



Doug Stewart, Kent Valley's Facility Manager, Leaves to Join the Navy



Kent Valley's Doug Stewart instructs Joan Morgan on the finer points of operating the ice rink's Zamboni. Morgan was the high bidder for the Learn to Drive the Zamboni certificate at the 2007 KVHA Auction.

Kent Valley Ice Centre, Kent, WA. July 5, 2012 –

There is an old and well-worn pair of work shoes resting on the floor in the Zamboni room at Kent Valley Ice Centre (KVIC). Over the years, even since before the rink opened on December 11, 2001, those shoes worked every square inch of the Kent Valley Ice Centre, from top to bottom, side to side and front to back. Those shoes have been atop scaffolding, high over center ice, as the man wearing them spray-painted the ten huge white steel beams that span the ice at KVIC. They've pressed the accelerator on the Zamboni as the man wearing them traversed countless miles across the 85' by 200' expanse of KVIC's ice rink. Those shoes belonged to Doug Stewart, KVIC's Facility Manager, up until last Saturday. After 16 years with the company, 12 of them with Kent Valley Ice Centre, Doug has moved on to a new adventure, closer to home and closer to the military he served for many years before coming to us. Doug will be managing the All American Restaurant at Naval Station Everett, less than a 10 to 15 minute commute from his home in Everett. Doug has traded a more than 60 minute one-way commute for one that is less than 15 minutes with a drive-through stop at Starbucks included.

Finding a replacement to fill Doug's shoes won't be easy. He was and remains a man of many talents and a willingness to tackle any job, big or small. You might find him rebuilding the motor on the Zamboni one minute, planning the café menu the next, and repairing the ball elevator in the batting cages after that. Doug did a lot of the plumbing around the building, fixing leaky pipes and repairing bathroom fixtures. He was a carpenter, repairing damaged walls, building portable skate racks and constructing heavy duty boxes for rental skates. Doug came to KVIC with his own set of tools, some of which he packed back and forth on his daily commute. No matter what the task required, he had the right tool for the job.

In the café, Doug was the master of the grill. He could prepare any item on the menu with the speed and skill of a master chef. He handled all the catering arrangements for small events, like birthday parties, to large events like the annual USA Hockey Pacific District Select Camps where 700 hot meals were served over the course of the two-day event. In the Kent Valley Ice Centre office, Doug dealt with vendors and customers alike, always promptly, professionally and cheerfully. He also served as human resources coordinator, hiring and training staff, providing new employee orientation and carrying out the occasional termination.

Doug had no fear of heights. It was not uncommon to see Doug climb a tall ladder to reach an inaccessible area of the facility. I watched one day as he climbed to the roof of the café to string a communication cable from one point to another. He performed a circus act tight-rope walk across the support beams of the café while dragging a long coax cable. It was not unusual to see him working atop six levels of scaffolding over the ice to repair a light fixture.

Doug could also get down and dirty, digging a large hole near the mini golf course to access a faulty valve or crawling under the Zamboni to make a repair. I've seen him huddled deep in a dirty wet pit at the back of the batting cages, covered with mud and grease as he worked to repair the ball return mechanism.

Doug struggled from time to time with a chronic back pain that occasionally limited his activities around the rink. But, he never used his aching back to avoid work on a tough project; he just delayed the project until the pain went away.

Doug was a friend of Kent Valley Hockey Association (KVHA), making numerous generous personal donations to the Annual KVHA Auction. He also coordinated the ice rink's donations to the auction and he got great joy out of meeting the winning bidders of the annual "Learn to Drive the Zamboni" donation. He worked hard to make the event memorable for them.

It may take awhile to find someone to fill Doug's shoes. Replacing a multi-talented, multi-skilled and experienced employee like Doug just doesn't happen overnight. Les Grauer, KVHA's Director of Operations, noted; *"We hired Doug in March of 1996 when we managed the Lynnwood Ice Arena. He had a terrific work ethic and was a quick study. As we added new work assignments he mastered them all. He will be missed."*

With an extra hour and forty minutes lopped off his daily work commute, Doug will have more time to spend with his wife Heidi Luchene and son Lucas. We at Kent Valley wish Doug the very best as he pursues his new career path. Naval Station Everett is getting a good man!

For the near term, those old and well-worn work shoes remain on the floor in the Zamboni room, unfilled; a constant reminder of what it takes to keep our business operating from one day to the next. Doug will be missed...

Next Week at Kent Valley Ice Centre

Pro Ambitions Hockey School will occupy much of the daytime ice at Kent Valley next week. The school has two daily sessions from 9:00am to 11:00am and 1:00pm to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. At last report, the school was nearing capacity.

Lunch Time "Adult" Stick n' Puck – Monday thru Friday 11:15am to 12:45pm

Cross Ice "Adult" Stick n' Puck (16 & over) – Monday, Wed & Fri 4:45pm to 6:45pm

Hockey Skills - Pass, Stickhandle, Shoot & Save – Monday 6:30pm to 8:00pm

GSHL Adult Hockey League – Monday thru Thursday 8:10pm to 10:50pm and Sunday 5:15pm to 10:45pm

Kids Stick n' Puck – Friday 6:15pm to 7:45pm

Friday Night Public Skating Session – Friday 8:00pm to 11:00pm

Friday Night Adult Stick n' Puck – Friday 11:15pm to 12:45am

Western Washington Female Hockey Association, Evaluation Clinics – WWFHA will hold three clinics over the weekend, 10:00am to 11:30am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm Saturday and 12:30pm to 2:30pm on Sunday.

Weekend Adult Stick n' Puck – Saturday 6:15pm to 7:45pm and Sunday 10:15am to 12:15pm

Weekend Public Skating Sessions – Saturday 12:45pm to 3:45pm and 8:00pm to 11:00pm and Sunday 2:45pm to 5:00pm

Please check the [Ice Schedule](#) page on the KVHA Web for full details and the most up-to-date and current schedule of hockey related ice activities.

Quote of the Day!

The True Meaning of Winning the Cup:

"You know, even though I played for three other teams, I always consider myself to be a Flyer. I proudly wear my Stanley Cup rings every day. I even got inducted into the Flyer

Hall of Fame in 2009, and that was such an honor. To see how the fans reacted and the way they treated me, I will never forget that. To know that my grandchildren can walk into the Wachovia Center and see my name up there forever, it's pretty awesome. It means a lot. I am just so thankful that I was in the right place at the right time. I genuinely feel bad for all the great hockey players who just never had an opportunity to win a Cup. I really do. It's a shame. So many phenomenal players with such outstanding careers never got to hoist it, and that's sad, because there's nothing like it. I wish everybody could experience it, friend and foe alike; it's what we all strive for as players. It's the pinnacle."

Dave Schultz, Stanley Cup winner with Philadelphia 1974 and 1975

Quote from **Raising Stanley - NHL LEGENDS IN THEIR OWN WORDS** by Ross Bernstein

KVHA News Contact: Lew Sellers, Director of Communications

Kent Valley Hockey Association
 6015 So. 240th Street
 Kent, WA. 98032
 (206) 914-9619 Cellular
Lew@KentValleyIceCentre.com

<i>KVHA Host Hotels - Proud Sponsors of Kent Valley Hockey</i>		
		
(253) 395-3800	(425) 255-0300	(800) 315-2621
6329 South 212 th Street Kent, WA 98032	16038 West Valley Highway Tukwila, WA 98188	19621 International Blvd. SeaTac, WQ 98188

This email is being sent to «Full_Name» at «Email».

This email was sent by Kent Valley Hockey Association, 6015 So. 240th St. Kent, WA. 98032

If you would like to change your email address or unsubscribe, please click here or, reply to this message and type the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line. To make sure you continue receiving our emails to your inbox (not bulk or junk folders), please add Lewsellers@kentvalleyhockey.com to your address book or safe sender list.