

## **CVUSC President - Stefan Szkwarek – Bio and Message**

Stefan Szkwarek was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba and after serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1998-2018, he has now settled in the beautiful Comox Valley with his wonderful family after experiencing three tremendous postings to 19 Wing (2002, 2006-2010 and 2015-2018). He recently accepted an opportunity with CAE as the Site Manager for the new FWSAR training center on the base and intends to stay firmly rooted here for the foreseeable future after 9 postings across Canada and the World!

Stefan is an accomplished player, having had the opportunity to play 4 years at Royal Military College, followed by playing at the top amateur level across the country and also a year in the PDL and 2 years at the semi pro level in England. Stefan was also part of the Canadian Forces Rep team (CISM from 1999-2015) and as such represented Canada abroad on dozens of occasions including 2 World Military Games (2007 and 2015)

Stefan is also an accomplished coach, having recently completed his CSA A -license Parts 1&2 and also holds his CSA National B license and English FA levels 1 and 2 coaching badges. Over the last two years, he has also been the club's acting technical director, leading all development programs. He is currently coaching exclusively at our Club, mostly at the U5-U11 level but has coached teams across a variety of age groups including the Men's D1 team from January-April of this year. Message from Stefan:

*"After spending the last two years on the board as Director of Development, Acting Technical Director and more recently as the President, I'm very proud of our achievements during this period. Through diligent marketing, community outreach and a greater presence on social media, we have seen an over 20+% increase in membership in a short period of time, something that was unthinkable two years ago given that player registration is dropping all across the country. To this end, I see far greater growth potential in the future as the valley is growing rapidly and we're just getting started. With this new growth, we need to ensure that this being done in a sustainable and manageable way and to also continue giving our members the best value for dollar that we can. As such, along with the executive board, I'm working very hard to bring in a new full time Technical Director this spring. By doing so, I'm hoping to not only enhance our current programming but also expand what we currently offer. Further, I am also aware that while the Vanier turf field is one of the best in Canada, frankly we need more facilities. As such, I'm currently in discussions with local municipal leadership to bring a new facility to valley, such that our youth have as many opportunities to play as possible.*

*The club and community are growing rapidly and based on my leadership/management experience as a senior Air Force Officer, within soccer organizations across the country and more recently leading an exciting and innovative organization in the Aerospace sector, I feel that I'm ideally suited to lead our organization through what is expected to be an unprecedented period of growth. To this end, as a soccer fanatic, I look forward to speaking to as many of our members as possible over the next month such that I can fully understand how they see the club evolving but also to ensure that message is clear; we need to grow this club together as a community. It's of utmost importance to me that we continue delivering excellent soccer experiences to our youth but also for CVUSC to be a lynch pin of the community, and our representatives to be ambassadors within it. We can only do this together, as after all We Are United!"*