

OMHATM

THE ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

A LOOK BACK AT THE

2017-2018 SEASON

LONG-TERM
PEOPLE DEVELOPMENTTM

CHANGING THE LOOK OF
MINOR HOCKEY





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2017-18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Rob Ring
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Vice-President: Bob Hill
Vice-President: Cheryl Brown
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Regional Director: Adam Parent
Regional Director: Andy Cooke
Regional Director: Sue Robinson
Regional Director: Suzanne Terpstra
Regional Director: Dave Garinger



It is my pleasure, on behalf of the OMHA Board of Directors, to welcome everyone to the 84th OMHA Annual General Meeting.

Although business is the top priority for this AGM, I'm hopeful all in attendance were fortunate enough to attend the OMHA information workshops, the Awards Gala and you were able to visit the Consumer Show. After the business session please remain for the "Parade of Champions" of which, in my opinion, is the highlight of this weekend.

At the conclusion of each year, I take the time to reflect on the past season and year after year, I find myself being amazed at the dedication shown by our volunteers. It is encouraging to know there are so many who are willing to, unselfishly, give so much time for the betterment of our youth. I applaud each of you for the passion you display towards this great game.

Whether you are a player, team official, on-ice official or a parent please take the time to review the past season. Undoubtedly, each of you will recount the enjoyable times you experienced and I assure you, the friendships you were able to build will last a lifetime.

Congratulations to all of the OMHA, Recreational, MD, and Representative League Champions. Each member of these championship teams have achieved something very special and you should be very proud of what you accomplished.

During the past OHF and Hockey Canada Regional Championships, Peterborough Atom AA, Erie North Shore Peewee A, and Ajax Juvenile all won the gold medals representing the OMHA. These gold medal winning teams certainly made us all very proud.

On a personal note, my last term as the OMHA President is concluding. There have been situations this past season that have been challenging and somewhat disappointing, but because of the support, dedication, and willingness of the OMHA Board, to work as a team, we have been able to overcome these, not so pleasant, situations.

Five years as the OMHA President passed by very quickly. The continuous support I received from the OMHA Board has been phenomenal and because of their dedication my time as President was made much easier. Mere words can't explain how grateful I am, it has been my pleasure working with you.

A very special thank you goes to Ian Taylor and the entire OMHA office staff. This administration staff is second to none. It is astounding the workload that is put on this staff to make sure the OMHA offers the best programs available to our youth and they never lets us down.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe.


ROB RING
PRESIDENT



It's been another great season in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and we want to thank you for being a part of it.

We work with our 225 local minor hockey associations to serve our over 90,000 players. From small towns to large cities, it's the diversity of our organization that proves that hockey truly is a game for everyone to enjoy. For players new to the game or those in their graduating year of minor hockey, everyone is looking to have a positive experience every time they lace up their skates.

To the thousands of volunteers, moms and dads, coaches, officials, trainers, managers and administrators involved in our great sport, your dedication and commitment can't be thanked enough. Without you, there is no hockey. The community of hockey starts with the foundation that you help to create. Continue to open doors and welcome new faces into our arenas and let's grow the game together.

Through the ups and downs, sometimes the minor hockey experience can feel like a roller coaster but in the end the smiles on the players' faces makes us know it's worth it. The high fives, the mastering of a new skill, the big comeback all come together to form the best memories. The friendships we make this season can last a lifetime. Take the lessons learned from this year and use them to become better players on the ice and better people off of it.

The launch of our Long Term People Development campaign highlights the importance of using sport to create the citizens of tomorrow. We believe the skills kids learn to become great players are the same skills they need to become great people. To us, hockey is more than what happens just on the ice.

Creating and sharing resources for Programming Novice and Below has helped our members to ensure that our game's youngest players get the right start in hockey. By focusing on the development of the sport's basic skills, players stay engaged in the action while building confidence and teamwork skills. Designing age-appropriate drills and practice plans creates a passion for the game that keeps kids playing for life.

For all you've accomplished this season, you deserve to keep celebrating. We work together to provide the best minor hockey experience in Canada and will continue to make it happen.


IAN TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE GAME
PATRICIA HARTLEY ADMINISTRATORS AWARD

VONNIE CRAWFORD

Township of Chatsworth and District Minor Hockey Association



Vonnie Crawford (middle) accepts the Patricia Hartley Administrators Award from OMHA Vice-President – Eastern District Cheryl Brown (left) and OMHA President Rob Ring (right)

Patricia Hartley Administrators Award

The Patricia Hartley Administrators Award is given in recognition of exemplary service in the field of sports administration. This award reflects the achievements of a local executive board member or volunteer staff person who worked toward the efficient operation of an association and the betterment of hockey.

The recipient of this year's award is Vonnie Crawford of the Township of Chatsworth and District Minor Hockey. Vonnie is a tireless volunteer and supporter of local minor hockey. She continually goes above and beyond the call of duty to help members, teams, players, bench staff and the executive.

“There is no doubt that she does the heavy lifting. She does so much work. Stays behind the scenes in a lot of cases but anyone who knows Township of Chatsworth and District Minor Hockey is going to realize what Vonnie does for this organization.”

– Kim Stewart, Past President, Township of Chatsworth and District Minor Hockey

— RECENT RECIPIENTS

2016

Terry Conroy
 Centre Wellington Minor Hockey Association

2015

Lorine Price
 Innisfil Minor Hockey Association

2014

Carol Belanger
 Bradford Minor Hockey Association

2013

Beth Hill
 Flesherton Minor Hockey Association

2012

Dean Lapierre
 Windsor Minor Hockey Association



MORE THAN A PLAYER
WALLY SCOTT BURSARY

MATTHEW VAN OIRSCHOT

Lambeth Minor Hockey Association



Matthew Van Oirschot (middle) accepts the Wally Scott Bursary Award from OMHA Vice-President, Western District Craig Lane (left) and OMHA President Rob Ring (right)

Wally Scott Bursary

Over the decades Wally Scott's personal and professional interests in hockey have merged to the benefit of the OMHA. The award presented in his name recognizes his contributions and commitment to the OMHA and to the game of hockey. This award reflects the achievements of a young hockey player who is committed to his community and demonstrates athletic ability while maintaining academic achievement.

Matthew Van Oirschot has balanced a high level of academic achievement along with volunteering and varsity sports. He takes pride in having a high academic standing while maintaining an active lifestyle within his community. Matthew will be enrolled in bio-medical engineering for his post-secondary education.

"It's amazing to see what kind of young man he's turned out to be. Balancing schoolwork, his social life, outside sports activities, it's been fantastic. Not often do you see that balance in a kid and Matthew carries the balance really well."

- Mike Stenning, Coach, Lambeth Minor Hockey

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2016

TiffanyRea Glenn-Cooke
 Huntsville Minor Hockey Association
Owen Stichhaller
 LaSalle Minor Hockey Association

2015

Brody Ryder
 Kent Minor Hockey Association

2014

Nathan Schaper
 Milton Minor Hockey Association

2013

Paul Boyadjian
 Kincardine Minor Hockey Association

2012

Davey Watson
 Staples Minor Hockey Association

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE
EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENT AWARD

DERRICK BURROWS

Kincardine Minor Hockey Association



Derrick Burrows (middle) accepts the OMHA Excellence in Development Award from OMHA Vice-President, Central District Bob Hill (left) and OMHA President Rob Ring (right)

Excellence in Development Award

An award established to recognize and honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to hockey development programming in minor hockey in the OMHA. Nominees can be from any area of hockey development, including Player development, Coaching, Officiating, Safety, and Program Administration.

Derrick Burrows of the Kincardine Minor Hockey Association always ensures that no one is left without a place to play, team to play on or equipment to do so with. He has been a tireless advocate of improvements to local facilities, making many presentations on behalf of minor hockey to the municipality asking for changes to improve the experience for all.

“He loves the game. He loves what he does. He’s put in millions of hours of volunteer work doing it and there’s a reason for that. It’s satisfying to him at the end of the day to know he’s making a difference in these kids’ lives.”

– Eric Grebenjack, Coach, Kincardine Minor Hockey

— RECENT RECIPIENTS

2016

Brandon Boone
Niagara Falls Minor
Hockey Association

2015

Mike Gouglas
Markham Waxers

2014

Mark Viminitz
Whitby Minor
Hockey Association
Winston Watson
Huntsville Minor
Hockey Association

2017 AWARDS

HONOURING 45 YEARS OF SERVICE
HONOUR AWARD

CHERYLL BARR

Coldwater Minor Hockey Association



Cheryll Barr (left) accepts the 2017 OMHA Honour Award from OMHA President Rob Ring (middle) and OMHA Regional Director Michele Sguigna (right)

Honour Award

The Honour Award was established to recognize a person who has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to minor hockey for a considerable period of time, doing so of their own free will and not as part of a job or position for which they receive monetary consideration.

Cheryll Barr of the Coldwater Minor Hockey Association was recognized as this year's recipient. She has been a constant fixture of the Coldwater hockey community for over 40 years, seeing three generations of players, coaches and members pass through all while never missing a game. Cheryll is well known for her attention to detail and accuracy of game sheets.

"Cheryll is an extremely dedicated person. She's here all the time, she's all about the kids. She's a constant pillar here. Everybody can rely on her and what she's doing."

– Frank Brazda, President, Coldwater Minor Hockey

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2016

John Welsh
Peterborough Minor
Hockey Association

2015

Larry Gould
Schomberg Minor
Hockey Association

2014

Joe Bentolila
Aurora Minor
Hockey Association

2013

Murray Shanks
Barrie Minor
Hockey Association

2012

Darrin Robertson
Elmvale Minor
Hockey Association

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2017-18 HOCKEY SEASON

AUG 2017

The OMHA Development Seminar unofficially begins efforts in the field. OMHA personnel gather to share best practices and are updated on the newest sport technical information available to support our Membership in the upcoming season.

There were over 170 clinics delivered for over 7,000 Coaches and Referees this past season who were seeking to certify or re-certify their credentials.

11,500 Coaches, trainers and referees continue to certify or re-certify their credentials in the off-season.

SEP 2017

Referee Schools in Windsor, Guelph and Trenton provided new officials with an opportunity to acquire officiating skills and rule knowledge while completing OMHA and Hockey Canada certification requirements.

The OMHA delivered 40 sets of goalie equipment across the province in partnership with CCM through the **Goalie Assist Program** to break down some of the barriers of the position.

The **Breakaway Podcast** returned for its third season. As one of minor hockey's only podcasts, this season of Breakaway featured discussions on practice plans, leadership and making better communities.



HOME ICE PRESENTED BY **AXE**



OCT 2017

The puck drops on the **OMHA Regular Season** as a new year of hockey officially gets underway.

Home Ice presented by Axe returned for a second season. The video series is a behind the scenes documentary that followed the Oakville Rangers Midget AAA team throughout the season, navigating their balance between school, hockey and life.

Working with The Coaches Site, the OMHA launched the **Coach of the Month** award. Nominations from all over the province were submitted highlighting the fantastic work that coaches are doing across all of our associations.

NOV 2017

The fourth annual **OMHA Essay Contest** presented by Respect in Sport was launched with this year's theme being 'Being Part of a Team Means...'. Reece Northcutt from Whitby was later announced as the grand prize winner. The contest is designed to engage players in an educational manner while encouraging them to express their thoughts on what life skills they learn from playing hockey.



DEC 2017

The first of two **OMHA Minor Midget AAA Showcases** powered by Under Armour featured teams playing in front of OHL scouts during their draft year. A similar event took place later in January.

A special coaching clinic was offered in conjunction with Hockey Canada and was led by the National Junior Team Coaches and Hockey Canada's Development Staff. Coaches participated in an off-ice classroom session focusing on implementing small area games into a team's practice at the event in Niagara on the Lake.



JAN 2018

An Implementation Guide was created to support our member Centres with the delivery of the **Programming Novice & Below** including Seasonal Structure and Cross-Ice & Half-Ice game play.

Many OMHA teams volunteered their time over the holidays, participating in **Hockey Gives Back** to make their communities a better place through gift drives, food bank donations and other great initiatives.

The **OMHA Players Club** remained a popular program, encouraging players to improve their skills through three at-home challenges. Over 200 players submitted their completed tracking sheets over the season and earned prizes along the way.

FEB 2018

A number of associations in the OMHA were outfitted with a full set of Bauer hockey equipment through **The First Shift** program. The learn-to-play program teaches basic skills while focusing on the fun of sports.

The OMHA assisted in hosting a number of **Try Hockey** programs. Designed to introduce new players to the sport, the two-part sessions include Floorball and an on-ice skating opportunity.

MAR 2018

The **OMHA Hockey Festival Presented by Froster Active Kids** took place in Whitby. This tournament featured 77 House and Local league teams in the Tyke, Novice, Atom and Pee wee age groups.



APR 2018

The OMHA launched its **Long-Term People Development™** campaign focusing on the important life skills that hockey teaches players and how it will help them become great people.

Playdowns officially wrapped up as a total of 87 champions were crowned, earning **#RedHats** along the way.

The **Ontario Hockey Federation** produced Champions at the A/AA/AAA levels of Atom, Pee wee, Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile divisions. Three OMHA teams left the championships with a gold medal: Peterborough Minor Petes (Atom AA), Erie North Shore Storm (Pee wee A) and Ajax Knights (Juvenile).

The annual Ontario Hockey League draft saw 84 players from the OMHA selected including seven in the first round and the first two overall picks in Quinton Byfield and Evan Vierling. The second ever **OHL Under-18 Priority Selection** for Midget-aged players was held with six OMHA players chosen in the first round including netminder Mitchell Weeks, selected first overall.

MAY 2018

The annual **OHL Gold Cup** tournament took place and the OMHA iced two competitive teams. The eight-team tournament brings together the best minor midget players from across the province to compete.



CHANGING THE LOOK OF MINOR HOCKEY ACROSS ONTARIO

AGE-APPROPRIATE PROGRAMMING TO GROW OUR GAME



Younger hockey players are better off playing on a modified ice surface and the stats don't lie. Long-Term Athlete Development research tells us kids need more interaction in their games, which is exactly what cross-ice hockey offers.

While the modified ice implementation plan from Hockey Canada is new, it has been a pillar of the Initiation Program for over 30 years. Designed specifically for the game's youngest participants, the curriculum introduces players to the fundamental skills of the game. Skating, puck control and passing are all taught in an age-appropriate setting so players can have fun and want to continue to play the sport.

CHANGING THE LOOK OF MINOR HOCKEY

“The value isn’t in the square footage of ice, the value is in the engagement. That more experienced player, that better player, as opposed to just taking the puck and getting outside and it’s kind of breakaway hockey and ‘I can skate faster down the ice than everyone else. Now, I’m going to have to stickhandle more, I’m going to have to pass more, I’m going to have to use my edges,’” said Ian Taylor, Executive Director of the OMHA.

One of the goals of cross-ice hockey is to put players in a position to succeed and get them to come back to the game. Staying engaged through puck touches and being involved in the action lets players have more fun.

“NOTHING TAUGHT ON A MODIFIED ICE SURFACE IS GOING TO HURT A PLAYER’S DEVELOPMENT WHEN THEY MOVE TO FULL ICE

”

Rules like icing and offside, while crucial to the game, are not necessary during the introductory phase. A player’s focus should be on using their skating to learn the basic concepts of hockey.

“These are teachable things. In some cases, the concepts (like offside) might be considered a little bit more advanced or not necessary at this stage of what we’re trying to teach them in terms of skate, pass, and shoot,” said Kevin Hamilton, Director of Hockey Development with the OMHA.



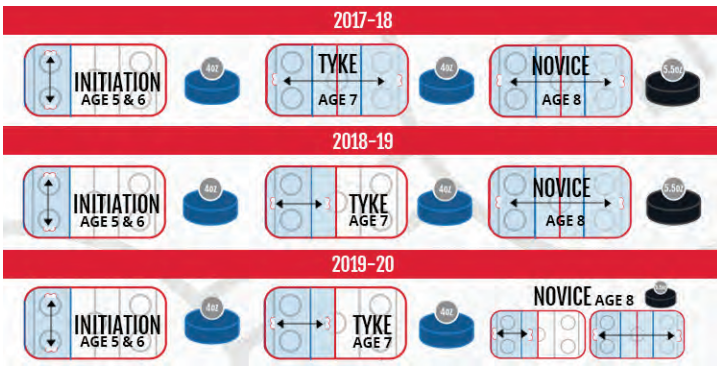
Nothing taught on a modified ice surface is going to hurt a player’s development when they move to full ice. A study by Hockey Alberta showed that players can reach a top speed of 17.5 km/h with an average distance needed of 65 feet. The strongest skater in the study needed only 60 feet to reach top speed. A cross-ice playing surface measures at 85 feet from board to board, and the distance between a goal line and the nearest blue line is 64 feet. Player’s acceleration rates increased when the playing surface was reduced.

THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF PROGRAMMING NOVICE AND BELOW ARE TO:

- Teach all of the basic skills of hockey so players can enjoy the game
- Assist in the development and enhancement of physical literacy and basic motor patterns
- Develop and encourage the concepts of being a team member through player participation in both on-ice and off-ice activities
- Encourage the aspects of fitness, fair play and co-operation while having fun playing the game
- Design practice and game play that is appropriate to the age, size and skill level of the participant

“There are a lot of kids who can skate great in a straight line. It’s now when you have to navigate, tight turns, edges, balance on one foot, those are skills that I think that are lacking. This program or way of playing is going to address that. Otherwise, you’re running into traffic,” said Taylor.

“Watch the game today being played at the highest levels. It’s 10-foot speed, it’s quickness, it’s evasive skating, it’s using your edges. We see those best players, it’s their ability to get in and out of tight spots. It’s not just breakaway speed.”



Starting in the 2019-20 season, Hockey Canada has mandated players 8-years-old and under will participate in modified-ice games, which includes cross-ice or half-ice. To continue the player progression for young athletes already in modified-ice programming, the Ontario Hockey Federation will expand its modified-ice programming in the 2018-19 season and advance 2011-born players from cross-ice to half-ice games. The focus in practices will remain station-based.

In 2019-20, as per the Hockey Canada modified-ice mandate, those same players start the season playing half-ice games and end it with full-ice games.

“Station-based practices, small area games, lightweight blue pucks and age-appropriate ice size ensure players are engaged and have the right start in their hockey experience,” said Taylor. “Scaling the game to match the age group allows young players the opportunity for more puck-touches which promotes greater opportunity for skill-development in puck-handling, shooting, skating, coordination and decision-making.”

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association continues to work closely with our associations and our partners in hockey to deliver resources and best practices for coaches and administrators to create the best possible programming at this pivotal stage in the player development pathway.





LONG-TERM PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT™

TEACHING MORE THAN JUST HOCKEY

We believe the skills kids learn to be great players are the same skills they learn to be great people.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association launched a campaign across the province focusing on the benefits of participating in sports and building character for young players – both on and off the ice.

The OMHA Long-Term People Development campaign plays on an acronym common to many amateur sports – Long-Term Player Development – to accentuate the fact that there are enduring values to be learned through Canada’s game. Just as the Long-Term Player Development model aims to set up athletes for success through age-appropriate developmental programs, Long-Term People Development focuses on highlighting the personal growth that sports can offer our children.



“We believe hockey plays a critical role in the development of our youth,” said Ian Taylor, Executive Director of the OMHA. “Parents see the values it instills and the stronger communities built around it so we want to give the right start to our beginner players so as many people can enjoy the game and benefit from the life lessons our sport teaches.”

The timing of the campaign launch ensured the three key tenets of the campaign – teamwork, confidence and focus – reached many of the province’s 90,000 minor hockey players as early as possible.

“While best recognized for administering minor hockey in Ontario, the OMHA has broader priorities and we expect this campaign will share a meaningful story,” added Taylor.

The thrill of carrying the puck up the ice on a breakaway, the exhilaration of scoring your first goal or making that amazing save is possible due to the encouraging environment hockey provides to try new things and grow as a hockey player and person.

For many, some of the most memorable moments from the minor hockey experience are what happens off the ice. From packing the bus on a road trip for a tournament that’s hours away to the nights playing mini sticks in the hallway at the hotel, the off-ice team bonding can solidify the lifelong friendships that minor hockey offers.

Hockey gives parents the chance to see their child grow. Players gain confidence when learning new skills and make new friends with their teammates. Seeing your child improve year over year is a great source of pride. Getting children involved in sport gives them the opportunity to find their lifelong passion and encourages an active lifestyle.

As players graduate from minor hockey, some choose to give back to the sport by signing up to referee, coach or volunteer with their local association. Perhaps they have a child of their own that they want to share the joy of minor hockey with. Volunteers are the lifeblood of minor hockey and hold an important role in ensuring a positive experience for players. They have the opportunity to teach the next generation of the sport what it means to be good people and represent their hometown, just as they did themselves years ago.

Just last year there were a number of OMHA graduates who were recognized for the positive impact they’ve made in their communities. Guelph Storm captain and Kincardine native Garrett McFadden became the first ever two-time recipient of the Ontario Hockey League’s Dan Snyder Memorial Trophy as Humanitarian of the Year. His program, McFadden’s Movement, supports mental health awareness for youth. In Oshawa, defenceman Mitchell Brewer raised over \$10,000 for Camp F.A.C.E.S., an initiative dedicated to families who have suffered a tragic loss in the Emergency Services in Canada.

Hockey develops skills on the ice that build a foundation for a lifetime. In addition to athletic prowess, hockey promotes teamwork, confidence, pride, focus and responsibility. With an emphasis on fun, hockey is a game to be played and enjoyed for life.

HOCKEY IS A VEHICLE TO

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS PARTICIPATION IN SPORT OFFERS

- Exercise
- Positive attitude
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Focus

TEACH CORE VALUES AND LIFE LESSONS

- Focus on developing good citizens first, hockey players second
- Model teamwork and leadership
- Inspire hard work, dedication and discipline
- Offer a lifelong membership to a tight-knit hockey family



OHL DRAFT

The OHL draft took place on April 7 and saw minor hockey players get one step closer to realizing their NHL dreams.

Seven players from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association were selected in the first round of the draft, led by a pair of forwards from the York-Simcoe Express – first overall pick Quinton Byfield and second overall pick Evan Vierling. The OMHA had 84 players chosen from 20 teams. The Oakville Rangers led the entire draft with 14 players selected, followed by the Peterborough Minor Petes with 10, the Barrie Jr. Colts with eight and both the Guelph Jr. Gryphons and Niagara North Stars had seven players chosen.

QUINTON BYFIELD

York-Simcoe Express

1st overall



"I am thrilled to be selected first overall and honoured to be the recipient of the Jack Ferguson award. I have to thank my family for all of their support in getting me to this position today. I would also like to thank all my past coaches and my teammates for all the help they have given me. Finally, I would like to thank the Sudbury Wolves for the honour of selecting me with the first pick of this year's OHL Draft. I'm very excited to join the Wolves and can't wait to get started."

EVAN VIERLING

York-Simcoe Express

2nd overall



"It is a very surreal feeling right now. I feel very honoured right now to be selected by the Flint Firebirds. The key for me was to just believe - believe in my coaches, my family, my teammates and most importantly, myself."

CAMERON TOLNAI

Oakville Rangers

6th overall



"I am very ecstatic. Getting drafted in the Ontario Hockey League has been a dream of mine for a long time and to get selected by a team like the Ottawa 67's is something that I am very thankful for. I have to thank my parents for all the time they have put in to my minor hockey. From getting up early and driving me to practices and games all these years, they have always been there for me. I am going to spend the off-season working on getting bigger and stronger and can't wait to get going."

JAMES HARDIE

Barrie Jr. Colts

8th overall



"I just feel like I am on Cloud Nine right now. This is a dream come true and to have an organization like Mississauga select me, I couldn't be more happy. Really looking forward to this off-season and just focusing on getting stronger, continue working on my on ice skills and be ready for the OHL next season."

JAKE MURRAY

Oakville Rangers

13th overall



"I am beyond excited right now. I can't even begin to express how much I am looking forward to getting to Kingston next season and hopefully jumping right into the OHL. This is truly an honour for me to get selected in the first round and I really just owe a lot to my coaches, my teammates and my family who have been there with me the whole way and have only wanted the best for me. I am just really looking forward to the next steps."

LUKE EVANGELISTA

Oakville Rangers

14th overall



"I am so thrilled right now to get drafted by a great organization in the London Knights. I couldn't have done this without the help and support of my teammates, coaches and family. The development the OMHA has provided me has really helped me in getting to where I want to be and achieving my dreams."

LOGAN MORRISON

Guelph Jr. Gryphons

18th overall



"This is definitely a dream come true for me. I have been wanting to play in the OHL my whole life and to get drafted by an organization like the Hamilton Bulldogs is really something special for me. I really need to thank my family and friends. I couldn't have been here without them and their support throughout the years."

MIDGET DRAFT

For the second year in a row, the OHL held an Under-18 Priority Selection for Midget-aged players. The draft saw two rounds of players being selected by Ontario Hockey League clubs, with a third added for teams who selected a goalie.

There were six OMHA players selected in the first round including netminder Mitchell Weeks of the North Central Predators who was drafted by the Sudbury Wolves. This is

the second consecutive year that an OMHA player was selected first overall as Weeks joins Victor Hadfield in that honour.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association led the way with 18 players from 13 teams, including the first overall pick in Weeks. The Richmond Hill Coyotes had three players selected while the OMHA Midget AAA Champion Ajax-Pickering Raiders had one player drafted.

MITCHELL WEEKS

North Central Predators

1st overall



"It's kind of surreal I guess, just exciting, nervous and everything all at once that comes at you. After not being drafted last year it's definitely been worth the wait. I had a lot of fun playing in North Central this year and feel like my game really took a big step forward."

TANNER WICKWARE

Guelph Jr. Gryphons

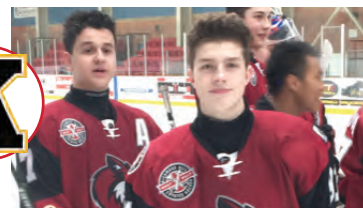
7th overall



MATTHEW ZEBEDEE

Richmond Hill Coyotes

13th overall



DAKOTA BETTS

Clarington Toros

17th overall



DAMON BEAVER

Whitby Wildcats

18th overall



KYLE MCNAIR

Kingston Jr. Frontenacs

20th overall



" BEING PART OF A TEAM MEANS... "



The Ontario Minor Hockey Association is excited to reveal the Grand Prize Winner and four Finalists for the 2018 OMHA Essay Contest presented by Respect in Sport. Entries were submitted by minor hockey players of all ages from across the province.

This season's essays were a great reflection of the tremendous lessons hockey teaches our young players both on and off the ice. Players learn what it means to be a good teammate and the value of friendship. The importance of working together to achieve a common goal is highlighted in a team setting and no sport emphasizes that more than hockey.

While the game we love is often the true teacher of these lessons, they are reinforced daily by the volunteers who make a significant impact on players, as evidenced by the fantastic essays we received this year.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER



REECE NORTHCUTT
Age 10
Whitby Wildcats



My name is Reece and I am a 10-year-old goalie who plays rep hockey for the Whitby Wildcats. Being part of a team means a lot of things and I would like to share what being a part of a team means to me.

The best part of belonging to a team is getting to hang out with your friends. At the beginning of the season we are a bunch of players who play hockey. In a short period of time we become a bunch of friends who play hockey together.

On the ice we support each other with positive comments. We can't win on our own. We need to play our positions and work together to support each other.

Being part of a team means we have to listen to our coaches. We have to show up to practice and be on time. Our coaches help us learn and develop as players. We respect each other on and off the ice. Being a team is also respecting the other team. Someone has to win, lose or tie in every game and it may be our team next time.

The most fun part for me is wearing my uniform. When people see me wearing my blue Whitby Wildcats jacket they know I am part of a team. They may know some of my friends. They might wish they were part of a team just like me.

FINALISTS



JAVIER MARTINEZ
Age 10
Centre Wellington Fusion



"When I play hockey as a team, I love celebrating with my teammates when I score, cheering on my teammates, and working together to make nice plays. Hockey wouldn't be hockey without my team. Being part of a team means representing my community, making friendships and playing the game I love."



OSCAR BROWN
Age 13
Northumberland Nighthawks



"Being a part of a team means always having friends to count on and friends that count on me. I know that on or off the ice, my teammates expect me to always try my hardest, to be a fair sport and to be a good person. We all represent each other on our teams, at school and in our community."



OWEN MUNNINGS
Age 12
Dunnville Mudcats



"It may be surprising that a good team is not always a team that wins most of their games. It is a team that works together, whether on or off the ice. It is a team that is willing to learn from their mistakes, and keep a positive attitude. A good team constantly watches for ways they can learn from their losses. A good team supports each other and includes everyone."



RONIN WALJI
Age 6
Unionville Jets



"I made lots of new friends being on a hockey team. On the team, we learn how to pass, play our positions and work together. We don't always win, but we are still learning and we always have fun. We even have lots of fun together when we are not playing hockey and doing other stuff."

GOLDEN VICTORIES

A GOLDEN YEAR FOR OMHA TEAMS



There were plenty of gold medals, trophies and awards earned by Ontario Minor Hockey Association teams throughout the season.

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Minor Hockey Championships are a three day event that produces OHF Champions at the Atom (A/AA/AAA), Pee wee (A/AA/AAA), Bantam (A/AA/AAA), Midget (A/AA/AAA), and Juvenile divisions.

The competing teams come from across the province's minor hockey associations. The OHF Championships take place at the conclusion of every hockey season and feature five teams in each age classification. A number of OMHA teams medalled at the championships.

The Peterborough Minor Petes Atom AA squad won a gold medal in a convincing shutout while the Erie North Shore Storm edged out the Quinte West Hawks in a thrilling championship game in the Pee wee A bracket. It was a gold medal for the Ajax Knights Juveniles as well. The Barrie Jr. Colts Pee wee AA fought hard and brought home a silver medal as did the Burlington Eagles Bantam AA team.

It didn't stop there for OMHA clubs. Teams battled over many winter weekends to claim the coveted #RedHats, awarded to the winning clubs of each Playdowns bracket. This accomplishment earns players the most famous prize in all of minor hockey and brings out the best of every player at this time of year.

There were nine OMHA AAA Championship weekends powered by Under Armour filled with fast-paced, exciting hockey that crowned champions from across the province. The Whitby Wildcats took home gold in the Novice and Bantam divisions while the Barrie Jr. Colts won in Minor Atom. The Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs earned the win in Atom and the Quinte Red Devils edged out a victory in the Minor Pee wee group. It was a winning year for the Oakville Rangers Pee wee team. The York-Simcoe Express saw their Minor Bantam and Minor Midget teams capture gold while the Ajax-Pickering Raiders took home the Midget title.

Congratulations to all players, teams and organizations who were crowned champions this hockey season.



HOCKEY GIVES BACK

Minor hockey teams are an important part of local communities. Teams come together and help make their neighbourhood a better place. Many OMHA teams gave back to their communities this season through ways like food drives and donations. The OMHA is proud of the efforts of all our teams for knowing the values of respect and community both on and off the ice.



MARKHAM WAXERS MINOR ATOM A

The team worked together all season to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society CIBC Run for the Cure to benefit the breast cancer awareness cause. Throughout the month of October, the team played games with Pink Stick tape, Shin pad tape and Pink laces. As well, the Coaching staff and parents wore pink clothes to games to support the team in its efforts. The team has raised over \$7,500 to date.



RICHMOND HILL STARS ATOM AE

The Stars spent time volunteering at the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank as a way of giving back to those in need during the holiday season. The players and a few parent volunteers sorted and stocked the shelves with the canned goods that the team collected and donated, helping to feed families and children with the most basic item in life: nourishment. The goal of the coaches is to develop young people using the game of hockey as a tool to teach important life lessons. The Atom AE team not only used this opportunity to give back to the community, but collectively made a difference in the lives of the people who will benefit from their volunteer experience.



MILTON WINTERHAWKS **MINOR PEEWEE AE BLUE**

In January, the Winterhawks held a charity fundraiser for Tourette Canada, an organization providing support to individuals with Tourette's Syndrome and their families. The team hosted a private screening of the hockey film *The Rocket* and held a silent auction. The event attracted 130 people and raised just over \$3,000 for Tourette Canada. This was part of the team's annual strategy to give back to the community.



MARKHAM WAXERS **PEEWEE AE WHITE**

Once again, the team participated in the Love Box project for Markham Stouffville Hospital. Every child admitted to the Children's Health Unit at the hospital receives a Love Box that has been put together by members of the local community. Each box is one of a kind and is filled with items to comfort children and their families who are facing all types of health issues. This year, the players pledged to fill one box as a family and encouraged extended family and friends to fill boxes of their own.



YORK-SIMCOE EXPRESS **MINOR MIDGET AAA**

Like most organizations, the team dedicated the month of October to Pink at the Rink. Throughout the month the boys wore their pink uniforms during games. The Moms raised money through various fundraising ideas such as bake sales and selling various merchandise provided by the Breast Cancer foundation over the home games in the month. The players worked a couple of hours at the local grocery store with 100% of all donations collected going to fundraising efforts. During the final game of the season, the team raised money for their opponent after learning that one of the parents on the other team was diagnosed with cancer.



Winning #RedHats is a huge accomplishment and the memory of culminating your season with the biggest prize is something to be celebrated. These teams have forever etched their spot in local history.

Congratulations to all of the 2018 OMHA Champions!



WHITBY WILDCATS
NOVICE AAA



GUELPH JR. GRYPHONS
NOVICE CENTRAL AA



WOOLWICH WILDCATS
NOVICE CENTRAL A



OAKVILLE RANGERS
NOVICE CENTRAL AE 1



ORANGEVILLE FLYERS
NOVICE CENTRAL AE 2



NORTH DURHAM WARRIORS
NOVICE EAST AA



OWEN SOUND JR. ATTACK
NOVICE EAST A



COLLINGWOOD BLACKHAWKS
NOVICE EAST BB-B



CAMPBELLFORD COLTS
NOVICE EAST CC-C



FLESHERTON GOLDEN HAWKS
NOVICE EAST DD-D



TECUMSEH SHORELINE EAGLES
NOVICE WEST AA



RIVERSIDE RANGERS
NOVICE WEST A



SOUTH HURON SABRES
NOVICE WEST BB



LAMBETH LANCERS
NOVICE WEST B



ILDERTON JETS
NOVICE WEST CC



LUCAN IRISH
NOVICE WEST C



PORT STANLEY JR. SAILORS
NOVICE WEST DD



KENT COBRAS
NOVICE WEST AE 1-2



MT. BRYDGES COUGARS
NOVICE WEST AE 3-4



ARTHUR VIPERS
NOVICE WOAA JACOBI



DRAYTON DEFENDERS
NOVICE WOAA HODGES



KINCARDINE KINUCKS
NOVICE WOAA TWOLAN



BLYTH BRUSSELS CRUSADERS
NOVICE WAAA McCLURE



BARRIE JR. COLTS
MINOR ATOM AAA



CLARINGTON TOROS
MINOR ATOM AA



BARRIE JR. COLTS
MINOR ATOM A



BARRIE JR. COLTS
MINOR ATOM AE



HAMILTON JR. BULLDOGS
ATOM AAA



PETERBOROUGH MINOR PETES
ATOM AA



ST. THOMAS STARS
ATOM A



MIDLAND CENTENNIALS
ATOM BB



LISTOWEL CYCLONES
ATOM B



FRONTENAC FLYERS
ATOM CC



EAST LAMBTON EAGLES
ATOM C



ESSA EAGLES
ATOM DD



MILTON WINTERHAWKS WHITE
ATOM AE 1



BARRIE JR. COLTS
ATOM AE 2



ST. MARY'S ROCK
ATOM AE 3



ESSA EAGLES
ATOM AE 4-5



QUINTE RED DEVILS
MINOR PEEWEE AAA



MILTON WINTERHAWKS
MINOR PEEWEE AA



BARRIE JR. COLTS
MINOR PEEWEE A



BARRIE JR. COLTS
MINOR PEEWEE AE



OAKVILLE RANGERS
PEEWEE AAA



BARRIE JR. COLTS
PEEWEE AA



QUINTE WEST HAWKS
PEEWEE A



NAPANEE STARS
PEEWEE BB



AYR FLAMES
PEEWEE B



HANOVER FALCONS
PEEWEE CC



DELHI ROCKETS
PEEWEE C



DOURO DUKES
PEEWEE DD



WHITBY WILDCATS
PEEWEE AE 1



CENTRE WELLINGTON FUSION
PEEWEE AE 2



COLLINGWOOD BLACKHAWKS
PEEWEE AE 3



SOUTH HURON SABRES
PEEWEE AE 4-5



YORK-SIMCOE EXPRESS
MINOR BANTAM AAA



OAKVILLE RANGERS RED
MINOR BANTAM AA



ST. THOMAS STARS
MINOR BANTAM A



BARRIE JR. COLTS
MINOR BANTAM A



WHITBY WILDCATS
BANTAM AAA



BURLINGTON EAGLES GOLD
BANTAM AA



WOOLWICH WILDCATS
BANTAM A



DORCHESTER DRAGONS
BANTAM BB



INGERSOLL EXPRESS
BANTAM - B

2018 OMHA CHAMPIONS



WALKERTON CAPITALS
BANTAM CC



HAGERSVILLE HAWKS
BANTAM C



NORWICH KNIGHTHAWKS
BANTAM DD



ORANGEVILLE FLYERS
BANTAM AE 1



GUELPH JR. GRYPHONS
BANTAM AE 2



DORCHESTER DRAGONS
BANTAM AE 3-5



YORK-SIMCOE EXPRESS
MINOR MIDGET AAA



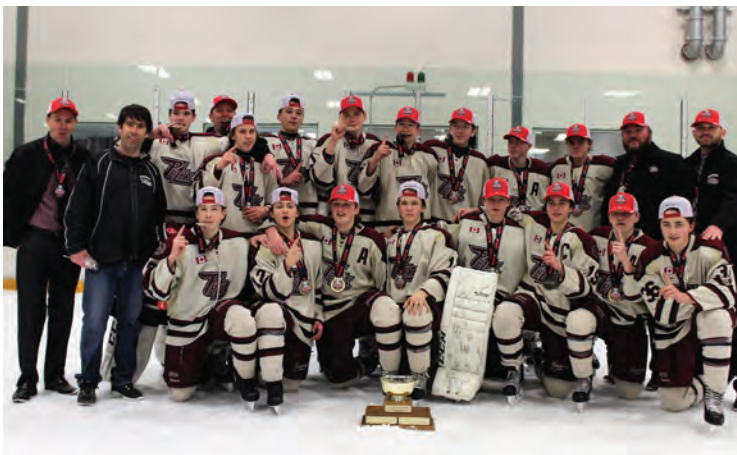
BURLINGTON EAGLES GOLD
MINOR MIDGET AA



ERIE NORTH SHORE STORM
MINOR MIDGET A



MOORETOWN JR. FLAGS
MINOR MIDGET BB



PETERBOROUGH MINOR PETES
MINOR MIDGET AE



AJAX-PICKERING RAIDERS
MIDGET AAA



BELLE RIVER JR. CANADIENS
MIDGET AA



WOOLWICH WILDCATS
MIDGET A



ERIN-HILLSBURGH DEVILS
MIDGET BB



PETROLIA OILERS
MIDGET B



HIGHLAND STORM
MIDGET CC



MINTO MAD DOGS
MIDGET C



WOODVILLE HURRICANES
MIDGET DD



BRAMPTON 45'S - 1
MIDGET AE 1



WOOLWICH WILDCATS
MIDGET AE 2



PETROLIA OILERS
MIDGET AE 3-5



ENNISMORE EAGLES
JUVENILE AAA-AA



AMHERSTBURG STARS
JUVENILE A



LISTOWEL CYCLONES
JUVENILE BB-B



TWEED HAWKS
JUVENILE CC-C



WAINFLEET WILD
JUVENILE DD

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UNDERNEATH.**

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