

Zone 6 athletes and clubs had a very successful 2012. The VIAA series of Track and Field meets were very well attended this year, with many excellent performances. The athletes did miss having the Comox Valley Cougar meet this year, due to track reconstruction, as it meant a very long gap between the last VIAA meet and JD's or the BC Athletics Jamboree meet. The Nanaimo Track and Field Club won the VIAA team Male, Female, and Overall Club trophies this year, ending the Oceanside Track and Field Club's five year reign in the girls and overall club categories. A number of clubs, notably Nanaimo, Alberni Valley, Cowichan Valley, and Campbell River saw an increase in membership this year.

The Club Coach/Sport Coach course held in Nanaimo from March 30 to April 1, and the Gary Reed Middle Distance camp (Nanaimo, April 20th-22nd) both proved to be rewarding.

Zone 6 athletes performed well at the BC Athletics Jamboree, JD Championships, and BC Summer Games, with a number of athletes being selected as members of the BC Teams attending national championship meets in Winnipeg or Charlottetown.

The VIAA held its fall meeting on Sept. 23, in Nanaimo. Tentative preparations were made for the 2013 VIAA Track and Field season at this meeting, with track and field meets planned in Sidney (George Dean Meet - April 20/21), Port Alberni (Bob Dailey Meet - May 4/5), Victoria (Dogwood Meet - May 11/12), Nanaimo (Elwood Wylie Meet - May 25/26), Sidney (Island JD Pentathlon - June 2), and Duncan (Garriock Meet - June 8/9). Discussions about a possible meet in Powell River (June 22/23) took place, as it appears that the Comox Valley meet will not be held again next year.

On the road running scene, the Vancouver Island Runners' Association (VIRA) series again proved to be very successful. The Times Colonist 10 km continued to prove popular, and remained the second largest 10 km race in Canada, after the Vancouver Sun Run. The BC Athletics Marathon Championship took place in Victoria at the Goodlife Victoria Marathon on October 7th. Beautiful weather conditions enhanced the event, as over 11,000 athletes competed in the 10km, half marathon, and marathon events.

Randy Longmuir