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## Victoria Hockey Makes an Impact

Victoria has always been a great producer of hockey talent and this year is no exception. The capital region continues to have players spread throughout the top leagues including the CHL, ECHL and NHL. The capital region currently boasts 15 players in the Canadian Hockey

League, 11 players in the East Coast Hockey League and 5 in the National Hockey League.

One of Victoria's staples was the old Memorial Arena. The Arena was built in 1934 but with all the maintenance and refurbishing costs the city decided to rebuild the arena in 2000. With some controversy, work began on the Save On Foods Memorial Centre which soon became a hit in the city. As the rink began to grow so did the anticipation of a professional hockey franchise. In the summer of 2004,



The Victoria Salmon Kings are playing their third season out of the Save on Foods Memorial Arena in Victoria.

and with the rink near completion, Victoria hockey fans were finally granted their wish. A professional team would reside in the new arena and play in the East Coast Hockey League. Although it took awhile for the team to get on its feet, the Victoria Salmon Kings of the ECHL are slowly becoming a premiere team in a flourishing league. While Victoria players are doing well throughout the hockey world, there

is also growing talent that still plays in Victoria. 11 teams from the Greater Victoria area went to the provincials for the respective leagues while 5 of those teams won the gold medal in their championships. The Bantam "AAA" and Midget "AA" Peninsula Eagles claimed gold in provincial championships while the Pee wee "AA", Bantam "AA" and the Midget "AAA" Raquetclub Kings all picked up top honours in their divisions. Victoria hockey is doing better than ever and it will only get better from here.

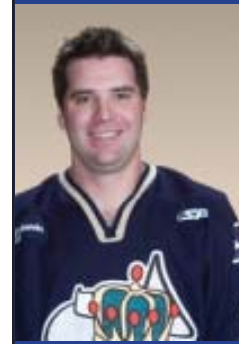
# Salmon Kings a hit in the Capital

## Player Profile: Ryan Wade

The Victoria Salmon Kings are currently in their fourth season in the Capital region and things couldn't be going better. The team won the West Division in exciting fashion defeating the Alaska Aces in front of a sellout crowd of 7006 on the final night of the regular season. The team continues to be the hottest ticket in town as ticket sales have increased every single game. It wasn't always this way for the kings. in the team inagural season the Kings set ECHL records in losses and penalty minutes and you couldn't give away tickets to the games. Attendance was the lowest in the entire league and many nights it looked like you were watching somethign out fo the movie Slapshot with goons going round after round in what appeared to be scheduled bouts. But somewhere amongst that fighting, a hockey game broke out and it turns out the product is pretty good. Things seemed to go in the right direction for the club when Mark Morrison signed on as head coach. Mark had made some good connections playing as a player/coach in Europe and brought a lot of players in when he took over as benchboss. "The team gave me full range to do what I had to do to make us a contender," Stated Morrison. "I think the skill was there but the work ethic was lacking and morale was low. I made some tweaks here and there and brought



in some players who I thought would compliment the team." And compliment they did. In Mark's first season as coach (3rd year as a franchise) the team finished in 3rd place in the West Division and played the Alaska Aces in the playoffs. The Kings lost to the Aces in six games but it proved that the team was no longer a laughingstock. This season has been much of the same for the Kings as the team only lost 4 games at home all year. The team finished in first place in the West Division with 90 points on the season. That was good for 2nd in the National Conference which sets up a first round playoff series against the Bakersfield Condors. The Kings have faired well against the Condors this season going 6-2-1 against the boys from California. No matter what happens in the post season, the team can call this season a success.



2007/2008 Stats:

GP: 70

Goals: 11

Assists:33

Pts: 44

PIMS:90

Ryan Wade is the only remaining King from the teams first season. Wade grew up in Victoria and played his minor hockey for the Saanich Braves. The 5' 10 forward played junior hockey for the Tacoma Rockets who then merged into the Kelowna Rockets. After playing six seasons at the University of Alberta, Wade was offered a tryout with the Victoria Salmon Kings and the 29 year old hasn't looked back. "I love playing in front of family and friends," said Wade. "My game has changed a bit since joining the Kings but I appreciate the chance they have given me and I look forward to playing with the Salmon Kings for years to come."

# In the System....



Jamie Benn-RW  
Kelowna Rockets (WHL)

Jamie Benn is a what you call a pure goal scorer. Playing his minor hockey for the Peninsula Eagles, Jamie signed with the Junior "A" Victoria Salsa at the age of 17. Benn was named the BCHL rookie of the year for the 2006/07 season. Last summer Jamie was drafted by the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League and turned some heads at the teams rookie camp. Benn is currently playing for the Kelowna Rockets of the Western Hockey League where he leads the team in scoring with 33 goals and 32 assists in 62 games.

## Design of Canada Hockey Now

Canada Hockey Now is a monthly publication we design out of Victoria BC. The layout features a very simple atmosphere so the reader isn't bombarded with things to look at. White space is used throughout the newsletter which contrasts the strong blue colours very well. The strong blue with white type is used throughout the publication to add effect.



Taylor Ellington-D  
Everett Silvertips (WHL)

Taylor Ellington got to live the dream of every youngster last summer when he was drafted in the second round by his favourite team the Vancouver Canucks of the NHL. Taylor grew up playing his minor hockey for the Saanich Braves and signed with the Junior "B" Peninsula Panthers at the age of 15. After just one season with the Panthers, Ellington was signed by the Everett Silvertips of the WHL at the age of 16. Taylor is playing in his fourth season with the club where the stay at home defenseman punishes opposing teams forwards.

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# Canada Hockey Now

Published by Paul Haysom

Designed by Paul Haysom

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