

Metcalf District Hockey Association (MDHA)
Annual General Meeting President's Report
2024–2025 Season

1. Overview

The 2024–2025 season was a vibrant and successful year for the Metcalf District Hockey Association. We proudly hosted 27 House League Teams and 5 Rep B Teams, each contributing to a season filled with growth, sportsmanship, and memorable achievements.

2. Tournament Highlights

Our teams represented MDHA with pride and determination across various tournaments. Notable victories include:

- **U14 Canucks** – Champions at the Peterborough Tournament
- **U12 Canucks** – Victors at the Guelph Powerplay Tournament
- **U13A** – Winners of both the ORMHA Winter Classic and the American Cup in Lake Placid
- **U13B** – Triumphed at the Norwood Tournament
- **U11A** – Champions at the Napanee Fallen Stars Tournament
- **U9B1** – Took home the title at the Sensplex Capital House League Tournament

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our players, coaches, and families.

3. House League Success

We had 7 advance to the GHA Championship Weekend, with 2 teams capturing the Championship Banner:

- **U18B1 – Kennedy**

- **U15B2 – Parker**

Congratulations to all teams for their hard work and competitive spirit throughout the season.

4. Rep B Achievements

A special congratulations to our U12 Rep B Team, who emerged as Ottawa B League Champions. This is a significant accomplishment!

5. Special Recognition

During the IIHF World Junior Championship hosted in Ottawa, one of our U7 teams was selected to play during the tournament. This was a unique and exciting opportunity that brought great pride to our association.

6. Ice Allocation Challenges

Ice allocation remains a pressing concern. Many Metcalfe families have expressed a desire for more local ice time, rather than traveling to distant arenas such as Bob McQuarrie. While we understand that the GHA receives its allocation from the City, and demand continues to rise, we will continue advocating for more equitable and accessible ice time for our teams.

7. Financial Outlook and Fundraising

With the rising costs of ice time, referees, and insurance, maintaining affordability for families is becoming increasingly challenging. To address this, association-wide fundraising must become a more prominent and coordinated effort. Here are several ideas and strategies to consider for the upcoming seasons:

A. Association-Wide Fundraising Initiatives

- **Annual Gala or Dinner Event:** Host a formal or semi-formal evening with dinner, silent auctions, raffles, and guest speakers (e.g., former players or local sports figures).
- **50/50 Draws and Raffles:** Run regular draws at home games or community events, with proceeds supporting the association.
- **Community Sponsorship Program:** Develop tiered sponsorship packages for local businesses to support MDHA in exchange for advertising opportunities (e.g., banners, jerseys, website mentions).
- **Online Crowdfunding Campaigns:** Launch seasonal GoFundMe or similar campaigns with clear goals (e.g., new equipment, development).

B. Team-Level Fundraising Ideas

- **Bottle Drives:** Continue or expand bottle drives, which are easy to organize and often well-supported by the community.
- **Team Merchandise Sales:** Sell branded apparel, water bottles, or car decals to families and supporters.
- **Skills Clinics or Mini-Camps:** Host off-season or pre-season clinics run by coaches or older players, with registration fees supporting the team.
- **Local Business Partnerships:** Partner with restaurants or shops for “MDHA Nights” where a portion of sales goes to the team.

C. Off-Season Opportunities

- **Spring/Summer Tournaments or Ball Hockey Events:** Organize recreational events that also serve as fundraisers.
- **Golf Tournament:** A classic and effective fundraiser that brings together families, alumni, and sponsors.
- **Online Auctions:** Collect donated items or services and run an online auction open to the broader community.

D. Centralized Support

To reduce overlap and competition between teams, the association could:

- Create a Fundraising Calendar to space out events.

- Offer templates and toolkits for teams to use when organizing fundraisers.
- Establish a Fundraising Committee to coordinate efforts and share best practices.

8. Gratitude to Volunteers

The success of MDHA is built on the dedication of our volunteers—coaches, managers, trainers, and countless others who give their time and energy. Your commitment is the backbone of our programs, and we are deeply grateful.

9. Closing Remarks

As I step away from my role, I leave you with this reminder:

The players are at the heart of everything we do.

Let our decisions always reflect what is best for them—not for individual teams, benches, or players. Together, we can continue to build a strong, inclusive, and thriving hockey community.

Thank you for a fantastic season.