleats and made the transition outdoors. Selena and Megan both made the switch to the outdoor game in 2011.

“When I first got introduced to Women’s Field lax I was so satisfied,” stated Lasota. “I didn’t think I was going to like it as much as I did – I love it.”

“When I was first introduced to Women’s Field I fell in love with the sport,” said Kinna. “It is a competitive game and I wanted to learn more about it because it was so new to me.”

In 2011-12, the Team BC Women’s Field Lacrosse program was developed to offer more opportunities for female athletes. As registration grew for Female Box Lacrosse participants, there was a thought that many of these Box Lacrosse-trained female athletes would be able to compete at a high level in the Women’s Field discipline. That was a safe assumption!

With the hard work of the BCLA Field Directorate and local associations pushing for Women’s Field Lacrosse participation, development began and athletes took interest.

Inaugural Team BC Coach Nasimi Walsi and Team BC Field Lacrosse Coordinator Reynold Comenzatti, introduced the first Team BC Women’s Field Program in 2011. The program

introduced athletes to Women’s Field Lacrosse, included travel to competitions and increased exposure to college and international opportunities. It was a perfect marriage of Box Lacrosse trained athletes using their Box skill sets in transition to the Women’s Field Lacrosse discipline.

Both Lasota and Kinna have become seasoned athletes and leaders of the Team BC U19 Women’s Field Lacrosse team. The team has successfully competed at tournaments in Florida, California and Ontario while turning many heads along the way.

Both athletes are still learning the nuances of the outdoor game, and ironically, both were recruited to arguably the top NCAA Women’s Field Lacrosse program at Northwestern University.

“I first knew after the assistant coach at Northwestern emailed Rey Comenzatti asking to talk to me (after the 2012 Florida trip),” said Lasota. “I felt so happy, I’ll never forget when Rey told me about the email he had gotten.”

Kinna, on the other hand, felt at a young age that college may be an option for her as she looked up to Team BC teammates like Ellie Delich and Ashley Bull who were being scouted by NCAA colleges. She had a number of schools recruiting her before opting for Northwestern.

“I looked up to them a lot, remembered Kinna. “They were so talented at the game and always included the younger players like me. They were also box players. I felt confident playing with them – watching and playing with them made me feel like I could do it too!”

There are many commonalities between these two athletes, one major link being their early introduction to Box Lacrosse which has been a great catalyst in their skill development in Women’s Field Lacrosse.

“Box Lacrosse has given me a huge advantage my hands,” said Lasota. “Growing up using the stick with a deep pocket really allowed players to swing and sway their stick to create the deception.”

“I think that playing Box Lacrosse early and playing with the boys helped me so much, it enabled me to develop my stick skills with the flat pocket of the girl’s Field Lacrosse,” explained Kinna.

Both will attest you have to be equally committed to working hard in the classroom as well as on the field to get noticed. But, with their limited exposure to Women’s Field Lacrosse, they have had to work extra hard to perfect their lacrosse skills.

So what advise do Lasota and Kinna have for any lacrosse players who aspire to use lacrosse as a tool to obtain a college scholarship?

“My advice is to play hard and train hard,” said Lasota. “Get out with your stick every day to work to be better than you were the day before.”

“It takes lots of extra commitment on and off the field, and you need to get the best grades that you can in school,” mentioned Kinna. “Make practices and games count and focus to the best of your abilities. Most of all get involved with the recruitment process – it’s a lot of fun and you should enjoy the experience.”

Lasota will enter Northwestern in 2014, while Kinna in 2016. They will surely pave the way for many more athletes looking south of the border.

“Both girls are leaders in their own way and really raise the bar every time they hit the field,” stated Team BC Women’s Field Coach Dan Stroup.

Continued from Cover Article: Team BC Girls WOW! US Coaches

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

several key occasions.

Team BC faced their best opposition in the Predators from Indianapolis. A few too many breakdowns and unforced turnovers resulted in a tight see-saw battle ending in a 5-4 score. On the last day, the ladies ended on a positive note and dominated Team Storm (Florida) and executed their full field pressure strategy to perfection. Team BC’s relentless pressure created numerous Storm turnovers which led to transition goals for Team BC.

The ladies were down 3 goals before they kicked it into gear – then went on to score 9 unanswered goals ending the game by a score of 13-5.

“The girls played unbelievable and settled down nicely after a nervous start, but they found their feet afterwards and played great,” said Head Coach Dan Stroup.

Playing a hybrid style game of Box and Field Lacrosse, the scouters were impressed with the pin-point passes and aggressive style of play.

“We basically played a Box style pick and roll game off ball, pushing the ball in transition like we were using the 30 second shot clock,” explained Coach Stroup.

In the end, Team BC Staff received strong interest on no fewer than eight players from Division 1 college coaches with almost all athletes making a college connection of some sort. Many of the scouts stated in their opinion that Team BC was the best team at the event!

“I was incredibly impressed by Team BC’s performance,” mentioned Limestone Coach Steele. “It was the overall consensus of the college coaches that they were the best team at the tournament. You already see many of Canada’s top men’s Box players making headlines in the college game – it’s only a matter of time it will start happen more and more in the women’s game.”

Team BC Field Lacrosse Coordinator Rey Comenzatti was overly impressed with all aspect of Team BC’s performances at both ends of the field, but noted there is still room for improvement.

“The tenaciousness when pressuring the ball carriers was very evident and the single most transferable strength of our team – our ride was without question the most dominating part of our team game,” stated Comenzatti.

Coach Stroup also knows many hard work defending and better decision making will be the focus in preparation for future competitions.

“To get to next level we will need to keep working on our team and individual defence and make better decisions, when to push the ball on transition, when to shoot and when to slow it down,” stated Stroup.

But this trip was not all about wins and losses or goals and assists; it was about performing in front of arguably the larg- est gathering of Women’s College Lacrosse scouts across the USA and have the Team BC athletes on a stage to be seen by these coaches.

Comenzatti and the Team BC coaching staff were approached by numerous schools including Ohio State, Northwestern, Syracuse, North Carolina, Stanford, Duke, Stony Brook, Drexel, Canisius, San Diego State, Long Island, New Hampshire, Iona, Limestone, Pfeiffer, Beloit, Columbia and Whittier.

“They (the college coaches) were pleasantly surprised with our athletes,” said Coach Stroup. “They seemed eager to talk to us after each game – I would be talking to one coach and 5 others coming time to time.”

“Them (the college coaches) were pleasantly surprised with our athletes,” said Coach Stroup. “They seemed eager to talk to us after each game – I would be talking to one coach and 5 others coming time to time.”

“I can’t tell you how proud I am of these girls and the stuff,” commended Stroup. “They were awesome!”
Burnaby Hall Calls MacKay, Dal Monte and Lakers

Paul Dal Monte coached the Burnaby Junior A Lakers to three Minto Cup titles from 1995-2003.

By: LacrosseTalk Staff & Grant Granger

The Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame has named their 2013 inductees with lacrosse leading the class with two players and a team.

Lacrosse Athlete Alex MacKay (lacrosse, soccer) - Alex MacKay was considered one of the best defenders ever. MacKay played a total of 272 games in his 13-year career that involved ten full seasons over a 14-year span, registering 116 goals and 122 assists. He was inducted into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2007.

Paul Dal Monte played his Junior A lacrosse for the powerhouse Burnaby Cablevision from 1976-79 winning three consecutive Minto Cup Championships in 1977, ’78 and ’79. He went on to play Senior A for the storied New Westminster Salmonbellies from 1981-1993 where he competed in six national titles, winning three Mann Cup rings. He parlayed those successes to become a great coach that made an everlasting impression on dozens of athletes that played for his Burnaby Lakers Junior A squads.

Dal Monte coached the Junior Lakers from 1995 to 2003 winning eight provincial championships and three national titles in his tenure. He was also an assistant for the Team Canada Men’s Box Lacrosse team at the Heritage Cup in 2002 and the world championships in 2003 which Canada won. He went on to be head coach and director of lacrosse operations for the professional Vancouver Ravens team of the National Lacrosse League from 2001 to 2004. In his 3 years with the Ravens, he amassed a regular season record of 24 wins and 24 losses while losing two playoff games.

Dal Monte played a major role as a Special Events Project Manager in bringing the NLL back to BC with a pre-season match in 2011. Paul helps out individual teams whenever asked and is currently working in conjunction with the BCLA conducting professional development sessions for coaches throughout BC.

I was a member of the Burnaby Cablevision team that was an inaugural inductee into the Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame, so to be going in again as coach of the 1998 Burnaby Lakers Minto Cup Championship team, as well as an individual for coaching, makes this a very special honour,” explained Dal Monte.

“I know my father would have been very proud. It’s also a special privilege to be joining my uncle, Lou Moro, one of the first inductees, and my co-coach Dr. Dave Lough, and the late Jack Crosby.”

The 1998 Burnaby Junior A Lakers - Dal Monte’s 1998 Burnaby Junior A Lakers team was named Sport BC team of the year in 1998 as Minto Cup Champions. The Lakers won all 25 of their regular season league games outscoring their opponents 383-147 with 11 players finishing in the top 30 of league scoring. They went on to sweep Coquitlam in the first round and Port Coquitlam in the second before defeating Ontario champion Six Nations Arrows in five games in the best-of-seven Minto Cup final. Dorems of players under Dal Monte’s tutelage with the Junior Lakers went on to great college, professional, national and international lacrosse careers.

The banquet will be held at the Metrotown Firefighter’s Hall on February 27, 2014. Tickets are currently on sale with additional ticket information available by emailing tickets09@shaw.ca, call 604-436-1672 and visit the web site at http://www.burnabysportshalloffame.ca.
By: Brad Challoner

There were many small steps to get there, however the Delta Islanders took a giant leap as an organization when alumunum Logan Schuss was the first overall pick in the 2013 National Lacrosse League Entry Draft of the Minnesota Swarm. That moment was 11 years in the making.

“The certainly has put the Delta Islanders on the map,” said Islander’s Governor Gary McBride. “While we may not be a household name like the Salmonbells or Orangeville, Logan’s success on the Ohio State, and I am sure this year in the NLL, has made the kids in the community more aware of the game of lacrosse and the potential opportunities to play in college, the WLA and the NLL.”

“I am truly grateful to have been selected for this award by the BCLA and was more than a little surprised by this tremendous honour,” stated the humbled Wright.

Doug Wright has been a lacrosse lifer as a player, coach, official and educator. Wright comes from a lacrosse rich family as his father and older brothers all played. This Richmond Minor Association product played lacrosse throughout his youth and finished with the Delta Islanders Junior B club in the early 1990’s.

Wright has been a mainstay with the BCLAO starting as a referee in 1985. A decade later, he became a clinic offering his expertise in the education of BC officials. Other roles Doug took on during his tenure were Zone Official Coordinator, the Vice Chair of Officials for Minor Box Lacrosse and Master Course Conductor for Officials.

In 2005, he joined the Canadian Lacrosse Association National Officials Certification Program Committee that oversees the continuous revision and development of referee training materials. Wright served on the BCLAO Executive and clinician for years. He has been a main cog educating referees and proudly served as the BCLAO Chair, overseeing the officials of BC – a position he held from 2008-2013.

“As a player, coach and referee I have benefited from the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers who would like to thank all those people who devote their time and effort to our game, it is their work and example which led to my love of this sport and to my desire to give back to a game which continues to give me so much.”

Doug Wright was the recipient of BCLA’s highest honour as Mr. Lacrosse in 2013.

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

The BC Lacrosse Association’s 2013 selection for BCLA’s most prestigious award, the Tom Gordon plaque, was none other than BC Lacrosse Officials Association (BCLA) Chair, Doug Wright.

The Tom Gordon Plaque is BCLA’s highest honour for “Mr. or Ms. Lacrosse” for the outstanding achievement of an individual.

Hedges Named Top Doc

Dr. Don Hedges of the Coquitlam Adanacs was named CASEM Community Sport Medicine Physicin of the Year.

“I am truly grateful to have been selected for this award by the BCLA and was more than a little surprised by this tremendous honour,” stated the humbled Wright.

Doug Wright was the recipient of BCLA’s highest honour as Mr. Lacrosse in 2013.

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

The BC Lacrosse Association’s 2013 selection for BCLA’s most prestigious award, the Tom Gordon plaque, was none other than BC Lacrosse Officials Association (BCLA) Chair, Doug Wright.

The Tom Gordon Plaque is BCLA’s highest honour for “Mr. or Ms. Lacrosse” for the outstanding achievement of an individual.

Hedges’s commitment to sport medicine at all levels is exceptional and experienced why this award was created by CASEM some years ago – his leadership in sport medicine both at the community level in Vancouver speaks for itself.

Dr. Hedges, or Doc, as many know him, has been the lacrosse player’s doctor for over two decades. He has been involved with the Coquitlam Sr. Adanacs for 27 years as team physician, president and director. Hedges has offered his services to various lacrosse groups including the professional Vancouver Ravens, Team Canada Men’s Box Lacrosse teams, numerous Junior A teams and served as the academic advisor and physician of the SFU Men’s Field Lacrosse program.

In addition, Hedges has assisted in the development of lacrosse in Costa Rica and offered his services wherever needed. He has also served as team physician for other sports teams including the Vancouver Whipsnakes and 86’ers (21 years), Burnaby Lake Rugby Football Club (24 years) and the New Westminster High School Football team.

Doc will be recognized by the CASEM Board at the Annual General Meeting in Quebec in June 2014.

“Thank you to the people who make sports medicine a joy and a great privilege,” mentioned a humbled Hedges. “My immense gratitude, especially to the athletes for whom I’ve had the great privilege to serve for over 28 years and still have the opportunity to serve for however long can.”

Congratulation Doc!

The BC Lacrosse Association (BCLA) Members have created the Jack Crosby Endowment Fund in honour of the man whose name is synonymous with Lacrosse in the City of Burnaby, throughout British Columbia, and across Canada. As an athlete, coach, volunteer, and mentor, Jack has touched many lives within the lacrosse community and beyond.

The Jack Crosby Endowment Fund will provide a sustainable future for the lacrosse community who play, coach, volunteer, referee and enjoy the game of lacrosse throughout BC.

Charitable donations will be invested in the principle of this trust fund. These donations will never be touched and will be a growing investment managed by the Vancouver Foundation. Interest of 5% per year will be allocated to the BCLA and these funds will be used to support innovative projects and programs that will address the needs of BCLA members.

This is an investment for our lacrosse community to become self-reliant, a fund that will benefit our grandchildren’s children; a legacy that will continue to “pay it forward” forever; a future for lacrosse that we feel Jack would be proud to support.

To make a charitable donation to this fund, please make cheques out to Vancouver Foundation (BCLA Jack Crosby Endowment Fund) in the memo line.

The BCLA members will strive to build this Endowment so that we who share the passion for Lacrosse today will leave a lasting legacy for the game of lacrosse throughout British Columbia.

Jack Crosby Endowment Fund Donations can be sent to: The Vancouver Foundation (BCLA Jack Crosby Endowment Fund) Suite 1200-555 West Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6

In Memory of Jack Crosby

“Mr. Lacrosse”

Winter 2014 | Page 6 LacrosseTalk British Columbia Lacrosse Association
1882–1886 ...Forgotten Beginnings

By: David Stewart-Candy, CLHoF

The first ‘organised’ lacrosse game played in British Columbia (between teams representing two different cities) occurred on Saturday, August 28, 1886; played at Beacon Hill Park between the Vancouver and Victoria clubs, the visiting mainlenders won by the score of 3-1 – or three “games” to one, in the old-style nomenclature used at the time.

However, while this particular match has gone into the history books as the first lacrosse game played in the province, the game’s roots were in British Columbia actually go back by four years to 1882.

On Thursday, February 16 of that year, an athletic club was organised in Victoria that included lacrosse as one of its sports. This was then followed by a highly-publicized match played at Beacon Hill Park on Saturday, June 17, 1882 – although it was essentially a scrimmage game between two teams made up from the mostly-inexperienced players of the Victoria Athletic Club. There are also newspaper records of a match in Victoria involving an unidentified collegiate team played a few weeks later as well as a photograph in the provincial archives dated from almost exactly a year later in 1883, taken in Victoria, of an unidentified lacrosse team in that city.

The National Game finds its feet 1886–1890

By: The Daily Colonist, Victoria (March 19, 1889)

In the years between the 1886 Beacon Hill match (discussed in a previous post) and the formation of the British Columbia Amateur Lacrosse Association (BCALA) in 1890, lacrosse clubs would make haphazard arrangements for challenge matches – usually to be held on such popular, public holiday events as Empire Day or Dominion Day.

As in 1886, there was only one match report-played in 1887 – played between Victoria and Vancouver on Dominion Day with Victoria winning by two goals ‘/games’ to none.

Vancouver Lacrosse Club was formally organised in 1888. The first practices were held on the seawall at the Hastings Mill yard but it soon became apparent that more suitable playing grounds were required. Through the efforts of Al Lawll, Al Beck, and CG Johnson work began on clearing the Cambie Street grounds which became the first home for athletic clubs in the city.

New Westminster newspapers reported the formation of a lacrosse club in that city on May 12, 1888, but local fans would have to wait another year before the first ever lacrosse game played in the Royal City.

The 1888 season saw multiple challenges being worked back and forth between the Victoria and Vancouver clubs. In August, Kamloops played host to a match between the Victoria Lacrosse Club and the Vancouver Lacrosse Club in the Canadian Pacific Railroad picnic held there. Won 3-2 by Victoria, the match took around three hours duration to complete. At one point, high winds and a dust storm interrupted play and it took fifty minutes to complete play for the final “game”.

The following spring saw Vancouver Lacrosse Club put forth the Alhambra Cup for competition – originally to be won by the team winning the most matches played in Vancouver, although as the playing season progressed, the Vancouver club would sometimes announce beforehand that, regardless of location, the upcoming game would count towards Alhambra Cup competition.

On June 8, 1889, the visiting Vancouver team dispatched an inexperienced New Westminster side with a 3-1 result in the debut of lacrosse for the Royal City. From such inauspicious beginnings that Saturday afternoon, no one in attendance could have known they had just witnessed the birth of what would become arguably one of the most legendary lacrosse clubs in all of competitive sports.

After some wrangling, Vancouver and New Westminster ended up making the trip in September to the Kamloops CPR picnic to play; in the meanwhile, Victoria stayed home uninvited and sulking, feeling snubbed by the two other teams.

Concerns over betting at the final Alhambra Cup match in October 1889, which ended in a 2-2 draw, and disagreements between Vancouver and New Westminster over rules and player eligibility to play for what they deemed the ‘champion’ team, formed the backdrop to a close look at the example of Eastern Canada – for example, usage of a set code of rules like those used by the Minnesota Lacrosse Association. This encouraged them to look towards forming their own provincial association. A week before Christmas of 1889, during a dimer hosted by the president of the Vancouver Lacrosse Club for his players, discussion about the formation of a provincial association was brought up. The move towards formal, organized lacrosse would start to take shape in the spring of 1890.

Salmonbellies vs the World:

How the Hall of Fame Helped Build the Next Great Lacrosse Book

By: Paul Horn

For most people reading this, lacrosse is more than a game. It’s a huge part of our lives and our communities. But while the game of hockey is a well-recognized part of our Canadian fabric, lacrosse gets a lot less press. That’s why it is highly notable whenever a book is undertaking. It has been done with very high production values. What made you so devoted to this particular subject matter that you were willing to invest that of some time and effort?

Macdonald: There’s no simple answer to why I was willing to invest time and effort in the book. In 1963 my parents bought an old house in New Westminster across the street from Queen’s Park. A Naurday night, when the Salmonbells played, cars completely filled the parking lot and the overflow parked on nearby avenues and lanes, including the lane behind our house. You could hear cars doors and people talking as they walked to the Arena. Once a game was underway you could hear the feet of the players pounding on the Arena’s wooden floor. It sounded like very distant thunder. You could hear air horns and noisemakers and you always knew when the Salmonbells scored by the eruption of cheering and whistling. By 1969 or so I was attending games. The Salmonbells were particularly strong during the late ’60s and the mid-’70s. This was the era of Paul Farrell, Wayne and Ed Goss, Ken Winiowski, Steve d’Easum, Larry Henry, Al Lew Hawthorne and George Joe Comau.

Watching the team play, it seemed to me, that they were defending the honour of New Westminster through lacrosse. These memories, emotions and thoughts stayed with me for the next 30 plus years. With the team’s 125th anniversary approaching, I jumped at the chance to dig deep into public archives along with people’s memories and scrapbooks to compile a Salmonbells history. It’s also the history of New Westminster, the history of much of Canada, and, of course, it was a vehicle for me to explore why I find the way I do about the teams.

CHLoF: As one reads the book, it becomes apparent that the history of lacrosse is intricaziately connected to the history of Canada. In your opinion, what does lacrosse mean to the history of Canada?

Macdonald: I’ll answer your question with a question. How many First Nations’ cultural traditions made such an impression on Europeans that to this day those traditions are actively practiced across cultures, races, languages and creeds in Canada? Lacrosse is the only thing that comes to my mind. So, lacrosse is a living link to the earliest days of Canada. When someone picks up a lacrosse stick he or she is participating in the “Creator’s Game.” Who is this “creator”? Some people might say “God.” I’ll let your readers draw their own conclusions, but I will say that this may explain why lacrosse has been described as a “religion” in certain parts of Canada! Another idea about lacrosse’s importance to the history of Canada occurs to me. I would argue that lacrosse is to Canadian sport what the CPR is to transportation; it joins BC to eastern Canada. It’s no coincidence that the trophy emblematic of senior men’s lacrosse supremacy was donated by Sir Donald Mann, a CPR railway tycoon.

CHLoF: The images and stories in the book show that the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame played a big role as a resource for the book. Tell us about how the Hall contributed. And tell us about how you located and worked with other resources, such as Larry Power and Stan Shillinglaw.

The Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame was instrumental in the creation of the visual content of the book. The hall is the repository of many of the most important artifacts bearing witness to Canada’s passion for lacrosse. I can’t speak highly enough of the enthusiasm and support all of the hall’s directors demonstrated for the project. The hall opened their doors to our photography team three days running, entrusting us with many valuable, irreplaceable items. Our photographer, Philip Chin, generously donated a large measure of his time and talent on these photographs. His photos are shared by the book and the hall. It’s one example of the cooperation and assistance of the hall in the creation of the book. Historians and statistician Stan Shillinglaw, Larry Power and David Stewart-Candy also deserve a huge amount of credit in the creation of the book. No stats, no story!

Thanks to Bruce MacDonald for his time. If you’re interested in a copy of Salmonbells vs the World, it can be purchased at Black Dog Books and on Amazon.
By: Paul Horn

All sport loves that there are few accolades as meaningful as a nickname. A true nickname is granted by our teammates or coaches; it can do is wonder at how they were earned. Was Alex “Dad” Tumblal called Dad because of his prematurely rerouting hairline and the fact that he looked older than his years? His nickname, and indeed his exact age, remains a mystery to this day. And what about Clarence “Bucko” Peele, Tom “Sharky” Gifford, Walter “Masu” Thompson or Roy “Pang” Morton?

Great nicknames are not just part of the past, but also a great tradition that continues with our more recent inductees. There’s Johnny “Gypo” Mouradian, Derek “Jammer” Keenan, Tom “Hollywood” Marechek, Tom “Slick” Wreggit and Craig “Howie” Stevenson. 2007 was a good year for nickname inductees as we added both a Milkshake and a Bucket (Elmer Lee and Alex Mackay, respectively). In 2001, we inducted Eric “Eddie” Cowieson, who apparently earned his nickname after an unflattering haircut left him resembling Eddie Munster. Perhaps he should have talked to another 2001 inductee, Oliver Bomberry, about borrowing his “Cap.” But 1997, included the inductees with the coolest of nicknames, like Dave “Dude” Durant, Judy “Punch” Garlow, Bob “Biff” McCready, George “Duke” Savage and, perhaps strangest of all, William “Wopsie” Arthurs.

In some cases the story behind the name ought to be better known. For example, a whole generation grew up watching The Lone Ranger and got to know inductee Harry “Tonto” Smith by his more well-known Hollywood name, Jay Silverheels. And what about Byron “Boss” Johnson, the World War one-era goalkeeper for Vancouver? His nickname came from the Anglicization of his Icelandic name Bjössú (Little Byron) and had nothing to do with his temperament. Ironically, in 1947, he did literally become the boss of British Columbia when he was elected as Premier of the province.

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The world of nicknames is a treasure trove of interesting stories, both for teams and individuals. There are still lots of folks out there who simply add a “y” at the end of a player’s name, but a real lacrosse nickname is much more original. Often, a nickname starts out as a good-natured jab, but ends up being adopted as a badge of honour.

Some of the very first inductees to the Hall came with nicknames that were more widely known than the player’s true appellations. Who would remember that Newy Lakonde was Edouard to his parents? A Montreal and Vancouver star, Newsy earned his name simply by having worked in a newspaper plant, but it was Edouard to his parents? A Montreal and Vancouver star, Newsy earned his name simply by having worked in a newspaper plant, but it was.

The senior lacrosse association helped facilitate the formation of the new league. Others involved included Steve Murphy and Charlene Dahl of Mackenzie, Lisa Scott of Quesnel and Bob Mills of Williams Lake. In Prince George, Shelley Sivell is working on behalf of the league as a coordinator. Sivell, whose lacrosse-playing son Andrew will be in the intermediate age group next season, said there was interest in the league’s high in Prince George. “There’s a lot of excitement,” she said. “I think we have 16 to 18 kids that are pretty high-calibre that are interested, that have said, yes, I will definitely play.”

Sivell said the new league will “definitely” fill a niche in Prince George. “The kids that have been playing since they were six, they get to Grade 10, when they’re 16, and all of a sudden if they really want to keep playing and are of that calibre, they have Team nicknames tell us a great deal about our history. The Vancouver Barrards were so named because of the First Nations band that lived in the area surrounding what is now the Port of Vancouver, but the name was so entrenched that it stuck as the team moved first to Surrey and then to Maple Ridge. The Oshawa Green Gaels is a nod to the Gaelic history of their region and the Six Nations Chiefs and Peterborough Timmermen both pay homage to their community histories. A few are a lot more cryptic. For example, what is “excelsior”? The word “excelsior” is an old-fashioned adjective meaning “higher” and so, like all great nicknames, it has become a thing unto itself. An Excelsior is, quite simply, an excellent lacrosse player from Brampton, Ontario.

And, by the same measure, what is a salmonbellie? The name isn’t even spelled correctly for crying out loud! Perhaps by now you know the story of the Vancouver fishermen who long ago heckled the New West Lacrosse Club during a heated match by yelling, “Git there, you salmonbellies!” Hard to believe, but salmon was food for poor folks in that era and thus the dig; but the New West team did what many greats have done since and took the name as their own. The rest, as they say, is history.

Do you know any great nicknames or the stories behind them? Find us on Facebook and share your story. And, don’t forget that you can help us find our next great inductees. Anyone can nominate players, builders and teams. Check out our website at www.canadianlacrossehalloffame.org for the procedure.

Nicknames in the Hall of Fame

A League of Their Own

Intermediate lacrosse gets green light in north region

By: Jason Peters, PG Citizen Staff

A new lacrosse league that will bridge the gap between the minor and senior levels will begin operation in the spring of 2014.

The formation of the Cariboo Central Interior Intermediate Lacrosse League was confirmed during a weekend meeting in Prince George. The league, for 17- and 18-year-olds, will have teams in Prince George, Mackenzie, Quesnel and Williams Lake and is planning its opening weekend for April 26-27 in Williams Lake.

Glenn (Moose) Scott, who is already commissioner of the Prince George Senior Lacrosse Association, has taken on the same role with the intermediate league.

“A lot of the younger lacrosse players, after they graduate out of midget, they’re looking at coming into the senior league and playing against players that are, say, six-foot-one or two and weigh maybe over 200 pounds,” Scott said.

“And these young players may only be five-foot-five and weigh 155 or something. They may get a little intimidated having to go from midget right into senior lacrosse but this way they’ve got a two-year period where they can play against players in their own age group and of their own calibre. It will help develop them as better lacrosse players and get them ready for the senior leagues.”

The senior lacrosse association helped facilitate the formation of the new league. Others involved included Steve Murphy and Charlene Dahl of Mackenzie, Lisa Scott of Quesnel and Bob Mills of Williams Lake. In Prince George, Shelley Sivell is working on behalf of the league as a coordinator. Sivell, whose lacrosse-playing son Andrew will be in the intermediate age group next season, said the formation of the league is high in Prince George.

“There’s a lot of excitement,” she said. “I think we have 16 to 18 kids that are pretty high-calibre that are interested, that have said, yes, I will definitely play.”

Sivell said the new league will “definitely” fill a niche in Prince George. “The kids that have been playing since they were six, they get to Grade 10, when they’re 16, and all of a sudden if they really want to keep playing and are of that calibre, they have to go to Vancouver or [play senior in Prince George]. This league is a good thing. I know that the minor lacrosse people whose kids are coming up, they’re very excited.”

Glenn Scott said an average of 20 to 30 intermediate-aged players have suited up for PGSLA teams in each of the past few seasons.

He said talk of an intermediate league began about four years ago. At that point in time, the Prince George junior B Posse was still in existence but more and more potential Posse players were heading south to play at the intermediate level so they could make a transition into the B.C. Junior Lacrosse League. The junior Posse fuzzled out and that left to the current void between minor lacrosse and senior lacrosse.

Scott said the need for a regional intermedi- ate league was never clearer than in April of this year when former pro players Chris Gill and Dan Stroup were in Prince George to instruct at a skills clinic.

“I was there with a couple of other people from Prince George senior lacrosse and we were looking out at the floor in Kin 3 in the afternoon session and we had 55 bantam and midget players out on the floor,” Scott said. “We just looked at each other and said, ‘we’ve got to do something or we’re going to lose all these players eventually.’”

Details surrounding the intermediate league are still being finalized. But, under the current plan, each team will play nine regular-season games, followed by playoffs. The league champion will then attend the intermediate provincial championship tournament, normally held in the Lower Mainland in August.

For the most part, regular-season games will be grouped together and will move from city to city each weekend. Scott said the ideal spot for games in Prince George is Kin 1, which has been rebuilt and is scheduled to open early next month.

Scott Anderson, a PGSLA veteran who coached the Prince George midget Posse last season, has expressed interest in guiding the city’s new intermediate club. The team name has yet to be chosen.

In Mackenzie, Quesnel and Williams Lake, names that have been suggested are, respectively, The Crushers, Wildlife and Warriors.


Ex-Burrard star Chris Gill has been named Maple Ridge Burrards’ newest Head Coach.

By: Neil Corbett, Maple Ridge News

Chris Gill was one of the great B.C. lacrosse players of his generation. Next season, he’ll start proving himself as a coach.

Gill has been named the new bench boss for the Maple Ridge Burrards, beginning in the 2014 season.

He takes over a Burrards team that is considered well stocked with young talent, but still learning how to win.

Gill knows the Burrards well. He has played with many of the guys, has coached against them when he was an assistant with the New Westminster Salmonbellies for two seasons, and the Pitt Meadows resident has watched his hometown team as a fan in the stands.

Gill likes the talent level.

“They’ve had a good team the last few years, they have drafted well. The pieces are in place, player-wise.”

He likes the team toughness.

“They’re all men. They know what it takes.”

He likes having leading scorer Curtis Dickson.

“He’s the best player in the world.”

He likes the team toughness.

“Really?”

“Look what he puts up there – he’s a stud.”

Gill agreed the Burrards coaching position is a great opportunity for a new coach looking to make his mark.

“This is the consummate professional,” said Mammoth president Steve Govett. “He played his role over the course of his entire career as well as any of the best to ever play the game. I’m quite certain he’s destined for the hall of fame.”

Gill believes the team needs better focus and mental toughness. He has concrete plans, but wouldn’t tip his hand in the media.

“You put players in the right place at the right time, and let players be players.”

The Burrards brass heard his ideas, and obviously liked them.

Gill takes over from Daren Fridge, who retains half of his title of head coach/general manager.

“Chris’ craftiness around the crease will now transfer in his role as head coach. He interviewed very well and has some very creative plans to address some of our challenges from last season,” said Fridge.

“We were looking for a dynamic leader with valuable experience at the highest level of lacrosse, and Chris is exactly what we are seeking.”

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“We were looking for a dynamic leader with valuable experience at the highest level of lacrosse, and Chris is exactly what we are seeking.”

The Gill name alone brings credibility to the Burrards. He’s virtually lacrosse royalty. His father Sohen Gill is in the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame, which calls him “the hardest-working man in B.C. Lacrosse.” He was inducted as a builder. Among Sohen’s many exploits at every level of the game, he spent five years as the coach and manager of the Burrards.

The younger Gill racked up 482 goals and 351 assists in 282 WLA games. His teams made the playoffs nine times and he was a Mann Cup finalist on two occasions.

On top of that, he had a decorated National Lacrosse League career with stops in Baltimore, Toronto, Vancouver, Colorado, Edmonton and Calgary. Along the way, he raised the Champions Cup three times and he recorded 557 points in 173 career NLL games. He retired from the NLL in 2010 from Colorado Mammoth.

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Gill agreed the Burrards coaching position is a great opportunity for a new coach looking to mark his mark.

“A hundred per cent – you don’t want to go to a team that is on its last legs. You want a team that’s young and eager and wants to win. If you want to coach in this league, this is where you want to be.”

“I’m excited to be part of the team, and we’re looking at taking a run at the Mann Cup this year, and for the next 10 years,” he added.

“It seems like the season’s a long way away, but I can’t wait for it to start.”
Team BC U16 Baltimore Trip

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

The Team BC U16 Field Lacrosse travel squad took off in early November 2013 on their annual east coast lacrosse trip to attend the UpLax and Aloha lacrosse recruiting tournaments in Baltimore, Maryland. This trip proved to be their busiest playing eight games in three days.

Once the team arrived, the coaches and staff visited Towson University for a school visit where they were shown the academic buildings, stadium, weight room, locker room and brand new basketball arena. All three Towson men’s lacrosse coaches and their volunteer assistants took time to guide Team BC around and answered questions.

The first game was meant as a warm up in order for the U16’s to shake the rigors of travel out of their systems – they met Arch Dematha, a good rebound game was in store. Team BC moved the ball well and impressed the 25 or so coaches lined up to view the match. All players got into the action and even a couple poles factored into the scoring. Several players, who were already committed to colleges, re-impressed their future coaches while other players caught the eyes of some new scouts.

On the final day at the Aloha Lax tournament, game one pitted Team BC against One More Lacrosse of Woodbridge, Connecticut. The U16’s played a well rounded game to go on and win 12-6. Game two was against Lax World 2016, a team of mainly 15 year old athletes. Team BC dominated all aspects of the game and let up at the end scoring close to 20 goals.

The final game of the day and trip matched Team BC against Arch Bishop Spaulding. Team BC started off poorly and for the first half showed little effort and got behind early. The U16’s rebounded in the second half and made things interesting to get within three goals on route to a 12-9 defeat.

A few very strong college connections were made with some of the Team BC athletes with schools like UNC, Penn State, Brown and Stony Brook amongst others.

After all is said and done and the games continue to assist the athletes while communicating with college coaches.

“Players that create videos, research schools, go to recruiting events, write their SAT’s, and work on their grades are the ones that I see going to the NCAA,” noted Gillespie. There are too many top Box and Field guys that think coaches will come to them. Each person’s path to colleges is a little different.

As the Team BC program grows, so does the outlook to assist as many athletes as possible to help them along the path to realize a college opportunity.

“As the years pass, I am finding that more college coaches are making direct connections with Team BC asking questions regarding specific players, said Team BC Field Lacrosse Coordinator Reynold Comeault. “I believe this is a testament to the growth and development of the Team BC Program and to the ability of our players.”

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Team BC U14’s Cali Trip

With two games under their belt, Team BC began to get their game legs and came close to their first victory, but ended up deadlocked at 8-8 versus Team AD-VNC (San Francisco), then dropped a close game to Mustangs U15 Gold (Alberta) 7-4. In the final game, Team BC pulled up their socks and played their best game beating Team 3D Selects (San Francisco) 8-4.

“Every one of the boys improved as the weekend went on, and played their hearts out in the final game against the 3D Club,” stated Coach Catton. “It was fantastic to see them play a complete game as a team.”

With a major influx of American select lacrosse programs being formed, the Team BC U14 program is a huge benefit to the entire Team BC family in the long-term growth of athletes and coaches for future competitions.

“I thought we learned a lot about ourselves as coaches, and players playing against the different competition,” mentioned Coach Catton. “It takes time for a team to find its identity, identify its strengths and correct its weaknesses. This group of boys was very coachable, and the coaching staff was happy with the progress they made.”

The first crack at the U14 Field program was a great experience by many and a perfect fit to feed future U16 and U19 Field programs. Team BC Field Lacrosse Coordinator, Reynold Comeault was impressed with the first big step. “Off the heels of their introduction to the Team BC Field Lacrosse program, we are pleased with the experience these people had at a major recruiting showcase event -- this is the first step in getting these players noticed,” explained Comeault.
Canada Invades Space Needle Lacrosse Shootout

The Claremont U18 team was perfect winning the U18 Space Needle Shootout in December.

By: LacrosseTalk Staff & Wales.com

The goal is to bring additional awareness to Lacrosse [Field & Box] as Canada’s National Game and one of the best moral, physical and mental games for youth of Indigenous and non-Indigenous athletes in Canada, alongside hockey,” stated event coordinator and VKMLA coach Bill Tierney attended and conducted clinics at the event. Tierney, one of collegiate hockey’s legendary coaches, has been a mentor to many BC lacrosse players at Denver — none more so than Burnaby’s Matt Brown, who starred at DU (2002-2005) and is the current Associate Head Coach under Tierney. Story Brook commit McLean Chicquen and Eddie Smith, led Claremont Secondary School past Issaquah 10-4 for the U18 title at the Space Needle Shootout, Sunday, December 8. Claremont joined the Coquitlam Adanacs, which won the U16 and U12 titles along with the Honey Badgers (Bellevue), which won the U14 title game as 2013 champions at the Northwest’s largest lacrosse tournament.

U18 – High School Elite (16 teams): Adanacs (BC), Bellevue (WA), Claremont (BC), Delta (BC), Honey Badgers (WA), Issaquah (WA), Lake Oswego (OR), Langley (BC), Lax NW (OR), Mercer Island (WA), Outlaws (OR), Rhine (OR), Sawtooth (ID), Saasqua (BC) South Sound Starz (WA) and Valhalla (WA).

Along with play at the youth (U12), and middle school (U14) levels, the tournament attracted players from many of the top high school and club lacrosse teams in the region at the U16 and U18 levels along with representatives from a number of colleges and college recruiting events.

University of Denver Men’s Lacrosse Coach Bill Tierney attended and conducted youth and high school coaching education clinics at the event. Tierney, one of collegiate lacrosse’s legendary coaches, has been a mentor to many BC lacrosse players at Denver — none more so than Burnaby’s Matt Brown, who starred at DU (2002-2005) and is the current associate head coach under Tierney.

With childhood obesity on the rise, it is important that our community offers free opportunities for children to get active and involved. The Kelowna Kinsmen Club was recently awarded the Provincial Public Service Award by the British Columbia Lacrosse Association at its annual general meeting in Whistler.

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The Kelowna Kinsmen Club was nominated by the Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association for their outstanding financial support and volunteer service. They were up against some tough competition for the Irvine-Calder-Nevard Merit Award for Outstanding Public Service, but prevailed to win the prestigious award.

The Kelowna Kinsmen partnered with Kelowna Minor Lacrosse in 2008 to create the free Learn to Play Program. The program was designed to give children exposure to Canada’s national summer sport.

For details contact Jeff at:
jeff@bclacrosse.com or 604-421-9755

Special guest Dennis Joseph of the Squamish Nation poses at ceremonial face-off.

Vancouver Field Lacrosse proudly show their support for the RBC Sports Day last November.

“The goal is to bring additional awareness to Lacrosse [Field & Box] as Canada’s National Game and one of the best moral, physical and mental games for youth of Indigenous and non-Indigenous athletes in Canada, alongside hockey,” stated event coordinator and VKMLA volunteer Erin Kingston. “The roots of Canada are unique and lacrosse has been played for centuries.”

VMLKA’s U12 and U14 Field Lacrosse teams held friendly games and provided a fun atmosphere of lacrosse games, draws, skill competitions and a BBQ. It started as a wet cold night, and then it rain stopped in time for the games to begin.

A short ceremony was conducted prior to the games with special guest Dennis “Denny” Joseph of the Squamish Nation. Denny was an ex-Vancouver Barbarian Field Lacrosse goaltender that backstopped the Barbarians to two Victory Cup National titles in 1992 and 1994. His words of wisdom and ceremonial faceoff were well respected and received by all in attendance.

Many thanks go out to the VXMLA, Erin Kingston, prize and food donors and all the parent volunteers that made this a reality.

BCLA Recognizes Kelowna Kinsmen Club

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Vancouver Field Lacrosse and RBC Sports Day

The Vancouver Field Lacrosse Club hosted a Lacrosse Sports Day event in conjunction with the BC Lacrosse Association on November 30, 2013. The Vancouver U12 and U14 Field Lacrosse teams played games as part of this CBC Sports Day event.

RBC Sports Day in Canada, presented by the Kelowna Minor Lacrosse Association and Kelowna Minor Lacrosse. We thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to minor sports in our community.

For details contact Jeff at:
jeff@bclacrosse.com or 604-421-9755

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The fall season came to a close with another SFU alumni game. The 2014 roster ended up besting the alumni squad and completing the charity goals of some of the MCLA's toughest and strongest opponents. Competition commences north of the border on February 8 and 9 as Simon Fraser plays host to conference opponents Western Washington and Portland State. The Clan then hit the road to meet Brigham Young University (BYU, Feb 15) and Boise State (Feb 16) on the blue “smurf turf” of Boise State’s football stadium. Travel will continue for Simon Fraser as they are then scheduled to meet the University of Washington Huskies at UW on February 22. Arguably the biggest game of the year for the Clan is scheduled for March 1 as the Oregon Ducks will travel to SFU for this huge conference matchup. The home stand will continue as the Clan will host Idaho on March 7. Simon Fraser will hit the road again for March 16 and 18 meetings with Utah and Oregon State, respectively, in Oregon. A few days later, the Clan will bound a flight southbound for the desert to face the University of Arizona State University, and Illinois under the desert sun in Arizona March 20-23. The last home games of the season will be held at home March 29 as the Clan will face Washington State. Hitting the road for the remainder of the season, SFU will meet the Texas Longhorns in Oregon on April 13, and finish the season in Montana versus the Montana Grizzlies on April 26.

A strong group of freshmen joined the capable ranks of the Clansmen this fall. Incoming transfer Tyler Kirkby (Bumaby, BC) had a very promising fall at attack after transferring from Bellarmine (NCAA DI), and freshman goalkeeper Jeremy Lashear (Bumaby, BC) will be a strong backup goaltender to returning senior Darren Zwick (Sherwood Park, AB). SFU promises to be another exciting campaign for the Clan as they will battle in the MCLA for a PNCLL Conference Championship and National Title.

ABOUT SIMON FRASER MEN’S LACROSSE

SFU Lacrosse also wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of the recent partnership with Adrenaline Sports and the Burnaby Mountain Selects organization, regarding the boys that bear Chris’ initials and his “the best” logo. Chris loved his lacrosse socks and they are great for sports and for just lounging around.

If you’re interested in purchasing a pair of socks, please contact randa@adrenalinesports.ca. They are $20. Each. Full net profits ($3.20 pair) will be re-directed back into the Christian Friesen Memorial Award at SFU. Thanks for honouring Chris with a gift to his fund.

OTTAWA, ON, November 14, 2013 - The Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) is proud to announce the roster of Canadian officials who have been chosen to represent Canada at the 2014 FIL World Men’s Lacrosse Championships taking place in Denver, CO, July 10-19, 2014.

The following are the Blue Division officials in alphabetical order, with hometown:

Lee Briel – Burnaby, British Columbia
Brent Coulombe – Welland, Ontario
Scott McMullen – Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Ryan Nose – Surrey, British Columbia
Ian Wilson – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The following are the Red Division officials in alphabetical order, with hometown:

Nathan Adams – Saskatchewan
Scottish Adams – Edmonton, Alberta
Mick Drake – Newcastle, Ontario

Dave Hallett – Sydenham, Ontario
Ryan Metcalfe – Toronto, Ontario

Kody Molechi – Delta, British Columbia
Tommy Terrill – Surrey, British Columbia

The following are the alternate officials in random, pick teams:

Steve O’Shaughnessy – Fredericton, New Brunswick
Ryan Dutkus – Welland, Ontario

The following are the selected assessor’s in alphabetical order, with hometown:

Bryan Huntley – Elijoboke, Ontario
Frank Lawrence – St. Catharines, Ontario
Alan Shirghom – Surrey, British Columbia

The CLA and our officiating sector are very proud of the accomplishment of these officials in being selected to officiate at a World Championship and take pride in knowing that each official has been in the very best spirit, both on and off the field.

The Team BC Lacrosse Program is a high school system. This year we have new and international lacrosse experience, let alone coaching youth lacrosse in their communities.

“The BCLA and the Team BC Program are very excited to have such an outstanding group of successful and quality coaches leading our Team BC athletes towards the National Championships,” said BCLA VP Programming, Rom McQuarrie. “This year we had many outstanding candidates apply to be Team BC Head Coaches.”

The Team BC Lacrosse Program is a high performance lacrosse program for Box and Field Box Lacrosse athletes in BC. The Team BC Lacrosse Program consists of six (6) Box Lacrosse Squads and four (4) Field Squad squads (Men’s U19, U16, U14, Women’s Field U19). In 2014, Team BC will also be participating in the North American Indigenous Games in Regina this July. These teams are selected from hundreds of athletics across BC and compete at National Championships against other Provincial teams.

The 2014 Box Lacrosse (Midget/Bantam/ Pee-Wee) National Teams will take place August 4-9, 2014 hosted by New Westminster and Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Associations. The 2014 Female Box Lacrosse (Junior/Midget/ Bantam) National Teams will be August 6-9, 2014 in Whity, Ontario.

For Team BC - Box lacrosse athlete tryout information and applications, please visit the BCLA Lacrosse Association website at www.bclax.com and click on the Team BC page. Direct Link is http://bcla.centrefieldstop.com/bcla/2011/2012/Moinationalmainpage.html.

For information about the BC Lacrosse Association programs and services, please visit our website: www.bclax.com or call 604-421-9755.
Through Lacrosse, Empowerment for First Nations

A century ago, aboriginal players drew thousands to games. Now the new generation trade exists.

By: Megan Stewart

Like his father and grandfather before him, Dennis “Denny” Joseph prefers to throw the mesh of his own lacrosse stick. His favourite one, the box lacrosse stick the 56-year-old goalie calls his “bread and butter,” is a hybrid piece of equipment dating back to the 1990s.

Joseph’s box stick has long since been replaced, exchanged for a field lacrosse stick since he left his box team about 10 seasons ago. Besides, one side of the baskets’ triangle is snapped in two. “I called a guy, says Joseph, his quiet voice rising as he laughs. “My crease was my own, man. To this day, I tell guys to stay out of my crease.”

Box lacrosse – the indoor version of the ball and stick field game that originated with the Iroquois Confederacy, or Six Nations Confederacy (a violent and bloody race) – is a violent and uniquely Canadian sport, born of a desire to make Indian natives into buck-eyed assassins in wartime. It’s now the country’s national summer sport, with a popularity that is deep but narrow.

And in British Columbia, where the sport as we know it today was introduced 150 years ago, lacrosse is empowering a new generation of aboriginal athletes.

Sport diplomacy

Lacrosse in B.C. wouldn’t be what it is for aboriginal athletes today if it wasn’t for Andy Paul. A visionary coach, union leader and native rights activist with the Squamish First Nation, Paul recognized lacrosse as a powerful tool to unite the Squamish nearly a century ago as they were being displaced from their own territory by colonists who denied them equal rights, access to identity, and assimilation of their traditions. The Squamish found pride, agency and entertainment in a lacrosse team, the North Shore Indians.

“In more or less a community and people’s place for fun, community building,” Paul said today for players who play under the North Shore Indians jersey, “It was more about community and people’s place for fun, community building.”

Paul, who founded the Squamish Indians lacrosse team in the 1980s and 1993, as well as field lacrosse national championship with the Vancouver Barbarians in 1992 and 1994. Joseph is also Paul’s maternal great-grandson.

Among the Squamish, Paul used lacrosse to tap into a broader indigenous identity when First Nations in Canada were actively being assimilated and intentionally denied their humanity. He recruited Iroquois from across the country, including the North Shore, forging relationships that carry on today. Paul, who formed the Native American Indian Brotherhood (which went on to become the Assembly of First Nations) was also building connections with the dominant white society.

“He was extremely brilliant, Andy Paul,” says Allan Downy, a historian who studies the role of lacrosse in the Indigenous community in relation to lacrosse. Downy is a member of the Nak’aled First Nation near Fort St. James, a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University, and a box lacrosse player who played for the Burnaby Lakers in 2010.

“Aboriginal players are actually on the outside of the development of lacrosse in British Columbia,” Downy explains. But Paul changed that.

Turner Seward (left) with his father, Sam Seward.

Born in 1992 near the town of Squamish, he came of age at a time when the pastime was outlawed. The legal profession he sought to practice was barred to a man like him, as long as he held Indian status. During his childhood, lacrosse was primarily played by white men and had yet to become the pride of the Squamish Nation as it would four decades later. In the early 1990s, B.C. Amateur Lacrosse Association banned anyone but white athletes from its membership.

In 1920, Paul organized the all-native lacrosse team to appear at one of many so-called Indian sports days, a fair for mainstream society to marvel at what many believed to be a dying race. The Aboriginal athletes were a tremendous draw wherever they went.

“People wanted to see Aboriginal athletes because of the prevailing belief that Aboriginal peoples were going to disappear. They would come by the thousands,” Downy says.

For the next decade, 12,000 fans were said to cram into the 10,500 seats at the Denny Arena in Vancouver’s West End to see the team that became the North Shore Indians. The ban against Aboriginal players was quietly removed from the rulebook, as the Victorian-era values favouring amateurism made way for sports capitalism.

“This was quite ironic, given the fact non-Aboriginal Canadians were taking an indigenous game, claiming it as their own and then they end up barring the very people who gave it to them,” Downy said. “Paul saw sport as an opportunity to continue what he was doing. And he loved the game, there is no question about that. He really connected, and so did the Squamish.

They connected lacrosse to an Aboriginal game to an extent that no one has ever seen before – here the Squamish were playing a game that had been played in indigenous communities, including the Squamish, since time immemorial. They were just re-contexting it with it.”

“They were applauding, just roaring”

The broken stick. Joseph cherishes it on display in his basement, along with 80-old jerseys. One is framed, as well as a dozen sticks, black-and-white photographs and a participation medal from the 1932 Los Angeles Summer Olympics where the North Shore Indians went to play lacrosse as a demonstration sport.

That same team, bolstered by cross-country recruits from the Six Nations, traveled to Toronto in 1936 as the first all-native team to contend for the national Senior A championship, the Mann Cup. The Indians lost the series one game to three, falling to the two-time defending champions from Orillia. More than 56,000 fans attended the four games they played at Maple Leaf Gardens.

Joseph idolized the men who played for the “36 Indians, and those he watched as a child at the PNE Forum and the North Vancouver arena, now known as the Harry Jerome Sports Centre. The North Shore Indians were still a draw, and their fans shook drums with drumbeats and songs.

Among the players he watched was his uncle and Canadian lacrosse hall-of-famer Stan “Bunny” Joseph Jr., the son of “36 Indian Joe, who was named the league’s outstanding goal- tender four times and was named MVP once. He had a 70 career save percentage, a mark that remains unattainable for professional players.

“I could barely peer over the boards and when he hit the floor – I found out this later from the people with whom he – let him run out by himself and there was maybe 800 people in the stand and everybody just stood up,” Joseph says, who has framed one of his uncle’s jerseys. “They were applauding, just roaring, I was like, ‘I want to do that.’

Joseph doesn’t play box lacrosse with the Indians anymore, but he competes as a grandmaster at field lacrosse tournaments with the Shape Shifters, a team that takes the important Squamish figure of a two-headed serpent for its emblem instead of the profile of a Plains man in a feather headdress.

He competes alongside the same guys he grew up with playing stick-and-ball games on the Squamish reserve. A decade after his championship season with the Indians, he turned his back on box lacrosse because of political disagreements between some team organizers and the band council, on which he has sat since being elected in 1989.

Joseph now plays field lacrosse alongside Sam Seward, 57, who still coaches the Indians, which counts his 22-year-old son Turner on the roster. “Growing up, we always had elders come in to talk to us between periods,” Seward says. “He’s a two-time Canadian champion and a face-off specialist. I was thinking we didn’t have that anymore, but my wife said to me, ‘You’re the elder now.’

The popularity of the sport among the younger Squamish is in a slump, Seward says. “It’s a sentiment numerous older players agree with. The work ethic isn’t what it was, they say. “I’d like to see our North Shore Indians be contender again,” says Seward. “We have to get more players coming out from the res. I’d like to see more of our own guys playing. We get a little more support when we have players from the res.”

“They were taught First Nations people were wiped out entirely’”

Of the 16,000 athletes registered with the B.C. Lacrosse Association, 711 self-identify as Aboriginal. The legacy of the North Shore Indians can be measured today, in part, by the 17-year-old Selena Lasota, who grew up in Campbell River and is of the Katzie First Nation near Pitt Meadows, aligned with NorthWestern University, the continent’s most accomplished women’s varsity lacrosse team and the defending NCAA Division 1 champions.

Like Wailer, Lasota grew up playing box lacrosse with her older brothers and her Aborigi- nal heritage becomes more meaningful to her identity as a lacrosse player as she learns more about the sport, she says. “I think representing [myself] as an Aboriginal person, but also as a Canadian player is really cool.”

Mack and Lasota are promising Aboriginal athletes who have two new generations of lacrosse player. Wailer and Seward pique the interest and hone the skills of countless more when they put on workshops at B.C. schools. Some Aboriginal kids who’d never heard of lacrosse know immediately how to cradle the ball and handle the stick with very little instruc- tion. Seward says. This behaviour is known as a “living blood memory” to Downy, the aca- demic who studies lacrosse and its significance in Aboriginal society.

“Your Aboriginal identity in your blood has touched us and they couldn’t believe we existed.” Downy says. “It’s something that con- nects Indigenous nations across North America. You really start seeing the re-empowerment of Indigenous communities through this game.”

For details contact Jeff at: Jeff@bc lacrosse.com or 604-421-9755

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Cable and MacAulay — Community Sport Heroes

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

Tony Cable – Community Sport Hero Award in Prince George.

In 1987, Tony Cable began his lacrosse journey in Mackenzie, BC when his sons Scott and Shawn were introduced to lacrosse — and he’s never looked back. He coached youth teams in Mackenzie and provided administrative assistance to these teams while helping his association host lacrosse weekend events.

In 1993, the Cables moved to Prince George and instantly got involved in Prince George Minor Lacrosse. Tony coached a few seasons, but it was what he gave back to the association and surrounding communities that made him a cog in developing lacrosse in the north.

From 1995 to present, Tony has been a part of the Zone 8 Summer Games Team, holds the chair position in the Great White North Lacrosse Commission and has volunteered for WLA and professional lacrosse games in PC. Each summer, Tony volunteers as a supervisor at lacrosse weekends and BCLA Provincials around BC and is a proud organizer of a Guinness World Record — for the longest marathon lacrosse game in 2012.

“I was very honoured to receive the award and I appreciate the nomination,” mentioned Cable.

Jeff MacAulay started lacrosse at the age of five and played at all levels until Junior in Richmond. In his early 20’s, he jumped right into coaching and has been close to the game ever since.

After 5 years of playing Senior B, he moved the family to Mission, and in 1999, he got back behind the bench coaching his son in Minor Tykes. Two years later, he joined the Mission Lacrosse Association (MLA) executive as a director to assist the growing association. MacAulay has served on the executive every year in a variety of positions including director, referee, head referee, head coach, equipment manager and VP. He is currently the MLA President.

Jeff has coached every year, sometimes more than one team, and has taken teams to Provincials winning various medals. MacAulay has served on the BCLA coach’s disciplinary board.

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

Jeff MacAulay — Community Sport Hero Award in Mission.

In Memoriam

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

Beebe Dolores Guerro, 88, along with her late husband Victor, served for two decades on the Coquitlam Adanacs’ executive body.

Doug Manning, 80, was the New Westminster City Administrator for a number of years, but still found time to act as treasurer for both the senior and junior Salmonbellies’ teams. He also took great pride following the successful senior lacrosse careers of his sons Steve and grandsons Curtis.

Bill Scuby, who played his first senior lacrosse game 74 years ago, passed away on November 22, 2013.

Born January 6, 1923, in Battle Creek, Michigan, he moved with his family to New Westminster where he attended Duke of Connaught High School. Like many Royal City youngsters during the 1930’s, Bill took up the game of lacrosse, eventually tending goal for the Knights of Pythias junior team.

In 1939, at the age of 16, Bill was called up by the Salmonbellies to fill in for regular Pete Anthony. He made such an impression that, one year later and still only 17, Bill became the ‘Bellies’ full time netminder. He competed in the 1942 Mann Cup playoffs in which the ‘Bellies beat Lachine-Ville St. Pierre Combines 2-0 in the semi-finals but lost the finals 3-4 to Mimico-Brampton.

Like many athletes of the day, the Second World War put placed his sporting activities on hold until 1945. Then, the following year, Bill again led his Royal City squad to a Mann Cup final only to lose 3-2 to St. Catharines. At the age of 24, with only 104 senior games on his record, Bill left the game to begin a long, and successful, business career in Prince Rupert and Victoria.

Tom ‘Mad Dog’ Smith. The Bellie family, and lacrosse in general, lost one of our own with the passing of Tom ‘Mad Dog’ Smith at the age of 59. Tom started his minor lacrosse and hockey career in North Surrey before joining our junior Bellie team in 1972 when we were located at the North Surrey Recreation Center. He played for the Junior Bellies and the Sr. Kirby’s Klippers as well as coaching and being involved with the Salmonbellies Alumni.

BC Lacrosse Association 2014 EVENTS

SUBWAY (R) Field Lacrosse Provincial Championships

Men-U19 Tier 1 & 2 Women-U15 & U12 Invitational February 8-10, 2014 Willoughby Park Langley, BC

Men-U16/14/12 Tier 1 & 2 February 21-23, 2014 Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West Burnaby, BC

Box Lacrosse BCLCA Coach Clinics

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Box Lacrosse BCLA Official Clinics

Clinic Participant Info, Visit bclacrosse.com Click Officials, Clinics, Box

Way To Go!

B.C. Lacrosse Association SUBWAY® Restaurants Volunteer Award

Gene & Judy Regier (Intermediate A & B Leagues)

In 1986, Gene and Judy Regier got involved with lacrosse with the White Rock Minor Lacrosse Association when their son Craig began lacrosse — they’ve never looked back! Gene and Judy have been a husband and wife volunteer team for decades. In White Rock, Gene coached and was the association Treasurer, while Judy was Registrar and Secretary. She soon accepted the Lower Mainland Commission Secretary position.

In 1990, the Regier’s moved to the South Fraser Intermediates — Gene coached and Judy was Secretary. In 1995, Judy became BC Intermediate A League Statistician & Secretary, the next year, Gene followed and took over as Chair and Commissioner. Judy included Minor & Senior Director Secretary duties to her portfolio.

In 2007, both attempted to step down from the BCIL, but they couldn’t let go, and jumped back on board managing multiple executive positions in 2008 — the two have been indispensable and have continued their roles since then.

The Regier’s have volunteered their summers to lacrosse for some 30 years. The BC Intermediate A & B Provincial Championships on BC day weekend, is an event that is near and dear to them. Their overall devotion to the game and years of commitment are second to none. They were the 2006 recipients of the Ted Fridge Family Award.

Congratulations Gene and Judy!
Canadian Lacrosse League Takes Shape for 2014 Season

By: CLAX

The Canadian Lacrosse League (CLax) will enter into the 2014 season with a five team league featuring the Barrie Blizzard, Durham TurfDogs, Ohsweken Demons, Niagara Lock Monsters, and a travel team based out of Southwestern Ontario called the SouthWest Cyclops. Additionally, each team will play one game versus the Tuscarora Tomahawks based out of Cattaraugus, New York over the course of the season. The 2014 season will begin in early February and will consist of nine games plus playoffs.

The new shift in league structure reflects a focus on team and league sustainability. The remaining teams from the 2013 season will continue to grow their already strong lacrosse communities by building on their consistent attendance from last season. The Southwestern Ontario team will be a strictly travel team this season in hopes that they will find a permanent home in 2015. Their home games will be played at a variety of locations including Wilmot and the Inquisis Lacrosse Arena.

CLax Representative Chris Newsome said, “By ensuring teams are located in markets with a solid fan base in appropriate venues, we are giving these teams and the league a solid chance to succeed.” He continued, “The Canadian Lacrosse League will continue to grow as an organization and a business. We remain dedicated to developing players and promoting the sport of lacrosse in our communities. We believe that sport builds strong youth and we value the importance of youth athletics and the power of sport within our communities.”

New Owners Announced For the Canadian Lacrosse League

The Canadian Lacrosse League (CLax) is pleased to announce that a new ownership group has purchased the league. The new owner, Canadian Lacrosse League Holdings Inc. is a collaboration of Rodney Hill, the owner of the Ohswekan Demons and Charlesway Corporation Ltd., the owners of the Niagara Lock Monsters and the Barrie Blizzard. Together, this group is dedicated to seeing the league continue to grow the sport of lacrosse.

New Westminster Wins Ross Cup

By: LacrosseTalk Staff

BC hosted the Ross Cup and Victory Trophy over the Thanksgiving weekend in Langley, BC. Four teams competed for the Men’s Lacrosse titles. Ontario defeated Alberta 9-8 to win the Victory Trophy while New Westminster outlasted Whalley 13-11. Tournament MVP was Mark Negren while MVP Goalie was Ross Manson, both of New West.

New Westminster wins their first Ross Cup National Title in 2013.

2016 U-19 Worlds Name Directors, Develop Online Presence

By: Andy Watson

Planning continues in earnest as the director team for the FIL 2016 Under-19 World Men’s Lacrosse Championships tournament has been announced.

As previously announced, Cliff Pascas returns as the event chair, while returning directors include Garth Cambrey (finance and sponsorship) and Jane Boutilier (logistics). New to the team are Dirk Rachfall (tournament sponsorship) and Andy Watson (marketing and communications).

Meanwhile, the team is working on an online presence with the development and updating of the official web site and creation of social media channels. When the 2016 Championships come to Coquitlam in 2016, expect the world to be watching: literally.

Organizers plan to invest time and effort into developing a multi-platform online strategy, utilizing the website www.2016world lax.com and various social media channels.

“In order for us to ensure fans are getting timely updates about the tournament – whether it’s breaking news, ticket sales, or changes in scores – we want the world to be able to stay in touch,” said Cliff Pascas, once again the chair for the tournament. “Following on a successful tournament in 2008, we believe we can enhance our communications and marketing presence with the 2016 games.”

Fans can follow the latest on the games on Twitter @U19Lax2016 and on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/2016FILU19Lax

There are also plans to create an online Flickr gallery, stream games on a pay-per-view basis and create a YouTube channel for video highlights.

Fans will also be able to search on Twitter by looking up the following hashtags:

- #U19WorldLax2016
- #U19LaxCanada2016
- #U19Lax2016

Twitter and Facebook will also offer exclusive content and contests with ticket giveaways.

Tournament organizers are also exploring the option of live blogging all Blue Division games.

The official web site – 2016world lax.com – is live and will be updated regularly beginning in 2014 with new stories, profiles and news about volunteering, tickets and schedules leading up to the tournament.
By: CLA

Hamilton’s own Ed Comeau will return as assistant coach in the 2011 season. Over his 16-year coaching career, Comeau has a total of five NLL Champion’s Cup titles, twice the head coach of the East Division in the NLL All-Star Game and has earned GM of the year awards. Prior to his current position, he was an assistant coach for the Toronto Rock on four NLL championship teams, was head coach of the Rochester Knighthawks when they won the NLL title in 2007, and was GM-head coach of the NLL’s New York and Orlando Titans. “Our Team Canada selection committee was totally satisfied with the leadership, game knowledge and high level of professionalism that Eddie delivered with the coaches and players who won gold at the last World Games in Prague” explained Team Canada Director Johnny Mouradian. “We are very pleased to announce that Eddie will remain as the Head Coach and once again lead the best lacrosse players in the world.”

Dean French, Chair of Team Canada Lacrosse echoed Mouradian’s statement, adding “Eddie’s a great coach, but he’s an even better person. He’s everything you want in a national team coach; we look forward to seeing him and the entire coaching staff in action as we set Team Canada’s sight on another world championship title.”

Comeau is not the only returning face behind the bench Team Canada bench, as the successful 2011 Team Canada coaching staff of Derek Keenan, Paul Day and Glen Clark will also step back into their roles.

Derek Keenan - Offensive Coach
Keenan, a resident of Ottawa (ON), is currently the General Manager and Head Coach of the NLL’s Edmonton Rush. He has won numerous managing and coaching awards in the NLL during his time in Toronto, Anaheim, Portland and Edmonton. In addition to his professional coaching career, Keenan is the head coach for the Whitby Warriors, 2013 Minto Cup champions of the Ontario Junior “A” Lacrosse League.

Paul Day - Defensive Coach
Day, from Peterborough (ON), is currently an assistant coach for the NLL’s Rochester Knighthawks and is entering his 15th season with the team (1995-2005, 2009-Present). For three seasons (2006-08), he served as the Head Coach and General Manager of the Edmonton Rush.

Glenn Clark - Goalie Coach
Clark of Stouffville (ON) is a former defender and head coach of the Toronto Rock. His role with Team Canada is not limited to the bench, in addition to his coaching duties in 2011 he was member of the 2003 gold medal Team Canada and 2002 Heritage Cup Team. In addition to playing for Team Canada, Clark’s playing career also includes three-time Mann Cup Champion (CLA’s Senior “A” National Championship), assistant captain of the Toronto Rock (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2005) and three-time NLL All-Star.

Sean Ferris - Team Coordinator
Burlington (ON) native is currently an Assistant Coach for the NLL’s Colorado Mammoth, a position he’s held since 2010. Prior to his time on the bench for the Mammoth, he held roles as Assistant Coach for Orlando/New York Titans from 2008-2010, Assistant Coach for the Rochester Knighthawks from 2004-2008, and Head Scout for the Toronto Rock from 1999-2004. As an athlete he played both field and box lacrosse in the Burlington minor and Junior “A” lacrosse system. He was a member of two President’s Cup (CLA Senior “B” National Championship) championship teams with the Fergus Thistles Majors (1990 and 1992) and competed for the Mann Cup as part of the 1996 Six Nations Chiefs team.

“We’ve been here before, coaching Team Canada with a collective goal and focus; knowing each other and our coaching styles the way we do will be a huge asset as we lead Team Canada towards another world championship title” said Comeau. “The selection of Derek, Paul, Glen, and the addition of Sean as Team Coordinator, allows me to feel confident that I will be surrounded by the best of the best on the bench in 2011.”

The past three FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championships (WILC) have concluded with Team Canada versus the Iroquois Nationals in the battle for the gold and the World Championship title. Canada has come out victorious in all three matches and remains the current World Champion for Indoor Lacrosse. With the gold medal win at the last world championship, held in Prague Czech Republic in May 2011, Canada improved to 17-0 in world championship indoor play beating the Iroquois Nationals for the third straight time in a WILC final, this time by a score 13-6.
Stealth Solidify Broadcast Team

By: Vancouver Stealth

The Vancouver Stealth have announced their broadcast team for the 2014 season which will feature Jake Elliott, Brad Challoner and Kevin Alexander. Elliott will be the play-by-play voice this year as Challoner slides into a unique slot between the benches as color commentator. The Stealth’s Director of Player Development and lacrosse legend, Kevin Alexander will act as an analyst for the broadcast team.

Both Elliott and Challoner bring a wide variety of broadcasting experience to the table. Challoner called the NLL Champions Cup Final game last year, at the Langley Events Centre. He started as the voice of the Coquitlam Junior "A" Rockies in 2007 where he called 3 Minto Cups in addition to 2 Mann Cups. Elliott has over 10 years of broadcasting experience having done play-by-play for the NLL’s Minnesota Swarm, the Langley Thunder of the Western Lacrosse Association and many Mann Cups.

Elliott has over 10 years of broadcasting experience having done play-by-play for the NLL’s Minnesota Swarm, the Langley Thunder of the Western Lacrosse Association and many Mann Cups.

By: Vancouver Stealth

The broadcast team will be together for all Vancouver Stealth home games. All broadcasts can be found on the Lacrosse Network on YouTube and are free of charge. The games will be streamed live and archived on the site.

Coach’s Corner

Lacrosse Skills Matrix

By: Duane布拉特, CLA National Resource Person

Lacrosse for Life, Canada’s Long-Term Athlete Development blueprint, identified the basic skills that players needed to develop at each stage of their lacrosse development. But there was a lack of detail in the description of each skill, clearly they needed to be fleshed out. In a subsequent step in the LTAD process was creating a lacrosse skills matrix. At an initial meeting in Fall 2013 in Toronto, I, in consultation with our LTAD facilitator Richard Way, led a group of technical experts from across Canada in taking a first cut at creating a lacrosse skills matrix.

Skills were divided into eight categories: history/culture, life skills, social, mental, physical, technical, goalkeeping-technical, and technical. Within each category, 7-36 distinct skills were identified. For the goalkeeping-technical the skills were stance, angles, stopping inside, stopping outside, passing, loose balls, and communication. These skills were then applied to the stages of development, i.e., active start, fundamentals, learning/training to train, training/training to train, learning/training to compete, learning/training to win, and active for life. Linking the skills and the stages of development was done through introducing a skill, developing a skill, refining a skill, perfecting a skill, and maintaining a skill. For example, scooping is introduced at the active start stage, it is developed during the fundamentals and learning to train stages, refined during the training to train stage, perfected during the training to train and learning/training to compete stages, and maintained during the learning/training to win and active for life stages.

Once the matrix has been completed, each skill will be further developed through 13 progressions with specific indicators of performance: Intro-Entry, Intro-Developing, Intro-Perform, Developing-Entry, Developing-Perform, Refining-Entry, Refining-Developing, Refining-Perform, Perfect-Entry, Perfect-Developing, Perfect-Perform, and Maintaining. To further explain, here are the indicators for scooping during the refining progressions.

Refining-Entry: scooping a moving ball while moving with moderate contact;

Refining-Developing: scooping along the boards and in corners with moderate contact, protect ball in a variety of body positions, and protect ball using a variety of two-handed techniques;

Refining-Perform: scooping a moving ball while moving and along boards/in corners on a highly consistent basis and increased pace with moderate contact, ability to use one hand on stick.

The Intro progressions focus on proper mechanics, but what separates the developing, refining, perfecting, and maintaining progressions is the ability to do a skill with speed, under pressure (including contact), and in a highly consistent basis. This skills progression identifies what “good” looks like at each stage.

It gives coaches a resource to determine when players have acquired and mastered skills and are ready to move to the next stage. A completed skills matrix and a skills progression framework will ensure that Lacrosse for Life is based on detailed foundation skills at each stage. The matrix will be used as a foundation for coaching curriculum, design of training and competition, and as a guide for athlete development and selection. In the end, all coaches, clubs, provincial associations, and the CLA will benefit from the development of a skills matrix.

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5 Brampton Excelsiors
6 Victoria Shamrocks
7 Orangeville Northmen
8 Calgary Mountaineers
9 Burlington Chiefs
10 Delta Islanders

The BCLA wishes to acknowledge the support and contribution of the Province of British Columbia.
Vancouver Stealth - One Team for the Entire Province

By: Teddy Jenner

While giving an interview during half-time of the Philadelphia Wings - Buffalo Bandits game, National Lacrosse League commissioner George Daniel, who was in attendance for the Vancouver Stealth home opener, said that while during the summer season everyone has their own club team (WLA) to cheer for, the Stealth is a team for the entire province.

I never even thought about it like that. Then it got me to thinking of the Vancouver Canucks slogan of “We are all Canucks” and how I mock the self indulgent, chest pumping statements. But, why not to tell me who to cheer for. But, maybe it’s a double edged sword. Suddenly I found myself thinking, “We are all Stealth!”

Sitting high above the Langley Events Centre turf, I pondered what was to come in the hours following the opening face-off for the Vancouver Stealth’s first home game versus the Minnesota Swarm. The Stealth is a franchise that has been to three of the previous four National Lacrosse League Champions Cup Finals, winning one and losing the other two, by a goal apiece. This team is a proven perennial powerhouse squad and has a ton of potential to succeed.

As lacrosse fans slowly began trickling into the newest home of the Stealth, a smile crossed my face as I thought, “Ok this really has a chance here.” But of course it does right? I mean, BC is the second largest lacrosse player province in the world and we just happen to produce some of the best players in the world. No doubt, Vancouver should be the perfect market for professional lacrosse.

Stealth General Manager Doug Locker, has been with the team since their early days in San Jose, California. He isn’t too concerned about attendance and those who say they can see the same players in the summer. “Seventy percent of our game day roster is from BC and for everyone’s sake, let’s make it as successful as it can be. With our support, the Stealth could be so successful, that the demand will be there and 5,500 seats will be filled at every home game.

The locals did not disappoint and won a spirited 8-5 match over Minnesota. Vancouver played host to the Colorado Mammoth (January 17) and returned the favour by handing the Mammoth a 14-13 loss. The next day, the Stealth travelled to Calgary to play their western foes and came up on the short end of a 15-12 score.

The Vancouver Stealth hosts seven more 2014 regular season home games at the Langley Events Centre versus Edmonton Rush (Jan. 25), Colorado Mammoth (Feb. 8), Calgary Roughnecks (March 21), Buffalo Bandits (March 29), Toronto Rock (April 5), Philadelphia Wings (April 19) and the Calgary Roughnecks (April 26). All games start at 7:00 PM, except the Buffalo Bandits game with an 8:00 PM start. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.

For the Stealth to have success, Locker and owner Denise Watkins want everyone to be on board, and from the looks of the crowd on opening night, its well on its way to happening.

While the Stealth are a perennial powerhouse squad and has a ton of potential to succeed, this team is a team for the entire province. Any young hockey goalie would love to watch Roberto Luongo close up, so it’s only natural that young and future lacrosse goalies would want to do the same with Richards and the rest of the Stealth team. There is no better way to increase levels of play than by emulating the pros!

This truly can become BC’s team if we shake off any negative connotations of the team being “way out in Langley” and just go and show the game the support it deserves.

The atmosphere at an NLL game is full of excitement, music, lights and entertainment. The action on the floor is even more intense and drama-filled. Just look at last year’s Champions Cup final between the Stealth and the Rochester Knighthawks. The game sold out within a week of being announced it would be at the LEC - and the play had everyone bitting their nails and sitting, sometimes standing, on the edge of their seats, right to the final whistle.

The National Lacrosse League is back in BC and for everyone’s sake, let’s make it as successful as it can be. With our support, the Stealth could be so successful, that the demand will be there and 5,500 seats will be filled every game.

It shouldn’t be a pipe dream, it should be the ultimate goal because let’s face it; We ARE all Stealth.

Vancouver’s season opener was a 13-12 loss to the Colorado Mammoth in Denver. The Vancouver Stealth’s Rhys Duch runs past Minnesota defender en route to an 8-5 opening night victory at the Langley Events Centre.

Hall of Famer Wayne Goss is honoured at the Vancouver Stealth’s home opener. The Stealth beat Minnesota 8-5.
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