

MDHA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021-22

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the MDHA President for the 2021-22 season. The return to play following a season significantly impacted by covid brought its own challenges. Registration numbers were down by approximately ~100 registrants overall. There was also a loss of several players and volunteers due to covid related protocols and the HEO vaccination policy.

MDHA 2021-22		
LEVEL	REGISTRANTS	TEAMS
HOUSE	418	27
REP B	92	6
A/AA RANGERS	44	N/A
AAA	16	N/A
TOTAL	570	33

Pre-season Conditioning sessions by Action Innovation were well attended in August, allowing players ice time before sort-outs. We offered two body contact Clinics for our U14 and U15 RepB teams, as both age groups would be new to contact for the 2021-22 season. Thanks to Chad Guy Player Development Coordinator, for his work on these successful programs.

Return to Play protocols were put in place to help prevent the spread of covid amongst players, volunteers and spectators. Team Snap Health Checks, Attendance Tracking and Vaccination Checks were supervised by Team Safety Officers. Thanks to these volunteers for as almost daily accommodation of new protocols and the coordination of Matt Graham VP Discipline, Risk & Safety.

Our House program sported new jerseys this season, with an updated Metcalfe Jets logo. Thanks to Andrew Penner for his work on the logo design and Jay Kennedy for the coordination of jersey replacement. Sort-out scheduling offered its own challenges, having to accommodate U11 pathways rust off sessions and delayed U18 sorts. House rosters were intentionally left slightly larger in anticipation of covid-related absences. Kudos to our VP House Julianne Oelke-Simonsen for her forethought, which prevented the cancellation of any house games during outbreaks. Many players at U11 had never played in a "real" hockey game with off-sides, icing, with referees and on full ice, due to the previous covid seasons. Special thanks to these coaches who helped with the transition. Congratulations to U11B1 Pommenville on their GHA Championship and U18B3 Leikkari on their silver medal. Special thanks to our U15 Convenor, Julia Tuff who assisted in the integration of three new Canadian players at older age groups, allowing them additional ice time and skill development.

Our competitive Rep B teams took to the ice wearing new jerseys and a new name, Castor River Canucks. A project many years in the making, both Metcalfe and Russell teams coordinated to

name and design jerseys and apparel for the rebranded teams. Thanks to both Mike Branchaud VP Competitive Metcalfe and Ken Hill VP Competitive Russell for their dedication in making this happen. Metcalfe continued to host 6 Rep B teams (U10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18), while Russell hosted two (U11, 13). Congratulations to U12 Castor River Canucks on an exciting playoff run finishing the season 7th and defeating the 1st and 2nd place teams to win the OBMHL Championship.

Covid was once again to rear its ugly head mid-season. With numbers rapidly climbing, MDHA made the decision to shut down operations the first week of January. The GHA followed suit and hockey paused until January 31st. This also resulted in the cancellation of our U18A Tournament. Ice was returned to the City for reimbursement. The loss of four weeks of ice added new challenges to both House and RepB programming. Priority was given to rescheduling of games to ensure all seasons were completed. Thanks to Ice Scheduler Ward Mallon for his adaptability and work to ensure all games were played. As a result, there was a slight loss of practice hours overall. The Executive has voted to apply a small credit to each player's profile to accommodate this loss of ice time.

Several special events occurred over the course of the season. Thanks to Vicki Compton for organizing a merchandise booth at the Metcalfe Fair to sell new Jets and Canucks apparel. Rosanna Ferguson coordinated individual player photograph sessions in the Lions Den, taken by InAction Photography. Although team photos could not be taken due to Covid restrictions, we were grateful to have some photo memories of the year. A new partnership was formed with the Metcalfe Jets Junior C team and many of our players/teams participated in pregame activities, flag-bearing and a Christmas parade float. Sponsor logos were installed mid season on Metcalfe Arena half boards. Thanks to Shroomsfest, Hicks Insurance and Carleton Mushroom for their ongoing partnership with MDHA.

An initiative to place signage for 911 arena addresses in both Metcalfe and Leitrim Arenas was completed. Our U18 B Tournament and U7 Fun Day were both well attended and highly successful. Thanks to Tournament Coordinator Adrienne Duncan, Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Vicki Compton and the countless volunteers who were responsible for their success. Congratulation to U18B1 Smiley on their tournament silver. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the City of Ottawa Recreation team who are willing to provide assistance whenever we ask. Thanks to Chris Piersol, Adam Olive, Matt Scharf, Shauna, Shaun Toll and the rest of the arena teams.

We look forward to the upcoming MDHA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Metcalfe Golf. This night will be a chance to formally thank our volunteers and present championship banners to two Metcalfe teams.

Each year MDHA honours a volunteer and coach of the year. This year we were very pleased to receive many worthy nominations for both awards. A small selection committee was formed to review all of the nominations and their decisions were not easy. These winners were presented

keeper plaques at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 13th and their names will be added to the permanent plaques in the lobby of the Larry Robinson Arena in Metcalfe.

The **Fred Gillis Coach of the Year Award** was created to honour a dedicated past MDHA Coach, Fred Gillis. This nominee has been involved with the MDHA in many capacities for approximately 15 years. He has served as an assistant coach, head coach, Convenor and most recently took on a new role as Coach Mentor. He organized a New Coaches Summit during the past season which was extremely well received. I was very pleased to present the Fred Gillis Coach of the Year Award to Steve Brunette.

The **Louis Fournier Volunteer of the Year Award** was created to honor Louis Fournier, a long-time Board Member and Manager. The award winner this year has been a long-time MDHA volunteer. Not only has she helped various players new to hockey, but she also spearheaded a “Come Be a Goalie” to encourage young Jets to love the position of goaltender. She juggles multiple kids involved in hockey, has volunteered for many years in various roles with the MDHA as Manager, Trainer, and Convenor. She most recently took on a new challenge as the Manager the Metcalfe Jets Jr C Hockey Club. I was extremely lucky to have been partnered with her for several years as a Co-Convenor. She is efficient, passionate, creative, dedicated and organized. I was very proud to present the Louis Fournier MDHA Volunteer of the Year Award to **Julia Tuff**.

U18 Bursary Applications were received and also included those that were unable to play due to covid last season. Thanks to funds raised during our U18B Tournament and the Fred Gillis Legacy Fund we are pleased to present 7 graduating players, continuing into post-secondary education, with \$500 bursaries. Congratulations to the following recipients and good luck in your post-secondary education:

1. Jonah Klein Swormink -Fred Gillis Bursary
2. Liam Watson -Fred Gillis Bursary
3. Roberto Atkins
4. Tyler Branchaud
5. Gavyn Goodsell
6. Wesley Mason
7. Malcolm Volk

We were thrilled to learn that the Larry Robinson Arena is scheduled for renovation thanks to the partnership of the Ontario Government and City of Ottawa and combined funding of over \$5M. Thanks to MPP Goldie Ghamari and Osgoode Ward Councillor George Darouze for their assistance in coordinating this important revitalization project for our wider community. We look forward to working with stakeholders such as MDRA, Metcalfe Skating Club, Metcalfe Jets Junior C in the planning of this project.

Referees are vital to the success of our hockey program. Hockey Eastern Ontario implemented a green arm band for referees under age 18. We are pleased to report that this program has

been extremely successful and there was no loss of refs in District 9 over the course of the season. MDHA's Jacob Rheaume refereed 68 games this year and was invited to referee on Championship Day. Hockey Canada introduced a new maltreatment rule this season, which led to many lengthy suspensions and a learning curve for all. We as an association worked to communicate rule changes to our teams by inviting D9RA Referee-in-chief and GHA Discipline Chair Gilles Vanasse to speak to our Coaches, sending many emails and sharing HEO Rule of the Week on our Social Media pages.

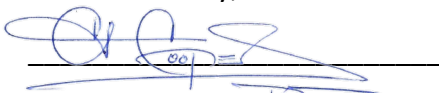
As a member of the Gloucester Hockey Association, the MDHA holds a seat at the table and works to coordinate hockey operations for District 9. Many thanks to District Chair Jenn Primeau for her guidance in my inaugural year as a president and to my fellow presidents for your communication and willingness to work together to problem solve throughout the year. Special thanks to GHA Ice Scheduler Karen Ouellette for your knowledge and perseverance in another trying season.

I wish to thank my fellow Executive members for their hard work and dedication during another abnormal season. The majority of our Board (15/20) were new to their roles, and many had limited access to mentorship. Thank you all for your efforts to adapt and learn as we went. There were also those who stepped in mid-season to fill gaps on our team. We are extremely grateful to Stacey Heins, Maryam Sugrue-Foubert and Deb Monaghan for filling those gaps. I am extremely proud of the work you have done to ensure hockey ran smoothly for our membership. I look forward to working with this group of dedicated volunteers as we move forward into a new year of hockey.

Special thanks to retiring board members Mike Branchaud and Matt A. Graham. Matt has served as a Head Coach and U13 Co-Convenor. While he and his family are temporarily relocating to Ireland, we want him to know we look forward to his return. Mike Branchaud has served in various roles, including Head Coach, Coach Mentor and VP Competitive with the MDHA over his sons' hockey years. We are grateful for his expertise and thank Mike and his family for their many years of work. We also appreciate his ability to provide mentorship to our incoming VP Competitive.

Finally, a thank you to parents, families, fans and players for your contributions to a successful season. You were willing to adapt to return to play protocols and represent Metcalfe proudly in the hockey community. Have a safe and restful summer. We look forward to seeing you all in the rinks again this fall.

Yours in hockey,



Cheryl A. Cooper
MDHA President