

15th Annual Silver Totems Sports Camp



The students from Group A enjoyed a tour of 19 Wing while they attended the Sports Camp.



Participants from Group A play a game of scrimmage during the Sports Camp.

By Capt Marc Royer

The 19 Wing Silver Totems Old Timers Hockey Club held their 15th Annual Sports Camp at Glacier Gardens August 15-21, for 115 young people of the Comox Valley, ages 7-14.

This year the team honoured two past graduates who attended the camp from 1996-1999. A presentation was made to Tia and Ty Wishart. Tia went on to play NCAA hockey as a goaltender on a full scholarship, while Ty went on to play in the NHL. He is at the Tampa Bay Lightning Main Camp this year, trying to secure a full-time spot in the line-up. Ty was on hand to accept the dedication at the Glacier Gardens Arena, where it has a place of honour in the main lobby.

While not all Camp graduates will go on to play professional sports, the Camp serves to not only make them better players, but also better people. Many parents agreed that this was "the best Camp yet." The Camp has continually evolved over its 15-year history, to

try and help youth develop hockey skills, life skills, and most of all, to have fun!

On Sunday the registration process was finalised, parents were given instructions, and children were fitted for jerseys before going out for a light skate, where the levels of students could be assessed by our certified coaching staff.

On Monday the camp began in earnest, consisting of power skating, hockey fundamentals (on and off ice training), a tour of the Wing and various other recreational activities (swimming, soccer, ball hockey). Luckily, this year Jump Camp was on while students touring the control tower got to watch multiple para jumps over the airfield at our busy airport, while glider training, Sqn Ops and various other aircraft took off and landed. The 19 Wing Air Force Museum Tour, hosted by former 19 Wing Commander Jon Ambler, was super popular, as was a tour of 442 Sqn.

On Saturday August 21,

parents saw the results of a lot hard work as the three age groups played in the traditional Black vs White inter-squad games. On hand to make the puck drop was the new 19 Wing Administration Officer, LCol Deb McKenzie.

The group C game was a thriller that had fans on their feet. It came down to a five-person shootout, with neither team able to score on two outstanding goalies. It was decided that a tie would be entered into the history books. Age group award winners were presented at each game and are posted on the Silver Totems website, www.silvertotems.ca.

The team would like to thank all those who made the Camp such a success, especially Wing ATC, the 19 Wing Museum, and 442 Sqn. Lastly we would like to express our sincere appreciation to 19 Wing Commander Col Lalumière, his staff, Wing supervisors, and the Fitness Sports & Recreation team, for their outstanding support.



The Silver Totems Sports Camp is a success due to the many volunteers who help out each year.



WAdminO LCol McKenzie drops the puck to start the Black vs White game for group C.

Glacier Gardens honours local hockey player

You might think that professional hockey player Ty Wishart, towering at 6'4", has a big ego. But the modest young man at 22 years of age has a maturity that was cultured by a lot of travel, long road trips, and having had to leave home in Comox at 15 years of age to pursue a career as a hockey player.

Ty was on hand Friday, August 13, to accept a dedication at Glacier Gardens Arena on behalf of the Wishart family and his twin sister Tia for their success in hockey and beyond. Ty and Tia, children of Carole and Tony Wishart, moved to the Comox Valley in 1996. The twins participated in the 19 Wing Silver Totems Hockey Camp from 1996-1999. The tall defenceman acknowledges that the Sports Camp had an impact - that he remembers a lot about the Camp, how fun it was, the people involved, some of whom still work at the arena or are still helping run the camp.



From left to right: Sgt Derick Dixon, Vice President 19 Wing Silver Totems and Sports Camp Coordinator, Capt Marc Royer, President 19 Wing Silver Totems, Ty Wishart, Andy Moorhead, Fitness Sports and Recreation Director 19 Wing.

"We have a lot of Comox Valley and 19 Wing Youth come through our Camp," said Capt Roger Burton, a Silver Totem who has helped run the Sports Camp since 1995. We knew Ty and Tia as Carole and Tony's kids. Carole was posted to 442 Sqn. They didn't stand

out at the time, when it came to skating or hockey skills, which were the same as everyone else's. But the thing that I remember is that they had a better ability to focus than most kids."

Tia played goal and developed into a formidable defenseman, along with her

brother. They spent two years playing, Pee-Wee AAA and one season of Bantam AAA Rep hockey. In 2003-04, Tia played her first year of Midget Rep hockey on the B team, with the team winning the Island Championships and going on to the Provincials. She played her next two seasons

on the Midget AAA team and was affiliated with the Glacier Kings Junior B team. Tia attended Quinnipiac University on a full scholarship, competing for two seasons in the NCAA Division I, where she earned a Varsity Letter and Honors following the 2008-2009 season.

Ty played one year of Midget and was drafted by Prince George of the Western Hockey League 24th overall and attended his first major junior camp when he was 15 years old. Ty was a member of the Island U16 and U17, as well as Canada's U18, winning a gold medal in the Ivan Hlinka Tournament held annually in the Czech Republic in the summer of 2005, and the world U18 in Sweden in 2006 where he captained the team.

Ty became a member of the Prince George Cougars of the WHL in 2004 and spent three and a half seasons with the team before being traded to the Moose Jaw Warriors for the last

half of his final season in the WHL. In 2006 he was drafted by the San Jose Sharks in the first round, 16th overall. He was a member of Team Canada in 2007, participating in the Russia Super Series. Ty was traded from San Jose to the Tampa Bay Lightning in the summer of 2008, and he has been with the Norfolk Admirals for the last two seasons.

Ty has been called up to play in the NHL several times, but is looking forward to breaking into the Tampa Bay line-up to win a permanent spot on the team. He said he would have loved the opportunity to linger just a week longer in the Valley to be able to give back, just a little, to the Camp. He hopes that Comox Valley hockey players are inspired by his and Tia's successes, whether it means playing competitive hockey or reaping the benefits of playing team sports and developing a good work ethic.