

## President's Report

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2022-2023 Annual General Meeting • May 29, 2023

The 2022-23 season was in many ways a return to normal, our first hockey season without Covid-19 impacts since the 2019-2020 season came to a sudden halt in early March of 2020. Our 18 competitive teams, 14 youth house league teams, 2 DS teams and 6 adult women's league teams all played a full season without any cancellations for the first time in 3 years. As we emerged from Covid-19, our Board of Directors focused not only on returning our programs to be as strong as before the pandemic, but we also worked together on several improvements and exciting new initiatives.

In the reports from our Directors presented at this Annual General Meeting, you will find details of all of the ways we worked hard to strengthen and grow the Barrie Women's Hockey Association on behalf of our members. Some highlights of these initiatives include:

- Continued strengthening of the Simcoe Muskoka Girls Hockey League without our partner associations in Huntsville, Orillia, Midland (North Simcoe) and Collingwood.
- A return to a full, unimpacted season in the Ontario Women's Hockey League for our 17 competitive teams, from U9 through U22
- Continued improvements to our website and online communication tools
- The launch of our first online store for team and player apparel orders
- A complete review and relaunch of our association's Code of Conduct for all hockey participants – including players, audience and family members, coaches, volunteers, and officials.
- A successful 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the First Shift introductory hockey program
- The addition of 16 on-ice officials and 3 new timekeepers, returning our roster of officials to pre-Covid levels.
- A renewed player development plan, and the building of a new High-Performance Program to support our highest level competitive players

In addition to the important work to ensure our foundational programs continue to be strong, this season also saw a number of new initiatives:

- In September we launched our first ever electronic 50-50 raffle, marketed as the Barrie Sharks Cash Lottery. Three draws were held in November, January and February. While the electronic raffles had gross sales of over \$8,000 and yielded just over \$3,000 in net proceeds for the association, total sales did not meet overall expectations. The electronic raffles may be re-introduced in the 2023-24 season.
- On October 6, 2022 the BWAH partnered with the Barrie Colts for a "Women's Hockey Night" at a Barrie Colts Game. The game honoured former Barrie's own Jessie Eldridge, who had played for Team Canada at the 2022 World Championships, where the team won gold. Over 450 tickets were purchased by Barrie Sharks players, families and friends, earning over \$2,000 for our competitive and house league teams.
- On February 11, 2023 the BWAH partnered with the Barrie Colts to host a Professional Women's Hockey Players Association game at the Sadlon Arena. Close to 3,000 tickets were sold to the game, which saw Team Adidas win over Team Harvey's in overtime. The event earned over \$9,000 for the BWAH through our profit-sharing agreement with the Barrie Colts and PWHPA,

and a further \$4,500 in fundraising incentives was directed to our house league and competitive teams.

- In January of 2023, the BWA submitted a proposal to Hockey Canada to act as a pre-competition host community for the 2023 IIHF Women's World Championships being held in Brampton, April 5 to 16. In February, Hockey Canada notified the BWA that we had been selected, and from March 27 to April 2, the BWA hosted Teams from Switzerland and Germany for their per-world championship training camps. The teams also faced off in an exhibition game hosted by the BWA at Sadlon Arena on Friday, March 31, 2023 – which was attended by over 600 fans. The hosting of these teams was only possible through the BWA's partnership with the City of Barrie, Tourism Barrie, Hockey Canada and the OWHA.

As we draw to the end of another successful hockey season, I want to thank the hundreds of devoted volunteers who put so much time into each hockey season. The fees our members pay go towards covering the things that much be purchased to create hockey opportunities – ice, equipment, insurance, and other items. But there is so much more that is needed to make a hockey season happen that we often don't think about. From the trainers who look after our players, to the on-ice volunteers who help at practices, to the managers and treasurers who organize team activities, to the coaches and assistant coaches who lead the teams, to the conveners that organize our leagues, and the Board members who over see all these things. The hockey opportunities the BWA provides are only possible each year thanks to the thousands of hours of hard work from hundreds of people – and on behalf of all of our members I want to thank all of our dedicated volunteers.