



SNHL Classic set for April 1 at the SOEC

March 29, 2017

Penticton – An enthusiastic group of participants from the Special Needs Hockey Program are raring to go as they prepare to host the second SNHL Classic Tournament. Teams hit the ice this Saturday, April 1 from 7:35 a.m. at the SOEC and OHS arenas.

A total of eight teams from Vancouver, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton will take part in the tournament with the Opening Ceremonies kicking off at 7:15 a.m. at the SOEC. The Upper Deck Vees hosted their first ever SNHL tournament in 2012 with five teams taking part. The tournament runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SOEC and OHS rinks and also feature a skills competition scheduled for 12:10 p.m. Each team will play two, 25 minute run-time periods and the final game will feature the coaches lacing up the skates to finish off the day at 3:50 p.m. on the OHS rink.

The “Upper Deck Vees” are huge hockey fans – they attend every Vees game to cheer them on and have been working hard each week practicing for the year-end tournament. The club has grown from 15 players in 2008 to 44 players in 2017. Volunteer coaches Jay Bungay, Dan Mercier, Jeremy Davy, Dave Mercier, Brad Kingston and Nicole Wescott and a group of dedicated volunteer take time each week out of their lives to give back to this group of athletes.

“It’s an opportunity to be a part of something bigger than just myself,” says Bungay, “And I have so much fun. It’s exciting to watch the participants grow into athletes playing a sport that they love and doing something they probably thought they would never get to be a part of.”

The Upper Deck Vees are sponsored by DekSmart Products Ltd and without their sponsorship this program would not have been as successful as it is. In addition to the City of Penticton, the Upper Deck Vees have also received support from the following organizations:

Larson Brothers Tire, Bob Fisher, Grizzly FXC, Guarding Heating, Berry and Smith, Westland Insurance, Berdick MFG, Pacific Rim Equipment, Westminster Rentals, Fraternal Order of Eagles 4281, Ramada Hotel, Home Hardware, Safeway, Save On Foods, Theo’s, Penticton Collision, Fountain Tire, Windsor Plywood, Litwin Notary, IGA, Midtown RV, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 22, Haute House Design, Penticton Lakeside Resort, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56, FYE Doctors, Ladies Auxiliary Branch 227, Subaru Canada, Pattison Sign Group, White Kennedy, Parkers, Canadian Tire, Pasta Factory, SPI Transport, Van Houtte Coffee, Marilyn Zanatta

Contact:

Shelie Best, Recreation Coordinator

Penticton Community Centre

shelie.best@penticton.ca / 250-490-2426