



BC GOVERNMENT PROVIDES MAJOR SUPPORT FOR 2007 RBC ROYAL BANK CUP

The provincial government and Prince George's dynamic trio of MLA's stepped forward to show their fantastic support of the 2007 RBC Royal Bank Cup in early March by announcing a \$125,000 grant from the B.C. Government. BC Liberal MLA Shirley Bond made the announcement during a news conference on March 9th and she was joined by her government colleagues Pat Bell, and John Rustad.

The funding comes in two parts. \$100,000 from gaming revenue is being provided to contribute to the cost of hosting and staging the event while the Ministry of Education is providing \$25,000 to support the "Adopt a Team" program organized by students at DP Todd



Secondary. "Adopt a Team" will support the government's ActNow initiative by encouraging physical fitness, healthy living and dedication to excellence.

"The Prince George area has a history of community involvement in hockey at all levels and so we are honoured and excited to host this prestigious national championship," said Prince George-Mount Robson MLA Shirley Bond. "I'd like to congratulate the Adopt a School Leadership team for promoting healthy living and physical fitness to younger students."

"It is support like this that will make this event and the legacy it leaves a success story for years to come", said Hockey Canada President Bob Nicholson.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO VOLUNTEERS

The 30 day countdown is underway and there is plenty of work for the hundreds of volunteers that have signed out to help out with the 2007 National Championship. Some keys things to keep in mind if you have volunteered include:

- You need to complete a Criminal Record check and drop off at the RCMP office.
- Keep April 23/24 open as there will be training sessions scheduled for those days.
- A volunteer's manual will be prepared and issued in late April during training session.

Host Committee still looking for volunteers

If you would like to help out contact our Director of Volunteers, Heather Carter at heather.carter@telus.net or check out the application form on our website at www.hockeycanada.ca



RBC CUP ON TOUR OF THE REGION

It's a first in the championship's history and another initiative that shows the scope of the 2007 RBC Royal Bank Cup. For the first time ever, as part of the pre-event promotion the RBC Royal Bank Cup is touring the region so fans across the northern interior can have a chance to see what will be up for grabs next month in Prince George.

On May 13th, Canada's National Junior A Champions will have the chance to hoist the RBC Cup in Prince George, BC but between now and then, fans in northern B.C. will get the chance to do the same, thanks to the RBC Trophy Tour. The tour kicked off in March in Quesnel and, over the next month, host committee members will take the trophy to several RBC branches, including those in Prince Rupert, Kitimat and Vanderhoof.

"It's fantastic that this trophy tour has been established as it will give fans across the region a sense of the excitement that is already building in Prince George," says host committee co-chair Don Kehler.

The Spruce Kings boast a number of players from northern B.C. Zach Davies, Ryan de Vries and Darcy Huisman are from Smithers, Ryan Hill calls Fort St. John home, and Jordan Inglis is from 100 Mile House. Brayden Penner's hometown is Quesnel while Curt Morrison and Vinny Muchalla are from Prince George.

The communities that are a part of the tour include:

- April 10 – Prince Rupert
- April 11 – Terrace
- April 12 – Kitimat
- April 17 – New Hazelton
- April 18 – Smithers
- April 19 – Houston
- April 23 – Burns Lake
- April 25 – Fort St. James
- April 26 – Vanderhoof
- April 27 – Prince George Main RBC Branch

SHOW YOUR COMMUNITY PRIDE ON UP-FOR-THE-CUP FRIDAYS

As part of the countdown to the national championship, the Host Committee has launched "Up for the Cup Friday's" where community minded organizations are asked to show their support for Canada's greatest game by wearing a hockey jersey every Friday.



The Prince George Citizen is leading the charge as they have launched a corporate challenge and have made t-shirts available for those seeking to show their support.

To order your t-shirt, simply fax your order form to the Prince George Citizen at 562-9201 or drop it off directly at the newspaper office, located at 150 Brunswick Street.

We want to hear your feedback, questions and suggestions. Simply email us at rbc2007@sprucekings.bc.ca



CANADA POST PUTS THEIR STAMP ON THE 2007 RBC ROYAL BANK CUP

Canada Post employee Charity Fraser created a stamp cancellation to commemorate the 2007 RBC Royal Bank Cup and Prince George Spruce Kings Junior "A" hockey club.



Charity's design was chosen from 10 submitted by postal employees. The cancellation will be featured during this year's RBC Royal Bank Cup, which will take place in Prince George, British Columbia from May 5 – 13. Visitors to the Fan-Fest booth, at the CN Centre in Prince George, will have the opportunity to send letters and postcards with this special cancellation, throughout the tournament's festivities.

Canada Post made the decision to become involved with the RBC Royal Bank Cup because of the natural fit for the postal company. Participating teams come from all across Canada, and more often than not, from smaller towns. All of these towns have a post office, and the postal employees in these towns are often involved in local minor hockey.

For Canada Post, sponsorship of the RBC Royal Bank Cup is reflected all across Canada. On a local level, Prince George Canada Post employees are spectators, supporters, volunteers, and billets with the Spruce Kings hockey club. Canada Post sponsorship has generated considerable excitement already, and is expected to grow as the tournament draws closer.

JEREMY ROBERTS PROFILE

Next to hoisting hockey's Holy Grail, donning the Maple Leaf and playing for your country has to be on the top of every young man's wish list. While playing in his rookie season, Jeremy Roberts was one of the players selected by the Canadian Junior 'A' Hockey League (CJAHL) and Hockey Canada to play on their junior squad heading to Saint Petersburg, Russia. Jeremy and the rest of Team Canada were invited to play in the "Big Prize of Saint Petersburg" international hockey tournament against teams from the Czech Republic, Sweden, Belarus, Finland, Slovakia, Russia and the host team.



"It was a once in a lifetime experience," says Jeremy of his first international hockey experience. "Getting the chance to wear a jersey with Canada on the front would be a big thing for anyone and I will never forget that."

In his second year with the Kings, Jeremy has found his niche on the line with Dylan Exton and Jordan Inglis. The Red Line, as they are known in practice, are usually given the job of checking the opposing team's top lines and have met with success doing just that. Jeremy has a very bright two years ahead of him playing junior 'A' hockey with the Kings, but isn't willing to rush anything just yet. With a very understated and down-to-earth demeanour, he just wants to keep working hard and taking it one step at a time. And right now he is focused on being the best he can be for the RBC Royal Bank Cup.

2007 RBC ROYAL BANK CUP

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It's more than just fast, heart pounding, exciting championship hockey....

FIRE on ICE OPENING EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday May 4th at CN Centre

FEATURING Firebelly Aerial Acrobatic Performers

There will be fantastic entertainment, free access to Fan Fest for the entire community and we'll cap the evening off with a spectacular outdoor fireworks celebration. All at the Exhibition Grounds starting at 5pm as we Welcome the Nation!

FAN FEST

Presented by PGTV

Check out the Legends of Hockey Display and enjoy interactive games that will test your hockey skills and knowledge. Fun for the whole family. Runs Friday May 4 – Sunday May 13

THE CREASE CABARET

This is the perfect place to unwind between games, between periods or whenever you need a break from the action. Conveniently located in the Atrium next to CN Centre, this adult oriented entertainment will be a great place to meet friends and make new ones. Open throughout the tournament until 1am.

NATIONAL AWARDS GALA

Friday May 11 @ The Civic Centre

This fantastic evening will feature Guest Speaker Ryan Walter & Paralympic Gold Medalist Paul Rosen. There are a limited number of tickets available for just: \$ 60.00. Tickets available through Ticketmaster at CN Centre.

FRIENDS OF THE CUP GOLF TOURNEY

Friday May 11 @ Aberdeen Golf Club

Presented by: James West for Sterling

The first major golf tournament of the year. Join officials from Hockey Canada for a fantastic day of golf on one of Prince George's most challenging courses, Aberdeen Glen. Shotgun start at 10:30am. Breakfast, contests, prizes and much more. Limited number of entries available for just \$100.00 (Includes cart).

SOLD OUT

ROYAL ROUTE NEWSLETTER

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Please thank & recognize them for their fantastic community spirit – they are putting action to their words!

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