



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION HEADLINES

TO ENSURE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCES FOR ALL MEMBERS

Player Recruitment Becomes a Priority Nationally and Provincially

The administrators of hockey are taking a new approach to retention and recruitment. For the past fifty years players were recruited to the game simply by taking the lock off the arena door each fall. Parents would pre-register their child to ensure there was a spot for them to play. This continues to be the case in some areas today however the changing demographics of eligible participants is having long-time volunteers looking for new approaches to attracting the youth of the 21st century to the beloved game we grew up playing for hours on end.

Hockey Canada has made recruitment and retention a priority and plans to invest heavily in the area to ensure that every child has the opportunity to play or at least know how to get involved in hockey. The OHF has also identified this as a priority and over the next year and will work with the Member Partners and Associations to develop a plan for attracting the young boys and girls of Ontario to the rinks as their first choice for sport participation.

There are some great "just try" programs that have been utilized over the past year in St. Catharines, Brampton and Markham which aimed at introducing youth of varying backgrounds to hockey. It will be these success situations that will transition from one Minor Hockey Association to another through the support of the OHF and Member Partners over the coming years.

It is a daunting task to redefine the approach to attracting participants to the game but one that the administrators have taken head on realizing it is their responsibility to ensure that the youth of Canada are exposed to greatest game one can play.

Dan Gibson Receives OHA Crystal Puck Award

On Saturday January 8th before the game between the LaSalle Vipers and the Strathroy Rockets the OHA honoured one of its finest members, Strathroy Rockets General Manager and Director of Player Development Dan Gibson, with the OHA Crystal Puck Award.

In addition to Dan's coaching and managing in the OHA he has also been a part of many additional OHA projects. Some of which include; Coach for the Jr. B Western Conference Prospects Team as well as the Coach for the OHA Under 17 Selection Camp.

Dan has also been named Co-General Manager for the GO-JHL Western Conference Prospects Game. After the staff he had assembled was named Western Conference Coaching Staff of the Year he was named as one of the Assistant coaches for the OHA Team Canada Under 20 Three Nations Cup which was held in Norrtälje Sweden in April 2010.

Dan is happily married to his wife Robin Ann and they have two girls, Brooke 15 and Payton 11. Dan still loves to play hockey and is on the ice three times per week. His family and himself are very active in their community and they pride themselves on being a Hockey family



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President's Message

By Joe Drago



Welcome to another edition of OHF Headlines. It seems that we complete one edition and it is time for another. There is so much activity both within the Member Partner organizations and the OHF that we have an abundance of information to pass onto to you. Again, I thank Vice President Bill Bowman and our staff for continuing their dedication to this project. I know it is a valuable read for all of our members as well as those interested in our game.

My last "Headlines Message" outlined the three areas that Hockey Canada has determined to work on during the next four years. Committees were struck for each of these areas with specific guidelines to follow. Conference calls were held to review committee work and to make Board members aware of what would take place at a special Board meeting to be held in Toronto early in Feb. Again, I remind you that the areas of concentration are: E-Learning; Recruitment and Retention; Technology. Detailed reports were presented as well as budget implications in each area for the four year plan. The Committees met on the Friday evening for 3 hours to have a final look at the materials to be presented to the Board during the next day. On Saturday, presentations were made by each committee chair and Hockey Canada staff members. Small groups worked on the presentations and specific tasks as well as question and answer sessions. Detailed information will be available for our Board shortly.

There has been much discussion and media coverage on issues such as concussion and violence in our game. The media coverage on concussions has certainly put this concern at the forefront. This is not only a concern for professional hockey but also for hockey across this country and the world. (President's message continued on Page 5)

calendar of events

CHAMPIONSHIPS SKILLS CAMPS MEETINGS FUN FESTS TOURNAMENTS SEMINARS MEDIA SHOWCASES CLINICS ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEADLINES GAMES PRACTICES PROGRAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS SKILLS CAMPS MEETINGS FUN FESTS TOURNAMENTS SEMINARS MEDIA
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TOURNAMENTS SEMINARS MEDIA SHOWCASES CLINICS ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINES GAMES PRACTICES PROGRAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

event highlights



FEBRUARY

11-27 Canada Winter Games | Halifax
25-27 CAO Ontario Coaches Conference | London



MARCH

1 HDCO Ice Times Magazine Goes Online
4-6 OHF Board of Director's Meeting
4-6 NOHA Tournament of Champions (Novice/Peewee)
5 OMHA Maple Leaf Lodge Day of Champions
11-13 NOHA Tournament of Champions (Atom/Bantam)
18-20 NOHA Tournament of Champions (Midget)
21-26 HNO All-Ontario Bantam AAA Championship
23-27 OHL Cup Showcase Tournament Hosted by GTHL
28-Apr 2 All-Ontario PeeWee AAA Championship
28-Apr 3 Central Region Midget AAA Championship



APRIL

2-4 OMHA Maple Lodge Farms Hockey Festival | Whitby
8-10 OHF Minor Hockey Championships
11-16 Allan Cup National Senior Championship | Kenora
14-24 IIHF U18 Championship | Germany
15-17 OMHA Under-17 Regional Camps
15-17 Alliance Under-17 Camp | Woodstock
15-17 NOHA Under-17 Camp | Temiskaming Shores
16-25 IIHF World Women's Championship | Switzerland
18-23 Dudley Hewitt Cup | Huntsville
18-23 World Sledge Hockey Challenge | London, ON
18-24 Telus Cup Midget Championship | Saint John's
29-May 15 IIHF World Men's Championship | Slovenia
29-May 1 OHF Board of Director's Meeting
30-May 8 RBC Royal Bank Cup | Camrose

Tickets on Sale for World Sledge Hockey Challenge

Tickets for the 2011 World Sledge Hockey Challenge, April 18-23 at the Western Fair Sports Centre in London, are now on sale. A full, 10-game event package is available for \$60.00, and team packages, 20 tickets, can be purchased for \$120.00 for individual games. Ticket packages can be purchased online by visiting the official 2011 World Sledge Hockey Challenge website at www.hockeycanada.ca/wshc, or at the Western Fair Sports Centre box office.

"With the passion that Ontario fans have for sledge hockey, I am confident this year's World Sledge Hockey Challenge will be the best ever," said Bob Nicholson, Hockey Canada's president and CEO.



Road to the Telus Cup Regional in London

Tony Foresi, President of ALLIANCE Hockey thanked the GOJHL for their sponsorship of the Midget AAA League trophy and indicated that it will be a great partnership as ALLIANCE Midget AAA Hockey is the number one developmental league of players graduating to the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League.



The Semi-Finals got under way the week of February 14th with the 1st place London Jr. Knights squaring off with the 4th place Windsor Spitfires. In other Semi-Final action the 2nd place Waterloo Wolves take on the 3rd place Huron Perth Lakers.

The London Jr. Knights will host the 2011 Telus Cup Regionals in London at the Western Fair Sports Complex March 28th to April 3rd. ALLIANCE Hockey will have two Representatives at the event. Other Branches and Associations will include the Greater Toronto Hockey League, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, the Northern Ontario Hockey Association and the Ottawa District Hockey Association.

Two ALLIANCE teams will participate at the Telus Regionals in London, which will see teams from the GTHL, OMHA, NOHA and two teams from Ottawa District attend the event which runs from March 28th to April 3rd at the Western Fair Sports Complex in London, Ontario.

THE OHA Cup April 14 - 17

The Ontario Hockey Association, in partnership with Alliance Hockey and Elite Hockey Consultants Inc. is pleased to announce a new initiative, The OHA Cup. The OHA Cup is more than just a competition it is a prospect event that will guide the aspirations of all Major Midget Hockey players in Ontario. The OHA Cup will provide a unique opportunity for Midget Hockey players to participate in a tournament that will leave them with extremely valuable insights into their on and off ice abilities as a means to maximize the potential of every participant. The tournament will run from April 14th to 17th, 2011 in Cambridge, ON.

Participants will engage in a variety of seminars specifically designed to educate players and parents on the opportunities that exist beyond Midget hockey. Players will learn the next steps required to position themselves most effectively, in their transition from Minor to Junior hockey, they will also gain valuable insights into scouting opportunities for the next levels of competition, nutrition and training techniques, teams and leagues available as well as what will be expected from them as they pursue higher levels of their education.



For information regarding the Ontario Hockey Federation's Awards program please see article on page 3, or contact Ryan Berg at our office.

Information on the Ontario Hockey Federation's Bursary program can be found on page 5 or by contacting Melissa Wolk at our office.

INSIDE HOCKEY NEWS

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Penalty Free Sweepstakes Advocates Fair Play


The Hockey Development Centre for Ontario today announced the prize-winning teams drawn from the entries that were received province wide during the 2011 Penalty Free Sweepstakes contest. The Penalty Free Sweepstakes initiative is a promotion created by the members of the HDCO and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, to foster skills, safety, and sportsmanship in Canada's most popular sport. The success of the Sweepstakes program has also been made possible by the support of spokespersons Paul Henderson, Ron Maclean and Geraldine Heaney and by the generous contribution of all our sponsorship partners.

2011
PENALTY FREE SWEEPSTAKES

In addition to the prize-winning teams, each team member who entered during the contest period will receive a special memento along with coupons from Pizza Pizza. In conjunction with the Sweepstakes program, we would like to congratulate the ten Penalty Free MVPs, nominated by their coach and selected in a random draw, who will receive a trophy, family pass to the Hockey Hall of Fame, McDonald's Great Taste Card and a special gift from RYR Sports Inc. The HDCO would like to extend our congratulations to all the boys and girls, men and women who have demonstrated fair play and good sportsmanship by playing penalty free hockey. We would also like to acknowledge all team officials and volunteers involved with amateur hockey for their support in advocating the ideals of the program by encouraging penalty free play. For a complete list of winners, please visit the HDCO website.


OHA/Hockey Canada Adult Hockey Challenge

The OHA in conjunction with the OHF and Hockey Canada will be hosting the Adult Hockey Challenge on April 1st - 3rd in Niagara Falls. The Tournament, held at the new Gale Centre, will feature three divisions of hockey: Old-timers, Recreational and Competitive. The OHA is asking that you please contact and invite your alumni players to register and sign up for this fantastic event for elite players who still wish to play a competitive brand of hockey. Teams who enter will be guaranteed three games over two days (with OHA Officials calling each game) and the chance to play in the playoffs on Sunday if they qualify.

Prizes will be handed out from Molson and Hockey Canada as well, the participating teams will have the benefit of playing in a tournament sanctioned by the OHA and Hockey Canada. The cost is \$750 per team. A portion of the entry fee will go back to grass roots hockey and help the OHA continue to provide a place "Where the Best Develop."  The OHA is asking your organization to help in making this tournament a success.

For more information on this event or to register a participating team please contact Graham Snyder at the OHA office, or to Winston Auld at winston.auld@cogeco.ca.

OMHA Membership Approves Player Movement Proposal

The OMHA is pleased to announce details of the approved motion that will expand player movement. The motion was approved at the OMHA Special General Meeting held at the Delta Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga on January 23rd, 2011. 

Over 350 delegates representing OMHA member associations from across Ontario gathered at the meeting to debate and ask questions regarding the player movement motion proposed by the OMHA's Made for Ontario Committee. At the close of the meeting OMHA President, Wayne Pries, congratulated the OMHA membership for their part in this very important decision as well as their support of the OMHA's Made for Ontario Committee. Mr. Pries assured the membership that the Made for Ontario Committee will, moving forward, continue to refine and listen to the concerns of the OMHA membership. Complete Details of the Approved Player Movement Motion are available by visiting the OMHA website

OHF Awards Program Nomination Forms Now Available



The OHF is pleased to announce that nomination forms for the 2011 Awards Program are now available. The Awards include: Bill Richmond Memorial Award, Dr. Allan Morris Award, Junior Hockey Award, Minor Hockey Award, Officiating Program Award, Order of Merit Award, Senior Hockey Award, Volunteer of the Year Award. The deadline for Associations to submit nominations to their Member Partner is March 31, 2011. The deadline for Member Partners to submit nominations to the OHF Office is April 7, 2011. For full details, please visit the OHF website.

2011 Under 20 Three Nations Cup in Finland

The OHA in conjunction with Hockey Canada and the Finnish Ice Hockey Association is pleased to announce their second straight season competing for the Under 20 Three Nations Cup. This year's Team Canada Selects will participate in the tournament that will take place from April 13-17 in Helsinki. Players eligible to be a part of Team Canada Selects must be born in 1992 or younger. Competition is fierce and style of play is comparable to any high-end junior hockey game.

Last year 22 players from the OHA travelled to Norrtälje Sweden to compete in the tournament. OHA players were able to test their skills against talented top end junior players from Sweden and Finland.

"The OHA trip to Sweden was a great experience. It was a tremendous honour representing the OHA and playing for Team Canada at the Three Nations Tournament. Our coaches were great and we learned a lot. The tournament is highly scouted and playing on the team helped identify me as a NHL prospect. The competition is first rate. Many thanks to the OHA for providing an opportunity and selecting me to represent our country in this exciting international tournament." Remarked Zach Hyman; Selected in the 5th round, 123rd overall by the Florida Panthers in the 2010 NHL Entry Draft.

The OHA is now accepting applications for players, coaches and trainers who are interested in this once in a lifetime experience.

INSIDE HOCKEY NEWS

Continued...

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OMHA Showcase Profiles AAA Minor Midget Players

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association wrapped up its second Minor Midget AAA Showcase at the University of Guelph. This Showcase featured SCTA [South Central AAA] teams competing during regular season play. With approximately 200 scouts from OHL and Junior teams and schools in attendance, the players did not disappoint. Friday evening started with a group outing to the Guelph Storm game. On Saturday morning, parents and players enjoyed an information session featuring the OUA, OHL, OMHA and two special guests: Nathan Martine from the Guelph Gryphons and Paul and Diane Folkes, parents of Michael Folkes.

Martine spoke about his five year OHL career and current status with the Gryphons. He emphasized that many players think their career is over if they don't play junior but stated that there are many other opportunities in hockey emphasizing the importance of getting an education. "My career goal is not over, it is just taking a different path," he said. The Folkes spoke about their son Michael's career which includes being drafted to the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors followed by Junior A with the Burlington Cougars. Michael then went to Ohio State and was released from the team. He is with Carlton University and will resume his play in the OUA this February. They stressed the importance of understanding the complete scenario of NCAA hockey and what possible consequences can happen if things do not work out.



On Saturday night, the Guelph Gryphons defeated Lakehead University 3-2 capping a day full of hockey and education. Special thanks are extended to the OMHA's partners for this event.

Recent OMHA AAA Graduates include Corey Perry (Anaheim Duta Pick NHL Entry Draft), Cody Hodgson (10th Overall NHL Draft Pick), Michael Del Zotto (2008 20th Overall Pick NHL Draft), Cameron Gaunce (2008 50th Overall Draft Pick) and Matt Duchene (2009 3rd Overall Pick NHL Draft)].

President's Message continued...

I am pleased to see the initiatives that our Member Partners have taken both at reviewing the issues along with attempting to find solutions to correct what has been happening with players returning to the ice before they should. We hear so many different versions of the severity of the problem and now we are witnessing a concentrated effort to get answers that make sense.

As for violence, I must say that personally I am very disappointed with what I see happening in the NHL and the professional game. A recent Montreal/Boston game disgusted me because of the foolish antics from many players. The vicious prolonged fighting was out of control with even the goalies involved. I remember a time when the linesmen jumped in and attempted to break it up very soon after it started but I'm certain that they stay back now more so for their own safety. The fighting usually continues almost to the point where it ends when the combatants are worn out. In last night's game one player was beaten until his face was badly bruised and cut. When will this stop? From the reaction of the Boston crowd, I would say probably not for some time. They call this entertainment. I have a difficult time wanting to watch too many pro games because of this and feel badly that these are the so called role models for our players. Why do the Olympics, International Hockey and especially the World Juniors create such interest and enjoyment for hockey that the fans don't miss fighting in these games? The talk after such events is always so positive and filled with conversation displaying enjoyment and often criticizing fighting in hockey. I believe this will continue to be an ongoing discussion item but I do hope we will make some changes soon.

Our season is drawing to a close and it will be championship time soon. I wish all of the teams the very best during the remainder of the season and into the OHF Championships. I know we will experience and enjoy another year of fine playoff hockey. I also want to extend my personal appreciation to the many volunteers who dedicate and commit so much to our participants and to the best game in the world. Thank you.

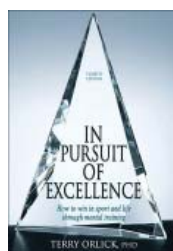
OHA Blueline Magazine

The Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) is pleased to announce the release of the 2010 – 2011 OHA Blueline Magazine. This marks the nineteenth season that the OHA has produced this spectacular magazine for all of their players, coaches, families, friends and fans to enjoy. A keepsake for any player who laces up his skates within the association, the OHA takes pride in producing this one of a kind magazine. This year a number of fantastic sports writers have contributed to the content of the magazine. With featured articles on teams from the Ontario Junior Hockey League and special players who will take the next step in becoming professional ice hockey players. Also included are stories on a family involved with a Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (GOJHL) team, the 2010 OHA Awards which took place at the Hockey Hall of Fame and a lot more. The 2010 –2011 OHA Blueline Magazine is available through the OHA and its member teams.

Human Kinetics Book of the Month

Reach your full potential with **In Pursuit of Excellence**. Whether you are an athlete, coach, or a promising high achiever, you'll gain a more positive outlook, a more focused commitment, and learn better ways of overcoming distractions and obstacles with expert advice and proven techniques for higher-quality living.

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Dodge Caravan Kids Photo Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the Bow Island Rebels from Alberta for winning the Dodge Caravan Kids Photo Contest this year. Their team will receive a cheque for \$500. Each other Top Five Finalist will receive a cash prize for their entry.

- 1st Bow Island Rebels
- 2nd Medicine Hat Canadians
- 3rd Waterloo Red Wings
- 4th Clarence Creek Novice B Castors
- 5th Kanata Krushers



WATERLOO RED WINGS 3RD PLACE



KANATA KRUSHERS 5TH PLACE

Photographs were submitted as part of the Dodge Caravan Kids program. All participating Novice House League team submitted a photograph as part of their sponsorship. To view all the winning photos please visit www.dodgecaravankids.ca

OHF Bursary Program Application Form Deadline Friday, April 29, 2011

The Ontario Hockey Federation Bursary Program will provide \$26,000 in financial assistance to OHF registered participants to help offset the cost of post secondary education. Since its inception in 1997, the Bursary Program has distributed more than \$180,000 to over 220 post secondary students. All students who are enrolled or plan to enroll in a Canadian post secondary institution and are members of the OHF are eligible to receive bursary funds. For more information on the OHF's Bursary Program, including eligibility requirements and to download an application form, please visit the OHF website and click on the bursary icon.

Scotiabank GTHL New to the Game Development Grant

Scotiabank and the Greater Toronto Hockey League launched a new initiative to support hockey in the Greater Toronto Area and to attract new participants from all backgrounds to the sport. Each season, the Scotiabank GTHL New to the Game Development Grant will distribute a maximum of \$25,000 among GTHL association and member teams that demonstrate a program plan targeted at attracting new participants to hockey.



"The popularity of hockey in Canada is stronger than ever, and the excitement of the sport is being carried into several of Canada's diverse communities," said John Doig, Senior Vice-President, Toronto Region. "Through this program, Scotiabank is looking forward to introducing the game of hockey to a new generation of players while instilling teamwork and interpersonal skills that will last a lifetime."

Applications were open to any GTHL association or member club either individually or in collaboration with other organizations. Applicants had to demonstrate their program plan for attracting new participants to hockey in their local community. Scotiabank and the GTHL are currently evaluating the most viable program(s) from the pool of applications received and will be announcing the grant recipient(s) in early March. "The Scotiabank GTHL New to the Game Development Grant enables our member clubs and associations to engage and interact with their community on a new level, helping grow hockey and attract new players through the approved programs," said GTHL President John Gardner. "For the first time, member associations of the GTHL will have the additional funding to reach out to their communities and invite youth from any background to participate in Canada's favourite sport."



Men's U-16 Team Wears M11 Helmet

The HDCO announced the Messier Project in conjunction with Cascade Sports outfitted Team Ontario with custom M11 helmets during the 2011 Canada Winter Games. The M11 is proven to absorb more energy from high impact linear forces to provide maximum protection. "One of our mandates is to make the game safer for all participants" said Wayne Salatino, chairman of the HDCO when commenting about the public awareness and product development campaign designed by hockey icon Mark Messier.

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