

MDHA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-23

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the MDHA President for the past two seasons. A normal 2022-23 season was a welcome change after the past three seasons were impacted by the pandemic. Our registration numbers remained very similar to last season, however our numbers over the past ten years have continued a downward trend. We had 27% of our registrants playing outside of MDHA at various levels of hockey.

MDHA 2022-23		
LEVEL	REGISTRANTS	TEAMS
HOUSE	406	29
REP B	89	5
A/AA RANGERS	43	N/A
AAA	16	N/A
TOTAL	560	34

Pre-season Conditioning sessions by Action Innovation were well attended in August, allowing players ice time before sort-outs. We continued to offer a body contact Clinics for our U14 & U15 players wishing to tryout for RepB. Thanks to Steve Brunette Coach Mentor, who stepped in to fill a void in Player Development to ensure these programs were successful. Steve was also instrumental in coordinating two Coaching Clinics; Development 1 and Intro to Coach. These Clinics allowed our volunteers to receive training close to home and served as a fundraiser for the association.

Our House program iced seven U7 teams and twenty-two U9-U21 teams. Out of the 18 teams participating in playoffs, nine teams made it to a semi-final, eight made it to a final and four teams won GHA Championships. This was an extremely successful finish to the season with other associations commenting on the number of Metcalfe teams in the finals and the quality of their play. Congratulations to U11A, U11C, U13A, U13C on bringing home GHA Championship banners.

MDHA hosted Castor River Canucks teams at the U10, U12, U15, U16 and U18 levels; while Russell hosted U11 & U13. Our U14 players were offered an opportunity to tryout with Leitrim and we received Leitrim players at our U15 level. Both teams enjoyed much success from this three-way team; the U14 Leitrim Hawks won both the OBMHL regular season and playoffs and the U15 Canucks finished 2nd in season play and won two tournaments. We continue to work with both Russell and Leitrim in the planning for next season. A special thanks to both Julia Tuff VP Competitive Metcalfe and Ken Hill VP Competitive Russell for their dedication in making this happen. On behalf of MDHA I would like to thank Ken Hill for his many years of work in the RepB program, and for being instrumental in the formation of the Castor River Canucks. We wish him well in his retirement from the RMHA Board.

Several special events occurred over the course of the season. Thanks to Jessica Dearden for organizing a merchandise booth at the Metcalfe Fair to sell Jets and Canucks apparel. Jessica was also instrumental in organizing an inaugural Winter Carnival Day featuring a pancake breakfast, Coaches Exhibition Game, photos with Santa and MDHA games all day the Metcalfe Arena. MDHA sponsored a U9 Jamboree at TD Place, in conjunction with the Ottawa 67s. Though well attended, parking and accessibility was a challenge as it conflicted with other seasonal events at Lansdowne.

We were able to host once again two U18 tournaments and U7 Fun Day. Thanks to Tournament Coordinator Adrienne Duncan, Deb Monaghan, Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Vicki Compton and the countless volunteers who were responsible for their success. The new Pie-Your-Coach fundraising event as a part of the U7 Fun Day proved very popular. 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 Kerfoot, Shaun Toll and the rest of the arena teams.

We look forward to the upcoming MDHA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Metcalfe Golf on May 26th, 2023. This night will be a chance to formally thank our volunteers and present championship banners to six 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 the decisions were not easy. These winners will be presented keeper plaques at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 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 season we are sharing this honour with both a rookie and veteran coach. The first winner is one who played his entire hockey career with Metcalfe and Russell. Last season he returned to be an assistant coach and this year took on the role of Head Coach of our U18 RepB team. The committee received nominations from over half of the team for their Coach Patrick Walsh. Our second recipient is a veteran coach with MDHA. We were extremely fortunate that only months after a severe injury and surgery this coach stepped up to lead not one, but two Jets teams. On paper, perhaps not the most skilled teams, both the U13A and U18A teams developed and grew as the season went on under Coach Simonsen's leadership. Both teams flourished in the playoffs, including one of the most exciting semi-final triple OT wins for the U18s with a packed Metcalfe Arena. Both teams made it to the GHA Championship Final and his U13A team won the banner in exciting OT style. Coach Jens' unique coaching style was lauded by not only parents but fellow bench staff. Congratulations to Patrick Walsh and Jens Simonsen.

The **Louis Fournier Volunteer of the Year Award** was created to honor Louis Fournier, a long-time Board Member and Manager. The award winners this year have been a long-time MDHA volunteers. As a couple they are willing to take on whatever role is needed to help be it trainer

or manager, in addition to having three boys on three different teams. Stacey Heins has served as Manager on countless teams, and often for two teams during the same season. In addition, she is an invaluable member of the MDHA Executive and has served as both Secretary and Treasurer. Last season she shifted roles mid-season to fill a void. This season she took on Ma Bell and the dust has yet to settle. Husband Jon has served as trainer or assistant coach for many years. Congratulations to Stacey & Jon Heins.

U18 Bursary Applications were received and thanks to funds raised during our U18 Tournaments 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. Reilly Gear -Fred Gillis Bursary
2. Liam Coyle -Fred Gillis Bursary
3. Katie Bent
4. Owen Brunette
5. Adam Yeh
6. Isaac Visser
7. Melissa Smiley

The Larry Robinson Arena continues to be scheduled for renovation; however, a timeline is not yet available. This is an 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. Many Metcalfe players and a couple of coaches became referees this season. District 9 Referee Association continues to look for new refs, with an emphasis on bringing more adults to the program. Rookie referee Hudson Tuff was given the honour of officiating a game on GHA Championship weekend.

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 continued guidance 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 her experience and knowledge, in guiding us all through the season.

I wish to thank my fellow Executive members for their hard work and dedication during the past season. I am proud of the work you have done to ensure hockey ran smoothly for our membership. I am extremely grateful for the support of my VPs Julianne Oelke-Simonsen (House), Julia Tuff (Competitive), Matt Graham (Discipline, Risk & Safety). Together we were able to navigate some challenging situations over the course of the season. Special thanks to retiring board members Alison Watson, Steve Brunette, Jason Scholar, Rosanna Ferguson, Jim

Kelleher, Steve Brunette and Vicki Compton. As I move into my new role as Past President, I will continue to support the new Executive.

Finally, a thank you to parents, families, fans and players for your contributions to a successful season. Thank you for your support over my past two seasons as President. 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