

# OMHA<sup>TM</sup>

THE ONTARIO MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



AGE-APPROPRIATE PROGRAMMING  
TO GROW OUR GAME

OHL DRAFT PICKS



THE GROWTH  
OF MIDGET HOCKEY

A LOOK BACK AT THE

2016-17  
SEASON

# BE AHEAD OF THE GAME

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MADE OF HOCKEY

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Froster Active Kids, a program of Mac's Convenience Stores and Circle K believes all children should have an opportunity to actively participate in an organized sport that values personal integrity, teamwork and leadership skills, in a fun and healthy learning environment which will ultimately build character, instill life-enhancing values and develop lasting memories for a healthier lifestyle.

Mac's has raised over \$182,500 for the Froster Active Kids Program. Through this, we have been able to sponsor 165 teams across Ontario. From hockey, to soccer, to skating, to baseball, basketball, football and lacrosse we are striving to positively impact the lives of youth through the spirit of sport! Thanks to wonderful support of our customers from the communities that we operate in, as well as our company partners. We couldn't have done it without you!

For more info about Froster Active Kids visit [www.mymacs.ca/froster-active-kids](http://www.mymacs.ca/froster-active-kids)

Or check us out on social media: [instagram.com/frosteractivekids](https://www.instagram.com/frosteractivekids)

*Photo: Peeewe Team 1, Belle River*





At the conclusion of each season, I take a minute to reflect on the past twelve months and I am always amazed at the unselfishness of so many people who give so much of their time volunteering for the betterment and enjoyment of our youth. I want to applaud each and every one of you for the passion you show towards this great game.

Whether you are a player, team official, on-ice official or a parent please take the time to review the past season. Undoubtedly, each of you will recount the enjoyable times you experienced. The friendships you were able to create are immeasurable and they will last a lifetime.

On behalf of the OMHA Board, I would like to applaud all of the many OMHA league champions, whether that league was a House League, a Local League, MD or Rep. Congratulations is also extended to all OMHA and OHF Playdown Champions. Each team official and player on these championship teams have accomplished something very special and undeniably, each of you will have established lifelong memories from your achievement.

To all OMHA and OHF Championship teams participating in the "Parade of Champions" your accomplishments are worthy of the well-deserved accolades and recognition each of your team members receive.

Again during the upcoming offseason, I want to encourage each player to participate in other sports outside the game of hockey. It is always a good idea to try something else so when it is time to get back on the ice you are focused and regenerated to begin next season.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe.

  
**ROB RING**  
 PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, thank you for another great season! It is a very exciting time to be involved in hockey. Working with our 225 local minor hockey associations, and serving our hockey community of over 100,000 players is an honour and privilege. However, it's not the size of our organization that makes it great –it's the scope of our organization; it's our diversity, from small town to large urban centres, from learning to play to the Program of Excellence – hockey is a game for everyone.

And, we are all hockey – from the thousands of volunteers, mums and dads, siblings, coaches, officials, trainers, managers and administrators –we do it all for one simple reason...to provide the experience of a lifetime to our Players.

This experience can bring joy - from making a great play, to celebrating with teammates, but it's not always easy. The game can be challenging and difficult – and it's from these moments that perhaps the best memories are born – learning a difficult skill, teaching a new move, picking yourself up after defeat and overcoming the adversity that sport presents us with. It's these moments where hockey and sport in general provide us with opportunities to grow and learn.

So please take a moment to celebrate your season with us - its ups and downs and twists and turns –join us to celebrate what hockey means in the OMHA – Passion, Community, Leadership and Honesty. Join us to provide the best minor hockey experience in Canada - we couldn't do any of it without you and there's no place that we would rather be!

  
**IAN TAYLOR**  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):**

Don Mundell, Greig Baxter, Craig Lane, Glenn Silver, Paul Wilson, Sue Robinson, Peter Harmsen, Andy Cooke, Rob Ring, Dave Garinger

**FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):**

Colleen Hawthorne, Richard Ropchan, Cheryl Brown, Linda Ralf, Michele Sguigna, Mark Hooper, Bob Hill, Suzanne Terpstra

**ABSENT**

Frank Palmer



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE GAME  
**PATRICIA HARTLEY ADMINISTRATORS AWARD**

# TERRY CONROY

Centre Wellington Minor Hockey Association



Terry Conroy (centre) accepts the Patricia Hartley Administrators Award from OMHA Vice President – Eastern District Cheryl Brown (left) and OMHA President Rob Ring (right)

### Patricia Hartley Administrators Award

The Patricia Hartley Administrators Award is given in recognition of exemplary service in the field of sports administration. This award reflects the achievements of a local executive board member or volunteer staff person who worked toward the efficient operation of an association and the betterment of hockey.

The recipient of this year’s award is Terry Conroy of the Centre Wellington Minor Hockey Association. Terry has been with the local hockey community for over 35 years assisted in the amalgamation and creation of Centre Wellington. He is very knowledgeable and quick to respond. Terry is a valuable asset to Centre Wellington.

**“Anybody that can give 35 years plus in an association, to me, is so deserving. We love him dearly, he’s a great friend and he’s a mentor to us all.”**

– Christine Cook, Vice-President, Centre-Wellington Minor Hockey

## RECENT RECIPIENTS

**2015**

**Lorine Price**  
 Innisfil Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2014**

**Carol Belanger**  
 Bradford Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2013**

**Beth Hill**  
 Flesherton Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2012**

**Dean Lapierre**  
 Windsor Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2011**

**Carola Pyke**  
 Lincoln Minor  
 Hockey Association



MORE THAN A PLAYER  
**WALLY SCOTT BURSARY**

**OWEN STICHHALLER**  
 LaSalle Minor Hockey Association

**TIFFANYREA GLENN-COOKE**  
 Huntsville Minor Hockey Association



From left to right: OMHA Treasurer Frank Palmer, Wally Scott Bursary Award Winners Owen Stichhaller and TiffanyRea Glenn-Cooke with OMHA President Rob Ring

**Wally Scott Bursary**

Over the decades Wally Scott's personal and professional interests in hockey have merged to the benefit of the OMHA. The award presented in his name recognizes his contributions and commitment to the OMHA and to the game of hockey. This award reflects the achievements of a young hockey player who is committed to his community and demonstrates athletic ability while maintaining academic achievement.

This year there are two recipients - TiffanyRea Glenn-Cooke (Huntsville) and Owen Stichhaller (LaSalle). TiffanyRea has balanced academics with athletics throughout her time in high school and is a four-time honour student. Owen is known as a polite and courteous student and has worked hard for his success.

**"I think what makes Tiff special is that she is very focused on a task. If she wants something, she goes for it."**

- Scott Hammond, Supervisor of Officials, Huntsville Minor Hockey

**"(Owen) is a very mature and very professional young man in his approach to not only the game but the way that he interacts and works with players, coaches and officials."**

- Mike Seguin, President, LaSalle Minor Hockey

— RECENT RECIPIENTS

**2015**

**Brody Ryder**  
 Kent Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2014**

**Nathan Schaper**  
 Milton Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2013**

**Paul Boyadjian**  
 Kincardine Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2012**

**Davey Watson**  
 Staples Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2011**

**Luke Anderson**  
 Willow Beach  
 Minor Hockey Association

DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE  
EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENT AWARD

# BRANDON BOONE

Niagara Falls Minor Hockey Association



Brandon Boone (middle) accepts OMHA Excellence in Development Award from OMHA Vice-President - Central District Bob Hill (left) OMHA President Rob Ring (right)

## Excellence in Development Award

An award established to recognize and honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to hockey development programming in minor hockey in the OMHA. Nominees can be from any area of hockey development, including Player development, Coaching, Officiating, Safety, and Program Administration.

Brandon Boone of the Niagara Falls Minor Hockey Association goes above and beyond helping the players. Brandon is dedicated will help any player and always gives 100 per cent into his work.

**"I think he's dedicated in what he wants to do. His passion for the game, you can see it in the way he talks to people. He wants people to be happy, to play and to have fun and that's what he's done with this program."**

– Steve Hollett, Coach, Niagara Falls Minor Hockey

## RECENT RECIPIENTS

2015

**Mike Gouglas**  
Markham Waxers

2014

**Mark Viminitz**  
Whitby Minor  
Hockey Association

2014

**Winston Watson**  
Huntsville Minor  
Hockey Association



COVERING TYKE TO THE NHL  
**GEORGE H. CARVER MEDIA AWARD**

# CRAIG RIPLEY

ROGERS TV Barrie



Craig Ripley (middle) receives the George H. Carver Media Award from OMHA Vice President – Western District Craig Lane (left) and OMHA President Rob Ring (right)

### George H. Carver Media Award

The George H. Carver Media Award recognizes the invaluable coverage of minor hockey in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association provided by local media outlets. During the course of any minor hockey season, players and their parents rely on local media for coverage of their teams and leagues. For this reason the OMHA has elected to profile one print media outlet or specific reporter for the excellent coverage of minor hockey during the season.

Craig Ripley of ROGERS TV Barrie is this year's recipient and has spent countless hours covering minor hockey in Barrie. Craig always makes sure that teams get recognized for their achievements and does a great job of promoting minor hockey of all age levels.

**"We have a lot of kids playing minor hockey in Barrie. I think Craig just understands the importance of a 'hockey family' in any given community."**

- Murray Shanks, President, Barrie Minor Hockey

## RECENT RECIPIENTS

**2015**

**Mike Hayakawa**  
 York Region  
 Media Group

**2014**

**Darryl Knight**  
 The Port  
 Perry Standard

**2012**

**Steve Leblanc**  
 Milton Champion

**2011**

**Rick Lowes**  
 Moose FM 93.5

**2010**

**Dale West**  
 The Peak 95.1 FM  
 Collingwood

HONOURING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE  
**OMHA HONOUR AWARD**

# JOHN WELSH

Peterborough Minor Hockey Association



John Welsh (middle) accepts the 2016 OMHA Honour Award from OMHA President Rob Ring (left) and OMHA Vice President – Eastern District Cheryl Brown (right)

### OMHA Honour Award

The OMHA Honour Award was established to recognize a person who has made an outstanding voluntary contribution to minor hockey for a considerable period of time, doing so of his, or her, own free will and not as part of a job or position for which they receive monetary consideration.

John Welsh of Peterborough Minor Hockey Association was recognized as this year's recipient. John is always giving back to the community and has earned the respect of his players. He is the type of person you want to emulate and is understanding. John has set the bar high for minor hockey in Peterborough.

**“He’s a guy you want to emulate what he does because he’s so giving and is giving back to everyone. You want to do stuff just because he’s that kind of a person.”**

– Keith Clark, Vice-President, Peterborough Minor Hockey

## RECENT RECIPIENTS

**2015**

**Larry Gould**  
 Schomberg Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2014**

**Joe Bentolila**  
 Aurora Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2013**

**Murray Shanks**  
 Barrie Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2012**

**Darrin Robertson**  
 Elmvale Minor  
 Hockey Association

**2011**

**Colin McCallum**  
 Delhi Minor  
 Hockey Association

# A LOOK BACK ON THE 2016-17 SEASON

## AUGUST 2016

The **OMHA Development Seminar** unofficially begins efforts in the field, and OMHA personnel are gathered to share best practices, update on the newest sport technical information available, and depart the event energized to support our Membership.

The OMHA delivered over 175 clinics for over 8,000 Coaches and Referees this past season who were seeking to **certify or re-certify their credentials**.

12,500 Coaches, trainers and referees continue to certify or re-certify their credentials in the off-season.

In partnership with CCM and Hockey Development Centre for Ontario, the OMHA delivered 90 sets of goalie equipment across the province through the **Goalie Assist Program** to break down some of the barriers of the position.



## SEPTEMBER 2016

**Referee Schools in Windsor, Guelph and Trenton** provided new officials with an opportunity to acquire officiating skills and rule knowledge while completing OMHA and Hockey Canada certification requirements.

The **OMHA Events Team Presented by National Sports and Pro Hockey Life** hit the road to begin their 25,000km journey across the OMHA, attending 43 special events.

Continuing off the success of last year, the **Breakaway Podcast** returned for another season. Featuring guests from all over the sports world, the series remains one of the only minor hockey podcasts.

## OCTOBER 2016

One of the most exciting times of the year as the **OMHA regular season** officially gets underway. 6,651 teams in Ontario kick off their seasons to begin another great year of hockey.

The OMHA proudly launched **Home Ice** powered by Under Armour, a new video series. The behind the scenes documentary followed the Whitby Wildcats Minor Midget AAA team throughout the season, navigating their balance between school, hockey and life.



## NOVEMBER 2016

The third annual **OMHA Essay Contest** presented by Respect in Sport was launched with this year's theme being "My hockey coach teaches me..." Out of 250 entries, Sheldon Bolton of Norwood Minor Hockey was selected as the winner.



## DECEMBER 2016

The **OMHA Minor Midget Showcase** powered by Under Armour featured 13 teams from the Eastern AAA League. 10 South Central AAA teams competed in a similar event later in January.

In conjunction with the World Juniors tournament and Hockey Canada, the OMHA provided members the opportunity to participate in **World Juniors Development Programs**. There were a number of different programs available for both players and coaches.



The York-Simcoe Express Minor Bantam AAA and Oshawa Minor Generals Minor Bantam AE teams won their brackets in the Under Armour Storm the Centre contest, securing an action-packed day at the Air Canada Centre that included a tour of the Toronto Maple Leafs dressing room and a scrimmage on the ice.

### JANUARY 2017

The **OMHA Players Club** remained a popular program, encouraging players to improve their skills through three at-home challenges. Over 300 players submitted their completed tracking sheets over the season.

### FEBRUARY 2017

A number of associations in the OMHA were outfitted with a full set of Bauer hockey equipment through **The First Shift** program. The learn-to-play program teaches basic skills while focusing on the fun of sports.



Through the World Juniors legacy fund from Hockey Canada, the OMHA assisted in hosting a number of **Try Hockey** programs. Designed to introduce new players to the sport, the two-part sessions include Floorball and an on-ice skating opportunity.

### MARCH 2017

All across the province **Playdowns** series wrapped up. A total of 88 champions were crowned, earning **#RedHats** along the way.

Announced as a mandate for the upcoming season, Hockey Canada is implementing a new policy that mandates cross-ice/half-ice hockey for players at the Initiation age level.



### APRIL 2017



The **OMHA Hockey Festival** Presented by Froster Active Kids took place in Whitby. This tournament featured 65 House and Local league teams in the Tyke, Novice, Atom and Pee wee age groups.



The **Ontario Hockey Federation** produced Champions at the A/AA/AAA levels of Atom, Pee wee, Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile divisions. Four OMHA teams left the championships with a gold medal: Oakville Rangers (Pee wee A), Northumberland Nighthawks (Pee wee AA), Bradford Bulldogs (Midget A), Ajax Knights (Juvenile).

The annual **Ontario Hockey League draft** saw 83 players from the OMHA selected including six in the first round. New this year was the inaugural OHL Under-18 Priority Selection for Midget-aged players. This draft had Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs defenceman Victor Hadfield become the first ever first overall selection, landing with the Barrie Colts.

### MAY 2017

The OMHA was well represented in the OHL Gold Cup tournament icing two competitive teams. The eight-team tournament brings together the best minor midget players from across the province to compete.

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

## AGE-APPROPRIATE PROGRAMMING TO GROW OUR GAME

**T**he Ontario Minor Hockey Association believes that players who learn the skills of the game are more inclined to enjoy playing. If they have the skills to play, they will love the game. Beginning in the 2017-18 season, a new policy that mandates cross-ice/half-ice hockey for players at the Initiation age level (traditionally 5- and 6-year-olds) will be introduced.





While the policy making it mandatory is new, half-ice/cross-ice hockey has been part of the Initiation Program in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association since it was first developed more than 35 years ago. The purpose of the Initiation Program is to introduce the basic skills of the game, and make a child's first introduction to the game one that is safe, enjoyable, and fun:

- Make it a positive experience for kids and their families – focus is on fun, learning, and playing in a team atmosphere, not on structured games
- Build the player's confidence and give them a sense of accomplishing a skill while developing as a young player
- The program is based with the players' development in mind, starting with basic, technical skills.

"The Initiation Program was developed to allow kids to have fun, learn skills, and develop confidence," said Paul Carson, vice-president of membership development for Hockey Canada. "Re-sizing the playing surface to cross-ice of half-ice means more puck-touches, which result in more chances to practice puck-control and shooting, as well as overall more movement and motor skill-development – twisting, turning, balance, coordination, agility. Their field-of-play matches their size, and these players hone in on their skill-development in a way that larger ice surfaces just aren't conducive to."

The differences in skill-development opportunities with cross-ice hockey are significant: players receive five times more passes and take six times more shots. They're called on to have to make more decisions more quickly, and are overall more engaged in the game.

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**THEIR FIELD-OF-PLAY MATCHES THEIR SIZE, AND THESE HONE IN ON THEIR SKILL-DEVELOPMENT IN A WAY THAT LARGER ICE SURFACES JUST AREN'T CONDUCTIVE TO.**

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"The Initiation Program has always been the foundation of skill development for our beginner hockey players. Station-based practices, small area games and cross-ice hockey ensure players are engaged and have the right start in their hockey experience," said OMHA Executive Director Ian Taylor. "Scaling the playing surface through cross-ice games allows young players the opportunity for more puck-touches which promotes greater opportunity for skill-development in puck-handling, shooting, skating, coordination and decision-making."

A modified playing environment and the continued use of age-appropriate equipment such as the 4 oz. lightweight blue puck is consistent with others sports such as soccer, baseball, basketball and tennis and is reinforced through Hockey Canada's Long Term Player Development model.



The Ontario Minor Hockey Association continues to work closely with our associations and our partners in hockey to deliver resources and best practices for coaches and administrators to create the best possible programming at this pivotal stage in the player development pathway.

# BENEFITS OF CROSS-ICE HOCKEY

We are shrinking the playing surface to match the age group



6X



MORE SHOTS PER GAME

5X



MORE PUCK BATTLES PER GAME

5X

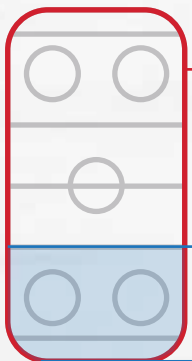


MORE PASSES RECEIVED PER GAME

2X



- BODY CONTACT AND PUCK BATTLES
- CHANGE OF DIRECTION
- PUCK TOUCHES
- PASS ATTEMPTS



**FULL SIZE**  
200 FT X 85 FT

**CROSS ICE**  
75 FT X 85 FT



REGULATION PUCK



BLUE PUCK





# THE GROWTH OF MIDGET HOCKEY

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The spotlight on Midget Hockey is growing and is about to shine even brighter

Following the inaugural OHL Under-18 Priority Selection, in which the Ontario Minor Hockey Association had six first round picks including the first ever first overall selection, playing Midget hockey has become an even more appealing option for those who want to stay local and continue playing hockey with their friends.

“This event is really going to bring greater awareness to the high level of talent we have at the Midget AAA level here in Ontario,” said OHL Senior Director of Hockey Development and Special Events Joe Birch before the draft. “In the long term our hope is that this initiative will not only bring accomplished players to the Ontario Hockey League, but will also improve the development of players, goaltenders, coaches and the game as a whole province-wide.”

While some view the Minor Midget year as the one and only proving ground of playing at the next level, that is simply not the case. The Midget season is a great time for players to gain extra development and continue to grow physically when they may not have had the opportunity to in years past.

“From Hockey Canada’s Long Term Development model, we know that hockey is a late specialization sport. Midget hockey provides the opportunity for players to continue to play the game and enjoy all the benefits the sport provides including physical activity, teamwork and competition,” said OMHA Executive Director Ian Taylor. “Players can continue to play as part of a life-long love of the sport and late-bloomers can continue to pursue their hockey goals. Hockey is available to meet the needs of all players.”



Taylor also notes that several OMHA centres have mentioned that their registration numbers for Midget hockey are strong and that many players are choosing to play house and local league in order to have time for school as well.

The ice time and development opportunities that Midget hockey provides are much more valuable than being at the end of the bench on a team that plays at a higher level according to Oakville Rangers Midget AAA coach Mike Bentivegna. He carries a deep passion for Midget hockey, leading the group for the past five years.

## (MIDGET HOCKEY) GIVES OVERLOOKED PLAYERS A CHANCE. //

“(Midget hockey) gives overlooked players a chance. It gives them a chance to be looked at but it gives them a chance to continue developing and development is the key to any successful program,” said Bentivegna. “You need to work with these players. You need to give them the individualized attention because not everybody learns the same way and not everybody sees the same thing.”

For the late bloomers, Midget hockey is another path to continue growing the game. The extra ice time given to players allows for more exposure to those looking from other programs outside of the OMHA such as the OJHL and NCAA.

“The development stream is not one perfect one for everyone. There’s people that are later bloomers and Midget hockey doesn’t end your hockey dream. For some people, it starts it,” said Bentivegna.

Bentivegna loves seeing his players have success at the next levels of hockey. He works with the Junior teams in his area to get his players involved in practices and games. Bentivegna tries to mimic how the Junior teams run their organizations, from administration down to what’s happening on the ice. This eases the transition should players end up moving on from the Rangers.

“Communication to the players, off-ice, on-ice, practices, we try to emulate a Junior program as much as possible,” said Bentivegna. “So when they get there, they know what to expect and they attract players to our program through a lot of word of mouth.”



# OHL DRAFT

The OHL draft took place on April 8 and saw minor hockey players get one step closer to realizing their NHL dreams.

Six players from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association were selected in the first round of the draft, led by Whitby Wildcats forward Blake Murray, who was taken seventh overall by the Sudbury Wolves. The OMHA led the way with 83 players chosen from 22 teams. The Quinte Red Devils had 10 players selected while the Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs, Brampton 45's and OMHA Minor Midget AAA Champion Whitby Wildcats each had eight players drafted.

## Blake Murray

Whitby Wildcats



### 7th overall

I am just very honoured to be selected by the Sudbury Wolves and can't wait to get up there and meet everyone in the organization and just get going. I am going to spend the off-season in the gym and on the ice and just working on getting bigger and stronger, working on my foot speed and getting ready to play at the OHL level. "



## Connor McMichael

Ajax-Pickering Raiders



### 11th overall

I am just super honoured to be drafted by the Bulldogs and really I am just in shock right now. I just have to thank my coaches, teammates and parents for the amazing season I had and really has led me to where I am today. "



## Mitchell Brewer

Halton Hurricanes



### 15th overall

I am going to work on my overall game and really work on my speed and shot. I really have to thank my parents, coaches and teammates who have supported me along the way and have helped me throughout my minor hockey career. "



## Hayden Fowler

Kingston Jr. Frontenacs



### 19th overall

It comes at you so quickly and all I can say right now is 'wow'. Sault Ste. Marie is such a great organization and I truly believe it is going to be a perfect fit for me. I am going to take the off-season to just train a lot and continue to get faster on the ice and improve my skills. I just have to thank my parents, getting me to and from the rink all these years, from early mornings to late nights, they have always been there for me. "



## Mitchell Russell

Barrie Jr. Colts



### 20th overall

The Attack are an awesome organization to be a part of and I can't wait to just get started. They are definitely a team I could see myself with. I really just want to thank my parents, they have been there since I have been little and I really appreciate all my brother has done for me as well. "



## Emmett Sproule

Grey-Bruce Highlanders



### 21st overall

I am going to be on ice and working out at a local gym and just working as hard as I can to get ready for the start of the OHL season. At the start of the season I would never have thought I would have this dream come true. It's just crazy and so amazing that I am following in the footsteps of a guy like Connor Roberts and helping put the Grey-Bruce Highlanders on the map. "



# MIDGET DRAFT

New this year was the first ever OHL Under-18 Priority Selection for Midget-aged players. The introduction of this draft saw five rounds of players being selected by Ontario Hockey League clubs. The first player selected in this new draft format was Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs defenceman Victor Hadfield, who was chosen by the Barrie Colts. He was the first of six OMHA players selected in the first round.

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association once again led the way with 32 players from 16 teams, including the first overall pick in Hadfield. The Niagara North Stars and Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs both had 5 players selected while the OMHA Midget AAA Champion Oakville Rangers had two players drafted.



## Victor Hadfield

Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs

**1st overall**



"I'm very grateful to have been taken by such a great organization. I've heard a lot of good things about the Colts and the success they have had. I'm thankful to their staff for having faith in me and taking me first overall."



## Nate Boomhower

Quinte Red Devils

**4th overall**



## Creed Jones

Central Ontario Wolves

**6th overall**



## Emmett Serensits

Oakville Rangers

**7th overall**



## James White

Central Ontario Wolves

**9th overall**



## Matthew Giannini

Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs

**20th overall**



# ESSAY CONTEST



The Ontario Minor Hockey Association is excited to reveal the Grand Prize Winner and four Finalists for the 2017 OMHA Essay Contest, presented by Respect in Sport. Entries were been submitted by minor hockey players of all ages on the topic of

## “ MY HOCKEY COACH TEACHES ME... ”

This season’s essays were a great reflection of the tremendous lessons hockey teaches our young players both on and off the ice. The list of potential life lessons is nearly endless including learning how to win and lose, experiencing the rewards of hard work, understanding the importance of sportsmanship and respect and figuring out what it means to be part of a community.

While the game we love is often the true teacher of these lessons, they are reinforced daily by the volunteers who make a significant impact on players, as evidenced by the fantastic essays we received this year.

## Grand Prize Winner



**Sheldon Bolton**

Age 8  
Norwood Minor Hockey



My hockey coach teaches me to be supportive, hardworking and respectful.

My hockey coaches teaches me teamwork. This means we work together and support each other. If someone is having a bad day, we pat them on the back or give them a high five. We cancelled a hockey game, so we could be there to support our teammate at a funeral. Together, we wear pink laces and pink ribbon stickers on our helmets to support his family. I learned from my coach that teamwork and support happens on and off the ice. Our teammates are our friends and family and we need to be there for them off the ice too.

I have learned from my coach that we celebrate our efforts regardless of wins or losses. If we have tried our hardest and we have improved in skating, stick handling, passing or shooting than we should be proud. I have learned to celebrate what I have worked hard to learn not the number of goals or assists I get.

I have learned from my coach to be respectful, we shake hands with the visiting team before the game. We celebrate quietly if we get goals or win because we don't want the other team to feel bad.

The things I have learned from my coach are not hockey lessons, they are life lessons.

# Finalists



**Aidan Alibhai**  
Age 10  
Unionville Minor Hockey



"My hockey coach teaches me many things that help me in my everyday life. But the most important things that I have learned is that without teamwork, respect and discipline you will never get to your goal very easily."



**Cody Catherwood**  
Age 9  
Milton Minor Hockey



"What I like most about our coaches is they care not only for us but the whole community."



**Ethan Schoonderbeek**  
Age 13  
Clarington Toros Minor Hockey



"My hockey coach teaches me to respect my parents who work hard all day to earn the money to allow me to play hockey, and then when they get home they shuttle me out to my activities at night."



**Ryan Eggens**  
Age 13  
Guelph Minor Hockey



"Lastly, he has shown us we are more than part of a team. When we put on our jackets we represent our team, our organization, and our city. We are proud to be Guelph Gryphons and we are proud to have him as our coach!"

# GOLDEN VICTORIES

## A GOLDEN YEAR FOR OMHA TEAMS



There were plenty of gold medals, trophies and awards earned by Ontario Minor Hockey Association teams throughout the season.

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Minor Hockey Championships are a three day event that produces OHF Champions at the Atom (A/AA/AAA), Pee wee (A/AA/AAA), Bantam (A/AA/AAA), Midget (A/AA/AAA), and Juvenile divisions.

The competing teams come from across the province's minor hockey associations. The OHF Championships take place at the conclusion of every hockey season and feature five teams in each age classification.

A number of OMHA teams medalled at the championships.

The Dundas Blue Atom A group captured silver in a narrow defeat. The Bradford Bulldogs Midget A team edged out a win in the gold medal game as did the Oakville Rangers Pee wee A squad.

The Ajax Knights won gold in the Juvenile bracket. In the Atom AA group the Milton Winterhawks captured a silver medal. The Pee wee AA Championship saw a clash of two OMHA teams as the Northumberland Nighthawks defeated the Oakville Rangers in the final game.

It didn't stop there for OMHA clubs. Teams battled over many March weekends to claim the coveted #RedHats, awarded to the winning clubs of each Playdowns bracket. This is the most famous prize in all of minor hockey and it brings out the best of every player at this time of year.

Congratulations to all players, teams and organizations who were crowned champions this hockey season.



# HOMETOWN HOCKEY AWARDS



## WHITBY WILDCATS NOVICE A BLUE

These eight-year-old boys wanted to give back in the community and decided to assist a local shelter called Herizon House, a shelter for abused women and their children. The boys and their families were able to collect over 30 garbage bags of clothing. Two of the shelter representatives filled up both of their vans with these donations. With so many donations Herizon will be able to share some of the donations with three other shelters.



## MILTON WINTERHAWKS ATOM BLUE AE

The Winterhawks donated their practice time and organized a community skating fundraiser for Milton's Darling Home for Kids, which provides high quality respite and palliative care services for children who are medically fragile and technology dependent, many of whom suffer from progressive illness.

Between admission fees, donations and the proceeds of a bake sale and silent auction, the team raised \$2,300 for this worthy local cause, which provides an important service to families in Milton and the surrounding area. For the team, the experience provided an opportunity to give back to the community, and a recognition that leadership extends well beyond the action on the ice.



## **EAST GWILLIMBURY EAGLES** **TYKE SELECT**

This team worked very hard in November to raise awareness about Hockey-4Hunger, a program that raises awareness for those in need in our communities. The Eagles had a bake sale to raise funds to purchase food for the local food bank in our community. They worked hard and made over \$700 but didn't stop there. They continued to help their community by going door to door collecting non-perishable food. The boys were happy that they could help those in need and provide families with food for the holidays.



## **MARKHAM WAXERS** **MINOR PEEWEE AE WHITE**

The Waxers supported the Love Box Project for Markham-Stouffville Hospital which provides gifts and toys for children currently staying there as a way to give back. Twenty boxes were filled with thoughtful gifts to raise the spirits of children receiving treatment at the hospital.



## **MILTON SHARKS** **ATOM HL**

The Milton Sharks collected toys for the annual Miracle on Main Street Toy Drive. Together, the team brought their donations to Troy's Diner where they had a team building breakfast. The donations raised each year go towards the purchase of toys, food and life essentials for families experiencing poverty via The Salvation Army and Halton Women's Shelter. Toys are also donated to Sick Kids and McMaster Children's Hospital.





**CENTRAL ONTARIO WOLVES**  
NOVICE AAA



**AURORA TIGERS**  
NOVICE CENTRAL AA



**CENTRE WELLINGTON FUSION**  
NOVICE CENTRAL A



**ORILLIA TERRIERS**  
NOVICE CENTRAL AE 1



**KINGSTON CANADIANS**  
NOVICE EAST AA



**WHITBY WILDCATS BLUE**  
NOVICE EAST A



**NAPANEE STARS**  
**NOVICE EAST BB-B**



**FRONTENAC FLYERS**  
**NOVICE EAST CC-C**



**ESSA EAGLES**  
**NOVICE EAST DD-D**



**OSHAWA MINOR GENERALS**  
**NOVICE EAST AE 1-3**



**BELLE RIVER CANADIENS**  
**NOVICE WEST AA**



**ESSEX RAVENS**  
**NOVICE WEST A**



**ERIN HILLSBURGH DEVILS**  
NOVICE WEST BB



**AYR FLAMES**  
NOVICE WEST B



**SOUTH HURON SABRES**  
NOVICE WEST CC



**AYLMER FLAMES**  
NOVICE WEST C



**PORT STANLEY JR SAILORS**  
NOVICE WEST DD-D



**BELLE RIVER CANADIENS**  
NOVICE WEST AE 1-2



**MOUNT BRYDGES COUGARS**  
NOVICE WEST AE 3-4



**LUCKNOW SEPOY**  
NOVICE WAAA JACOBI



**DRAYTON DEFENDERS**  
NOVICE WAAA HODGES



**SAUGEEN SHORES STORM**  
NOVICE WAAA TWOLAN



**GODERICH SAILORS**  
NOVICE WAAA McCLURE



**YORK SIMCOE EXPRESS**  
MINOR ATOM AAA



**PETERBOROUGH MINOR PETES**  
**MINOR ATOM AA**



**ST. THOMAS JR. STARS**  
**MINOR ATOM A**



**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**MINOR ATOM AE 1-2**



**MARKHAM WAXERS**  
**ATOM AAA**



**MILTON WINTERHAWKS**  
**ATOM AA**



**DUNDAS BLUES**  
**ATOM A**



**MIDLAND CENTENNIALS**  
**ATOM BB**



**KINCARDINE KINUCKS**  
**ATOM B**



**HANOVER FALCONS**  
**ATOM CC**



**SOUTH BRUCE BLADES**  
**ATOM C**



**CREEMORE VALLEY HAWKS**  
**ATOM DD-D**



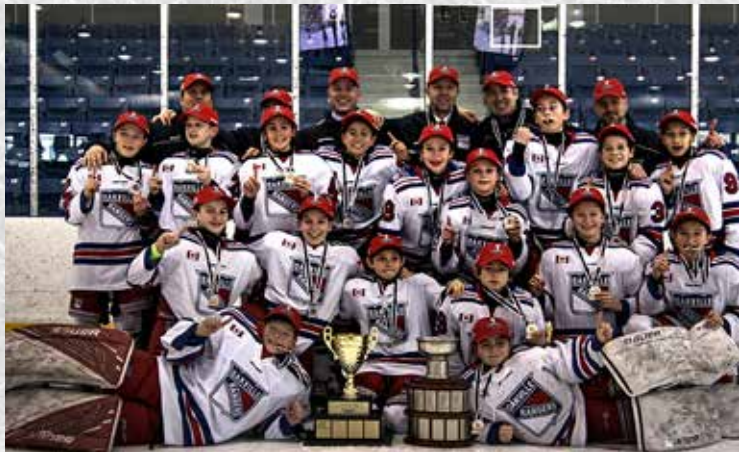
**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**ATOM AE 1**



**BARRIE COLTS**  
**ATOM AE 2**



**DORCHESTER DRAGONS**  
**ATOM AE 3-5**



**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**MINOR PEEWEE AAA**



**MILTON WINTERHAWKS**  
**MINOR PEEWEE AA**



**BURLINGTON EAGLES**  
**MINOR PEEWEE A**



**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**MINOR PEEWEE AE 1-2**



**AJAX-PICKERING RAIDERS**  
**PEEWEE AAA**



**NORTHUMBERLAND NIGHTHAWKS**  
**PEEWEE AA**



**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**PEEWEE A**



**THOROLD BLACKHAWKS**  
**PEEWEE BB**



**PENETANG FLAMES**  
**PEEWEE B**



**BANCROFT JETS**  
**PEEWEE CC**



**LUCAN IRISH**  
**PEEWEE C**



**DRAYTON DEFENDERS**  
**PEEWEE DD-D**



**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**PEEWEE AE 1**



**MILTON WINTERHAWKS**  
**PEEWEE AE 2**



**STRATHROY ROCKETS**  
**PEEWEE 3-5**



**GUELPH JR. GRYPHONS**  
**MINOR BANTAM AAA**



**BURLINGTON EAGLES GOLD**  
**MINOR BANTAM AA**



**BURLINGTON EAGLES**  
**MINOR BANTAM A**



**PETERBOROUGH JR. PETES**  
**MINOR BANTAM AE 1-2**



**YORK SIMCOE EXPRESS**  
**BANTAM AAA**



**GARDEN CITY FALCONS**  
**BANTAM AA**



**BARRIE COLTS WHITE**  
**BANTAM A**



**SOUTH MUSKOKA BEARS**  
**BANTAM BB**



**INGERSOLL EXPRESS**  
**BANTAM B**



**DUNNVILLE MUDCATS**  
**BANTAM CC**



**MARIPOSA LIGHTNING**  
**BANTAM C**



**FLESHERTON GOLDEN HAWKS**  
**BANTAM DD-D**



**KENT COBRAS**  
**BANTAM AE 1**



**BARRIE COLTS**  
BANTAM AE 2



**PELHAM PANTHERS**  
BANTAM AE 3-5



**WHITBY WILDCATS**  
MINOR MIDGET AAA



**TNT TORNADOS**  
MINOR MIDGET AA



**WHITBY WILDCATS**  
MINOR MIDGET A



**PELHAM PANTHERS**  
MINOR MIDGET BB-D



**BRAMPTON 45's**  
**MINOR MIDGET AE 1-2**



**OAKVILLE RANGERS**  
**MIDGET AAA**



**CALEDON HAWKS**  
**MIDGET AA**



**BRADFORD BULLDOGS**  
**MIDGET A**



**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE WOLVES**  
**MIDGET BB**



**MOORETOWN JR FLAGS**  
**MIDGET B**



**CAMPBELLFORD COLTS**  
**MIDGET CC**



**LUCAN IRISH**  
**MIDGET C**



**CENTRE HASTINGS GRIZZLIES**  
**MIDGET DD-D**



**AJAX KNIGHTS WHITE**  
**MIDGET AE 1-2**



**ENNISMORE EAGLES**  
**MIDGET AE 3-5**



**ENNISMORE EAGLES**  
**JUVENILE AAA-AA**



**WOOLWICH WILDCATS**  
JUVENILE A



**LISTOWEL CYCLONES**  
JUVENILE BB-B



**PORT DOVER PIRATES**  
JUVENILE CC-C



**HONEYWOOD HURRICANES**  
JUVENILE DD-D

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