

CHEBUCTO U7 Annual Report 2025-2026 season

- U7 was a great success again this season due to the incredible contributions made by our volunteers. U7 Group Managers were instrumental in creating a safe, fun environment for our players to grow in skill and confidence.

Registration remained around 116 participants this year.

We had 4 groups ranging from 25-31 players per group. Sizes were ideal for maximizing per player repetitions and coach to player development time ratio.

We had approximately 60 core volunteers step up this season.

- The Junior Coaches Leadership Program had over 50 participants sign up again this year! The group included multiple goalies who were able to assist on the ice by training and encouraging U7 players who were trying the position. This was very successful. This year Junior Coaches received extra leadership opportunities. They were given the opportunity to be on the bench with senior coaches during U7 jamborees. They also volunteered at the Chebucto Jamboree helping in the time keepers box, games room, light controls, music and more. Many people commented on how exceptional they were with all the kids.

Our main focus points this season were - increasing the pace and compete level of our groups - increasing exposure to in game scenarios through weekly small area games and scrimmages - passing and teamwork drills - power skating and edge work drills on a weekly basis. The results were consistent and visible throughout the season. Players received timbits jerseys with the Chebucto crest on them, for the first time this year. We will continue this initiative going forward.

- Goalies

The snap on goalie gear has been a great investment. Almost every player has shown interest in trying the position. We have instituted a rotating schedule for players to try the gear. Having more experienced Goalies helping out on the ice added to the success significantly.

- Events

- U7 Draft (Jersey distribution event) in the Atlantic Room, healthy snacks and refreshments provided.
- Christmas Party (Pancake Breakfast from Kimmie) , family skate and gifts for all players.

- End of year party at Jil's World of Fun indoor playground. Players received Personalized Chebucto Sweaters from Coach Envy. Volunteers received Chebucto branded Yetis. Head Coaches and managers received gift cards for local restaurants in appreciation for their incredible dedication and sizable time investment this season.

- Jamborees Attended

Players had the opportunity to attend four Jamborees, three of which came at no extra cost to parents, and one at a cost of \$30 per player or \$300 per team. 2021's had the opportunity to attend three jamborees as they are not eligible to play in the Mooseheads Jamboree.

- CHEBUCTO GRAHAM GILBERT JAMBOREE (All players)
- TIMBITS MOOSEHEADS JAMBOREE (2020s and 2019s only)
- BEDFORD JAMBOREE (All players)
- EASTERN SHORE JAMBOREE (All players)

Participation was extremely high and players were noticeably engaged. Teams were competitive and even dominant in some cases.

- CHEBUCTO GRAHAM GILBERT JAMBOREE

It was an honor to hold our first annual Graham Gilbert Memorial Jamboree this year. The event was very well attended. 44 teams from 9 different organizations registered @ \$450 per team totaling \$19,800 in revenue. This year we included a licensed 50/50 draw at the event which raised \$1102.00. A generous \$500.00 donation was received which we used to show our appreciation for our volunteers by offering each volunteer free food and refreshments at Kimmie's Canteen. The event netted a total of \$11,250.51 for the U7 division. The Jamboree was very well received by players and parents. We heard from lots of participants that were very

satisfied with the offering and noted that it ran even better than our event the year before. Lots of feedback was received and it was all very positive. Most notable was the feedback about our incredible volunteers who served the association with grace and good will. They made the event very special and kept everything well organized. We plan to hold the event annually going forward.

- Fundraising

- \$40 per player contribution totaling \$2880.00
- Jamboree proceeds including 50/50 and \$500 donation, \$11,250.51 raised after all expenses paid
- Westjet fundraiser \$8755.00 in funds raised
- Total funds raised - \$22,885.51
- We used funds to pay for the set up of the Graham Gilbert Memorial Jamboree, as well as all of our U7 events this year. Chebucto has covered the pancake breakfast \$800-\$1200 and ES end of year Jamboree \$4000-\$5000 with funds raised by U7 player registrations in years past, but that ended this year and we took on the cost. We made it all happen! The pancake breakfast, Christmas gifts, and 100% of the costs for the end of year Eastern Shore Jamboree team registrations! We have a surplus of \$3030.56 which will be used toward our summer ice offering and seeding the U7 events at the beginning of next season.

- In conclusion, U7 is functioning very well overall. We feel the outcomes are favorable and next year will be even better based on our current trajectory.

Special Mention

Jennifer Bowdrige and her family were invaluable during the Graham Gilbert Jamboree. Their dedication and commitment to insuring that everything when well and that people were well cared for was outstanding. They were instrumental in the event's success. I won't name them all, but several families and individuals went so far over and above this year. Without them, this season would not have been possible. A huge thank you to our U7 Coordinator, Sarah Baird, and our incredible Coaches and Managers who continue year after year to invest their time and efforts into the children of our community. You are amazing and so appreciated.

Thank you to everyone for all the support and encouragement this year. I am so grateful to you all. It's been an incredible year for U7, here in Chebucto.

Yours in hockey,

Jay McKenzie

VP U7 CHEBUCTO