

OMHA™

THE ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

A LOOK BACK AT THE
2018-2019
SEASON

6 MYTHBUSTERS ABOUT
PROGRAMMING NOVICE
AND BELOW

THANKING THE
THOUSANDS OF
VOLUNTEERS



PLAYING LIKE A CHAMPION STARTS WITH EATING LIKE ONE.

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2018-19

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bob Hill

Immediate Past President: Rob Ring

Vice-President - Western District: Craig Lane

Vice-President - Central District: Peter Harmsen

Vice-President - Eastern District: Cheryl Brown

Treasurer: Frank Palmer

Regional Director: Colleen Hawthorne

Regional Director: Glenn Silver

Regional Director: Linda Ralf

Regional Director: Mark Hooper

Regional Director: Paul Wilson

Regional Director: Don Mundell

Regional Director: Steven Parker

Regional Director: Greig Baxter

Regional Director: Adam Parent

Regional Director: Andy Cooke

Regional Director: Cathy Baker-Bell

Regional Director: Suzanne Terpstra

Regional Director: Dave Garinger



CELEBRATING A GREAT SEASON

What an exciting year of hockey it has been across the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and we want to thank you for being a part of it.

We continue to see the incredible impact of dedicated minor hockey parents, volunteers, coaches, officials, trainers, managers and administrators in providing a meaningful and lasting experience for all of our players.

We all experience the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat – but it’s so much more than that! To us, hockey is more than just what happens on the ice.

Our Long Term People Development campaign highlights the importance of sport in building the citizens of tomorrow. We believe the skills kids learn to become great players are the same skills they need to become great people.

Today’s minor hockey players are the future parents and coaches of our sport and leaders in our communities.

Join us to celebrate sport and provide the best minor hockey experience in Canada. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make our game the best it can be.



BOB HILL
PRESIDENT



IAN TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE GAME
PATRICIA HARTLEY ADMINISTRATORS AWARD

ANN FLYNN

Stayner Minor Hockey Association



Ann Flynn (middle) accepts the Patricia Hartley Administrators Award from OMHA Vice-President – Central District Peter Harmsen (left) and Immediate Past 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 Ann Flynn of the Stayner Minor Hockey Association. Ann treats every player equally and is organized and hard-working. Even though she no longer has any kids in minor hockey she still dedicates her time to the association. She is a role model in the organization and is very knowledgeable in her position.

“She has an unwavering commitment to being unbiased and keeping things fair for all kids. She treated all the kids individually and looked at everybody's needs. Ann is organized, hard-working and detail oriented – she is committed to the rules and operating by the rules.”
 – Valerie Hughes, President, Stayner Minor Hockey

— RECENT RECIPIENTS

2017

Vonnie Crawford
 Township of Chatsworth and
 District Minor Hockey

2016

Terry Conroy
 Centre Wellington Minor
 Hockey Association

2015

Lorine Price
 Innisfil Minor
 Hockey Association

2014

Carol Belanger
 Bradford Minor
 Hockey Association

2013

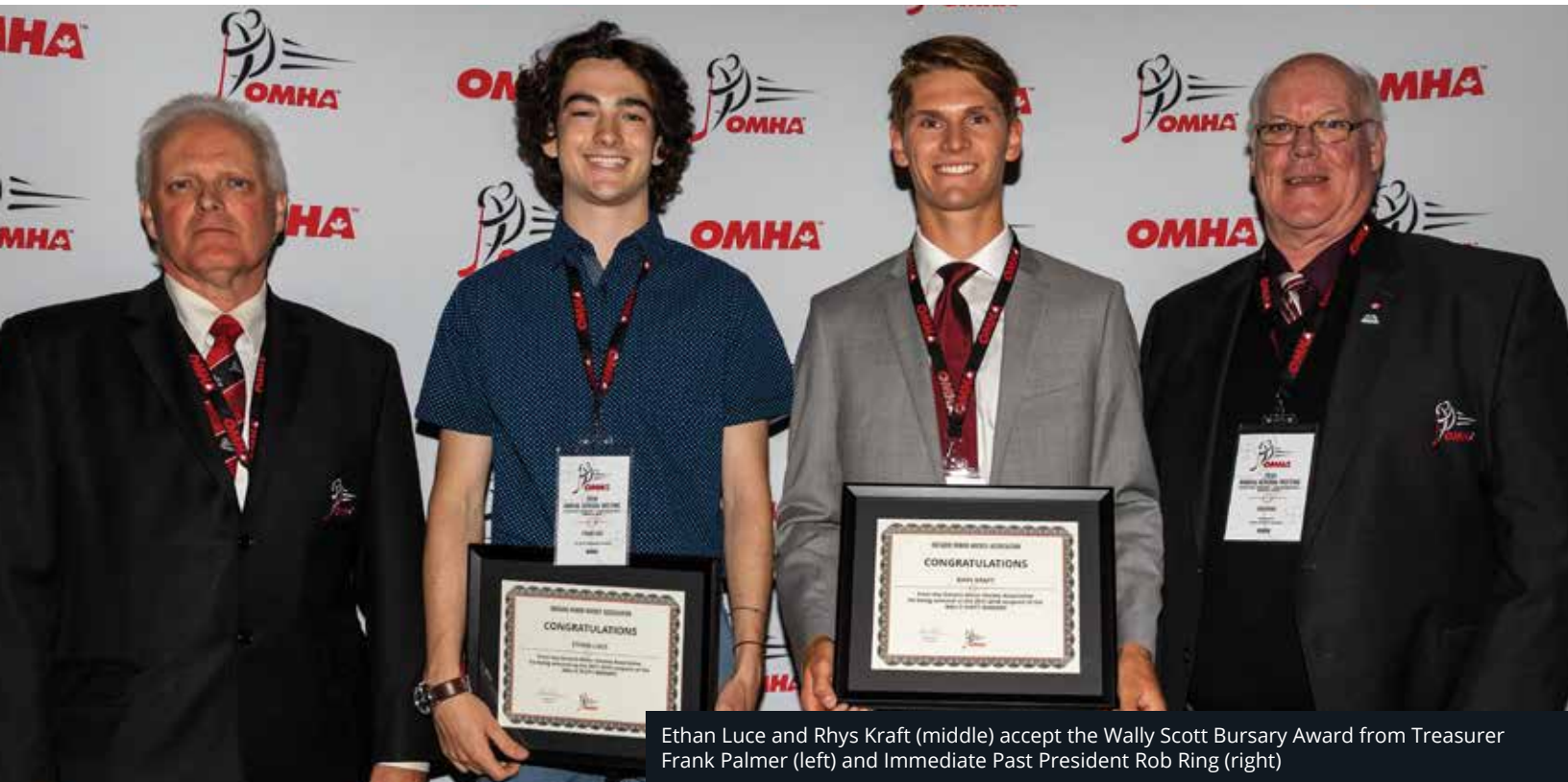
Beth Hill
 Flesherton Minor
 Hockey Association



MORE THAN A PLAYER
WALLY SCOTT BURSARY

ETHAN LUCE & RHYS KRAFT

Orangeville Minor Hockey / Barrie Minor Hockey



Ethan Luce and Rhys Kraft (middle) accept the Wally Scott Bursary Award from Treasurer Frank Palmer (left) and Immediate Past 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.

There are two winners of the Wally Scott Bursary this year - Ethan Luce of Orangeville and Rhys Kraft of Barrie. Both maintained a high academic standing throughout their high school education. Ethan will be studying engineering and Rhys will be studying medicine.

"I first met Ethan when I was teaching him Grade 10 math. I've been teaching for over 30 years and he is the first and only 100 percent I've ever given in a math course."

- Andree Kalinauskas - Ethan's Math Teacher

"I just finished teaching Rhys Grade 12 physics course and he achieved a 98 percent. He'll definitely be someone who won't be forgotten and someone who will be missed."

- Joe Bilton, Rhys's Physics Teacher and Cross Country Coach

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2017

Matthew Van Oirschot
Lambeth Minor Hockey Association

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

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE
EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENT AWARD

MIKE HENDRICKSON

Kent Minor Hockey Association



Mike Hendrickson (middle) accepts the OMHA Excellence in Development Award from OMHA President Bob Hill (left) and Immediate Past 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.

This year's winner is Mike Hendrickson of the Kent Minor Hockey Association. He is the Vice-President of House League and manages almost 900 players. Mike is dedicated to making sure the half-ice and cross-ice programming is set up correctly and runs smoothly. He is invested in the development of the players and is always looking for ways to improve the program.

"I think Mike really enjoys seeing the kids out there. I think he's really about the development. He's brought a lot of stuff, trying to bring in extra things that we can help improve our development program in house league."

– Derek Fitzmorris, Director, Kent Minor Hockey

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2017

Derrick Burrows

Kincardine Minor
Hockey Association

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



COVERING INITIATION TO JUVENILE
GEORGE H. CARVER MEDIA AWARD

PAT PAYTON

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association



Pat Payton (middle) accepts the George H. Carver Media Award from OMHA Vice-President - Western District Craig Lane (left) and Immediate Past President Rob Ring (right)

George H. Carver Media Award

The George H. Carver Media Award is designed to show appreciation for the invaluable coverage of minor hockey in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association provided by local media outlets. During the course of any minor hockey season, players and their parents rely on local media for coverage of their teams and leagues.

St. Mary's Pat Payton is this year's recipient of the George H. Carver Media Award and has spent countless hours covering the Rock. Pat has dedicated countless hours to make sure that the local teams and players get their name in the paper. Even at away games, he will get in contact with the coaches to ensure he can report on the results.

"He's dedicated a lot of his time and energy to come to the rink to watch all the kids to take pictures of them and get their names in the paper. He tries to spread that around so that everyone gets a little bit of spotlight."

- Chris Boyd, Past President and Ice Convenor, St. Marys Minor Hockey

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2017

No recipient

2016

Craig Ripley
ROGERS TV Barrie

2015

Mike Hayakawa
York Region Media Group

2014

Darryl Knight
The Port Perry Standard

2013

No recipient

HONOURING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE
OMHA HONOUR AWARD

HELEN FORD

Oakville Minor Hockey



Helen Ford (second from right) accepts the 2018 OMHA Honour Award from (l-r) OMHA President Bob Hill, OMHA Regional Director Don Mundell and Immediate Past President Rob Ring

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.

Helen Ford of Oakville Minor Hockey was recognized as this year's recipient of the OMHA Honour Award. She has been a part of Oakville Minor Hockey for over 40 years and has been called the backbone of the organization. She's served multiple roles in the community and is a constant volunteer no matter how big or small the job may be. Helen is a positive person who wants to make a lasting impression and a great experience for the players.

"I don't know of anybody that thinks more about the kids and day-to-day hockey activities than she does. This organization would not be as successful as it is today without people like Helen."
– Chuck MacGregor, Rep Referee Scheduler, Oakville Minor Hockey

RECENT RECIPIENTS

2017

Cheryll Barr
Coldwater Minor
Hockey Association

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

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2018-19 HOCKEY SEASON

AUG 2018

The annual OMHA Development Seminar begins the clinic season. Personnel gather to share best practices and update on the newest information to share with our Membership.

Over 190 clinics were delivered this past season for over 7,300 Coaches and Referees who were seeking to certify or re-certify their credentials.

11,600 coaches, trainers and referees continue to certify or re-certify their credentials in the off-season.

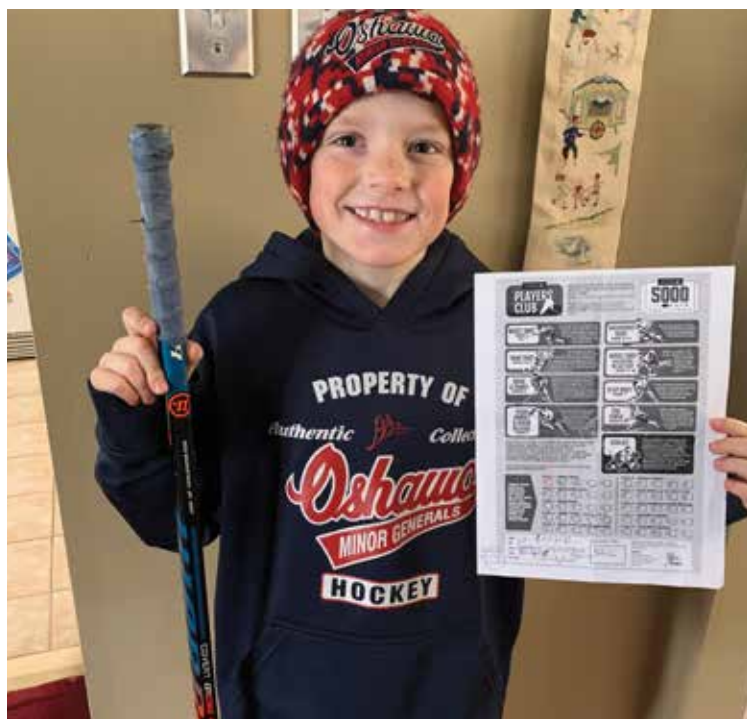
SEP 2018

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 first of this season's **OMHA Minor Midget and Midget AAA Rankings** powered by Under Armor are released. The Top 5 of each group are revealed throughout the year on a bi-weekly basis along with a list of Players to Watch.

The **Breakaway Podcast** returned for its fourth season. As one of minor hockey's only podcasts, this season of Breakaway featured discussions on practice plans, player development and growing the game.

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



OCT 2018

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

The OMHA delivered 40 sets of goalie equipment across the province through the **Goalie Assist Program** to break down some of the barriers of participation.

NOV 2018

The fifth annual **OMHA Essay Contest** presented by Respect in Sport was launched with this year's theme being 'Hockey is For Everyone Because...'. Matthew Wong from Markham 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 why hockey is a sport that all players can enjoy.



FEB 2019

A number of associations in the OMHA were outfitted with a full set of 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 **Try Hockey** programs. Designed to introduce new players to the sport, the two-part sessions include Floorball and an on-ice skating opportunity with local elementary schools.

MAR 2019

The **OMHA Hockey Festival** presented by Froster Active Kids took place in Whitby. This tournament featured 80 House League and Local League teams in the Tyke to Bantam age groups.

Nine **OMHA AAA Championships** powered by Under Armour take place over four weekends.

DEC 2018

Two **OMHA Minor Midget AAA Showcases** powered by Under Armour were hosted in the month, featuring teams playing in front of OHL scouts during their draft year.



APR 2019

Playdowns officially wrapped up as a total of 73 champions were crowned, earning **#RedHats** along the way.

The **Ontario Hockey Federation** hosted Championships at the A/AA/AAA levels in the Atom, Peewee, Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile divisions. Two OMHA teams left the Championships with a gold medal: Quinte West Hawks (Peewee A) and Centre Wellington Fusion (Midget A).

JAN 2019

OMHA Playdowns presented by Egg Farmers of Ontario kick off with 628 teams competing, playing over 2,000 games.

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** presented by HockeyShot remained a popular program, encouraging players to improve their skills through three at-home challenges. Over 175 players submitted their completed tracking sheets during the season and earned prizes along the way.

MAY 2019

The OMHA was well represented in the **OHL Gold Cup** tournament icing two competitive teams. The eight-team tournament brings together the best minor midget players from across the province to compete for selection to the Under-17 Program of Excellence.



6 MYTHBUSTERS ABOUT PROGRAMMING NOVICE AND BELOW

ANSWERING SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MODIFIED ICE HOCKEY

The Initiation Program is based with the player's development in mind, starting with basic, technical skills. By designing practice and game play that is appropriate to the age, size and skill level of the participant, modified ice hockey offers many benefits. An increased emphasis on skating skills boosts agility, balance, coordination and quickness while the number of puck battles rises. Players receive twice the amount of puck touches and double the number of pass attempts, shot attempts and changes of direction.

Since the modified ice policy (Cross-ice at Initiation, Half-ice at Novice) became mandated by Hockey Canada, there have been questions about how associations can run the program and why this change was being made. We answer some of the misconceptions about the program.

“ THIS IS A NEW PROGRAM.

While the policy making it mandatory was implemented in 2017, half-ice and cross-ice hockey has been part of the Initiation Program in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association since it was first developed more than 35 years ago. The main goal is to make the beginner's first impression of hockey a good one! When players get started on a positive note, they automatically enjoy the game and usually go on to have fun playing hockey for many years.



“ THIS ISN'T REAL HOCKEY.

At this age, the focus of the players should be feeling confident and comfortable on the ice. Using an age-appropriate playing area helps build a foundation for young players and gives them the opportunity for more puck touches. This promotes greater opportunity for skill-development in puck-handling, shooting, skating, coordination and decision-making. Those are all skills that they will be using throughout their time playing hockey.



In tennis, players use modified racquets, balls, nets and court sizes to ensure immediate success and develop skills faster, with an easier transition to full court. Soccer players are introduced to the sport with smaller fields, nets and less of a rules emphasis so everyone can participate, have fun and learn sportsmanship. Rugby Canada focuses on the growth of core movement skills before sport-specific skills are introduced as kids grow older.



“ PLAYERS AREN'T LEARNING THE RULES.

Concepts like offside and icing can be taught at an older age. Limited whistles and rules emphasis in the programming allows players to stay involved and engaged in the play. It puts the focus back on the physical literacy part of movement skills while introducing the basic, fundamental technical skills specific to hockey. Just as players are progressively taught body contact and body checking, the same idea is used when teaching the basic rules of hockey. They are still skating, passing and shooting the puck.

“ THIS IS JUST FOR PLAYERS NOVICE AND BELOW.

There are many NHL teams who use modified ice and small area games during practices to emphasize puck control and working in tight spaces to get around defenders. Small area games have been praised by names like Mike Babcock and Auston Matthews. A study by Hockey Alberta indicated that players actually accelerate faster on a cross-ice surface and can still reach top speed.

“ PLAYERS SHOULDN'T USE THE BLUE PUCK.

The blue puck is easier to shoot, pass and stickhandle for players in the earlier stages of physical development. Along with the correct stick, this allows the younger, less physically mature player to build confidence and learn the proper technique of passing, shooting and stickhandling in an environment that's about having fun, not the final score. This increased stickhandling ability also grows a player's creativity on the ice while promoting puck control. Using a heavier black puck with the idea of building strength for players should not be the focus for players of this age. Patiently developing puck skills, like being able to lift it in the air, can be done with a blue puck which, again, builds confidence and the proper techniques in young players. It's not healthy for a young player to develop bad habits with the black puck when they are trying to compensate for how heavy it is. Younger players can experience more success with the lighter puck.

“ TWICE AS MANY KIDS SHOULD BE HALF THE PRICE.

Players participating on a modified ice playing area are more engaged than if they were on full ice. Organized practices that are station-based and have smaller groups allow for players to participate and stay involved in the action. Players would rather be on the ice for an entire practice doing different drills instead of standing in line waiting for their next turn. They have the puck on their stick twice as much and are involved in five times as many puck battles than on a full-ice surface.

COACH OF THE MONTH

This was the second season of awarding an OMHA Coach of the Month presented by The Coaches Site and we were overwhelmed with the amount of nominations received and all of the deserving coaches. Aimed to recognize the importance and dedication of coaches in the province, one coach was chosen each month and their work was profiled. Thank you to all of the bench staff who make minor hockey possible for our players!



OCTOBER

JASON TAYLOR – ST. CATHARINES FALCONS PEEWEE A

Do you think it's important for a team to have different personalities and types of players? How does it all come together?

When we look at shaping the team, even at 12 years old, I think fit, equally as much as skill, is so important. It's important as a coach to recognize that too. Each kid needs to be treated differently yet fair and consistent. I think it's unique if you've got that skillset as a coach to identify what motivates kids. Hollering at kids doesn't always work. Really finding out what their triggers are to motivate them to be the best that they can be. I think that those are great qualities. That's something that I look at every time I come to the rink. I'm not the perfect coach but I listen to the staff and the kids.

NOVEMBER

PAUL TOUSIGNANT – AJAX KNIGHTS TYKE SELECT

What makes you the happiest as a coach?

All of the cliché answers to this question are true. I love seeing the kid's hard work translate to success - watching the kids master a drill that two weeks before was challenging and seeing the kids as part of a game utilize a new technique we've worked on. I love knowing we're doing something right with our teams when we see the kids having fun and eager to get on the ice each time.

DECEMBER

CURTIS LIVINGSTONE – MUSKOKA ROCK NOVICE

How important is player development over the course of a season and how do you help make it happen?

Player development is very important at this level. We focus primarily on skating and puck handling early in the season and add in some aspects of game play and positioning scenarios to give the kids something to think about. We have allowed kids to try different positions and have fun. We really promote the kids to encourage each other and strive to complete each drill to the best of their ability. Our coaches have been excellent in assisting with all players, ensuring they are completing drills properly and assisting and correcting when necessary. We seldom take the game scores to heart and look at the games as development opportunities to work on what we learned at practice.

JANUARY

DON SHANTZ – NIAGARA FALLS FLYERS MINOR BANTAM A

A number of your players are involved in volunteer initiatives. Is giving back to the community an important part of your team?

Giving back to the hockey community is very important to me. Even going back to when I played, there are people that I remember who made a difference in my time in minor hockey. I absolutely believe that this is one of the things that makes hockey so great is how the older players are always willing to give back to the younger players. I was also able to offer to my Minor Bantam players the chance to come out and volunteer their time with the younger age group. To see players on my team take their first steps to giving back and volunteering their time is hopefully a life lesson that will stay with them forever.

FEBRUARY

SCOTT MCDEVITT – BRAMPTON HAWKS ATOM BLUE

How do you try to instill the values of confidence and sportsmanship in your players?

I'm always getting volunteers out to our practices, including having AAA players come and help with drills. It lets the kids see someone their age execute the drill and they've all welcomed the competition in practice battle drills. At times, they win against them and their confidence is just sky high. We've instilled sportsmanship from the very beginning, always making sure the players don't complain about a bad pass or call or losing. We always encourage sportsmanship. The players stopped throwing their sticks in the air and jumping on the goalie after a win, recognizing that it was making opposing teams feel bad.

MARCH

ROSS CARLTON – MOORETOWN FLAGS ATOM

What is your routine to prepare for a practice? How do you find plans and drills?

It is very important to me to come to practice with a detailed plan. We only get so much ice time and I want to make sure that we utilize it. I always try to plan a practice that focuses on a lot of individual skills and skating. These boys are still so young and individual skills are very important. As the year progressed we started to focus on more team based drills with passing being a focal point. I am always trying to find new fun drills to keep the kids engaged. Having a great coaching staff around me to bounce ideas off of helps a lot too.

FROM PARRY SOUND TO THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF HOLLYWOOD

THE TRADITION OF SMALL TOWN HOCKEY CONTINUES

Aidan Dudas' hockey story started out like any other player. Growing up in a small town with older brothers, he found himself always at the rink watching them play until he was old enough to join a team. When it was time for Novice, Dudas suited up in the familiar green and white of the Parry Sound Shamrocks amongst his friends that were also his teammates.

Having the town behind him while the team played is one of Dudas' fondest memories of minor hockey. It's what helped him develop the love for the game that he still holds today.

As Dudas grew from Novice to Atom and then to Peewee, he remained a Shamrock. Though he could've made the North Central Predators AAA team during this time, Dudas opted to stay close to home. When he hit Bantam, Dudas realized he had a choice to make – focus on school and stay in Parry Sound or look to take hockey more seriously. He ultimately chose the latter, deciding it was time to join the Predators, playing for three years before moving on to the Ontario Hockey League.

"Nowadays, parents believe that you have to be playing AAA right from when you're six years old and you have to be travelling around all of Ontario. I still don't really believe that to the fullest because some kids lose their love of the game and they don't want to play anymore because of how much they played when they were six, seven, eight," said Dudas. "That's when you just want to have fun and be with your friends. I learned from playing Rep hockey until Bantam that it's all about fun and you really have to know that you love the game to be able to play it for the rest of your life."

Dudas was simply playing for fun as a kid. An admitted competitor, Dudas would shoot pucks in his backyard every day but it was because it's what he loved to do. He says that joining the Predators as a younger player, with the hour and twenty minute car rides each way to practice, isn't something he was interested in.

"I think staying in Parry Sound for my younger years, I realized I do love hockey and it can be a lot of fun when you do the right things."

Dudas has always been fiercely proud of where he's from as highlighted in the recent Hometown Hockey stop in Parry Sound. Up until this summer, he would stay in the Muskoka area in the off-season, commuting between rinks to get his training in.



In playing Rep hockey, Dudas was able to learn how to use and make his teammates better because of the amount of time he had the puck on his stick. In the summers, Dudas says he didn't think too much about hockey and would play other sports like soccer while hanging out with friends.

"You hear it a lot, that the more athletic you are the better you're going to be at every sport. I think you widen you're athletic ability by playing other sports. You learn how to be an all-around athlete and I think that helps with hockey... I think playing other sports makes you become a well-rounded athlete and that helped me become a better hockey player in the long run."

It was that time away from the ice that helped Dudas's love of the game grow even stronger.

"Even when I was young, I still took time off in the summer, I took one or two months off but it didn't make me lose my love for the game, it almost made me grow stronger for the love of the game because I'd miss it. For those one or two months off, I'd be itching to get back on the ice. That's when I realized I loved the game."

Dudas was selected 10th overall by the Owen Sound Attack in the 2016 OHL Priority Selection and has played there in every season since. This past summer, the Los Angeles Kings drafted him in the fourth round, 113th overall. The third year forward led the Attack in scoring this season and recorded 26 goals and 62 points over 68 games. The 18-year-old recently received his own bobblehead on a promotional night at the Bayshore Community Centre.

It's just another highlight on Dudas's journey as continues to follow his dreams from small town player to the bright lights of Hollywood.

"A lot of small town kids, they don't believe they can make it out. There's not many that do. I believe that if you really love something and you focus your time on it, I believe you can do anything with it. For me, it worked out because I had a love for the game."

“HOCKEY IS FOR EVERYONE BECAUSE...”



The Ontario Minor Hockey Association is excited to showcase the Grand Prize Winner and four Finalists for the 2019 OMHA Essay Contest, presented by Respect in Sport. Entries were been submitted by minor hockey players of all ages on the topic of “Hockey Is For Everyone Because...”

The essays received for this year’s contest were a great reflection of the life lessons that hockey teaches our young players both on and off the ice. Players learn about inclusivity and being a good teammate through support, understanding and friendship. Hockey is a team sport where everyone works together towards a common goal no matter their background.

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



MATTHEW WONG
Age 10
Markham Waxers



I think hockey is for everyone because it is very fun, helps you stay active and develop great friendships. It doesn't matter what nationality you are, how big or small or if you are a boy or girl because hockey is for everyone. It also doesn't matter what skill level you are, there will always be a team for everyone.

Hockey is for everyone as it brings different generations together and allowed me to connect more with my dad and brother. To be honest, I am a really shy kid and hockey has helped me a lot. It has created a comfortable environment for me to build my confidence, become less shy and taught me how to be a leader. I feel like I can be myself and still be a very important part of my team by bringing other things to my team. For example, showing good sportsmanship and working hard.

In hockey, everyone brings something a little special to the team. Some players can stickhandle well, some have great shots, some have good skating skills and others play good in net. They are like different puzzle pieces, but when you put them all together, you complete the puzzle, have great team and everyone fits in. It doesn't matter what you are good at, there is always a place for you. That's why I think hockey is for everyone and I love hockey!

FINALISTS



AYHAN MERCHANT

Age 12
Brampton 45's



"A team has to have loyal and hard-working players and anybody can try their best. Above all, behind the mask is an individual no matter what race, ethnicity, culture and skin colour because once the mask is on, everyone is a hockey player. And that's what makes hockey for everyone."



MARKIE ANNETT

Age 8
Caledonia Thunder



"It doesn't matter who you are, or what school you go to, or who your friends are. Once you put your team jersey on we are all equals. We are teammates learning to work together to accomplish the same goal. We make new friends, we learn to work hard together, to support each, to encourage each other to do better. It's like our own little community."



VINCENT GRAVEL

Age 7
Windsor Jr. Spitfires



"Hockey is for everyone because it does not discriminate. It allows all kids to be able to play no matter their background, the province they are from, or what language they speak. There is only one language on the ice, and that is the one of passion for the game."



ZIYAD KHAN

Age 13
Unionville Jets



"Hockey has a special way of bringing people together and allowing people to connect with one another. My grandparents came to Canada over 40 years ago, and hockey is one of the sports that they really enjoyed watching and made them feel connected to their new home."

OHL DRAFT

The OHL draft took place on April 6 and saw minor hockey players get one step closer to realizing their NHL dreams.

Four players from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association were selected in the first round of the draft, led by a pair of forward Ryan Winterton of the Minor Midget AAA champion Whitby Wildcats. The OMHA had 74 players chosen from 21 teams. The Guelph Jr. Gryphons and York-Simcoe Express both had six players drafted while the silver medalist Halton Hurricanes featured five.

The OHL Under-18 Priority Selection for Midget-aged players had two rounds of players being drafted by Ontario Hockey League clubs, with a third added for teams who selected a goalie. Three OMHA players were picked in the first round including netminder Aidan Spooner of the Barrie Jr. Colts, drafted first overall by the Kingston Frontenacs. This is the third consecutive year that an OMHA player was selected first overall.

MINOR MIDGET DRAFT

RYAN WINTERTON

Whitby Wildcats

8th overall



JACOB HOLMES

York-Simcoe Express

18th overall



JON-RANDALL AVON

Peterborough Minor Petes

11th overall



CONNOR PUNNETT

North Central Predators

19th overall



MIDGET DRAFT

AIDAN SPOONER

Barrie Jr. Colts

1st overall



MATTEO LALAMA

Niagara North Stars

4th overall



ZACHARY DIETZ

Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs

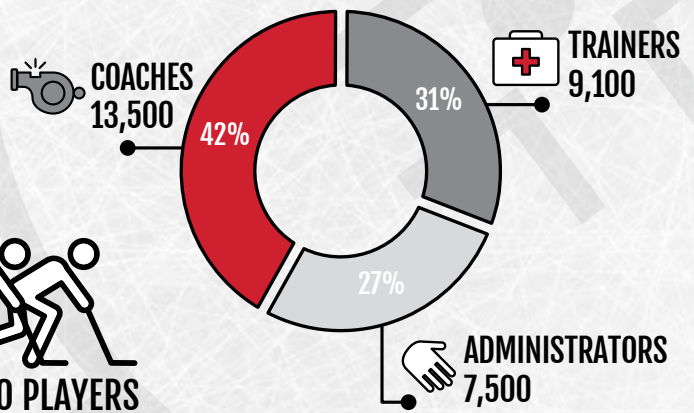
7th overall





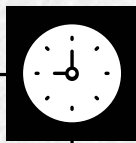
30,100
TOTAL # OF OMHA VOLUNTEERS

1:3
VOLUNTEERS TO PLAYERS



VOLUNTEER TRAINING COURSES COMPLETED

12,896



AVERAGE VOLUNTEER PROVIDES THEIR TIME FOR 20 HOURS PER MONTH PER SEASON

20

WHY PEOPLE VOLUNTEER

1. GIVE BACK TO THE SPORT THEY LOVE
2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
3. PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH A POSITIVE SPORT EXPERIENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

TAKE A MINUTE FOR THOSE WHO GIVE HOURS

Off the ice or on, whether you see them or not, there is an extremely dedicated group of parents and volunteers who keep minor hockey in motion and ensure the best experience for the kids who play the game. From February 25th to March 3rd, the OMHA celebrated everyone who spends their time to enrich the lives of kids through hockey by saying Thank You.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of minor hockey. The OMHA takes great pride in having an outstanding group of volunteers across its centres. Parents can choose to volunteer their time on an administrative level with the association or get involved in with their child’s team. Every bit helps – from organizing community Hockey Gives Back events to creating a carpool schedule, these things all add up. These actions, while some may feel small, are crucial to the big picture and are important pieces to the puzzle.

There are associations who rely on just a few volunteers do the work of many and having one extra person contribute their time can help immensely. Organizing registration, payment, scheduling and standings are all areas that volunteers dedicate their time into ensuring that everything runs smoothly. They are always looking for parents who want to contribute and get engaged.

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 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.



HANOVER FALCONS NOVICE

The Grundy Dental Hanover Novice Rep Falcons took on the Kincardine Kinucks in their home opener. It was a tough fought battle from both sides and finished with a 4-3 loss for the Falcons. However, the Falcons won BIG with their Pink in the Rink fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research with the Canadian Cancer Society. The Falcons raised \$1,105 through online donations, loose change donations and proceeds from their 50/50 draw. Thank-you to the Kincardine Kinucks Novice Rep team for partaking in this great event. A huge thank-you goes out to all that supported the cause. Hockey does fight Cancer!



MILTON WINTERHAWKS MINOR PEEWEE A BLUE

The team collected bottles over the summer and then dedicated a weekend in October to organize a Food Drive for Food4Kids. They helped raise awareness of the need for this charity in their community with over 120 families using this service. The Winterhawks were thrilled to have \$2,600 in monetary donations and over \$6,000 in food donations to fill the shelves in their community warehouse at Food4Kids. Kids Helping Kids - it doesn't get better than this!



NEWCASTLE STARS PEEWEE #1

In November the Newcastle Stars Peewee #1 team went door to door collecting food and spare change for their local Clarington East Food Bank. In less than three hours they collected over 930 lbs. of food and \$317 in cash. It was a huge donation for a local food bank which supports approximately 100 families.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

A tournament in Windsor two years ago brought a special idea to Doug Rivard.

There was a team on the ice that caught his attention, a group of 12 to 25 year olds that were playing for the love of the game just like everyone else. These teammates all had different disabilities but quickly fell in love with the sport. On his way home he began to brainstorm ideas with other community leaders on how to keep these players involved in hockey. Since then, they've started a team in the Riverside area and have been planning on expanding, getting volunteers and letting players know about the program.

For now, the group practices once a week with two to three games a month. The team has been reaching out to similar organizations in Detroit to arrange future games and are registered for two tournaments this season as well.

The Rangers are highlighting the importance of Long Term People Development. Kids play the game because they love it and because it is fun. The skills developed on the ice build a foundation of confidence, pride, focus and responsibility that all participants can benefit from. The encouraging environment is thanks to the countless volunteers that help players grow as people.

Rivard, the Director of Equipment for Riverside Minor Hockey, says the response from the community has been overwhelming with many volunteers wanting to get involved. Interest in the program continues to rise as the word of mouth grows in the area. Players and parents are excited to get started – one player loved last year's program so much that he took up figure skating until it was time for puck drop again. Another player on the team who is partially blind found a similar program to participate in until this group got going this season.



Organizations like Autism Ontario, the Windsor Down Syndrome Association and the local chapter of the Special Olympics have all helped to spread the word.

"There's no ice hockey program here at all for kids to play, especially at that age group," said Rivard. "We've had to tell them that it's available and that's where we've got the majority of our registrants."

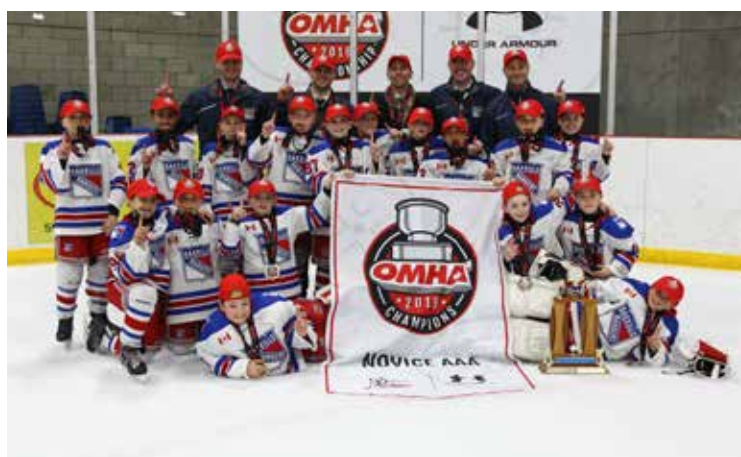
The players come onto the team with a variety of skill levels. Some are returning teammates, already participating for the last two seasons. Others know how to skate and are familiar with the rules of the game. Then there are some who are going on the ice for the first time. Rivard and his team work with the skill level of each player to make sure that everyone can take part and have an enjoyable experience.

"There's a big community down here. A lot of them play baseball and basketball together through Special Olympics," said Rivard. "If one says to the other, 'I can do it, you can do it too' then we get a little momentum. We've got to get on the ice and they've got to see how much fun it is."





There were nine OMHA AAA Championships powered by Under Armour filled with fast-paced, exciting hockey that crowned champions from across the province. The Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs took home gold in the Minor Pee wee and Minor Bantam divisions while the Whitby Wildcats won in Minor Atom and Minor Midget. The Oakville Rangers earned the win in Novice and the Clarington Toros edged out a victory in the Atom group. It was a winning year for the Markham Waxers Pee wee team. The Quinte Red Devils saw their Bantam team capture gold while the Kingston Jr. Frontenacs took home the Midget title.



OAKVILLE RANGERS
NOVICE AAA



WHITBY WILDCATS
MINOR ATOM AAA



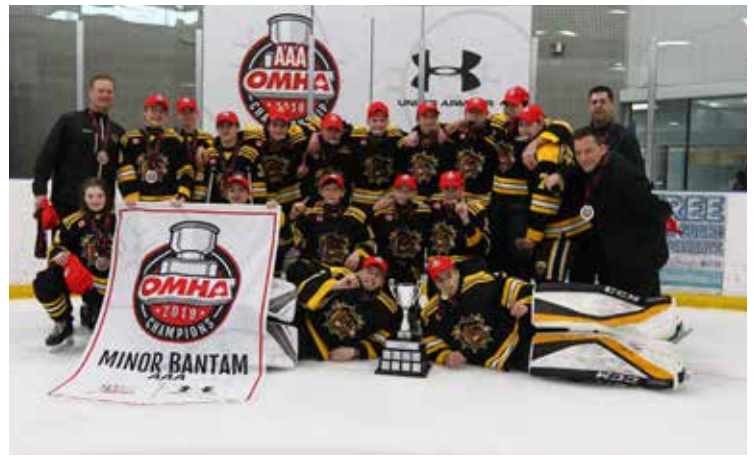
CLARINGTON TOROS
ATOM AAA



HAMILTON JR. BULLDOGS
MINOR PEE WEE AAA



MARKHAM WAXERS
PEEWEE AAA



HAMILTON JR. BULLDOGS
MINOR BANTAM AAA



QUINTE RED DEVILS
BANTAM AAA



WHITBY WILDCATS
MINOR MIDGET AAA



KINGSTON JR. FRONTENACS
MIDGET AAA



Teams battled over many winter weekends to claim the coveted #RedHats, awarded to the winning clubs of each OMHA Playdowns presented by Egg Farmers of Ontario 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. Congratulations to all players, teams and organizations who were crowned champions this hockey season.



BURLINGTON EAGLES
NOVICE CENTRAL AA



OAKVILLE RANGERS RED
NOVICE CENTRAL A



ORANGEVILLE FLYERS
NOVICE CENTRAL AE 1



KINGSTON CANADIANS
NOVICE EAST AA



WHITBY WILDCATS BLUE
NOVICE EAST A



STIRLING BLUES
NOVICE EAST BB-B



CAMPBELLFORD COLTS
NOVICE EAST CC-C



FLESHERTON GOLDEN HAWKS
NOVICE EAST DD-D



WHITBY WILDCATS
NOVICE EAST AE 1



NIAGARA FALLS FLYERS
NOVICE WEST AA



SOUTHPOINT CAPITALS
NOVICE WEST A



MT. BRYDGES COUGARS
NOVICE WEST BB



LAMBETH LANCERS
NOVICE WEST B



PORT STANLEY JR. SAILORS
NOVICE WEST CC



EAST LAMBTON EAGLES
NOVICE WEST C



DRESDEN JR. KINGS
NOVICE WEST DD-D



DRAYTON DEFENDERS
NOVICE WAAA JACOBI



ARTHUR VIPERS
NOVICE WAAA McCLURE





ARRAN-ELDERSLIE ICEDOGS
NOVICE WAAA HODGES



KINCARDINE KINUCKS
NOVICE WAAA TWOLAN



NORTH DURHAM WARRIORS
MINOR ATOM AA



RIVERSIDE RANGERS
MINOR ATOM A



MILTON WINTERHAWKS
MINOR ATOM AE



CALEDON HAWKS
ATOM AA



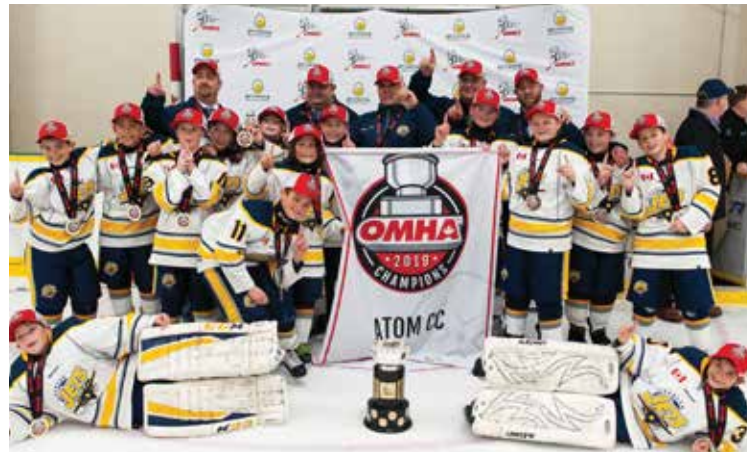
OWEN SOUND JR. ATTACK
ATOM A



NAPANEE STARS
ATOM BB



AYR FLAMES
ATOM B



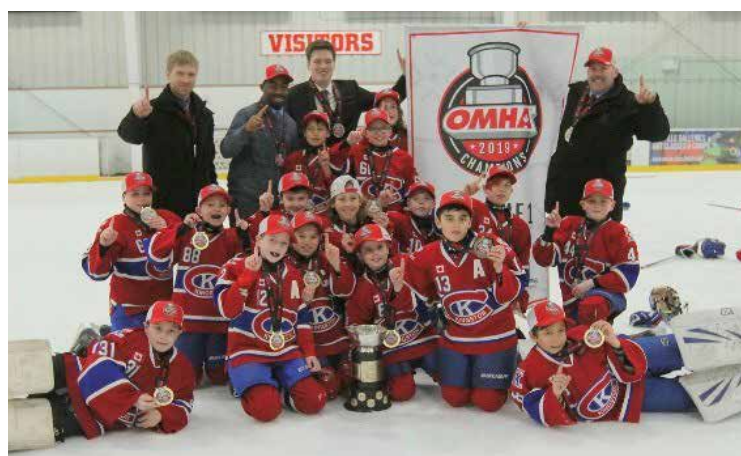
ILDERTON JETS
ATOM CC



EAST LAMBTON EAGLES
ATOM C



ESSA EAGLES
ATOM DD



KINGSTON CANADIANS
ATOM AE 1



BARRIE JR. COLTS
ATOM AE 2



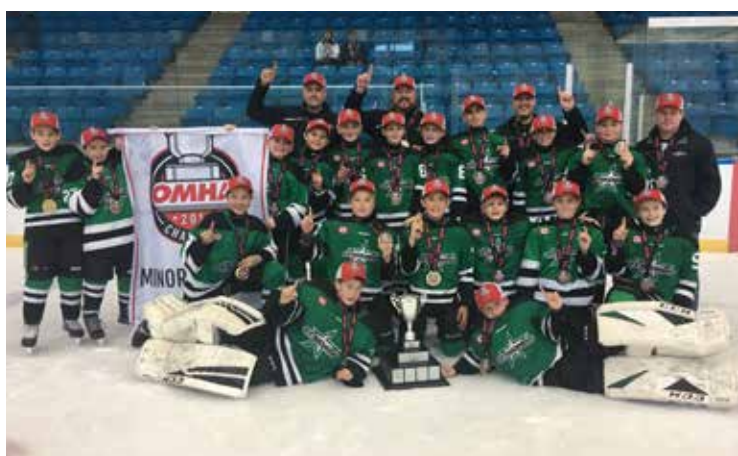
COLLINGWOOD BLACKHAWKS
ATOM AE 3



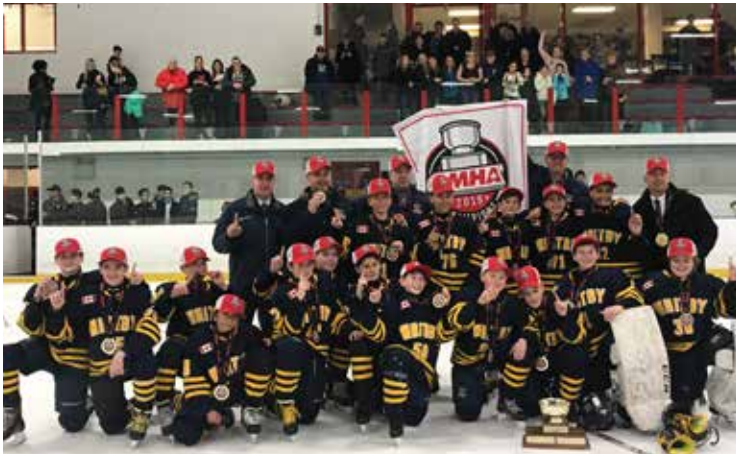
ILDERTON JETS
ATOM AE 4-5



AURORA TIGERS
MINOR PEEWEE AA



ST. THOMAS JR. STARS
MINOR PEEWEE A



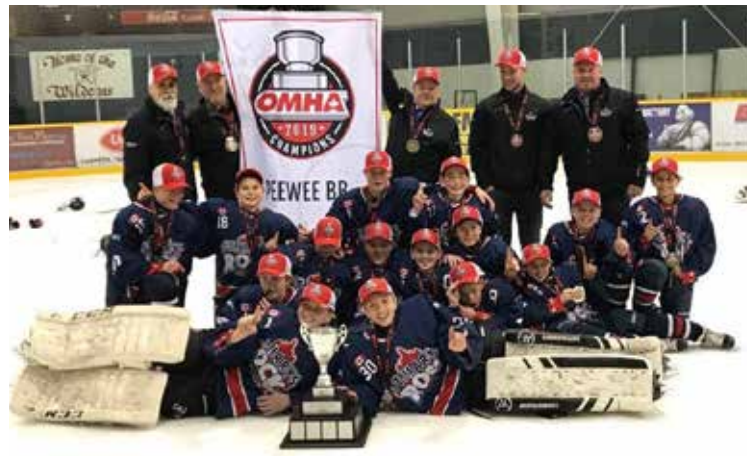
WHITBY WILDCATS BLUE
MINOR PEEWEE AE



RICHMOND HILL STARS
PEEWEE AA



QUINTE WEST HAWKS
PEEWEE A



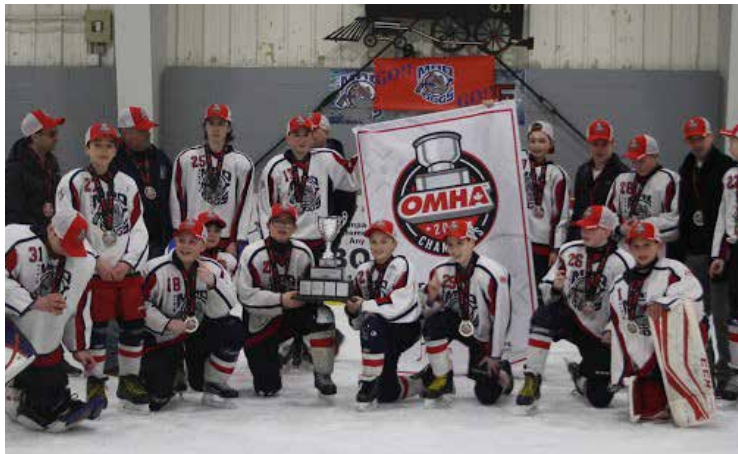
ST. MARYS ROCK
PEEWEE BB



SAUGEEN SHORES STORM
PEEWEE B



FRONTENAC FLYERS
PEEWEE CC



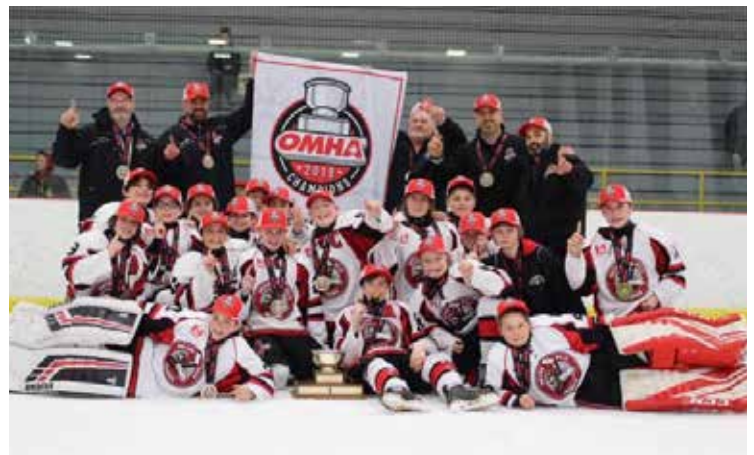
MINTO MAD DOGS
PEEWEE C



MILLBROOK STARS
PEEWEE DD-D



MILTON WINTERHAWKS WHITE
PEEWEE AE 1



HALTON HILLS THUNDER
PEEWEE AE 2



COLLINGWOOD BLACKHAWKS
PEEWEE AE 3



BCH ICEDOGS
PEEWEE AE 4-5



GUELPH JR. GRYPHONS
MINOR BANTAM AA



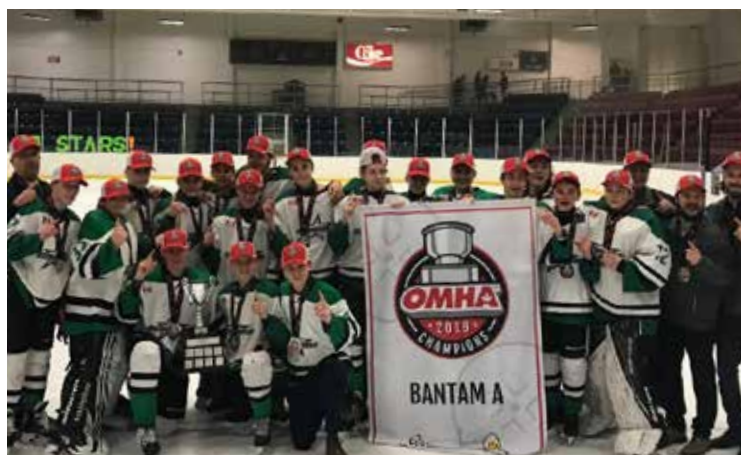
CENTRE WELLINGTON FUSION
MINOR BANTAM A



OAKVILLE RANGERS
MINOR BANTAM AE



OAKVILLE RANGERS RED
BANTAM AA



ST. THOMAS JR. STARS
BANTAM A



NAPANEE STARS
BANTAM BB



INGERSOLL EXPRESS
BANTAM B



WALKERTON CAPITALS
BANTAM CC



WEST GREY WARRIORS
BANTAM C



DRESDEN JR. KINGS
BANTAM DD-D



WINDSOR JR. SPITFIRES
BANTAM AE 1



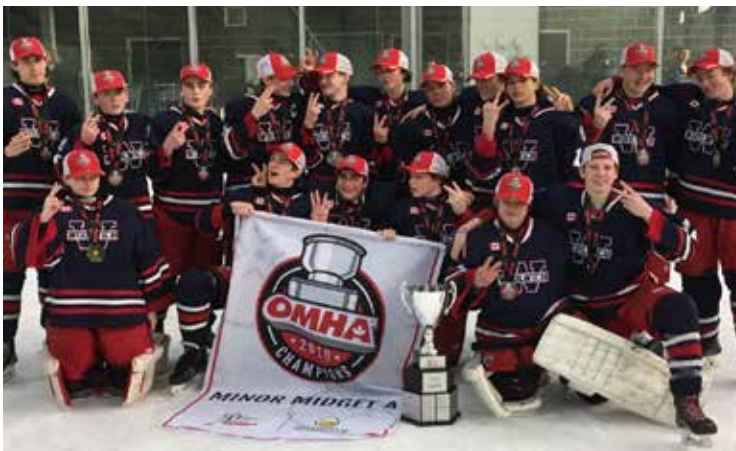
CENTRE WELLINGTON FUSION
BANTAM AE 2



TWEED HAWKS
BANTAM AE 3-5



NORTHUMBERLAND NIGHTHAWKS
MINOR MIDGET AA



WOOLWICH WILDCATS
MINOR MIDGET A



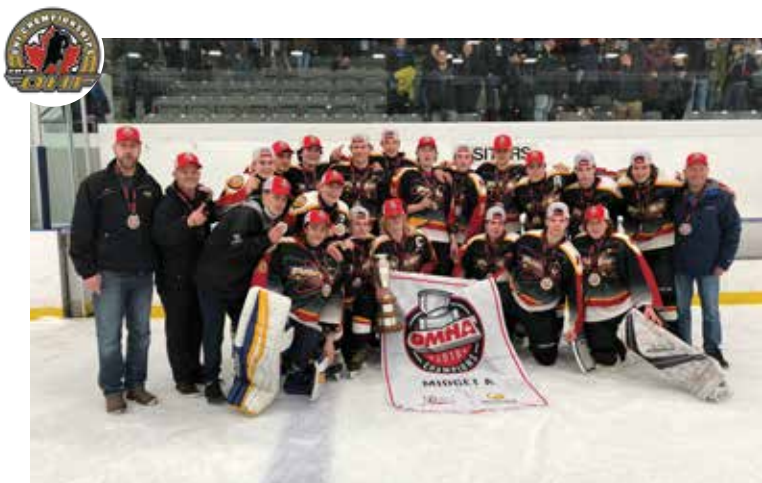
LINCOLN BLADES
MINOR MIDGET BB-D



PETERBOROUGH MINOR PETES
MINOR MIDGET AE



CLARINGTON TOROS
MIDGET AA



CENTRE WELLINGTON FUSION
MIDGET A



HUNTSVILLE OTTERS
MIDGET BB



WALLACEBURG LAKERS
MIDGET B



TWIN CENTRE STARS
MIDGET CC



MARIPOSA LIGHTNING
MIDGET C



DOURO DUKES
MIDGET DD



WHITBY WILDCATS
MIDGET AE 1-2

2019 OMHA CHAMPIONS



PELHAM PANTHERS
MIDGET AE 3-5



ENNISMORE EAGLES
JUVENILE AAA-AA-A



TAVISTOCK TITANS
JUVENILE BB-B-CC



HONEYWOOD HURRICANES
JUVENILE C-DD





TEAMWORK

LONG-TERM PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT

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



To learn more about the benefits of minor hockey and how our players become great people and leaders in the communities around them, visit OMHA.NET/LTPD.



TOMORROW'S TRUCK IS HERE AND READY TO ROLL.
THE ALL-NEW 2019 RAM 1500.



It's stronger, with a 98% high-strength steel frame that improves durability for better handling. It's smarter, with an available fob-controlled power release tailgate and available power side steps. It's more spacious, with Best-in-Class available interior storage volume.[†] It's more versatile, with the enhanced RamBox[®] Cargo Management System[®] with available LED lighting and two drainable storage bins. And it's connected, with the largest-in-class available 12-inch touchscreen![†] Tomorrow's truck has arrived.

THE ALL-NEW 2019 RAM 1500.

CLASS-EXCLUSIVE
MULTILINK COIL SPRING
REAR SUSPENSION*

CLASS-EXCLUSIVE
ACTIVE-LEVEL
FOUR-CORNER AIR SUSPENSION*

BEST-IN-CLASS
V8 TOWING
UP TO 12,750 LB*

LARGEST-IN-CLASS
12-INCH UCONNECT[®] TOUCHSCREEN
WITH SPLIT-SCREEN CAPABILITY[†]



RAM | BUILT TO SERVE

«Based on Automotive News Full-size Pickup segmentation. Based on Crew Cab model offerings. *Based on Automotive News Full-size Pickup segmentation. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. †Based on Automotive News Full-size Pickup segmentation. Available feature. *Based on Automotive News Full-size Pickup segmentation.