



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION HEADLINES

TO ENSURE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCES FOR ALL MEMBERS

Growing Sledge Hockey in Russia

Todd Sargeant and Sigmund Bernat of the London Blizzard Sledge Hockey team travelled to Russia this past summer to lead a project introducing and developing the sport to the country. The project was conducted through the Canadian Executive Service Organization, a volunteer-based group that is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency.

Presently, there is no sledge hockey in Russia, so a concerted effort is underway to become competitive on the international stage as they are hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games. Sargeant and Bernat took over the first sledge equipment into the country and conducted training sessions both on and off the ice with local disabled athletes.

Sledge officials from Russia made a return visit to Canada in November to attend the Cruisers Cup Sledge Hockey Tournament. The purpose of the visit was to learn more of Canadian sledge hockey at the local and provincial levels through the Ontario Sledge Hockey Association and to return to Russia with equipment for their players.



IN TRIBUTE

Remembering Frank Pindar, OHF Second Vice President

It is with great sadness that the Ontario Hockey Federation acknowledges the passing of Frank Pindar, the Second Vice President of the Federation's Board of Directors. Frank passed away peacefully on December 8, 2009 at his home in Peterborough, Ontario.



Frank was elected to the position of OHF Second Vice President at the 2006 OHF Annual General Meeting. In this role as an OHF Officer, Frank's personal objective was to continue the goal of building trust amongst the OHF Member Partners and to improve communication between the councils.

Frank was a strong advocate of physical activity and was eager to promote player participation and development through the system. Frank helped to guide the many committees and councils he served on either as a member or as an OHF Officer delegate. Some of these included the OHF Registration Committee, Hockey Development Council, Bursary Committee and the Risk Management Committee. As an Officer of the Federation, Frank proficiently represented the OHF at the National level attending Hockey Canada meetings and functions.

In May 2005, Frank and his wife Libby moved from Etobicoke to Peterborough to enjoy a closer commute to the family cottage. Frank was a terrific and well respected volunteer and a proud supporter of hockey within the OHF and Hockey Canada. Frank will be greatly missed by his many hockey friends.

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INSIDE STORIES

OHF Supports Daily Bread Food Bank 70+ items collected.

OHA Awards Ron Park with the Crystal Puck.

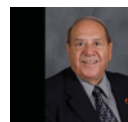
Team Ontario names Assistant Coach and is vying for gold.

HDCO Launches Penalty Free Sweepstakes Enter your team!

OMHA Interactive facebook, Twitter and TV.

Olympic Torch Bearer Ed Puch carries Torch in Iroquois Falls.

Toyota Hockey Challenge ALLIANCE team travels to Japan!



President's Message

By Joe Drago



The OHF was well represented and very active at the Hockey Canada Semi Annual meetings in Toronto. I was extremely pleased and proud to see our submission on concussions, a draft position paper, presented and approved by a formal motion. Hockey Canada will now send out a Bulletin declaring the document to be policy. I believe this approval will ensure concern and accountability for any concussion and the safety of our participants. I want to personally thank John Gardner and the GTHL for bringing the document to my attention and to our Board for the support in presenting it to the National body. Again we see the OHF playing a leadership role in our hockey world.

Hockey Canada will continue with their very popular Mailout this year. The Branch Presidents had an opportunity to see the preliminary document and I was quite impressed with the changes. A message from Hockey Canada, the OHF and the Member Partner will be included. All Branches reported that many calls and messages were received with special thanks for making this available to our young players. The personalized copy was a big hit.

I want to thank the Member Partners for their support and story submissions that make this newsletter possible. It was one of my goals as the president and I appreciate the work and time given to this task.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe holiday season!

calendar of events

CHAMPIONSHIPS SKILLS CAMPS MEETINGS FUN FESTS TOURNAMENTS SEMINARS MEDIA SHOWCASES CLINICS ANNOUNCEMENTS
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event highlights



DECEMBER

- 1-31 Holiday Clothing Sale | OMHA
- 5 Penalty Free Sweepstakes | HDCO
- 6 Toyota Hockey Challenge | ALLIANCE
- 7-9 Prospects Game | CJHL
- 18-20 Midget AAA Showcase | ALLIANCE
- 24-Jan 4 Offices Closed for Holidays | OHF
- 26-Jan 5 IIHF World Championships
- 29-Jan 4 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, Timmins



JANUARY

- 1 Ed Pupich, Past President runs in Olympic Torch Relay
- 3 IP Fun Festival with Hamilton Bulldogs | OMHA
- 5-10 IIHF Women's World Under-18 Championship
- 15 HHOOF Olympic Medal Collection Exhibit closes
- 15-17 Board of Directors Meeting | OHF
- 19-20 Home Hardware CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game
- 24 Hockey Canada Skills Development Camp | OMHA
- 31 IP Fun Festival | OMHA



FEBRUARY

- 2-3 All Star Classic | OHL
- 12-28 XXI Olympic Winter Games
- 19-21 Board of Directors Meeting | OHF

Send us your events at INFO@OHF.ON.CA

OHF Supports the Daily Bread Food Bank



On Tuesday, November 24, the OHF led a food drive in conjunction with the Sport Alliance of Ontario.

The event was very successful! More than 70 non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who participated. The OHF hopes to continue this initiative next year.

2010 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge

From December 29 to January 4, top Players from around the world will gather in Timmins Ontario for the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge. The Challenge features five Canadian regional teams; Pacific, West, Ontario Quebec and Atlantic who will be joined by the Czech Republic, Finland, Russia, Sweden and the US.



"This tournament is important for young players as it gives scouts their first opportunity to see the players in best-on-best competition. The players that will be on the ice in northern Ontario are the cream of the crop in their age group" said Al Murray, Hockey Canada's head scout for men's national teams.

10 OHF Teams Travel Overseas for the Holidays

The OHF is proud to see several teams participating in overseas competition this holiday season. Countries such as Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Czech Republic, Austria and Finland will welcome OHF teams into their communities, arenas and homes.

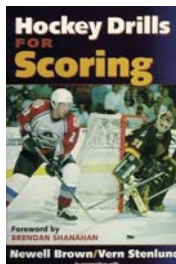


The opportunity to travel to foreign places is one that should be enjoyed and taken seriously. When a team travels overseas, each person is representing Canada on and off the ice.

The OHF wishes all outgoing teams a memorable experience!

OHF ANNOUNCEMENTS

OHF and Human Kinetics Offer Membership Benefits



Through this partnership, OHF Members will be able to purchase learning resources at 25% off the retail cover price on selected titles. Each month a different book will be featured as the Book of the Month at the OHF membership price.



Make sure to visit the OHF website each month!

Human Kinetics is committed to providing quality informational and educational products in the physical activity and health fields that meet the needs of their diverse customers. Within the physical activity field, recreational and organized sports are a major focus.

December Book: Hockey Drills for Scoring

About this book: Make every shot count and become a more potent offensive threat by practicing these 70 drills, many of which can be performed on ice or pavement.

Visit the OHF website for further details and to place your order. Visit Human Kinetics at www.humankinetics.com.

Canada's National Junior Team Announced for the 2010 World Junior Championship

The OHF is proud to have eight players/graduates from the OHL selected. Go to www.hockeycanada.ca to view the complete roster.

INSIDE HOCKEY NEWS

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Ron Park Receives Crystal Puck

On November 25 in Glanbrook, the Ontario Hockey Association honoured volunteer Ron Park (second from the right) with the coveted Crystal Puck Award in a pre-game ceremony recognizing his more than forty year contribution to the game of hockey. His longtime passion and dedication has helped many young individuals blossom into skilled players. Upon receiving the award Ron was his normal humble self, saying a quiet "thank you" to those who shook his hand.



Ron began his work in hockey back in 1968 when he was a part of the Mount Hope Minor Hockey Program and in 1985 joined the Glanbrook Rangers Junior Hockey Club as their treasurer, president and general manager. It was with the Rangers that Ron enjoyed four league finals, three league championships and three consecutive years as the OHA Jr. C champions. This unprecedented feat remains to this day the only three-peat championship win in the history of OHA Jr. C hockey.

HDCO Launches the 2009-10 Penalty Free Sweepstakes

The popular Penalty Free Sweepstakes contest, open to all amateur hockey teams in Ontario, launched December 5, 2009.



This year, every team that enters the Sweepstakes will be eligible to win prizes with a retail value of \$75,000.00. In addition, every player will receive a memento acknowledging their penalty free game.

The Penalty Free Sweepstakes was created by the HDCO to encourage skills, safety and sportsmanship. To date, over 2 million boys, girls, men and women have participated in the Sweepstakes program. Visit the HDCO website for more information.

Toyota Hockey Challenge Welcomes ALLIANCE Team



On Sunday, December 6 the Cambridge Hawks defeated the Kitchener Junior Rangers 5-1 in front of 1500 fans at the Kitchener Auditorium. The Cambridge Hawks will represent ALLIANCE Hockey and the Tri-City Region as they travel to Tomakomai Japan to take on the Tomakomai "Allstars" in March.

Goaltender Jonathan Reinhart made some big saves early and held Kitchener off the score sheet in the first period. Drew Reilly scored twice for Cambridge while Quinn Diamond chipped in with two assists and Hudson Michaelis played strong up front chipping in with a goal and assist. Austin Kovrig had the lone marker for Kitchener.

This marks the 4th trip to Japan in 6 opportunities for the Cambridge Minor Hockey Association.

OHF Past President, Ed Pupich an Olympic Torch Bearer

Our very own Ed Pupich has been selected to represent Hockey Canada in a segment of the Olympic Torch Relay!



The Olympic flame will travel by land, air and water during its 106 day journey across Canada and visit more than 1,000 communities.

The OHF recognizes this as an honour and a task we know Eddy will accomplish in his own great style. Ed will be running down Synagogue Avenue in Iroquois Falls on January 1, 2010 at 5:01p.m.

Be sure to tune in and cheer him on via the CTV webcam at: www.ctvolympics/torch/follow-torch/index.html which airs daily coverage and share in his Olympic glory!

OMHA Goes Interactive with Facebook, Twitter and TV

Follow the OMHA on Twitter @HometownHockey.

Become a "friend" on Facebook by searching: OMHAHometownHockey! Check out hometownhockey.com for the latest videos, tips and drills plus submit a blog about any hockey-related topic. Hometownhockey.com is for any hockey enthusiast.

Insurance Brokers of Ontario Team Up with OMHA

For the 2009-2010 hockey season, the Insurance Brokers of Ontario will sponsor the OMHA Participant Guide.

This Guide outlines numerous points of interest to OMHA parents and players. "These initiatives will play a key role in developing a safer environment where families will enjoy their minor hockey experience," said OMHA President, Marg Ensoll.

"We believe OMHA's Participant Guide is an excellent tool to better educate hockey participants and assist them with understanding the many facets of the game and community," explained IBAO Chief Executive Officer Randy Carroll.

The Guide will arrive to each OMHA Member's household by mail before January 2010. Visit the OMHA online for a digital version.

Visit the Hockey Hall of Fame Olympic Medal Exhibit



Exhibit runs until January 15, 2010. To view the complete Olympic medal collection from 1896 - 2008 is a once in a lifetime chance.

Graciously, the Olympic Museum consented to the loan, marking the first time a complete collection of medals will ever appear outside of Europe.

The Olympic medals collection contains medals from each and every Winter and Summer Games, dating back to their inaugural events in 1920 and 1896.

Visit www.hhof.com for more information.

INSIDE HOCKEY NEWS

Continued...

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Jeff Reid Named Assistant Coach of Ontario's U-17 Team



The Ontario Under-17 Policy Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Reid as an Assistant Coach for Ontario's Under-17 Team. Mr. Reid is currently an Assistant coach with the Owen Sound Attack of the OHL.

Director of Operations Rob Kitamura stated "Jeff brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the program. I know that everyone associated with the team will benefit from his appointment."

"I am very excited by the opportunity presented to me by the Under-17 Policy committee and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead for Team Ontario in the coming months" stated Mr. Reid.

OHL Awards 355 Academic Scholarships

The OHL announced 355 players have been awarded OHL Scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year. This figure represents the highest number of players that have ever received an OHL Scholarship. Last season the league awarded 316.

"The OHL is very pleased this season to announce our highest number of academic scholarships ever" commented OHL Commissioner David Branch. "The OHL Scholarship Program is designed for the student athlete allowing them to achieve the best of both worlds when it comes to hockey and academic goals."

The University of Guelph Ontario leads the way with 26 OHL Academic Scholarship recipients followed by the University of Western Ontario with 21. Carleton University in Ottawa and Gannon University in Erie, PA both have 16 recipients.

"The OHL Scholarship Program is one of the most flexible and financially rewarding scholarships in North America" said Joe Birch, OHL Director of Recruitment and Education Services. "The OHL provides a player and his family the opportunity to play in the premiere development league, in addition, a player does not have to jeopardize his academic standing."

Bauer Challenge Cup

The Bauer Challenge Cup (formerly the Bell Challenge Cup) hosts the most talented PeeWee players from Canada and the USA. Since 1978, graduates of this tournament include Steven Stamkos, Jason Spezza, Patrick Kane, Brendan Shanahan, Joe Sakic, Rick Nash, Mike Cammalleri, Tood Bertuzzi, Marty Turco.... and the list goes on.

A total of 16 major PeeWee AAA teams will participate in the tournament. Each team plays in one of 4 divisions. The tournament consists of a round-robin format with each team being guaranteed four games.



Team Ontario Vying for Third Straight U-17 Title

On December 29, 2009 the World Under-17 Challenge opens in Timmins, Ontario but the preparations for Team Ontario began back in June with their selection camp at Ottawa University. Eighty-four players attended the camp with the goal of wearing the Team Ontario jersey over the holidays on home ice. After five grueling days of competition the player's fates were in the hands of the Team Ontario Staff.

Director of Operations Robert Kitamura said "The coaching staff and myself had many tough decisions to make with the abundance of talent in Ontario in selecting the final roster. The coaching staff feel confident that we have assembled the team that will give Ontario the best opportunity to win Gold in Timmins."

The team is comprised of a strong mix of players from all parts of Ontario with players representing both Major Junior and Junior A hockey. Of the 22 players 19 are products of the Ontario Hockey Federation development system.

Building off the past two Gold medal performances by Ontario in London and Port Alberni respectively, the coaching staff and team know that all other teams will be playing extra hard to knock off the two time defending champions in their home province.

Kitamura said "The players and staff are looking forward to being on home ice over the holidays. Two years ago in London the fan support was a huge boost for the team and they expect nothing less from the Timmins fans."

Team Ontario begins final preparations for their 2010 Gold Medal drive, with a one day camp at the Mastercard Centre in Toronto on December 21, 2009, before they head north on December 26, 2009.

For a full roster of players and to follow the event please visit: www.hockeycanada.ca/index.php/ci_id/25039/la_id/1.htm

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