



GRANDE PRAIRIE MINOR HOCKEY
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President's year end message

April 13, 2018

Thank you to all of our players, coaches and volunteers for a successful 2017 - 2018 hockey season. A big thank you to our parents who are the support mechanism for our association.

GPMHA is a forward thinking organization. We have taken steps to be ahead of the curve in change and have tried a few new ideas this past season.

1. Our new Development Program gave our players extra development ice sessions with various instructors. From powerskating to skill development to goalie sessions we feel that while this year was successful, we have some room to improve on what we have started and will strive to build an even stronger program for the new season for all our members.
2. Our Tom Thumb group was very successful with 2 large teams and we look to make it even bigger in 2018 – 2019.
3. Initiation was a success this season as we saw an increase in players in the division and were able to provide a positive experience for those players. This division did a wonderful job with the 36 team Pomeroy Lodging Tournament.
4. Novice: There will be a new novice initiative that will be announced from Hockey Alberta soon. We will host a town hall for our membership to discuss the implementation of this new initiative from Hockey Alberta in May or June 2018. I will attend a meeting on April 15 where this will be discussed.
5. Atom hockey continues to grow positively in both our Recreation and Development streams. There will be an information town hall meeting for our membership to discuss the new season in May or June of 2018.
6. PeeWee teams had strong seasons both in the Recreation and Development streams. Our grassroots development in the Novice and Atom divisions that started 4 years ago with the movement to more development teams at the Novice D and Atom A and B levels is starting to produce results and providing more players with a chance to play at a higher level to develop their skills.
7. Bantam hockey produced some great results and we will see a growth in our Bantam numbers next season. We have enough players projected to enter Bantam hockey that will see an additional 2 teams worth of players in the division. Since the inception of the Hockey Alberta AA Model in 2015 – 2016 Hockey Alberta has always mandated that we have two Bantam AA teams. For the past 3 years we have felt that we could not field two teams and thus have requested an exception. Through our

development plan and slowing growing from two Atom A and two B teams and two PeeWee AA and two A teams, we have developed a strong core to make the move to have two Bantam AA teams in 2018 - 2019. This will provide more players the opportunity to develop playing hockey in a strong league and prepare them to play at a higher level in the following seasons. This also provides the region with another opportunity for players from other associations to play at a higher level as the AA program is considered a regional program.

8. Midget hockey highlights included the first season of our Midget AAA - Academy partnership which was very well received. Our other teams were successful as well and we wish our graduating players much success in their future after minor hockey.

9. Female: We have a very strong female program in Grande Prairie with one Initiation team, two Novice teams, two Atom teams, two PeeWee teams, two Bantam teams and one Midget team. Our Bonnett's Energy Bantam Female Elite Storm team hosted Provincials this past month, bringing in teams from the entire province. It was a very successful venture for all concerned.

10. Ultimate Sports Raffle – another great success! This raffle will go a long way in helping keep our GPMHA registration fees at 2013 – 2014 levels. We hope to hold the fees for the 6th straight year with no increases. We will know for sure by the end of May.

We have a few more events coming up to finalize our season:

- Award's nights – you have until April 23 to nominate your Coach, Manager or Trainer!
- our AGM is your opportunity to have your voice heard and if you are interested in making a difference there will be positions open on our board that will come up for election. Mark May 30 @ 7 pm upstairs at the Coca Cola Centre in your calendars.

Thank you to all of those who stepped up as Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Jersey Moms, etc. These volunteers go above and beyond. Please thank them often for their dedication to our children.

Yours in hockey,

D J Golden
President
Grande Prairie Minor Hockey