



## North Branch Area Hockey Association Viking Hockey News – 10/20/2010



**Remember to check [www.northbranchhockey.com](http://www.northbranchhockey.com) on a daily basis for any last minute announcements and up to date news!**

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### Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates – see website for more details on each

#### Don't forget Friday Hockey Spirit Days!

10/20 – Mite Coach Meeting

10/23 – Mite Open Ice – Group 1

10/24 – Mite Open Ice – Group 2

10/27 – Mite Registration Deadline

10/27- October Membership/Board Meeting

10/30-10/31 – 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of Mite Skill Assessments – more details to come next week

11/19 – Blue Line Club Silpada Designs Jewelry Fundraiser – Support HS Hockey Program

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### Pepsi Refresh Everything Grant

**“If we build it, they will skate”**

### What could \$250,000 do for the Stacy Sports Complex?

North Branch Area Hockey Association currently does not have home ice for our Mite or Traveling hockey games. At the start of each hockey season, we pray that we will find ice for practices and games at neighboring arenas for our association hockey. Our association gets the "left over" ice after neighboring arenas choose times that best fit their association needs. With this being said, our skaters end up skating at multiple arenas all of which are 20 to 30 miles or more one way. In addition, we usually end up with early weekend hours and late weeknight hours for all of our skaters which is certainly not ideal when our association skaters range from 4-14 years old. In addition, North Branch School District implemented a 4 day school week this year, which increases our need for a local arena to ensure our players have adequate time to study and rest. This season we were able to solidify weekend hours for our teams at an arena approximately 20 miles away, but struggled to secure weeknight ice for all of our teams without having to drive 30 miles or more each way.



Once the cold weather sets in, we are able to utilize our local outdoor rink, affectionately referred to as the “Shack” for our outdoor practices. Our skaters truly enjoy skating outdoors, but since Minnesota weather is unpredictable, we can't guarantee we will have outdoor ice available for all of our practices due to uncertainty of weather. Normally, we can skate outside starting in late December through mid February. We certainly take full advantage of the ice time that our "Shack" provides our skaters, in addition to utilizing our shack for team skates from 5:30 pm until 9:30 pm nightly.

Our High School hockey teams deal with the same issue relative to ice time, to attend 5 am practices daily at Chisago Lakes Arena. This is the only arena in our county which is a 20 mile drive each way for the skaters. Busing is not currently provided for the team by the school district, so many skaters provide their own transportation. Driving this far in Minnesota in the winter at early morning hours is a safety concern. The North Branch Viking Blue Line Club does organize busing for those families that can afford and chose to pay to have their skaters ride the bus to and from practice. Having a home arena in our school district for our High School to hold practices and games at would provide many benefits to the students, parents and community.

NBAHA has been undergoing an aggressive fundraising campaign for multiple years. As of today, we have secured over \$950,000 consisting of in-kind donations of material/labor from local businesses and individuals, fundraising dollars and grants. Our association, at this point, has decided to take a conservative approach with building the complex and we are working diligently to build as much of the complex without debt service as possible. As a result, we are continuing to apply for additional grants and working on multiple partnerships with local businesses to secure in kind donations.

This fall, we officially broke ground on Phase 1 of the Stacy Sports Complex project. This phase will include the construction of the front of the arena ,locker rooms, a concession stand, restrooms, and a heated viewing area. Additionally, there will be two outdoor natural sheets of ice. Our goal is to have our skaters practicing at this new facility by Fall 2011.

**So, what can \$250,000 from the Pepsi Refresh Everything grant do for the Stacy Sports Complex?** This grant would be utilized to fund the following: \$176,000-Equipment for Artificial Ice (Compressor, Coolant, Piping, Boards), \$23,000-Concrete for Artificial Sheet of Ice, \$36,000-Specialty Engineering - Refrigeration, \$15,000-Rubber Flooring.

This grant would allow our hockey teams to practice outside from mid November through mid March and reduce our reliance on ice hours from other arenas. In addition, an arena would allow our association to continue growing and it would reduce travel time for families to a rink that is closer.

### **How can you help our efforts?**

In order for our association to be successful in accomplishing our goals with this grant, we really need your help spreading the word about our project. Do you know someone at a newspaper, t.v. or radio station that you could ask to help publicize our cause? Do you know anyone that works with the Wild or Gophers that you could ask for their help? Or, if you know a former or current NHL or Gopher player who could help spread the word or publicize our project that would be great! Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to vote daily for "If We Build It, They Will Skate!". Every vote counts and is needed in order for our Association to reach #1 by October 31st. We are currently ranked #50 with 1,148 ideas in the running. With our community working together, we have reached the goal of breaking ground on the Stacy Sports Complex and together we can reach #1 and secure additional funding for the Project.

There are 3 ways to vote:

Vote at: <http://pep.si/nbhockey>

Vote on **Facebook using the Pepsi Refresh Voting App**

Vote by **Texting** 103380 to 73774. There is no charge for this unless your mobile plan charges you for text messages.

**Check out the article about the Stacy Sports Complex written by USA Hockey.**

[http://usahockey.com/Template\\_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=PL\\_01\\_20&id=293920](http://usahockey.com/Template_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=PL_01_20&id=293920)

## Coaches

Coaching clinic dates have been posted at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com). These classes fill up quickly so please register ASAP if you need to be certified or need to renew your certification. Questions, contact Tom at 651-277-0160.

## Mite coaches meeting

All potential mite coaches are encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss levels of play, coaching positions, skills assessment, and team formulations. The meeting will be held at the Pizza Pub on Wednesday, October 20th, 8pm.

## Ref's for Mite games

Please contact the coaching director, Tom Garin, at [coachingdirector@northbranchhockey.com](mailto:coachingdirector@northbranchhockey.com) or 651.755.4049, if you or your child is interested in refereeing mite games for the 2010-2011 season.

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## Open Mite Ice

New for the 2010-2011 season is NBAHA Mite Open ice times! The following open ice times for Mites are being offered this weekend. Mites will be run through drills by our certified coaches. All certified mite coaches are encouraged to help out for both sessions or at least for the group you intend to coach for.

Saturday October 23rd 4:40-5:40 pm (Group #1)

Sunday October 24th 8:50-9:50 am (Group #2)

Group #1 = Last year's B, C, D & U8

Group #2 = Last year's Initiation, A's and new skaters

All skaters must be registered online for the 2010-2011 season prior to the sessions. If you haven't registered yet, go to [www.northbranchhockey.com](http://www.northbranchhockey.com) to do so.

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## Equipment Swap –

Our 2010 – 2011 hockey season will be starting soon, it's time to check your skaters equipment and if it doesn't fit think about putting it on website or check out other used equipment. Check out the <http://www.northbranchhockey.com/page/show/107750-equipment-swap> page on our website. If you have equipment you are looking to sell or are looking for equipment this is the place to start! Contact Tim Cashill at [president@northbranchhockey.com](mailto:president@northbranchhockey.com).

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## NBAHA Friday Hockey Spirit Days!

Skaters - remember to wear your NBAHA hockey jersey or apparel to school on Friday's this year to show your NBAHA Hockey Spirit. We will also be selling NBAHA temporary tattoos at upcoming events. The price is 4 for \$1. Wear your tattoo with your apparel to school on Friday's. Start showing your spirit this Friday!

[http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0013/4707/NBAHA\\_Friday\\_Hockey\\_Spirit\\_Days.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0013/4707/NBAHA_Friday_Hockey_Spirit_Days.pdf)

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## Become a fan of North Branch Area Hockey Association on Facebook

North Branch Area Hockey Association is on Facebook! Become a fan and stay up to date on the progress of the Stacy Sports Complex and learn more about grant opportunities that we need our fans support to secure!

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### On line registration

On line registration is available at <http://www.northbranchhockey.com/> and is mandatory this year. You will first register your skater with USA Hockey (link provided through NBAHA website) you will then need that confirmation number to proceed with online registration for North Branch hockey.

- You will need a credit/debit card to pay for the USA/MN Hockey fees on line. The cost is \$40 for skaters with birth year 2004 or earlier. There is no cost for the younger skaters.
- You will have several options for paying for your NBAHA portion of the fees.
  - **All Mites** will register under "Mites" if placed on an upper level Mite team after evaluations you will then need to pay the additional \$485 either in full by Nov 30th or 2 equal installment on Nov 30th and Dec 30th. You will have the option of paying on-line as well at that time.

We must have the Waiver of Liability and Consent to Treat forms turned in before your child will be allowed on the ice for Mite Skill Assessment. If you are new to the association you will also need to mail in a copy of your child's birth certificate. You may mail them to **NBAHA, Box 541, North Branch, MN 55056,**

Returning Families: If you have not yet picked up your fundraising materials, contact Janelle at [fundraising@northbranchhockey.com](mailto:fundraising@northbranchhockey.com). **All returning families** must turn in fundraising materials to Janelle on or before Sept 28th.

### Fees for the 2010- 2011 Season

USA/MN Hockey Registration fee for Birth Year 2004 and older is \$40

#### NBAHA 2010-2011 season fee

- Mites/U8 \$40
- Upper Level Mites \$525

(This is the NBAHA portion of fees, does not include the USA Hockey fees.)

**Registration deadline for returning Mites is Wednesday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**All outstanding balances must be paid before your registration will be accepted for the 2010-2011 season.**

# WANTED!

## Ladies Who Like To Have FUN

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Come support the North Branch HS Hockey  
Blue Line Club Silpada Designs Jewelry Fundraiser  
**100% of profit goes to support the team**

**Where: North Country Coffee and Cafe  
Downtown North Branch**

**When: Friday, November 19  
6:00-9:00pm**

*Come support HS Hockey in North Branch  
while buying some great jewelry for yourself  
and it makes a GREAT gift!*

Rhonda Moline, Silpada Designs  
651-248-9401 [www.mysilpada.com/rhonda.moline](http://www.mysilpada.com/rhonda.moline)

~ Lifetime Guarantee on Jewelry  
~ 60 day return/exchange policy

**BRING A FRIEND...BRING A CAR LOAD !**