

Volunteerism required for big successes

By [Dawn Potvin - Houston Today](#)

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I am embarrassed to admit that having lived here in the Bulkley Valley for most of my life, I have just returned from my very first trip to Prince Rupert.

What it lacks in sunshine more than makes up for it with atmosphere and ambience – what a charming community, I loved it.

With a husband and a son participating in this past weekend's Northern BC Winter Games, it was also my first experience with billeting out my 11 year old.

I must say that I was very anxious about the prospect of shipping my son out to stay at the home of a complete stranger, it kind of goes against anything I have preached to the boy since he was old enough to get the whole “stranger danger” kind of thing.

Working myself into quite a tither, I was eye-rolled at from every father that “played the game”.

Apparently back in the day, billeting was all there was, there was no staying in hotel rooms or staying with mom, it was meeting new people and enjoying new and different hospitality.

It inadvertently adds character to a group of boys that are at the cusp of manhood and being a mature young adult.

What all our boys got this weekend was the most wonderful, caring and responsible people we have had the pleasure of meeting and I do believe that they are all the better for it, much to my initial scepticism.

Like me, all the other moms were a little distressed about the whole thing too, but in the end all reports were of great times and positivity – which can sometimes be hard to come by in the world of minor hockey.

The entire weekend experience just goes to show how much volunteerism is required to make an event like these a success.

While we were just looking around at the events, the facilities, and the extras that they had set up all for the athletes, was very impressive.

Hats off to the community of Prince Rupert, all of their hard work and dedication certainly paid off in spades.