

**ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

***"INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 6, 1981"***

**1995 - 1996 EXECUTIVE REPORTS**



***Ontario Women's Hockey Association***

#30 - 1100 Central Parkway West,  
Mississauga, Ontario  
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**MAY 25, 26, 1996**

## ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### 1995-1996 Executive List

Doug Nicholls	President
Fran Rider*	Executive Director
Carl Noble	Past President
Sue Rawson	First Vice-President
Bryan Chappell	Second Vice-President
Al Morris	OHA Delegate
Suzanne Essex	Secretary
Doug Reddon	Treasurer / Registration
Gerhard Gedies	Regional Director Western
Betty Solomon	Regional Director Central West
Pat Nicholls	Regional Director Central
Fran Jay	Regional Director Central East
Carol Banks	Regional Director Eastern
Wayne Barrie	Regional Director Northern
Melanie McFarlane*	Development Coordinator
Ivan Locke*	Referee-in-Chief
Clay Melnike*	Director of Marketing
Mayor Hazel McCallion*	Member - Board of Regents
Professor Ed Ratushny*	Member - Board of Regents
Kaye Cartwright*	Member - Board of Regents
Celia Southward*	Member - Board of Regents
Frank Champion-Demers*	Member - Board of Regents
Fran Rider*	Member - Board of Regents

\* Non-voting Member

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#### Thanks to our District Reps

Marg Allen	Metro Toronto
Jann Bower	Metro Toronto
Bev Duffy	Metro Toronto
Karen Hughes	Metro Toronto
Lorie Springall	Northern
Denise Marjerrison	Northern
Mark McDonald	Northern
Gayle Parks	Central East
Sue Gibson	Central West
Don Clune	Central
Les Drury	Western
Jamie Hughes	Western

Thanks also to our office secretary, Debbie Salvo

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

***"AERODYNAMICALLY, THE BUMBLE BEE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY, BUT THE BUMBLE BEE DOESN'T KNOW IT SO IT GOES ON FLYING ANYWAY."***

Twenty short years ago, when the Ontario Women's Hockey Association was formed, we would have fit the "bumble bee" example. Society viewed female hockey as something that shouldn't or couldn't be(e). Fortunately, our participants and volunteers focused only on their love of the game. Therefore; we have not only flown - we have soared.

Today, we are moving into a new phase in female hockey. The success of high performance programs resulted in acceptance into the 1998 Winter Olympics. This has given our game tremendously enhanced credibility throughout the world and has had a very positive impact on grass roots growth and development.

Now, it is our responsibility to ensure the future direction remains positive and the game is kept in perspective. The first document we should reference is the OWHA values - the second document is the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations and Rules.

There is definitely an important business aspect to our game that requires attention. However, it is not enough to have balanced books and impressive statistics. At the end of a season, our most important measure of success comes from the feelings of our players. Have they had fun? Have they made new friends? Have they learned positive life skills? Will they look back at the season - first, reflecting on the fun and secondly reflecting on the scores? Will the adults do the same?

As we look at the provincial picture this year, we are pleased to see many positives. The growth continues at an incredible pace with many new players enjoying the game. There are countless examples of teams, leagues and associations helping each other. The atmosphere at the provincial championships was very upbeat. Many talented teams won championships with many others demonstrating success through their ability to turn the loss of a game into a winning situation. This has also been evident within many competitive leagues and house leagues.

It is important to note some issues and concerns - with the objective of identifying and correcting for the future. We have seen several excellent associations struggling with internal conflict. Some adults are experiencing difficulty resolving differences and moving ahead for the players. Good people appear to be acting in bad ways. We must find ways to identify issues, discuss details, come up with a majority position and move forward together in support of that position. We urge leagues and associations to take time to establish effective communication systems and to sit down on a regular basis to weigh individual concerns with the good of the majority. A team sport requires a united team effort.

As our game gains credibility, we are experiencing external challenges. Before, no one wanted anything to do with female hockey. Now, many "for-profit" businesses and individuals are interested in making money in our "not-for-profit" association. Certainly, there is value in partnerships, but not at the expense of existing programmes.

The insurance issue is always present. In today's society, it may be tough to find the dollars, but we cannot afford to be without insurance. The fear of the liability concerns turned into a reality this season as one of our coaches was served personally with a one million dollar law suit. It is alleged that, at a novice practice, the coach was being assisted by an adult who was running drills in one end of the ice. A player crossed into that end of the ice and collided with the adult assistant who suffered a broken ankle requiring surgery. Copies of the suit, with the names deleted, are available on request.

Two words are often repeated in hockey circles - "risk management". It is important that everyone is aware of risk management. From a safety perspective, players, team staff and volunteers need to take precautions for their own safety and for the safety of others. From a financial standpoint, it is important to have competent budgeting and accounting controls. It is recommended that individual leagues and associations incorporate and also carry directors and officers liability insurance coverage. A presentation will be made at this year's AGM.

Two other important words are "communication" and "responsibility". As our game grows, more and more people are required to assist in the operations. It is important that everyone clearly understands their own role, takes responsibility for the job and is given support in doing the work. Ongoing communication can be a major factor in ensuring a positive outcome. Many issues that develop into major problems simply start as a communication break down.

Centrally, the OWHA is taking steps to address ways of increasing the frequency and effectiveness of communication within all areas of operations. The identification of responsible communication officers in each association combined with effective administration maximizing modern technology will move us ahead in a unified fashion. It is important that communication flows all ways on a regular basis. This is the only way we can help each other provide the best possible environment for the players in Ontario.

We would like to sincerely congratulate the many individuals throughout the Ontario Women's Hockey Association who regularly give so much of themselves for the sake of others. Today's society is tough and fast paced. Sometimes, we see a lot of negatives in a "me" society. Our network is special and has been built on a "we" philosophy. Please take time to reflect on the many, many positive aspects of our game. Also, take time to feel good about your contribution. You do deserve enjoyment from the game as, together, we have experienced a lot of success.

At this year's annual meeting, and throughout the coming season, please consider taking the time to consciously think of something good in every team and in everyone you meet. The opposition today may be your teammate tomorrow. Tell the people you meet the good you see. It is a proven fact that our players perform much better and enjoy the game far more when they hear positive reinforcement. Volunteers can do the same!

Sincere thanks to everyone on a great season. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, snow-free summer!

*Fran Rider*

*A team is a group of people who are committed to achieving common goals,  
Who work well together, and who enjoy doing so.  
Our team is more than just the sum of individual efforts.*

## DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Congratulations to all players, coaches, managers, administrators, officials, trainers, parents and volunteers who contributed to making the 1995-96 season an exciting and successful year.

Again this season, female hockey experienced tremendous growth in Ontario. Along with rapid growth comes the inevitable growing pains. Each day brings new challenges to everyone involved in our great sport. With cooperation, team work and embracing the values of the OWHA, female hockey will continue to flourish in Ontario.

This season brought with it the opportunity to attend the 1996 Canadian Hockey Association's Annual General Meeting. Representatives from all across Canada attend these meetings in hopes of improving the game of hockey at all levels. It was quite an eye opener to sit in on the meetings. They were interesting but at the same time frustrating with respect to the development of female hockey across Canada.

I returned home feeling extremely fortunate to live in the province of Ontario where girls and women have the opportunity to play the great game of hockey without limitations. You merely have to look at the CHA Female Hockey Registration chart included in this annual report (page 7) to see the obvious difference in the development of the sport in Ontario. The credit for the growth must go to the dogged determination of our thousands of volunteers, past and present. The volunteers who would not take "NO" for an answer when they were told that "There is no ice, go away", "Girls hockey, its a fad and will die out", or "Why would women want to play hockey?". OWHA members all across Ontario have served notice that female hockey is here to stay. We have only begun to experience the number of potential participants. It's realistic to think that with the incredible promotional value of a successful 1997 Women's World Championship in Kitchener and the 1998 Olympics, our registration could double again by the turn of the century. It is our sincerest wish that the upcoming events also have a major impact on female hockey all across Canada.

Some of our brothers from minor hockey throughout Canada have a tough time comprehending why and how female hockey exists, survives and thrives independently in Ontario. Even though we still face some resistance within Ontario the majority are open minded and proud of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and its dedicated players & volunteers.

The CHA Female Council sessions at the CHA AGM were interesting and it was a great opportunity to meet provincial representatives who are enthusiastic, dedicated and love the sport of female hockey. This group must be commended as they continue to fight for their existence.

To all OWHA members who have family and friends living in other provinces, let's spread the word! Please encourage them to pursue opportunities for female hockey in their area of Canada. Please insist that they "**please don't take no for an answer**" when someone tries to shut the doors.

### OWHA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The OWHA development programme continues to expand consistent with the growth of the sport. Many thanks to all associations and clinic coordinators who assisted in providing the OWHA membership with certification clinics in 1995-96. It is very encouraging to see many associations creating the position of Director of Development on their local board of directors. Our players will be the beneficiaries of such a concentrated effort towards the training of coaches, trainers and referees at the local level.

## **INITIATIVES**

OWHA Initiative Meetings are held in communities wishing to start up a female hockey program and The meeting is effective way to gauge local interest and drum up the much needed volunteers. In some cases meetings have been held in communities identified by the OWHA as having the potential to develop a local program.

An Initiative Meeting was held in Bobcaygeon on a Sunday afternoon in the middle of last August. Eighteen girls and women attended and through enthusiastic local support two teams registered for the 1995-96 season.

The long awaited tour of Northern Ontario was finally realized in 1995. An extensive promotional tour through northwestern Ontario took place last August. Stops included Marathon, Thunder Bay, Fort Frances, Dryden and Kenora/Keewatin.

In Marathon, we combined an on-ice session with a registration night for girls and women. We also joined Thunder Bay for a registration evening. Plans for Thunder Bay included a coach clinic and on-ice sessions which were to occur at the conclusion of the tour. Due to unfortunate circumstances these were postponed. Plans are still in the works for on-ice sessions and coach development this summer and the coming season.

In Fort Frances we held an Initiative Meeting where approximately 20 people attended on a rainy Friday evening. The meeting took place in the wonderful atmosphere of a classic old arena lobby. The next stop was Dryden where we held both an Initiative Meeting and on-ice session. Over 35 people attended the meeting on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon. They asked many questions and were excited about the opportunity to become involved in girls hockey "sooner rather than later". A dozen girls took part in the on-ice session.

The final stop on the tour was Kenora/Keewatin, where the local girls hockey association was entering its second season. Plans included on-ice sessions, coaches chalk talk and a hot stove session where parents and players were invited to ask questions about female hockey in Ontario. Lisa Backman assisted with the on-ice sessions. Lisa hails from Thunder Bay and was a member of our 1995 Canada Winter Games gold medal Team Ontario. Lisa did a fantastic job and gave the young girls an opportunity to witness the high level of skill they can aspire to through dedication and practice.

When the tour was in its planning stages we offered an open invitation for any Canadian National Team player, past or present to join us in promoting our great game. We received immediate, enthusiastic response from Brenda Richard Kuan-Veng. Brenda had been solid on defence for our 1990 Women's World Championship team and had since retired from the elite game to marry and raise a family. What an excellent role model to help demonstrate the sport of women's hockey while keeping the game in perspective. Tragically Brenda fell ill while in Kenora and passed away two days later in Winnipeg. Her passing shocked the OWHA hockey family. Sincerest appreciation to everyone for the kindness and support shown to Brenda's family, her husband Alex and son Scott.

To Rick, Tara and Ryan McFarlane many thanks for all your help on the trip. It couldn't have happened without your patience and support. We met many wonderful new friends on our northern adventure and isn't that what hockey is all about!

To the many enthusiastic players, parents and volunteers who have responded to the challenge to develop the sport in Bobcaygeon and Northwestern Ontario, best wishes for continued success and FUN!!

## **REFEREES**

The OWSA registered 287 officials in 1995-96. We look forward to assisting local associations as they develop their own referee programs and encourage young girls to try their hand at officiating. Many thanks to Ivan Locke, Rick Morphew, Doug Nicholls and Bryan Chappell for their continuing dedication to the OWSA Referee program.

### **CANADIAN HOCKEY OFFICIATING PROGRAM (CHOP)**

CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
North York	Sept 16, 1995	Jr/Sr
London	Sept 17, 1995	Jr
Leaside	Sept 23, 1995	Jr/Sr
Stoney Creek	Sept 24, 1995	Jr/Sr
Barrie	Sept 30, 1995	Jr/Sr
Peterborough	Oct 1, 1995	Jr/Sr
Sudbury	Oct 15, 1995	Jr/Sr
Windsor	Oct 28, 1995	Jr
Durham West	Nov 5, 1995	Jr

## **TRAINERS**

Four OWSA Hockey Trainers Certification Program (HTCP) clinics were run this past season. The drop is attributed to the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario (HDCO) establishing three generic host sites in the Metro Toronto area, eliminating the need for our Toronto and surrounding area based organizations to host their own clinics. Our members were encouraged to attend the regularly scheduled classes in Mississauga, North York and Scarborough. There continues to be great interest in the HTCP as many local associations encourage the "Moms" to become involved. Many thanks to John Panethere of the HDCO for his expertise and guidance in this important facet of our game.

### **HOCKEY TRAINER'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (HTCP)**

CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
Barrie	Oct 14, 1995	I
London	Oct 14, 1995	I
Windsor	Oct 15, 1995	I
Hamilton	Oct 28, 1995	I

## **COACHING**

In 1995-96 OWSA associations continued to support and encourage their coaches participation at NCCP Coaching clinics. Reports are that some associations are going beyond the mandatory "Coach Level" certification and are insisting that their head coaches achieve the NCCP "Intermediate Level" certification. Congratulations on your proactive approach towards providing the best coaching possible for your players!

### **NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)**

CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
Burlington	June 1995	Intermediate
Kingston	Aug 12-13, 1995	Coach
Windsor	Sept 16-17, 1995	Coach
Woodstock	Sept 23-24, 1995	Coach
Brampton	Sept 30-Oct 1, 1995	Coach
London	Oct 21-22, 1995	Coach
Stoney Creek	Oct 28-29, 1995	Coach
Barrie	Oct 28-29, 1995	Coach
Nipigon	Jan 13-14, 1996	Coach
Hamilton	Jan 20-21, 1996	Coach
McMaster University	Mar 16-17, 1996	Coach
London	April 28, May 4,5	Intermediate



### **INITIATION PROGRAM**

An Initiation Program Instructor's clinic was run in conjunction with the City of Toronto's Women in Action program. When one compares the population size of Toronto, the percentage of girls and women playing hockey within the City of Toronto is very low. Identifying the need, the City of Toronto's Women in Action program worked together with the OWHA to provide a "learn to play" program. Girls and women of all ages participated in the weekly sessions patterned after the CHA Initiation Program. Thanks to Carol Antle, Kathy Dyer, Nan Spencer, Tammy Kerr, Sandra Manzi Phyllis Berck, Ann Doggett and Sandy Straw for their dedication to the program.

Plans are in the works for an Initiation Program clinic to be held in the Bowmanville area in the fall. Tentative plans are also being made in Barrie, Hamilton, Mississauga and Durham West to offer the Initiation Program to the girls in their community. If your association is interested in finding out more about the I.P. please call for all the details on this FUN introduction to hockey.

**INITIATION PROGRAM (I.P.)**

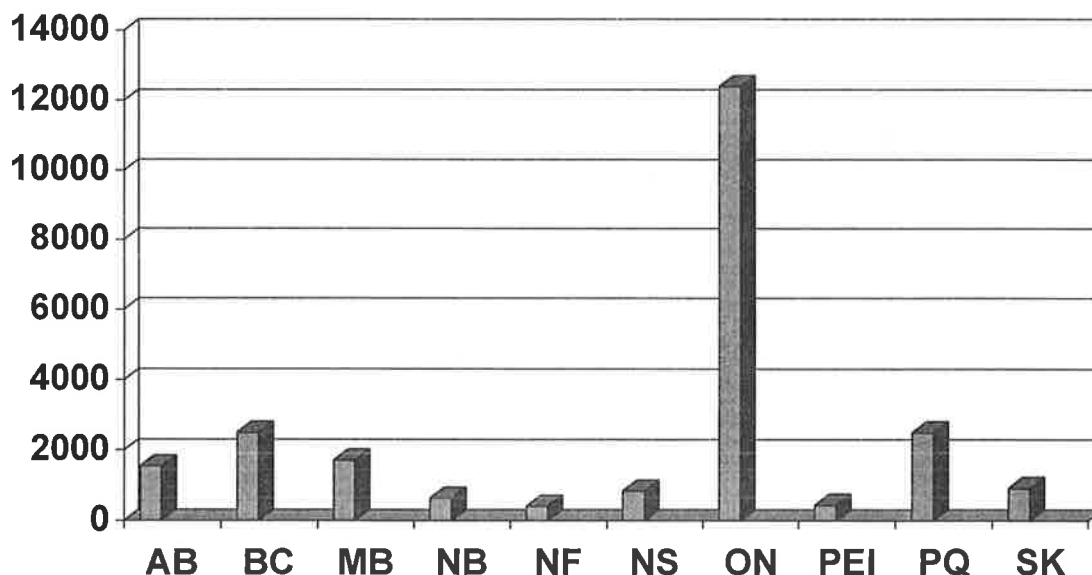
LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
Toronto	Oct 29, 1995	Instructor

*Melanie McFarlane*

### **OWHA MISSION STATEMENT**

Through a provincially unified, collective voice, the OWHA promotes, provides and develops opportunities for girls and women to play female hockey in Ontario.

### **CHA FEMALE HOCKEY REGISTRATION 1995-1996**



## **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 1995/96 hockey season has proven to be an exciting and very busy one. Our rapid growth has presented many challenges both to the Provincial Executive and local associations. It is essential that people work together to ensure that we meet the demands of the nineties and retain the values of OWHA - fair play, fun, excellence, good citizenship, integrity and honesty and equity.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Executive and the many members of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association who are so supportive and willing to become involved in the many activities and committees which were implemented this past season.

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

This year the Committee has been involved in the recruitment of Communications Officers from associations, leagues, independent teams, etc. It is essential that everyone be represented in order to develop efficient and effective communication channels.

Thanks are extended to Jennifer McFadden for her participation and involvement with this committee.

### **PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE**

The 1995/96 Provincial Championships saw a participation of nearly two hundred teams in 23 divisions. Congratulations are extended to all champions, participants and to the many teams who participated in regional playdowns. The calibre of hockey at all levels was exceptional!

Special thanks to Graeme Osler, Rick McFarlane and the Stoney Creek G.H.A. on the fine organization of the Senior AA Provincials which was combined with their annual tournament.

Thanks to Mel Avery and his committee on the superb job in the coordination of the Senior, Intermediate, Midget and PeeWee Provincials in Ottawa.

Thanks should be extended to the Executive who assisted in the coordination of the Novice, Atom, Bantam and Senior D Provincials in Mississauga. Special mention should be given to Jann Bower and Brenda Howard for their involvement.

### **HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

This committee has been involved in the development of a players' evaluation system for the Ontario Women's Hockey Season. Committee members have been actively involved in drafting an action plan which will include regional development camps, Under 18 camp(s) and the formation of a database of players born between 1977 and 1981.

The 1996-97 season will involve the implementation of this action plan with the assistance of the committee members: Pat Nicholls, Karen Hughes, Melanie McFarlane, Rick Osborne and Cathy Phillips.

*Sue Rawson*

## SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Seventy-five (75) tournaments were sanctioned during the 1995/96 season which is a fifteen percent (15%) increase over last year. A more consistent enforcement of rules that were not being followed resulted in fines being handed out to some organizations. The new Tournament Manual brought positive feedback from tournament convenors and it will be upgraded for the 1996/97 season. In all, 82 manuals were mailed out to OWHA organizations.

### CATEGORIZING

Fifty-eight (58) teams were re-categorized either up or down during the 1995/96 season. This was the first year that teams were required to hand in a report card on their own team which was a great asset at the re-categorizing meeting in January. This was also the first year that every competitive team in Ontario was discussed by the members of the Committee.

### REQUEST FOR SANCTION

Approximately 250 sanctions were issued to OWHA teams. Eighty percent (80%) were issued to compete against male teams and twenty percent (20%) were for tournaments and games out of the Country. It is important to note that the CHA insurance is only valid when playing sanctioned games against other teams that are under the IIHF. Special approval is required to play all non-OWHA teams.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers who make female hockey possible and especially the rest of the OWHA Executive. Have a safe and pleasant summer!

*Bryan Chappell*

## 1995/96 OWHA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

CATEGORY	GOLD MEDALIST	SILVER MEDALIST
Novice A	Mississauga	Durham West
Novice B	Belleville	Kingston
Novice C	Oakville	Windsor
Atom A	Sarnia	Ottawa
Atom B	Windsor	Cornwall
Atom C	Oshawa	Kemptville
PeeWee A	Brantford	Cornwall
PeeWee B	Durham	Leaside
PeeWee C	Cochrane	Kitchener
Bantam A	Lady Marlies	Wingham
Bantam B	Belleville	Cornwall
Bantam C	Flamborough	Leaside
Midget A	Ottawa	London
Midget B	Toronto	Durham
Midget C	Ottawa	Brantford
Intermediate A	Ottawa	North York Aeros
Intermediate B	Belleville	Niagara Falls
Intermediate C	Nepean	Kitchener
Senior AA	North York Aeros	Toronto Red Wings
Senior A	Newtonbrook	London
Senior B	Peterborough	Newtonbrook
Senior C	Belleville	Stoney Creek
Senior D	Woodstock	Barrie

## REGISTRATION REPORT

The OWSHA again experienced impressive growth in both the number of Registered teams and the number of participants in the 95/96 hockey season. The number of teams increased from 693 to 854 and the number of participants increased from 9,626 to 12,296. The total number of registered participants increased from 11,824 to 14, 887. Impressive overall growth rates of 23% in the number of teams and 28% in the number of players attest to the growing popularity of Women's Hockey in Ontario.

As you review the registration statistics, you will note the increase in house league registration. There were 2,023 more players playing at this level this season. Growth occurred in all regions of the Province in both urban and rural areas. This is particularly gratifying as it speaks well for the future of Women's Hockey at the grass roots level in Ontario.

The registration process was completed in an orderly fashion in the fall. Team and player information was submitted generally complete and on time. We thank you for your prompt replies to our requests for further information. Our growth in numbers alone complicated the task of processing and completing registration on a timely basis. We experienced further delays in converting to a new CHA data base, programming and debugging problems delayed the start of data input until the month of March. Our objective is to have printed lists for all of this year's teams to be part of the registration package in the fall.

The 95/96 season was a year of transition and change in the registration process and we wish to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation. A thank you to Steve Benoit, who volunteered his time and worked with Ken Buna of the CHA and supervised the conversion of the data base. Thanks also to Kathy Dyer and others who are handling data entry. A final thank you for our executive members for their cooperation and teamwork to ensure an orderly function, in what certainly was, a busy year in registration.

*Doug Reddon*

### REGISTRATION STATISTICS (1992-1996)

Teams	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96
Total Teams	411	557	693	854
Competitive	246	308	372	411
House League	165	249	321	443
Total Players	6333	7848	9626	12,296
Senior	2485	2798	3122	3704
Intermediate	446	524	594	939
Midget	565	644	859	1138
Bantam	569	819	1110	1326
Peewee	898	1181	1580	2235
Atom	798	1124	1371	1679
Novice (Tyke)	551	744	990	1270

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGES SO THAT YOU MAY FEEL THE EXHILARATION OF VICTORY

## OWHA PLAYER AND TEAM DISTRIBUTION

CATEGORY	PLAYERS			TEAMS		
	1995/96	1994/95	1993/94	1995/96	1994/95	1993/94
Senior AA	112	124	108	6	7	6
Senior A	210	203	252	13	13	16
Senior B	503	489	475	33	33	31
Senior C	356	360	305	22	23	20
Senior D	630	621	672	41	41	46
Intermediate A	109	51	76	7	3	5
Intermediate B	49	76	53	3	5	3
Intermediate C	235	105	60	15	8	4
Midget A	124	137	134	8	9	9
Midget B	211	239	169	14	15	12
Midget C	221	206	111	15	14	8
Bantam A	218	151	118	14	10	8
Bantam B	227	194	212	15	13	15
Bantam C	470	335	163	32	23	11
Peewee A	201	162	152	13	11	10
Peewee B	366	335	185	24	22	13
Peewee C	533	503	349	37	35	24
Atom A	151	118	122	10	8	8
Atom B	266	225	198	18	15	14
Atom C	525	454	261	37	30	18
Novice A	83	100	78	6	7	5
Novice B	185	142	147	13	10	10
Novice C	228	236	166	15	17	12
Sub Total	6213	5566	4566	411	372	308
Senior Rec.	674	481	424	45	37	31
Senior HL	1224	783	555	83	53	39
Intermediate HL	546	377	334	38	28	27
Midget HL	582	271	219	42	24	18
Bantam HL	411	449	324	32	37	28
Peewee HL	1135	565	483	84	50	38
Atom HL	737	565	542	59	49	40
Nov/Tyke/Other	774	569	401	60	43	28
Sub Total	6083	4060	3282	443	321	249
Grand Total	12,296	9626	7848	854	693	557

TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO AND FEEL THAT IT MATTERS...  
HOW COULD ANYTHING BE MORE FUN?



## **WESTERN REGIONAL REPORT**

Now that a busy season has come to an end, it is most timely to reflect upon the agonies and ecstasies which we have experienced during 1995/96. In particular, we must take pride in dwelling on the positive aspects that we can build on for next year. As well, we must keep the less desirable elements of this season in proper perspective and, hopefully, view them as valuable experiences to be avoided in the future. Hopefully, this approach will keep us focused on what this volunteer work in hockey is all about.

Let us also, please take this opportunity to thank the many dedicated volunteers in the Western Region for their excellent cooperation throughout the entire season. Together, we have managed to find meaningful solutions for a variety of operational challenges. With your support, I will continue to promote the "proactive" approach to problem solving, not only within the Western Region, but also at the OWHA executive level.

While planning activities in preparation for next season will preoccupy our summer period, we must all take time also to "re-energize" Let me please, therefore, wish you some well-deserved periods of relaxation and rest away from a telephone, fax machine or hockey arena during the months ahead.

*Gerhard Gedies*

## **CENTRAL REGIONAL REPORT**

As this was my first year as the Central Regional Director, I found it both demanding and rewarding. As I was able to acquaint myself with the teams and associations in my region, it became apparent that I would enjoy a great feeling of cooperation and common-goal sharing. It was a pleasure working with all Central Region teams and associations. The Central Region hosts the most combined tournament games in the province; including Barrie's Sharkfest, Mississauga's, Orangeville's, Huntsville's, Burlington's Friendship and the Brampton Tournament. Many volunteer's time and effort is given to making these events such a great success. The good work done by many made my job much easier . . . thanks!

Congratulations should also go to Burlington and Oakville as they have become newly independent associations. Previously being part of a boy's program, these two groups gave a great deal of time and effort to formulate and plan for the upcoming season. Many volunteers worked to establish an executive, set goals and fundraise so that the girls in their cities would have a female association dedicated solely to their needs.

I have greatly enjoyed my job as Regional Director and would like to congratulate all of my teams and associations for a job well done and a great success for the future of your groups.

*Pat Nicholls*

## **NORTHERN REGIONAL REPORT**

The 1995 - 96 hockey season again has brought fantastic growth to the best part of the province (north of Barrie) which is getting well known as Wayne's world.

We had a total of eighty-five (85) registered teams.

There are a lot of new areas applying for tournament sanctions and, hopefully, some southern and eastern teams will start to travel to our areas.

We are looking forward to more growth in the up-coming season and I am very happy with the new district system as I was fortunate to have three very good assistants in their respective districts.

Have a good summer and remember to keep your stick on the ice.

*Wayne E. Barrie*

## CENTRAL EAST REGIONAL REPORT

Once again, the hockey season is over. I would like to congratulate all teams, house leagues and competitive for a great year. Congratulations to the winners of the Provincials, you have now earned the right to move up the ladder to a higher level.

Many teams were not impressed to say the least about being moved up in their categorization, however, they all did quite well in Provincial Play. Although some teams did not win, the scores were all very close. Being a Regional Director is a very time-consuming job and there are many times when I was not able to attend tournaments or playdown games. However, I did try and return all phone calls and I am sure our treasurer, Doug Reddon, will confirm this. I would like to thank all those who helped me out, especially Suzanne Essex, whose phone number I left on my answering machine to take calls in my absence. Suspensions were and are a great concern, coaches must remember they are responsible for calling them in and sending in game sheets showing that the player or team official has sat out the required number of games.

Due to my father's death, I was unable to attend the Provincials in Ottawa, however, many calls were made to keep me updated on the teams from my region, thanks to Suzanne, Donna Cole and Brenda Brill.

Thanks to Ron, the most understanding person I know. Understanding and support for the many weekends and countless hours on the phone. Without your support, it would be impossible to be a volunteer for the OWH.

*Fran Jay*

## CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous volunteers who work countless hours for the benefit of female hockey within the Central West region and across the province. They make my job a lot easier and far more enjoyable. As the season comes to an end, I would especially like to thank my District Rep, Sue Gibson, for her assistance this year. Her help at Provincial Playdown time and at monitoring tournaments was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the many associations who hosted successful tournaments and in particular, Stoney Creek, who hosted the Provincial Senior AA Championships in conjunction with their tournament. There was some very exciting hockey to watch all weekend.

With registration increasing across the province, we will encounter more and more problems, but by working together we will be able to solve anything.

I'm very happy to note a decrease in the number of suspensions this year over the last and hope this trend continues for years to come. This shows a greater respect for our opponents and the game officials.

I hope everyone is planning on seeing some, if not all, of the games in Kitchener and the satellite sites during the upcoming World Championships in April 1997. This will be an exciting time for all of us to enjoy the game played by some of the best female hockey players in the world.

To everyone, I wish a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing all of you next year. To the group in Lynden, many thanks for your help and patience.

*Betty Solomon*

*"WE CANNOT DIRECT THE WIND... BUT WE CAN ADJUST THE SAILS."*

## **EASTERN REGIONAL REPORT**

Wow, what a great hockey year! There were times when I thought that it would never end, but now I honestly have to say that I miss it - can you believe that??!! Well, here's to a great year, a challenging year - a definite experience full of companionship, competitive spirit, excellence, fun, frustration, gaining knowledge, integrity, long hours and telephone calls, and most of all, teamwork! Being my first year as Regional Director for the Eastern Region, it was all-in-all a great experience for me.

As well as could be expected, registration progressed well . . . re-categorization then came along to move a few teams within the Region. After that "shakeup", we all brought it back together and began to focus on the reason why we were in this - for the many girls and women to compete and have fun at the world's greatest winter sport. This we did, right through to the Regional Playdowns and then on to the Provincial Championships. Congratulations to all those who made it through the Regional Playdowns, and especially to those who made it to the Provincial Championships. Congrats to all of the winners and to all those who attended - I am sure that it was a positive and enjoyable experience with many fond memories to reflect upon.

It must have been a relatively quiet season, with regard to any Discipline issues. I was notified of very few! I am quite sure that there are more than I heard about . . . accordingly, in the future, please ensure that you Regional Director gets notification of any discipline issue.

There were a total of 14 tournaments held in the Eastern Region this past season. All of which were a great success! My apologies to those few tournaments that I did not attend, the intention was there but I just could not make them all. Maybe next season - another challenge !?!? My sincerest thanks to all those who were involved in the organization of these tournaments - a job well done to all of you. You exemplify the OWHA values and assist in carrying out the OWHA mission statement with pride!

One of the big events in our Region this past season was having the honour to host the Ontario Provincial Championships in our Nation's Capital. Oh, and what a great success it was! Hands came together to applaud the National Capital Competitive Program (NCCP) and all of their enthusiastic volunteers for showcasing an outstanding display of Ontario's best girls' and women's hockey. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the NCCP in building cooperation and teamwork by getting many other hockey associations in the region involved, in some way or another, in making this event a success. The OWHA mission statement is further enabled by having many associations working together as a team, all striving for the same goal.

In the next season to come. . . our region is once again honoured with displaying Canada's talented women to compete in a Three Nations Cup - Canada, USA, and Finland. Again, I trust that the Organizing Committee will put together a team of volunteers from many associations to make this event a success. For more information on exact dates and locations, or if you would like to give a helping hand, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for a good season and for putting up with my learning curve. And last, but by no means the least, thank you for assisting the OWHA by concentrating on the fair play concept, having fun, displaying excellence, showing good citizenship, having integrity and being honest and promoting equity! Have a fantastic summer . . . and looking forward to working together next hockey season!

*Carol Banks*

**START EVERY DAY WITH AN INSPIRING THOUGHT**

## METRO TORONTO REGIONAL REPORT

This was a busy season for teams in the Metro Region. Our Regional Director, Rose Robinson ran into some personal problems and was unable to complete her term, but she assisted in identifying three solid district representatives who did an excellent job. Sincere thanks to Marg Allen, Bev Duffy and Jann Bower who shared responsibility in the area.

The region hosted many tournaments including Scarborough, Newtonbrook, Leaside and the Toronto Red Wings. The largest league - the North Metro Girls Hockey League with 60 teams from novice to Elite 1 is in the region, as is one of the oldest senior recreational leagues.

Congratulations to all the provincial championship participants and winners. Two Senior AA teams, North York Aeros and Toronto Red Wings were gold and silver medalists respectively at the provincial championship.

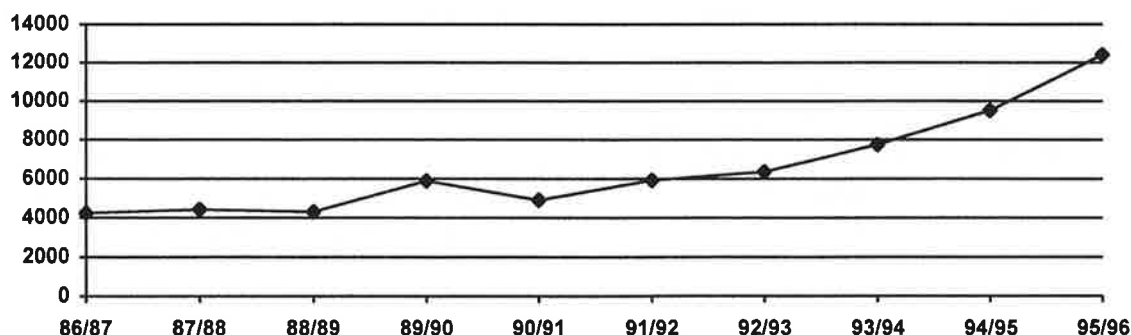
The region is proud to be hosting a satellite game for the Women's World Championship in 1997. We hope everyone will come out to watch the skills and have some fun.

We have many female coaches and referees as well as many willing, enthusiastic volunteers who help make the region work. Thanks to all the teams in the region for so patiently accepting three rookies sharing their duties - assisting and cooperating when it got tough. Most of all, you made it fun and all worthwhile.

Have a healthy, safe summer. Remember when you are swimming and the water becomes cold and hard - it's hockey time!

*Marg Allen*  
*Jann Bower*  
*Bev Duffy*

## OWHA GROWTH CHART (Players/Year)



## **HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR ONTARIO**

The HDCO is the agency which administers government funding for hockey in the Province of Ontario. The OWHa together with representatives from male hockey sit on its Board of Directors. Needless to say, the political climate in Ontario has resulted in a year of difficulty and uncertainty. The OWHa experienced a 50% reduction in the level of its funding for project funding during the current season. We have also been advised that support for development personnel salaries are to be discontinued effective April 1, 1996. HDCO has not been informed at what level future sport funding will continue. The HDCO Board of Directors is concerned by the present status and is committed to maximizing the amount of such funding for development purposes. The role of the HDCO is presently being evaluated. However, it is clear that hockey, like all other sports faces substantial funding reductions.

The HDCO administers the trainers and risk management programs in Ontario. Our thanks to John Panethere for his assistance with facility problems we experienced this year. Injury data analysis is also an important risk management function. Our thanks to our teams for their injury data input.

The HDCO publishes the *Ice Times*, a report on amateur hockey in Ontario which is printed twice a year. We commend its staff for the quality of this publication and the coverage afforded Women's Hockey.

HDCO again conducted the Penalty Free Sweepstakes, the major sponsor of the program again this year was the Ontario Milk Marketing Board. Many of our teams participated and we were well represented in the list of prize winners. Our own Margot Page and ex-Leaf, Paul Henderson, were again spokespersons for the program and do an excellent job of promoting and encouraging good sportsmanship. Congratulations to all teams who qualified and entered the contest.

*Doug Reddon*

## **DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

In the Winter Newsletter, a request was made to forward names of coaches, managers and/or teams who consistently demonstrate fair play and good sportsmanship. Our aim was to promote the positive side of hockey by recognizing all who were conducting themselves according to the CHA "Fair Play Codes". Unfortunately, our committee did not receive one letter of recommendation and the suspensions this year to coaching staffs was a further indicator that we may not be heading in the right direction. As an example, in one tournament, there were ten infractions that led to minimum suspensions and of these ten, seven were to members of the coaching staff!! We must all work together to ensure that female hockey is as respected now as it was in the past and, as noted in the Winter Newsletter Editorial, "Strict compliance with the recently published CHA 'Fair Play Codes'" of conduct would do much to restore the unblemished past reputation of exciting, fast-paced and aggressive, yet non-violent, female hockey.

We are in the process of compiling data regarding discipline from across the Province and a copy of this report will be available at the General Meeting.

*Suzanne Essex*



## **CATEGORIZING / PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE**

An amendment was put forward at last year's Annual General Meeting dealing with a new format for Provincial playdowns, but unfortunately nobody was in attendance to explain the rationale. The amendment did bring forward concerns about categorizing, playdowns and provincials and the membership requested that a committee be formed to deal with the issues and the amendment was put over to the General Meeting. Every member who put their name forward was contacted and asked to be part of the committee. At the General Meeting, again no one was in attendance to speak to the amendment and the membership gave the committee the task to look at, not just the amendment, but the whole Constitution dealing with these issues. At that time, a request was made to all members in attendance at the General Meeting to forward any of their ideas, solutions, etc., to the committee. A further request was made to the membership in the Winter Newsletter.

After some thought, fourteen members committed to being part of the committee but once the hockey season was in full swing, some felt they were unable to fulfill their obligation and withdrew. The committee continued with a very dedicated group of eight, together with the Regional Directors who offered their input regarding what presently was working and what wasn't working. After the General Meeting, the committee met on October 28th, December 9th, January 13th, March 9th, March 24th and May 11th, with each meeting lasting four to five hours. The committee looked at the amendment, what was presently in place and at three letters that were received. Conclusions were reached after many hours were spent discussing all aspects of categorizing, playdowns and provincials and what the committee felt was in the best interests for the Province as a whole. Consistency across the Province was felt to be the key and with the assistance of each and every member of the OWHA, this will happen and the OWHA will flourish in a positive atmosphere.

As the Chair of the Committee, I would like to thank each and every member of the committee, with a special thank you to Cathy Lehman as our Secretary, for all the input and time you have contributed to the difficult task that was given to you and I look forward to working with each of you again this year as we initiate, test and examine the amendments that are accepted by the membership and as we continue the pursuit of implementing a policy manual for same. Together with myself and the Regional Directors, the committee members are:

Sue Gibson - Hamilton  
Richard Leduc - London  
Cathy Lehman - Oshawa  
Rick McFarlane - Stoney Creek

Don Nicholls - Brampton  
Dave Pritchard - Mississauga  
Elizabeth Stein - Ottawa  
Bill Williamson - Durham West

*Suzanne Essex*

### **Recipe For Female Hockey**

**1 ton of exercise  
Whole lot of commitment  
Dash of leadership**

**Blend ingredients with enthusiasm.  
Top with generous amounts of fun & friendship.  
Serve on ice.**

## CANADIAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Women's Hockey derives its affiliation to the Canadian Hockey Association through the Ontario Hockey Federation with the support of the Ottawa District Hockey Association and the Thunder Bay Amateur Hockey Association. The CHA represents Canada on the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Some general information:

- Sincere thanks to Michelle Belanger, the New Brunswick Amateur Hockey Association and the Host Committee on a very successful Esso Senior National Championship. Quebec edged out Ontario (represented by the provincial champion North York Aeros) by a score of 3-2 in an exciting overtime televised live on TSN. New Brunswick defeated Alberta to win the bronze. The following won individual awards:
 

➤ Most Valuable Defence	Geraldine Heaney	Ontario
➤ Most Valuable Forward	Hayley Wickenheiser	Alberta
➤ Most Valuable Goaltender	Jennifer Dewar	Ontario
➤ Most Sportsmanlike Player	Stacey Wilson	New Brunswick
➤ Most Valuable Player	Danielle Goyette	Quebec
- Summer Hockey - The following motion carried: " That the CHA and its branches expand its influence to include summer hockey activities." To implement this motion, various committees are investigating options and will report to the CHA councils. The Board will establish a small committee to report on demand and the best way to meet demand. The Officers would place before the 1996-97 CHA Semi-Annual Meeting an action plan for the 1997 summer season.
- The National data base program is in place in most provinces. Many have not switched over due to various implementation problems. The OWHHA experienced difficulties with conversion by the developer and subsequent bugs in the system. Our existing database was one of the largest in the countries. We encountered various bugs that had not been detected when working with smaller programs. Many of the bugs have been worked out, but, as with any new program, improvements are still required. The program is excellent and will prove to be a very valuable tool thanks to the hard work of Ken Buna and Steve Benoit.
- The top 30 players received Sport Canada carding last October based on evaluations carried out during the 1995/96 season.
- Clare Drake is a mentor coach for the coaching pool of Shannon Miller, Melody Davidson, Karen Hughes, Julie Healey and Danielle Sauvegeau.
- Under 18 National Championship - Summerside, PEI - March 21 - 23, 1997.
- Esso 1997 Women's National Championship has been moved from Alberta due to a conflict with Briar. To be in British Columbia - March 6 - 9 , 1997
- Esso 1998 Senior Women's National Championship awarded to Calgary, Alberta.
- Esso 1999 Senior Women's National Championship awarded to OWHHA in Thunder Bay.
- The 1999 Canada Games (Corner Brook, Newfoundland) Technical Package is under review.
- A body checking/body contact video has been completed and must be shown before all major national female events.
- The female hockey supplement will be a mandatory component of all Coach Level Clinics.
- CHA budget is now close to \$10 million, but the Association is struggling.
- The ages are under review with reports available on request. Status quo is expected for at least the next 2 seasons.
- Royal Bank Canadian Hockey week will be January 18 - 25, 1997.



## CHA FEMALE HOCKEY REGISTRATION

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association continues to derive its official affiliation to the International Ice Hockey Federation through the Canada Hockey Association. We are represented at the Board level by the Ontario Hockey Federation and are supported by the Ottawa District Hockey Association and the Thunder Bay Amateur Hockey Association. The OWHA also has a delegate on the CHA Female Council.

### REGISTRATION - WOMEN'S HOCKEY 1995-96 - CHA

		SENIOR	INT.	MIDGET	BANTAM	PEEWEE	ATOM	NOVICE	INIT.	H.S.	TOTAL
BC	PLAYERS	1,189		165	91	187	875				2,507
	TEAMS	75		11	6	13	58				163
ALTA.	PLAYERS	1,069		333	145						1,547
	TEAMS	59		22	9						90
SASK.	PLAYERS								921		921
	TEAMS								63		63
MAN.	PLAYERS	214	46	498	14	334	220	162	222	4	1,714
	TEAMS	12	3	33	0	22	9	1	0	0	80
ONT.	PLAYERS	3,709	939	1,138	1,326	2,235	1,679	1,106	164		12,296
	TEAMS	243	63	79	93	158	124	82	12		854
QUE.	PLAYERS	1,232	1,264								2,496
	TEAMS	77	79								156
N.B.	PLAYERS	97		7	25	48	73	154		237	641
	TEAMS	6								14	20
N.S.	PLAYERS	96	108	3	126	85			423		841
	TEAMS	8	6		7	5					26
P.E.I.	PLAYERS	106	Jr 15	86	18	73	70	44	30		442
	TEAMS	7	1	6	2	6	6	3			31
NFLD.	PLAYERS			113	59	71	74	39	57		413
	TEAMS			6	4						10
TOTALS	PLAYERS	7,712	2,372	2,343	1,804	3,033	2,991	1,505	1,817	241	23,818
	TEAMS	487	152	157	121	204	197	86	75	14	1,493

Please note that Ontario's numbers include only OWHA registered teams and players, not female players currently playing on male teams. Some other province's numbers include females playing on male teams.

#### **Total CHA Registration 1995/96 season:**

	Players	Teams		Players	Teams
British Columbia	47,448	3,101	Ontario	189,247	12,986
Alberta	58,890	3,737	Quebec	104,076	6,086
Saskatchewan	33,752	2,214	Nova Scotia	16,077	380
Manitoba	26,381	1,810	New Brunswick	15,376	885
Newfoundland	10,038	602	Prince Edward Island	4,904	319
Western Hockey League	720	18	Grand Total	506,909	32,138

## INTERNATIONAL REPORT

- IIHF Women's Hockey Program and support is to be extended past 1998 through to the 2007 Olympics.
- European A Pool Championship Standings (Yaroslavl, Russia, March 23-29/96):
  1. Sweden
  2. Russia
  3. Finland
  4. Norway
  5. Switzerland
  6. Germany

The top 5 countries qualified for the 1997 World Championship.

- European B Pool Championship Standings (Trnava & Piestany, Slovakia, March 12-16/96):
  1. Denmark
  2. Latvia
  3. Czech Republic
  4. Slovakia
  5. France
  6. Netherlands
  7. Kazakhstan
  8. Great Britain

Denmark moves to the A pool and Germany is relegated to the B Pool.

- Congratulations to Teri Cotton, Rebecca Bookham, Karen Wallace, the British Columbia Amateur Hockey association and the host Committee on a very successful Pacific Rim Championship held in Richmond. Canada kept its gold medal record intact, defeating a strong USA team in a very close 4-1 final. China defeated Japan 5-1 to take the bronze. This event qualified Canada, the USA and China for the 1997 World Championship. Individual award winners:

➤ Outstanding Forward	Cammi Granato	USA
➤ Outstanding Defence	Geraldine Heaney	Canada
➤ Outstanding Goalie	Hong Guo	China
➤ Team Canada Outstanding Performance	Geraldine Heaney	Defence
	Nancy Drolet	Forward
	Cassie Campbell	Defence

- July 6-10, 1996 - Women's 18 and Under Invitational Series in Lake Placid. Canada is coached by Daniele Sauvegeau (Head Coach) with assistants Karen Hughes (Ontario) and Julie Healey (Quebec). The team will play the US Women's 18 and Under National Team.
- October 20-27 1996 (tentative) - A series of exhibition games in the Ottawa, Cornwall, Kingston area. Competing will be the National Women's teams of Finland, Canada and the United States.





The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is pleased to host the 1997 Championship. This event follows successful championships in Ottawa, Canada (1990); Tampere, Finland (1992); and Lake Placid, New York, USA (1994).

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*To leave a Canada-wide legacy through the organization of the best world championship, providing a positive experience for all participants and expanding opportunities at all levels of the game.*

#### **Championship Chatter:**

- ➔ Canada, United States, Sweden, Russia, China, Finland, Norway and Switzerland will compete.
- ➔ Top 5 finishers will advance to 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.
- ➔ Dates: March 31 to April 6, 1997
- ➔ Host Arena: Kitchener Memorial Auditorium
- ➔ Satellite Games: One event game in each of: Brampton, Brantford, Hamilton, London, Mississauga, North York

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

- ☎ 14 Game Ticket package includes guaranteed gold/silver & bronze seats - all for only \$79.50/package or \$119.50/package VIP seating (minimum \$168.00 value to single prices)
- ☎ To order, call 1-800-265-6368 or (519) 745-0303

- ☺ The OWHHA has teamed up with the Canadian Hockey Association and the City of Kitchener to host this memorable event.
- ☺ Volunteers from female hockey, from the business community and from many other areas and backgrounds are pooling strengths - volunteer forms are available from the OWHHA office - sign up and be part of the fun!
- ☺ Teams from other many countries and provinces are investigating the possibility of playing in the Brampton Canadettes tournament and staying for the championship.
- ☺ This truly is an opportunity to step back and enjoy the many positive advancements within female hockey as we are entertained by the top talent in the world!





## IN-LINE HOCKEY

In-line hockey, as a result of the popularity and unparalleled growth of in-line skating in the '90's, is the fastest growing team sport in North America generally, and in Canada more specifically. All relevant demographic and social indicators point to the fact that in-line hockey will be the team sport of choice for boys and girls, as well as men and women in the year 2000 and beyond.

Some points:

- presently over 20 million in-line skaters in North America, over 2 million in Canada.
- of the above, over 3.5 million played some form of in-line hockey last year with 50% playing for the first time. The number is expected to reach 7.5 million by the end of this year.
- In Canada, more than 50% of present in-line hockey players are coming from non-ice hockey backgrounds. The sport is experiencing growth within a broader, more ethnically diverse grass roots setting than traditional ice hockey, with a demographic mix reflecting a male/female ratio and a wider array of participating age groups. The majority (80% or so) in Canada are within the 7 to 18 year old age group.
- The International Ice Hockey Federation, having witnessed the growth within its 51 member nations, held a seminar in November 1995. On May 3, 1996, the IIHF declared itself the World Wide Representative governing body for in-line hockey, owning and operating all international commercial rights. The IIHF council agreed to establish in-line as a separate and distinct division within its own statutes, bylaws and regulations. The IIHF is organizing the inaugural in-line World Championships in August 1996.
- The International Olympic Committee is taking a wait and see approach. It has nevertheless clearly indicated that if the sport continues to grow at the rate it has, it will become a full fledged Olympic sport in either the summer games of the year 2000 or 2004. A 4 team demonstration is envisioned in the 1998 Olympics. If all goes well, Canada could be sending a men's and potentially a women's in-line hockey team to upcoming summer Olympic Games.
- The CHA has made a decision to get involved. Mark Bandrauk has been hired and a national committee is in place. The main issues include insurance and an analysis of the main groups (many of whom do not get along) operating in-line leagues in Canada.
- The CHA committee has prepared a mission statement and objectives. Other areas discussed include:
  - Short-term approach to specific elements of its projected in-line hockey programme.
  - 1996 IIHF in-line hockey championships.
  - Status of sponsorship
  - Potential structure and approach at the branch level
  - Registration process for in-line hockey
  - Insurance considerations
  - Playing rules and regulations
  - Approach in dealing with various existing in-line hockey organizations in Canada
  - Coaching programmes
  - Refereeing programmes
  - Regional and National Championships
  - Skill clinics and in-line hockey festivals
  - CHA In-Line Hockey newsletter, magazine and resource hotline
  - Facilities
  - CHA long-term approach with regard to In-Line Hockey

The CHA has concluded that the near perfect fit between in-line hockey and ice hockey, combined with CHA's proven organizational experience will make this the program of choice for the Canadian in-line hockey player/participant.

The OWHHA plans to set up an ad hoc committee to investigate options regarding in-line hockey.

## **HOCKEY HALL OF FAME/ CANADIAN HOCKEY CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Our strong relationship with the Hockey Hall of Fame and the Canadian Hockey Centre of Excellence continued in the 1995-96 season. For a change of pace the OWHa opted to coordinate a couple of events throughout the season rather than the traditional end of summer "OWHa Week".

Working together with the CHCE the Ontario Women's Hockey Association proudly showcased our sport at various events during Royal Bank Canadian Hockey Week, January 20-27, 1996.

The highlight of the week was the opportunity for six OWHa players to demonstrate their skills to the Maple Leaf Gardens crowd between the first and second periods of the Leafs vs. Black Hawks game. The majority of the fans remained in their seats to watch the players who ranged in age from 9 to 70+ display their skills. It was a fun-filled evening for everyone that began with a reception sponsored by the Royal Bank at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

The thrilled players included Heather Lane, London Devilettes (Novice), Lindsay Gowan, Barrie Sharks (Peewee) and Tanya Witty, Stouffville (Midget). Representing the 1995 Canada Winter Games, gold medal winning, Team Ontario was assistant captain Corinne Hustler from Cobourg.

The goaltender for the drills was Susan Steers of the Brockville Islanders Senior "A" squad and who is also an ordained minister. Stephanie Boyd from the Toronto Red Wings Senior "AA" and Team USA helped coach the players through the drills.

Also skating for Team OWHa was everybody's favourite, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion. Mayor McCallion delighted the crowd, beating goalie Sue Steers with a wrist shot to the top corner of the net.

Royal Bank Canadian Hockey Week also included a similar event at the Niagara Falls Thunder Major Junior A game. Again OWHa players participated in a first intermission feature. The OWHa lineup included Jodi Burns Niagara Falls (Novice), Kristy Marasco, Stoney Creek (Atom), Kristel Orlowski, Hamilton (Bantam), Erin Toth, Helen Petrullo and Rebecca Wolfe all of the local Niagara Falls Peewee team. Goaltender for the skills drills was Laura Detenbeck from the Burlington Intermediate "A" squad. Sarah Davies, from the Niagara Falls Girls Hockey Association coached the players through the on-ice drills.

OWHa Northern Regional Director Wayne Barrie joined with the Thunder Bay Amateur Hockey Association executive in a special ceremony prior to a Thunder Bay Flyers hockey game to recognize Royal Bank Canadian Hockey Week.

The week concluded with a workshop at the Hockey Hall of Fame where participants answered questionnaires on several aspects of hockey including the coaching, referee, trainers, Initiation Program and female programs. The evening also included a tour of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Many thanks to the players, parents, coaches and administrators who helped celebrate Royal Bank Canadian Hockey Week. Thank you also to the Canadian Hockey Centre of Excellence for involving the OWHa in the week's events. Extra special thanks to the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Niagara Falls Thunder for the opportunity to showcase our talented players.

The CHCE and the OWHa also worked together to host OWHa Hockey Day (March 9) at the Hockey Hall of Fame. The day's events included an excellent presentation by John Panethere, HDCO Safety & Research Coordinator, on the "Importance Of The Coach." Participants toured the museum, enjoyed dinner then travelled to Maple Leaf Gardens to take in the Toronto Maple Leaf vs Calgary Flames game.

The season concluded with a tour of the Hall of Fame by the original Stratford Aces ladies hockey team from the 1930's. The modern day Stratford Girls Hockey Association surprised their local pioneers with the tour announcement at their year end banquet. The past and present day players and administrators were greeted at the HHOF by Brian McFarlane, hockey historian & author of Proud Past, Bright Future, 100 Years of Canadian Women's Hockey. It was a memorable day for all involved.

## MARKETING REPORT

During the last five months I have been working with the Board members on the development of our first officially recognized OWHA title sponsor - Revlon. The Revlon negotiations were initiated by the OWHA, but we are currently working through the CHA. We hope to make a formal announcement at the AGM.

I have also been meeting with Choice Hotel hoping to have them become the official hotel of female hockey in Ontario. Again, we hope to make a formal announcement at the AGM.

In February, we updated the sponsorship/information package that will be used to obtain corporate involvement with female hockey. In the off-season we hope to turn this package into a document that all regions can utilize for its sponsorship/partnership activities.

I have been spending a considerable amount of time with the 1997 Worlds marketing and sponsorship committees. We helped develop the sponsorship package and it is our intention to encourage several major sponsors to continue their involvement in female hockey with the OWHA once the 1997 Worlds have been completed.

We are also hoping to use the continuation of a proposed Legacy Event at the Worlds as an annual fundraiser for female hockey in Ontario.

Lastly, we hope to offer a marketing and revenue generating workshop to OWHA regions sometime during next season.

*Clay Melnike*

### WITH THANKS TO OUR BROTHER ASSOCIATIONS IN ONTARIO

ASSOCIATION	NAME
Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario	Bill Appleby Barry Petrachenko
Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League	John Gardner Ross Magnus
Northern Ontario Hockey Association	Ed Pupich Betty Blair
Ottawa District Hockey Association	Don Brown Richard Sennott
Ontario Hockey Association	Al Morris Brent Ladds
Ontario Hockey League	David Branch
Ontario Hockey Federation	Mr. Justice David Watt Scott Farley
Ontario Minor Hockey Association	Ken Russell Michael McCauley
Thunder Bay Amateur Hockey Association	Joe Tookenay Joe Ward

## **ATTITUDE**

*The longer I live, the more I realize  
the impact of attitude on life.*

*Attitude, to me,  
is more important than facts.  
It is more important than the past,  
than education, than money,  
than circumstances, than failures,  
than successes,  
than what other people think or say or do.*

*It is more important  
than appearance, giftedness, or skill.*

*It will make or break  
a company... a church...a home.*

*The remarkable thing is  
we have a choice every day  
regarding the attitude we will embrace  
for that day.*

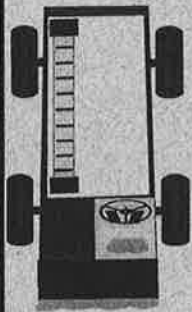
*We cannot change our past...  
we cannot change the fact that people  
will act in a certain way.*

*We cannot change the inevitable.*

*The only thing we can do  
is play on the one string we have;  
and that is our attitude...*

*I am convinced that  
life is 10% what happens to me  
and 90% how I react to it.*

Author unknown





# OWHA VALUES



FAIR PLAY  
FUN  
EXCELLENCE  
GOOD CITIZENSHIP  
INTEGRITY & HONESTY  
EQUITY