



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION HEADLINES

TO ENSURE SAFE AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCES FOR ALL MEMBERS



OHF Teams Crowned at end of season Championships!

Congratulations to all teams at the 2011 OHF, All-Ontario and Regional Championships.

The All-Ontario Bantam AAA Championship took place outside the OHF Branch. The event was hosted by Hockey Northwestern Ontario's (HNO) NWO All-Stars in Thunder Bay, Ontario. All games were played at the Fort William Gardens Arena from March 21st – 27th, 2011. The Mississauga Rebels (GTHL) went undefeated (7-0-1) to win Gold beating out the Soo Greyhounds (NOHA) with a 7 – 0 final score. The OHF would like to recognize the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) for their generous sponsorship given to the Bantam AAA Championships. Standings: Gold: Mississauga Rebels; Silver: Soo Greyhounds; Bronze: Ottawa Valley Titans.



The All-Ontario PeeWee AAA Championship, hosted by the Mississauga Reps AAA Minor Hockey Club took place in Toronto, Ontario from March 28th – April 3rd, 2011. The Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs (OMHA) defeated the Toronto Marlboros 4 – 2 to capture the title.

Standings: Gold: Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs; Silver: Toronto Marlboros; Bronze: Mississauga Reps.

The London Jr. Knights from Alliance hosted the Central Region Midget AAA Championship from March 28th – April 3rd, 2011. The London Jr. Knights (Alliance) captured gold with a 3 – 1 victory over the Ottawa 67's (ODHA). The knights advanced to the TELUS Cup where they won a silver medal after falling 3 – 1 against the Winnipeg Thrashers. The 2011 TELUS Cup was held in St. Johns N.L. April 18th – 24th, 2011. Midget Regional Standings: Gold: London Jr. Knights; Silver: Ottawa 67's; Bronze: Mississauga Rebels.

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OHF Removes Body Checking from Recreational Hockey

The Ontario Hockey Federation's (OHF) Minor Council met on Friday April 29th to discuss the minor programs and among the topics was body checking in recreational hockey.

The OHF Minor Council unanimously endorsed the following motion:

Effective the 2011 – 2012 season body checking will be removed from all age divisions of House League and House League Select hockey.

House League and House League Select make up the majority of the OHF playing membership. The majority of House League hockey was already non body checking, which made it practical to standardize the rule across the entire membership. The extension of this decision to House League Select was similarly practical since Select teams are formed out of House League registered hockey players.

The OHF continues to review the delivery of all levels of hockey in order to create a safe and fun environment for all of its participants. Removing body checking at House League and House League Select is a positive decision for player recruitment and safety.

The removal creates a safer environment for new players that join the game at any age to develop the fundamental skills of skating and puck handling without the concern of being intentionally hit by another player.

At the end of the day hockey is a sport intended to give health benefits and life lessons to participants, and the OHF wants to highlight these core attributes of the game. With this new rule change, more players and parents will feel safer in these leagues and bring the focus back to the basics of the 'good old hockey game'.



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President's Message

By Joe Drago



Welcome to the last edition of the OHF Headlines for the current season. This will also be the last message I write to you as President. I have decided that I will not stand for another term as I believe it is time for some change in the Executive. I am completing my sixth year in as chair and I leave with mixed emotion. I see areas that I would like to continue working on as well as some new initiatives. Perhaps as the Past President I can be instrumental in working on these. I know the incoming Officers group will continue to serve and lead the organization in a constructive and positive fashion. I wish them the very best.

The seasons seem to fly along and here we are once again preparing for Hockey Canada's AGM taking place in Calgary at the end of May. Along with the usual items of business, we will be discussing some of the following: the Summit held in Toronto last November, minimum suspensions, finances, budget, research and surveys, governance, insurance, technology, e-learning, parent education and other concerns. The OHF is always well represented and active during these meetings. I know we will bring a large number of members from our Member Partners who help make wise decisions that benefit our participants.

I have been busy both at the OHF level along with my assignments on Hockey Canada committees; these include the Officiating, Sports Schools Committee, e-Learning, Nominating and the Canadian Development Model. The groups meet face to face a couple of times but most activity takes place during conference calls. I have certainly gained a great deal of knowledge sitting on these committees. It also provides an opportunity to meet and know others from across the country and to build solid relationships between Branches. I thank Chair, Ken Corbett for assigning me to such strategic groups.

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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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event highlights

APRIL

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

MAY

6-8 NOHA Annual General Meeting | Sault Ste. Marie
6-8 OMHA Under-17 Final Cup | Guelph
7 OHL Priority Selection
14 OWA Annual General Meeting | Huntsville
18-29 MasterCard Memorial Cup | Mississauga
27-29 Hockey Canada Annual General Meeting | Calgary

JUNE

3-4 Alliance Annual General Meeting | Grand Bend
8 OHL Awards Ceremony
11-12 OMHA Annual General Meeting | Richmond Hill
18 GTHL Annual General Meeting
18 OHA Annual General Meeting
24-25 NHL Entry Draft | Saint Paul MN
24-26 OHF Annual General Meeting

NOHA to Host HTCP Level III Clinic

The Northern Ontario Hockey Association is pleased to announce that a Level III Trainers Clinic has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at Laurentian University in Sudbury.

The Hockey Trainers Certification Program (HTCP) Level III Clinic is an advanced program, providing the participant the opportunity to enhance their skill and knowledge level through group discussions and hands-on experience.

Topics to be covered include:

- Practical Nutrition
- Shoulder and Knee Injuries
- Head/Neck/Spinal Injuries
- Severe Lacerations
- Introduction to Athletic Taping



Participants must hold a valid Level II Trainer card in order to be eligible to attend. Trainers who are interested in attending can visit the NOHA website to download the application form. The clinic fee is \$250.00 + HST and includes all materials as well as lunch and dinner.

Business of Hockey Workshops; Friday, June 10, 2011

OMHA AGM special events is offering a series of workshops designed to support your Association and share best practices, facilitated by OMHA Staff:



Registration (HCR) Best Practices

- 1 Session Only: 1:00 – 3:00 pm • HCR Update: Latest system upgrades Made For Ontario: What does it mean for Registrars and Associations?

Right of Choice: Application of Regulation 3.4

Supporting the Local Association in Player Development

- Session 1: 1:00 – 2:30 pm • Session 2: 3:00 – 4:30 pm • Long Term Player Development (LTPD)

OMHA Development Programs: Overview and Opportunities

Leveraging OMHA Marketing & Communications Resources for Your Association

- Session 1: 1:00 – 2:30 pm • Session 2: 3:00 – 4:30 pm • Marketing and promoting hockey within your community Programming and sponsorship opportunities available to your association

Learn to approach corporate sponsors with programming opportunities

Admission to these events is FREE, and will provide the key members of your Association the opportunity to network with their peers in other Associations, share best practices, and discuss current hockey issues in a constructive, interactive environment. Room is limited, Register online or contact the OMHA office

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The 2011 OHF Championships took place April 8th – 10th, 2011 all over Ontario.

Final Standings:

Atom A: Porcupine NorFab Jr. Gold Kings (NOHA)

Atom AA: Valley East Rebels (NOHA)

Atom AAA: Clarington Toros (OMHA)

PeeWee A: Vaughan Panthers (GTHL)

PeeWee AA: Barrie Colts (OMHA)

Bantam A: Avalanche (GTHL)

Bantam AA: Mississauga Braves (GTHL)

Midget A: Amherstburg Stars (OMHA)

Midget AA: Mississauga North Stars (GTHL)

Juvenile: Ajax Knights (OMHA)



The Dundas Real McCoys were the OHF Senior Championship champions and advanced to the Allan Cup held in Kenora, Ontario from April 11th – 16th, 2011. It was the Clarendville Caribous who won the 2011 Allan Cup title.

The Wellington Dukes won the OHF Junior Championships and competed in the 2011 Dudley Hewitt Cup held in Huntsville, Ontario from April 18th – 22nd, 2011 and hosted by The Huntsville Otters of the OJHL. The Huntsville Otters took home gold and advanced to the 2011 RBC Cup held in Camrose, Alberta April 30th – May 8th, 2011.

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World Sledge Hockey Challenge

Tourism London and the London Blizzard Sledge Hockey Club (OSHA) partnered to bring the WSHC to London from April 18-23, 2011. This event was held at the Western Fair Sports Centre.

Western Fair, in preparation for the WSHC, underwent a significant renovation. Improvements in accessibility included new doors and non-slip flooring into the athlete's entrance, push pads on doors into each ice surface and new paint in the lower level. A retrofit was completed on the large rink readying it for sledge: acrylic panels in bench and penalty bench areas (so players can see while seated off the ice) and doors were widened to allow access. These are important legacies for the local sledge hockey club, the London Blizzard.

Fans of the sport were treated to incredible individual skills, fast skating and heavy hits. In the end Canada proved to be too much for the other three nations that travelled to London. Canada opened with a hard-fought 3-1 win over USA and then beat Japan 12-0 and Norway to finish first in the round-robin games. In the semi-finals Japan again was defeated by Canada 11-1. In the Gold medal game Canada pleased the crowd with an 8-0 win over Norway. The final game was played before an enthusiastic crowd of 1100 loud fans!



In the Bronze Medal game, USA defeated over Japan 9-1.

There were many different volunteers that worked long hours to make the event a fun and successful event. The Host Organizing Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to the World Sledge Hockey Challenge.

And finally...

OSHA's goal is to expand sledge hockey into more communities and attract additional players. Anyone who is interested in having more information can visit the Ontario Sledge Hockey Association website at www.ontariosledge.com.



Scotiabank GTHL Development Grant

The Scotiabank GTHL New to the Game Development Grant of \$25,000 was awarded today to the Pro Action Hockey League (PAHL), a league made up of youth from the Flemingdon Park area ages 8 – 11 years, and to Don Mills Civitan's Donaldson Diamonds program; a hockey league for people with developmental disabilities.

The Grant was established earlier this year as part of Scotiabank's partnership with the GTHL, to attract new participants from all backgrounds to the sport. Each season, a maximum of \$25,000 will be distributed among GTHL associations and member clubs that demonstrate a program plan targeted at attracting new participants to hockey. Applications were accepted from any GTHL association or member club allowing them to apply for the program funding individually, or in collaboration with one another. Grant applicants need to demonstrate their program plan targeted at attracting new participants to hockey in their local community. Scotiabank and the GTHL collectively choose the most viable program(s) from the pool of submissions and distribute the necessary funds totaling \$25,000.

"The GTHL is truly grateful for Scotiabank's support of minor hockey and, in particular, this worthy program," said GTHL President John Gardner. "The Pro Action Hockey League is the perfect example of the type of program we need to support in order to grow the game of hockey and give kids a chance to play when otherwise they would not have the opportunity to do so. It can also be used as a template that can be used in priority areas all across Canada"

The PAHL is a league made up of youth ages 8 – 11 years of age from the Flemingdon Park area and policemen from Toronto's 53 and 54 Division. In its second year functioning, the league has a waiting list of more than 200 youth.



OMHA's 13th Annual Golf Classic

The Thirteenth Annual OMHA Golf Classic will be at the Station Creek Golf Club on Friday June 10th. With 36 challenging holes and a state-of-the-art practice facility, Station Creek Golf Club is one of the best values in the Greater Toronto Area. Station Creek is in its second year as a ClubLink Gold Member Club, and is located in Gormley, just north of Richmond Hill and only minutes from the OMHA Annual General Meeting.

All proceeds from the Golf Classic will go towards the Minor Hockey Foundation of Ontario. Since the inaugural Golf Classic, there has been over \$55,000 raised to help support minor hockey in Ontario.

Registration opens at 7:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. The cost for individual players is \$150 and the cost for a foursome is \$600. The fee includes Green Fees with power cart, lunch and gifts for each golfer. Hole sponsorships are also available for a fee of \$200.

Registration brochures are available through OMHA Association Contacts or at the OMHA website. Space is limited to 144 golfers this season. The event sells out each year and we are hoping to surpass the record funds raised at the 2010 Golf Classic.



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Alliance Hockey's London Jr. Knights win Silver

The Winnipeg Thrashers and London Jr. Knights met for Canada's 33rd National Midget Championship on Sunday April 24th at Mile One Centre after posting overtime victories in their respective semifinals. The Thrashers got an overtime winner from Brendyn Illchuk to beat the Lions du Lac St-Louis 4-3, while Adam Rzeszutko was the overtime hero for the Jr. Knights in their 4-3 win over the Vancouver North West Giants.

Sunday's gold medal game was won by the Thrashers 3 -1, Justin Derlago scored the game-winning goal midway through the second period, Connor Lockhart and Corey Petrash added insurance goals 1:39 apart early in the third period and Teagan Sacher stopped 31 shots as Winnipeg became just the second Manitoba team to win the national championship, joining the 2004 Brandon Wheat Kings. The gold medal is the seventh in eight years for the West Region; it has appeared in every gold medal game during that stretch, with only the Thrashers in 2008 failing to take home the national championship.

This was the first appearance for the Jr. Knights at the national championship. Saturday's action marked the first time since 1982 that both semifinals at the National Midget Championship required overtime, and it was the first time that a one-win team beat the top-seeded team in the semifinals.



2011 Telus Cup Award Winners Announced



Telus MVP/Telus Scholarship - Alex Kerfoot (Vancouver North West Giants)

Top Goaltender - Craig Wood third from the right (London Jr. Knights)

Top Forward - Sam Reinhart (Vancouver North West Giants)

Top Defensive Player - Michael Matheson (Lions du Lac St-Louis)

Most Sportsmanlike Player - Marcus Power (St. John's Privateers)

Top Scorer - Sam Reinhart (Vancouver North West Giants)

Esoo Scholarship - Connor Lockhart (Winnipeg Thrashers)

Human Kinetics Book of the Month

Develop the explosive acceleration, speed, and agility necessary for success in hockey. Laura Stamm's Power Skating presents the techniques and drills that she has used to train some of the top professional teams and players. With over 300 detailed skill-demonstration photographs and illustrations, this is the perfect resource for all levels.



May Book: Laura Stamm's Power Skating Book - 4th Edition/DVD Package

Regular Book Pkg Price: \$53.95

Membership price: \$37.76 Book

OHF Members save 30%!

Order now. Enter code **X962**

Offer valid on web orders only. Offer expires 05/31/2011.



President's Message continued...

Another area that has been quite rewarding is the Branch Presidents sessions held during all Hockey Canada meetings as well as the monthly conference calls. These sessions are an excellent opportunity for the Branches to get to know and trust each other. We share so much information that allows us to understand the similarities and differences between Provinces and Branches. As a result, we know that we can pick up the telephone and dialogue with other Presidents. I salute Past Chair Rene Marcil for initiating these sessions that have been continued by Ken Corbett. I do hope that incoming Chair, Mike Bruni will also see the merit in keeping this format alive.

The OHF has worked very hard during my years as President. Our image and presence in the country is well respected. In our own back yard, I have seen some good changes in attitudes and relationships between some Member Partners. We are fortunate that the Member Partners provide dedicated and committed volunteers to sit on our councils and committees. I do encourage them to use some consistency with appointments so that work in progress can be carried on much better. As with my comments about Hockey Canada, the trust factor improves when people work together and get to know each other better.

The season and championships are drawing to a close as we complete this issue. I want to extend my personal appreciation to our Championship Committee, the host committees and the many volunteers who work so hard in providing top notch championship. I met with a group of boys who won an OHF Bantam Championship last year and to hear their comments and to witness the pride they displayed was very rewarding to me. I know for many, these events will always be the highlight of their hockey careers. Isn't this what our involvement in the game is all about, the PARTICIPANT?

I thank the Member Partner Presidents for working closely with me. I have felt very comfortable in working with all of them. They come to the table with knowledge and dedication for their organizations. All Board members show commitment and loyalty to their respective groups while attempting to work in unison with other Member Partners. The councils and committees have been active and productive with strong leadership in the chairs. I thank them all. I would be remiss if I forgot Bonnie and Mike Hammond, and especially Bonnie, for taking charge of our Hospitality Suite. I know this has been an important part of bringing people closer together and providing an excellent social environment during all of our meetings both home and away.

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Highway to Hockey Heaven

It may seem strange to have a Toronto hockey person praise something that is exceptional in Northern Ontario but this, in my opinion, should be brought to the attention of all hockey people in Ontario, especially municipal politicians in your area. As the GTHL hockey rep for the Mississauga North Stars, I undertook the assignment to attend the OHF Midget AA Championship hosted by the Les Elans Hockey Club in Hearst, Ontario, April 8-10. Hearst is a 3 hour drive due north of Timmins, some might refer to this town of 7000 as the first major hockey outpost south of the Arctic Circle. Hearst has a private airport but no commercial flights land there. There are no skyscrapers but the rating is high for the friendliness exhibited throughout this mainly Francophone community. I forgot to mention that there is no shopping mall in Hearst either but they do have a Canadian Tire and Tim Horton's.

After talking to Mayor Roger Sigouin for a few minutes following the championship's opening ceremonies, I was astounded to learn the cost to rent ice at the Claude Larose Recreation Centre for any minor hockey under 18 is \$52.00 per hour including gst. That's almost what some teams in the GTA pay in tax for practice ice. Granted, the town has to subsidize the arena's operation to the tune of \$225K per year, but as Mayor Sigouin pointed out, "We consider it an investment in our youth." I am not going to go into a lengthy discourse regarding the social and physical benefits hockey provides young players today, but what is the investment in youth hockey being provided in other municipalities or cities in this Province? Maybe it's about time that many of our hockey communities in Central and Southern Ontario start asking



their regional politicians. Or is it that we just haven't done that good of a selling job for our sport? This may sound like a mini travelogue for the Town of Hearst. But for the game of amateur hockey it is meant to be. The Claude Larose arena is an excellent two pad facility complete with a gigantic moose head extending from the wall in the main arena opposite the spectator stands which moo's and snorts several puffs of smoke from its nostrils when a goal is scored by the home team. To bring this to a conclusion, the following rating is provided for Hearst. Town friendliness, excellent; arena & staff, excellent; hosting capability by volunteers, excellent. Ice rental fees...unbelievable.

2011 NOHA Under 17 Camp

The NOHA held its 29th annual Under 17 Program of Excellence Camp in Temiskaming Shores. The Camp's purpose was to select twelve players (one goaltender, four defencemen and seven forwards) to attend the Ontario Provincial Camp in Thunder Bay from July 6-10, 2011.



In Thunder Bay, eighty-four of the province's best 16-year-old players will be put through their paces in order to select twenty players who will compete as Team Ontario at the 2012 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Winnipeg, Manitoba in December.

Front row (L to R): Michael Laidley (Little Current), Ryan Kujawinski (Iroquois Falls), Matt Pinder (Sault Ste. Marie), Ryan Erickson (Sudbury), Tyler Bertuzzi (Sudbury), Jacob Smith (Hamner), Danny Desrochers (North Bay)
Back row (L to R): Tyler Sehovic (Sault Ste. Marie), Brendan Pheasant (Wkwemikong), Kenneth Appleby (North Bay), Shane Snow (Sudbury), Michael Caruso (Sault Ste. Marie).

President's message continued...

The staff in the OHF office is terrific. I know how much time, commitment and dedication that is provided by each of them. I am fortunate to be on top of our business because of the way the staff keeps me informed daily. My special thank you to Phil Mckee for the working relationship we have and for his performance as our Executive Director. Time and effort are front and centre with Phil. He leaves no stone un-turned and is a credit to the Federation. He leads in a constructive and positive manner.

Lastly, my very sincere thanks to the Officers for helping me stay focused and positive. I enjoy and appreciate working with all of them. I continue to stress the time and involvement it takes to be a part of this group. With all of us being retired it has been possible to spend the time and effort required to look after OHF business. I am fortunate to have strong allies both in and out of meetings and to make good friends with the Officers and their spouses. Sylvia and I appreciate their friendship. I wish them the very best as we enter the next year. I do want to remember Frank Pindar and know we are all so sorry that he had to leave us at such a young age.

Again, thank you for making my time as President special and enjoyable.

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