



RAIDERS HOCKEY

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

#WEARERAIDERNATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Raiders Families,

We're in the home stretch!

First, congratulations to our outstanding Esso Minor Hockey Week teams. This marked the Raiders' best showing ever, with an incredible six Silver and two Gold medals. Several other teams came very close, advancing to the semifinals and just missing the podium. Progress is never as fast as we'd like, but the growth and development are clearly starting to show on the ice, and it's exciting to see.

I would also like to give a big shout-out to our Intro to Hockey program, which has been successful year after year. This program runs Sundays at Vivo, and it's fantastic to see so many future Raiders trying hockey for the first time. If you have a chance, stop by and check it out - it's a great reminder of what this game is all about.

There are still some great Raiders events ahead, including:

- U15 Stick It to Cancer Legacy Tournament
- 2026 Spring Hockey Development Program
- Graduating U18 Player Celebrations
- Coach & Manager Volunteer Appreciation Night

Lastly, I want to wish everyone the best of luck as we wrap up the regular season and head into City Playoffs. We want our teams to compete hard and our Raiders community to cheer loud, while continuing to show respect for our opponents, our referees, our volunteers, and the great game we all love.

Go Raiders!

Troy Cleghorn
President
Raiders Hockey Club
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RAIDER NATION EVENTS

U15 STICK IT TO KIDS CANCER TOURNAMENT

Fundraising for the 11th Annual Stick it to Cancer Tournament has begun! If you wish to support this initiative in any way (auction donations, volunteering, snacks) please reach out to: [SITC Committee](#)

FUNDRAISER LEADERBOARD

Here is the current fundraising
leaderboard!

1	Raiders BC2 Black \$3,101.30	
2	RAIDERS BC3 BLACK \$2,665.00	
3	RAIDERS BC 3 WHITE \$1,591.30	

WE HAVE RAISED
\$18,949

SO FAR!



kids
cancer care

U15 Players Supporting KCC



Raiders U15 players volunteering with Kid Cancer Care!
Thank you to our volunteers who delivered packages for KCC. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Reminder!

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteer hours are required to be fulfilled prior to the end of the season. For this season, the Volunteer Commitment is: 5 Association Hours per FAMILY and 15 Team Hours per PLAYER. As the commitment fee is now \$800, we have provided opportunities throughout the season to ensure all members have the chance to complete their required hours. Final opportunities for Association Hours will be posted ONLINE next week! Please reach out to: director13@raidershc.ca with any questions.



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RAIDER NATION EVENTS

RAIDERS SPRING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Raiders Spring Development Program is designed to support motivated athletes who want to continue building their skills, habits, and confidence in a focused development environment following the regular season. Led by Dallas Hines, Raiders Hockey Development Operations Lead, the program emphasizes long-term athlete development, individual skill progression, and transferable habits that prepare players for the next stage of their hockey journey.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Start Date: April 4th
- End Date: June 20th
- Location: Crowfoot Arena
- Schedule: Sessions vary between weeknights and weekends
- Number of Sessions: 12
- Cost: \$600 for the 12 full ice sessions plus cc processing fee
- Group Size: 20 skaters and 2 goalies
- Goalie Fee: \$300 (Note there are no goalie specific coaches or training but they will be involved in drills/practices. If you sign up as a goalie, you must play as a goalie for the entire program)
- Open to those who played with Raiders Hockey in the 2025/2026 season
- A camp jersey is provided

GROUP STRUCTURE AND AGES:

There will be 2 groups per age division:

- U9 (Birth years: 2017 & 2018) - U9 PURPLE & U9 WHITE
- U11 (Birth years: 2015 & 2016) - U11 PURPLE & U11 WHITE
- U13 (Birth years: 2013 & 2014) - U13 PURPLE & U13 WHITE

This structure ensures a focused training environment with age-appropriate instruction and competitive balance.

More details, including the schedules for the Purple and White teams, can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

To register, please click [HERE](#). Note that you will be asked to select the Purple or White Team and you will be asked to input your player's Hockey ID#.



RAIDER NATION EVENTS

ESSO MINOR HOCKEY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

Raiders Hockey Club proudly participated in the 2026 Esso Minor Hockey Week during the week of January 9th to 17th. Friends and family sat at the edge of their seats as they watched the Raiders battle it out. We are very proud of how hard the Raiders played throughout the week and are already counting down the days until we can do it again in 2027!

Special recognition goes out to **U13 Raiders 4 White** & **U18 Raiders BC 3 White** for being Esso Minor Hockey Week Champions!



RAIDER NATION EVENTS

ESSO MINOR HOCKEY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS cont.

A big shout-out to all of our Raiders Finalists too!



FINALISTS

U11 Raiders 3B

U13 Raiders AA

U13 Raiders 2 Black

U13 Raiders 4 Black

U18 Raiders NBC 2 Black

U18 Raiders BC 2 Black



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RAIDER NATION EVENTS

ESSO MINOR HOCKEY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS cont.

Win or lose, there were many great games and lots of smiling faces!



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RAIDER NATION EVENTS

RAIDERS INTRODUCTION TO HOCKEY PROGRAM

Raiders Hockey Club is proud to partner with Hockey Calgary and the Flames Foundation to run our Introduction to Hockey Program. The 8-week hockey program kicked off on January 17. We can't wait to see what these kids can learn to do!



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COACH'S CORNER

Feature of the month: Gerald Neil, U18 Raiders NBC 3 White - Coach

In a continued effort to get to know our Raiders coaches a little bit better, please enjoy this edition of 'Coach's Corner'. This month features Gerald Neil, Coach for the U18 Raiders NBC 3 White.

1. How many years have you been coaching hockey?

Head coach for 3 season, 17 total years of coaching.

2. What are three words your players would use to describe you?

Fair, fun and knowledgeable.

3. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A carpenter.

4. Where do you like to vacation when you aren't working or on the ice?

Hard to beat a trip to Las Vegas!

5. Who is your favorite NHL team?

The Toronto Maple Leafs.

6. What is your favorite drill to run and why?

A 2-on-1 to 3-on-2 transition drill. Keeps players moving, passing, shooting and quick on the rush decision making.

7. When did you first start coaching and why?

I started coaching in 2008 to give back to the community and pass on my hockey knowledge. It is also rewarding watching the kids learn and grow.

8. What do you like best about being a Raider?

Sense of family and belonging within the organization at all levels; never feel alone.

9. What was your proudest coaching moment?

Winning an Esso and City banner in back-to-back years.

10. Any words of advice to others who are thinking of coaching?

Get out there and do it. It's very rewarding seeing the players grow and develop not only as players but as people as well.



RAIDER NATION NEWS

Annual Raiders Christmas Community Challenge

This past holiday season, we challenged the Raiders Hockey Club teams to participate in the Annual Raiders Christmas Community Challenge. Teams stepped up in a tremendous way, showing kindness, compassion, and community spirit. Whether it's fundraising, donating time to a worthy cause, or simply spreading joy, every effort can help make the season brighter for those in need. Great job Raiders!



RAIDER NATION HEALTH

REMINDERS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

Hockey is a physically demanding sport and injuries can occur. Here are some tips to keep you on the ice with your team:

- Invest in equipment, sticks and skates that suit your height and size
- Wear your helmet with the cage, shield or visor properly secured
- Sharpen your skates regularly for better performance
- Never stretch a cold muscle. Always warm up before pre-game stretches
- Don't overstretch - be comfortable

SAFETY CHECK

If you are injured during practice or a game, don't try to play through it. Put ice on the injured area for periods of 15-20 minutes.

If you hit your head, be aware of signs of a concussion:

- Dizziness
- Blurred vision
- Problems with your coordination or balance
- Difficulty remembering teammates' names or the plays
- Any loss of consciousness - even briefly



If you experience pain that lasts longer than your usual post-game soreness, consult a doctor.

Reference: Pre and Post Game Hockey Stretches – Canadian Chiropractic Association
(CCA)



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RAIDER NATION FUN ZONE

HOCKEY WORD SEARCH

Careers Related to Hockey

V V D
X V M R P Q D U N
L E F T W I N G B T Q Y O
C O M M U N I C A T I O N S B Q U
P Y K S V X Y E O X V J D I J G L Q O
S K B A T I J J Y X K R O X E E H L J G G
F X N U A N N O U N C E R P N N L B R B S
R V A T S I N O I R I T U N E D K T E S Q E Y
E D S R T K W K N I U J J R Z S P F I F Z C A
G H E C N E F E D M I J G A H H B E N W S N I L P
L P E F M K R Y Z I Z D L C P Y R L S L S T V P P
E A O A B K V E G R B M A J Z E A G Q N P N R E K
S Z R G O A L I E F N A O S B E E K V Y Q O V E R X T
H C G H S O B M N N N C E P J G R P P L G N U S T A A
N D O H N T S I P A R E H T O I S Y H P N S O D N F F
I E S A B K I G V S X J H Y S Z U K D I O Z O A N
F D Y S D U E S N O I T O M O R P K G S R X O T Z
V I L Z O R Q T U J R K Q C C T S W L I S B F S P
V N A I C I T S I T A T S C A S P S T H K Y N
T T I M E K E E P E R U N M F H H W R I K B I
D G N I W T H G I R C M W F E A F E P S L
W R E T E R P R E T N I M U Y Z K V N D Q
R K T Y D U G Y R N W Y L A J N D T P
G Q F G I U K G E F C S J A Q A T
R B A N H P S O D T J S N
F Z L L J N P I A
I D N

ADVERTISING
COMMUNICATION
FOODSERVICES
INSTANTREPLAY
NUTRITIONIST
REFEREE
STATISTICIAN

ANNOUNCER
DEFENCE
GENERALMANAGER
INTERPRETER
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
RIGHTWING
TIMEKEEPER

COACH
DENTIST
GOALIE
LEFTWING
PROMOTIONS
SPONSORSHIP
VIDEOGRAPHER

2013  2013

HOCKEYCANADA.CA/2013OTTAWA



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RAIDER NATION REMINDERS

SOCIAL MEDIA: Help us celebrate your team!

- ✓ Send us your content! Game highlights, team pics, community events — Tag or DM [@raidershcyyc](#) or email socialmedia.coordinator@raidershc.ca
- ✓ Always make sure to include your team name (ex: U13 3W)
- ✓ We do our best to highlight all teams + age groups — but we need your help! Consider becoming or designating a parent rep to send in content

Our goal: To celebrate Raider Nation as a whole — showcasing the spirit, teamwork, and pride across our club.



NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Do you have a great idea for the newsletter? Know the perfect coach that should be featured in our next newsletter? Have a great dinner or snack recipe that other hockey parents would love? Or just want to share some fundraising or tournament news? If so, be sure to reach out to the Raiders Newsletter Coordinator, Leanne Murphy, at leannemurphy1919@gmail.com.

Thanks for reading!



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