

# Pac Region Championships

## Wing teams compete well against hockey rivals

By Sgt Derick Dixon

The Pacific Regional Hockey Championships were held in Esquimalt January 29 – 31.

This annual event is the best 2 out of 3 between Comox and Esquimalt, with the winner representing the Pacific Region at the Canadian Forces National Championships in March - at Borden for the Old Timers and at Halifax for the Men's and Women's teams.

The rivalry that has developed between Esquimalt and Comox over the years is reminiscent of the great NHL battles that took place in Alberta between the Calgary Flames and the Edmonton Oilers, or perhaps that of the Canadiens and Maple Leafs of old.

The Silver Totems began the Championship with a terrible first period, finding themselves behind 4-0. The team regrouped and were determined to better their performance and finish the game on a positive note.

The final score was a 6-2 loss. The game MVP for the Silver Totems was Wayde Simpson.

The Flyers took to the ice next, determined not to repeat the poor start shown by their mentors. The game was intense, with a total of 19 minor penalties being assessed.

The team remained focused throughout the chaos and came away victorious with a 5-2 win. The game MVP for the Flyers was Adam Phillips.

The next day found the Flyers up first with an aggressive opponent showing no signs of quitting. The Flyers were determined not to be forced to play a third game and had their sights on sweeping the series in two straight.

The game was a tight match and was decided by one goal, with the Flyers edging out the Tritons by a score of 4-3. The MVP for Comox was Alex Coles, while the tournament MVP was presented to Adam Phillips.

The Old Timers took to the ice for their second game, with the goal of a deciding victory to even up the series. The young Flyers came out to support their mentors and offer their boisterous encouragement. The Esquimalt team underestimated the resolve of the veteran Totem club and came up on the wrong end of a 3-0 game. The MVP for the Totems went to Barry Hewer.

The final game was a true test of wills. The Totems had struggled all year to field a competitive team due to the increased operational tempo at 19 Wing. This makes it challenging and difficult for team members to participate throughout the year.

The team also took to the ice with several players trying to ignore injuries that normally would have sidelined them. In addition, the coach was forced to suit up for the final two games due to the short bench.

A year filled with obstacles would not become an excuse to lose. The Totems got the quick start they were looking for, and skated to the second intermission with a 3-0 lead.

The third period showed that our ailing team was running out of steam, and Esquimalt responded with two quick goals. However, the team that wouldn't quit regrouped and responded with a solid fourth and final goal, sealing the victory with a 4-2 win, taking the series two games to one. The game MVP for the Totems was Wayde Simpson, and the tournament MVP was our goalie Pascal Senecal.

The women from 19 Wing also participated in the tournament but required Esquimalt to provide a goalie so that exhibition games could be played.

These games gave an opportunity for the Esquimalt team to scout the female Totems and select four players that will accompany them to the Nationals. The players selected are Jax Kennedy, Tara Langley, Heather Smith, and Dee Colley.

All the players from our two men's teams at 19 Wing Comox would like to express their sincere appreciation to every supervisor, CO and co-worker who allowed them to have the opportunity to participate throughout the year in preparation for this important Championship.

We are hopeful this same level of support will be afforded next month so that 19 Wing will be able to put its best foot forward during the National Championships. The players not only wanted to win for themselves but also share these victories and triumphs with the personnel of 19 Wing.

As the coach for both teams, I know for a fact that this is true. Congratulations 19 Wing - it's your win as much as it is ours.



The 19 Wing Comox Silver Totems, 2009 Pacific Region Old Timers Champions.



The 19 Wing Comox Flyers, 2009 Pacific Region Champions.



The 19 Wing Comox Women's team.