

ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

"Incorporated February 6, 1981"

1996 - 1997

EXECUTIVE REPORTS



Ontario Women's Hockey Association

#30 - 1100 Central Parkway West,
Mississauga, Ontario
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MAY 24, 25, 1997

1996-97

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Regional Director - Central
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Regional Director - Metro
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Administrative Coordinator
Referee-in-Chief

Mayor Hazel McCallion
Prof. Ed Ratushny
Fran Rider
Frank Champion-Demers
Celia Southward
Kay Cartwright

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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report	1
Executive Director's Report	2
First Vice President's Report	4
High Performance Report	4
Second Vice President's Report	5
Categorizing.....	5
Request for Sanction	5
Sanctioned Tournaments	5
Third Vice President's Report	6
Provincial Championship Committee.....	6
OWHA Provincial Champions, 1996-97	6
Registration Report	7
Registration Statistics	7
OWHA Player & Team Distribution	8
OWHA Player/Division Registration 1990-97	9
Western Regional Report.....	10
Central Regional Report	10
Northern Regional Report.....	11
Central East Regional Report.....	11
Central West Regional Report.....	12
Eastern Regional Report	13
Metro Toronto Regional Report.....	14
Development Report	15
Referees Report	15
Trainer's Report	16
Initiation Program Report	16
Coaching Report.....	17
Initiatives.....	17
Hockey Development Centre for Ontario.....	17
Canadian Hockey Report.....	18
Team Canada	18
Harassment & Abuse	18
Insurance	18
Risk Management	18
Highlights	18
Promotions & Marketing.....	19
Hat Trick of Winners	19
Esso Senior Nationals.....	19
In-Line Hockey	20
CHA Female Hockey Registration.....	20
1997 Women's World Hockey Championship	22
1997 WWHC - A World of Thanks.....	24
Don Cherry Sweepstakes	26
1998 Winter Olympics Games	27
OWHA Marketing Report.....	28
Bauer "Leave an Impression"	28
Esso Kids Program	29

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We see yet another very successful hockey season coming to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on an outstanding year. We continue to see tremendous growth in Women's hockey continue. This year with the growth in the number of girls and women playing hockey, we have seen the number of teams increase again by almost 150, to a total of 962 registered teams. In this growth we see new successful associations and teams now operating in new communities, as well as continued growth within our existing organizations. We have many first time players, both at a very young age as well as at the senior level. It is fine to ride this wave of success as it provides new and increased opportunities for our players. However, this does not come without providing numerous challenges and difficulties to all of us, as it puts a real strain on all of our existing resources, at all levels.

I would like to thank the membership of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association for having the opportunity to serve you as your President over the past season. I would also like to thank everyone and in particular all the members of the Executive, and those who served as various committee members, for providing all of your support, help and assistance over the past season.

There have been some outstanding success stories this year, starting undoubtedly with the World Championships held in Kitchener, with a number of satellite games hosted by member associations. This was by far the most successful (and quoted as the best) World Championship ever, has moved Women's hockey to new levels and will be a catalyst for the development and acceptance of the game at all levels. With this World Championship and the Olympics in 1998, we will probably see growth over the next few years to an extent we have never seen before. It is the goal of the CHA to see female registrations double by the year 2000 to a total of 50,000 players.

We also had another first this year when we hosted our Provincial Championships in all divisions but Senior AAA in one arena and all on one weekend. This is even more outstanding when you realize that we had 9 new divisions this year, setting a new record for the number of divisions that teams participated in. We had 243 teams compete in 29 categories on the weekend of April 18, on 18 ice surfaces, in 4 different facilities. Teams participated from all corners of our province, from the far north, to Ottawa and Cornwall in the east, and to Sarnia and Windsor in the west and everything in between. I would also like to thank Cobourg for hosting a very successful Senior "AAA" Provincial Championship in February, with the final game being won by the North York Aeros, in overtime. The North York Aeros went on to represent Ontario at the Esso Women's National Hockey Championship, held in Richmond, B.C., winning the bronze medals.

We have also carried on with the implementation of our Strategic Plan as our Categorizing and Provincial Championship Committee continued to meet throughout this year to make further refinements to our process. This committee is made up of some Executive members and a number of members at large from both large and small organizations across the province.

However, all of this success does not come without a price. From a human resource standpoint, existing female administrators at all levels are being pushed to the limit as both parents and players continue to demand and expect more. Everyone here is probably aware that good volunteers are hard to find, the jobs can be very time consuming, and it is very important that we provide ongoing support to volunteers, and also to develop recruitment and training programs for new volunteers. As we are evolving into a society where volunteer time is at a premium, changes in society are impacting the hockey world, daily jobs become even more demanding, we should encourage all interested individuals to take part, even if it is in some small way. One does not have to assume an elected position if they do not wish to do so, as there are many less time consuming jobs on committees, etc. where one could assist. I would again like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time over the past year, as your input has been extremely valuable.

I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy, and very pleasant summer, and hope to see you all in the fall for the start of another very successful hockey season.

Doug Nicholls

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CATCH PEOPLE IN THE ACT OF DOING SOMETHING RIGHT

Congratulations to Everyone - to those who have been involved with women's hockey, we thank you for your contributions to the advancement of the game - to those who are new, we are pleased to have you on our team.

The 1996/97 season was very productive with continued growth and development of female hockey. The tremendous dedication of the many volunteers coordinating community teams, leagues and associations provided increased opportunities. National Team role models and special events provided our youth with positive examples and realistic goals.

The OWHA would like to congratulate all members of Team Canada - 1997 World Champions! Special mention to our Ontario contingent: Cassie Campbell, Lori Dupuis, Geraldine Heaney, Jayna Hefford, Angela James, Karen Nystrom, Lesley Reddon, Laura Schuler and Vicky Sunohara. They brought pride to the country through their gold medal performances at the 1997 World Championship and the 1996 Three Nations Cup. They are responsible for the record number of young girls who are seeking out teams so they can be just like their role models.

The tremendous success of the 1997 women's World Hockey Championship has led us into a new era in the game. High performance programs have been the catalyst for the development and acceptance of the game both at recreational and competitive levels.

For many years, female hockey enthusiasts have had a vision and have worked towards that vision - world championships and Olympic competition. Throughout the years, as we moved towards these goals, we kept at the forefront, the recognition that success brings new challenges. When the game lacked credibility, those involved were clearly participating solely for the love of the game. The game was in perspective. Now that there is more at stake, it is important to make conscious efforts to keep the game in perspective with positive values at the forefront. The development of the athlete is important - but never at the cost of their development as a person.

We are in a position of opportunity - our game has not yet experienced some of the down sides of perceived success. Steps can be taken to maximize the new opportunities while minimizing attempts at exploitation and winning at all costs.

Our national team players have given our country tremendous pride. These players have developed their skills to an amazing level in an environment that has not been able to provide universal financial and/or technical support.

An argument could be put forward that these players deserved more. The argument has merit and is true in many ways. In other ways, these players have pioneered the way for future generations - they have shown the world that women's hockey is an outstanding sport. In many ways, these players may be among the luckiest in the sporting world. They do not have great personal wealth from hockey, but they do have tremendous respect for the game and for their colleagues in Canada and abroad. The richness they have is not in dollars, but it is very substantial.

It is important that our national and provincial bodies support these players and those who will follow. Financial and technical resources must be found to support those who bring so much to the game. Certainly a balance is required within domestic and elite programming - an ongoing debate within hockey circles. Within female hockey today, it is impossible to sever the two - grass roots development has come as a result of high profile female hockey events - elite athletes begin in grass roots programs.

Opportunities/Challenges:

Women's hockey has again moved into a new era. Our opportunities are extensive and challenging. It is important that we:

- Continue to address the needs of girls and women's hockey with an open mind. We are building new programs and can adapt the game in a positive way. Looking at the male hockey model and the models from other sports is valuable, but a caution. We have the luxury of taking the positives and learning from the negatives that history has created for some of our colleagues. We need not re-invent the wheel, but we can take the best of the past and the present with a positive vision to the future.
- Continue to strengthen the network within women's hockey. Few wanted to be involved in the past - most didn't care. Now, the women's side of the game is viewed by many as the place to be - this is great - most of the time. We are now facing individuals, businesses and, shockingly, some of our own hockey colleagues, who appear to be involved in female hockey for what they can "take out of it". Our players, volunteers and supporters have traditionally been involved strictly for the love of the game - there was nothing to take out - other than fun and friendships. It is important now to form new partnerships, but carefully selected partnerships. We must maintain the integrity and perspective of the game.
- The growth is exciting, but it comes with challenges. From a facility standpoint, equitable and innovative planning is necessary. A sincere desire to service the needs of all people will go a long way - it is improving in some communities and poor in others. From a human resource standpoint, existing female hockey administrators are pushed to the limit. It is important to provide support to ongoing volunteers and also to develop recruitment and training programs for new volunteers.
- The changes in society are impacting the hockey world. It is important to provide solid support as individuals face the regular stress involved in sport, the balancing act of team sports with individual rights, economic challenges, personal lives, etc., etc., etc.
- The challenge of "conflicting" personal viewpoints - with no absolute "right" or "wrong". Examples:
 - ? greater focus on house league "vs" greater focus on competitive hockey
 - ? players moving to play for "better" teams "vs" strengthening their home communities
 - ? a desire to receive more material "vs" a desire to receive less material
 - ? the executive takes too much control "vs" the executive doesn't take enough control
 - ? there are too many regulations "vs" there are not enough regulations
 - ? we go to too many tournaments "vs" we go to too few tournaments
 - ? we need more fund-raisers "vs" there are too many fund-raisers
 - ? the best players should get more ice time "vs" everyone should play the same amount

The past has been difficult. The present has much success. The future challenges may be the toughest yet. A growing network is required to coordinate existing programs and create new ones. It is important that the provincial network is driven by common goals, operates fairly and maintains the flexibility to service the changing needs of each region, district, team and player.

Sincere congratulations to everyone on the success to date. Thousands of players and volunteers within the OWHHA have been instrumental in providing the leadership and vision that has made women's hockey a major force in the sporting world. By continuing to pool collective strengths for the good of all, the next era will be even better. Sincere best wishes in the future.

Respectfully submitted:

Fran Rider

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The High Performance Committee has had a very busy and exciting season. Our two main objectives were to develop a database of evaluation and a database of players beginning with those born between 1979 and 1982. Presently, we have a core of evaluators and are in the process of preparing the input for the player database.

Last June, a training workshop for evaluators was held. These evaluators were utilized for the selection of the 1997 Ontario Midget team which participated in the National Championships held in Prince Edward Island in February. Seven regional camps were held in Niagara Falls, London, Oakville, Kingston, Cornwall, Sudbury and Thunder Bay. Over three hundred and sixty girls participated and all received written feedback. Two final camps were held for the selection of twenty players. At the National Championships, the Ontario Team placed second. They were excellent ambassadors for our province. Many thanks are extended to the coaching staff - Karen Hughes, Margot Page and Bill Bowker.

Plans for the 1997-98 season are to develop a provincial framework which would include the qualifications, role and responsibilities for an evaluator. Throughout the season, more input on players would be added to the database.

In concluding, both Pat Nicholls and I would like to express our appreciation to Ken Dufton, Rick Osborne, Cathy Phillips, Karen Hughes, Melanie McFarlane and Doug Reddon for their hard work and time commitment given to this committee during the past year.

TEAM ONTARIO 1997

F	Kathy Devereux	Seaforth	G	Kendra Fisher	Kincardine
F	Annie Fahlenbock	North York	G	Tania Pinelli	Hamilton
F	Meghan Hunter	Oil Springs	D	Bradi Cochrane	Harriston
F	Celina Isen	London	D	Gillian Ferrari	Thornhill
F	Alyce Ivey	Barrie	D	Randi Hickox	Mississauga
F	Andrea Lavelle	London	D	Patricia Kemp	Kanata
F	Elizabeth Monteith	Sharon	D	Kylee Reade	London
F	Cheryl Muranko	Cambridge	D	Kelly Sage	Stirling
F	Meredith Ostrander	Prescott	Coach	Karen Hughes	Agincourt
F	Lara Perks	Trenton	Coach	Bill Bowker	Ottawa
F	Cherie Piper	Scartborough	Coach	Margot Page	Kitchener
F	Amanda Smith	Hanover	Mgr	Sue Rawson	Kingston
			Mgr	Pat Nicholls	Brampton

MIDGET NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, Feb. 21 to 23, Summerside, P.E.I.:

Final Team Standings:

1. Quebec
2. Ontario
3. Saskatchewan
4. Alberta
5. New Brunswick
6. Manitoba
7. Newfoundland
8. Prince Edward Island
9. Nova Scotia
10. British Columbia

Most Valuable Goaltender: Terri Turner, Alberta

Most Valuable Forward: Danielle Bourgois, Alberta

Most Valuable Defender: Gillian Ferrari, Ontario

Most Valuable Player: Nicole Knitting, Saskatchewan

Most Sportsmanlike Player: Domminique Rancour, Quebec

**Many thanks to ITECH for their sponsorship of our 1997 Ontario Midget Team.
ITECH outfitted the players with helmets & facemasks!**

Sue Rawson

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CATEGORIZING

One hundred and twenty-one (121) teams were re-categorized either up or down during the 1996/97 season. The game reports submitted by each competitive team were of great help in making the decisions.

REQUEST FOR SANCTION

Seven Hundred and sixty-six (766) sanctions were issued to OWHHA teams this season. Seventy-five percent (75%) were issued to compete against male teams and twenty-five percent (25%) were for games out of province or country.

SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Ninety-eight (98) Tournaments were sanctioned during the 1996/97 season which is an increase of thirty percent (30%) over last season.

International Silver Stick has become a reality for females in 1997 and is being held in Gaylord Michigan on May 30th - June 1st for Bantam teams and June 6th-8th for Midget Teams. A special thanks to participating teams for making this event possible.

1996-97 TOURNAMENT LOCATIONS

Barrie	Hawkesbury	Oshawa
Belleville	Huntsville	Ottawa
Brampton	Ice Gardens	Parkhill
Brantford	Iroquois Falls	Peterborough
Brockville	Kanata	Picton
Bruce Mines	Kemptville	Rideau-St Lawrence
Burlington	Kingston	Russell
Cambridge	Kirkland Lake	Sarnia
Cardinal	Kitchener	Scarborough
Cobalt	Lake of the Woods (Kenora)	Silver Stick
Cobourg	Lanark	Stoney Creek
Cochrane	Leaside	Stouffville
Colborne	London	Stratford
Cornwall	Lucan	Strathroy
Dryden	Manitouwadge	Sudbury
Durham West	Marathon	Thedford
Forest	Mississauga	Thunder Bay
Garden River	Nepean	Wallaceburg
Georgetown	Niagara Falls	Warkworth
Gloucester	Nipigon	Wawa
Goderich	Orangeville	White River
Grafton	Orillia	Windsor
Hamilton	Osgoode-Rideau	Woodstock

* Please note: Some centres listed above hosted more than one tournament in the 1997-98 season

In closing I would like to thank all the volunteers who make female hockey possible. Have a safe and pleasant summer.

Bryan Chappell

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

The Senior AAA Provincial Championships were held in Cobourg on the weekend of February 7th to 9th. The Cobourg Girls Hockey Association and the City of Cobourg should be congratulated on managing to make the event so successful. The hockey was great and so were the crowds and enthusiasm. A fantastic lead into the World Championship.

After such a magnificent World Championship the celebration was carried over to our Provincial Championships. The cities of Brampton, Mississauga and North York were great hosts to our event, offering their super facilities and hospitable staff members.

What a great weekend. Two hundred and forty-three teams competing in 29 categories on 18 ice surfaces. All striving for their respective provincial titles.

This was our first opportunity to host the provincials for all levels (except Sr AAA) on one weekend. The positive feedback received indicates it was very successful.

Both provincial weekends were exactly what women's hockey is about. Fun, fair play and great hockey games. Adding in the many super volunteers that contributed their knowledge and time it couldn't help but be a success.

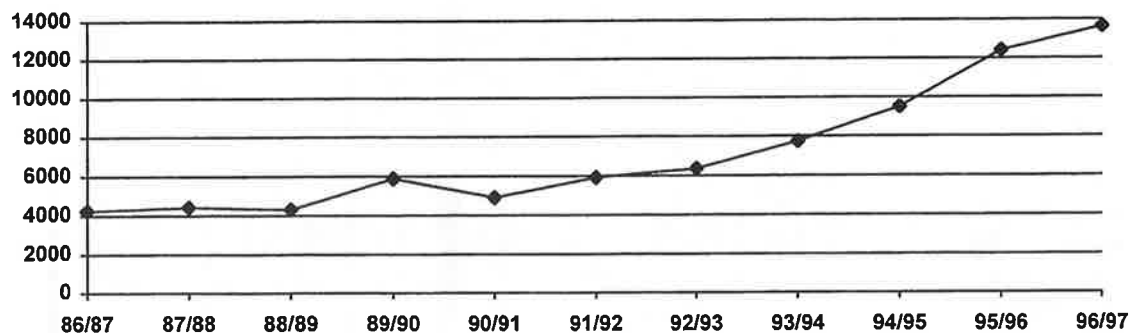
I wish to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all of the OWHa executive, volunteers and teams of the OWHa for a marvelous finish to a incredible year.

1996/97 OWHa PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

CATEGORY	GOLD MEDALIST	SILVER MEDALIST
Novice A	Aurora	Brampton
Novice BB	Windsor	Burlington
Novice B	Mississauga	Belleville
Novice C	Etobicoke	Brampton
Atom A	Windsor	Mississauga
Atom BB	Oshawa	Sarnia
Atom B	London	Orangeville
Atom C	Sarnia	Durham West
PeeWee A	Mississauga	Ottawa NCCP
PeeWee BB	Wingham	Rideau St Lawrence
PeeWee B	Brampton	Bluewater
PeeWee C	London	Flamborough
Bantam A	Scarborough	Mississauga
Bantam BB	North York	Cobourg
Bantam B	Stratford	Etobicoke
Bantam C	Cochrane	Sarnia
Midget A	Brampton	London
Midget BB	Kingston	Bluewater
Midget B	Cobourg	Ottawa Bel-Air
Midget C	Scarborough	Sarnia
Intermediate A	North York Aeros	Ottawa NCCP
Intermediate BB	Hamilton	Brockville
Intermediate C	Windsor	Flamborough
Senior AAA	North York Aeros	Newtonbrook
Senior AA	Newtonbrook	Forest City
Senior A	Mississauga Lightning	Newtonbrook
Senior BB	Kanata	Milton
Senior B	Windsor	Peterborough
Senior C	Oakville	Alvinston

REGISTRATION REPORT

OWHA GROWTH CHART (Players/Year)



The OWHA once again experienced remarkable growth in both the number of registered teams and the number of participants in the 1996/97 hockey season. The number of teams increased from 854 to 963 and the number of players increased from 12,296 to 13,635. The total number of registered participants (players & team staff) increased from 14,887 to 16,544. Please see the comparison chart below for growth statistics for the past 5 seasons. The exposure our sport gained from the 1997 Women's World Championship should have a substantial impact on our 1997-98 registration. Also, the added exposure from the 1998 Winter Olympics should keep female hockey in a very positive growth cycle through to the turn of the century.

As you review the registration statistics, please 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 especially gratifying as it bodes well for the future of Women's Hockey at the grass roots level in Ontario.

A special thank you to Steve Benoit, our computer expert, who volunteered his time to help work out the bugs. Thanks also to Kathy Dyer who handled the data entry.

REGISTRATION STATISTICS (1992-1997)

TEAMS	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Competitive	246	308	372	411	435
House League	165	249	321	443	526
Total Teams	411	557	693	854	964

PLAYERS	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Senior	2485	2798	3122	3704	3884
Intermediate	446	524	594	939	1367
Midget	565	644	859	1138	1274
Bantam	569	819	1110	1326	1324
Peewee	898	1181	1580	2235	2380
Atom	798	1124	1371	1679	1687
Novice /Tyke*	551	744	990	1270	
Novice					1373
Initiation Program (Tyke)					330
Total Players	6,333	7,848	9,626	12,296	13,619

* Novice and IP(Tyke) registration figures were combined up until the 1996-97 season.

OWHA PLAYER AND TEAM DISTRIBUTION

CATEGORY	PLAYERS				TEAMS			
	96/97	95/96	94/95	93/94	96/97	95/96	94/95	93/94
COMPETITIVE								
Senior AAA	119				7			
Senior AA	223	112	124	108	14	6	7	6
Senior A	526	210	203	252	34	13	13	16
Senior BB	200				13			
Senior B	151	503	489	475	9	33	33	31
Senior CC	209				13			
Senior C	343	356	360	305	22	22	23	20
Senior D *		630	621	672		41	41	46
Intermediate A	121	109	51	76	7	7	3	5
Intermediate BB	187				12			
Intermediate B	---	49	76	53	---	3	5	3
Intermediate C	325	235	105	60	22	15	8	4
Midget A	211	124	137	134	14	8	9	9
Midget BB	90				6			
Midget B	117	211	239	169	8	14	15	12
Midget C	263	221	206	111	19	15	14	8
Bantam A	312	218	151	118	21	14	10	8
Bantam BB	143				11			
Bantam B	188	227	194	212	13	15	13	15
Bantam C	285	470	335	163	21	32	23	11
Peewee A	236	201	162	152	16	13	11	10
Peewee BB	342				23			
Peewee B	189	366	335	185	13	24	22	13
Peewee C	356	533	503	349	25	37	35	24
Atom A	214	151	118	122	14	10	8	8
Atom BB	197				13			
Atom B	110	266	225	198	8	18	15	14
Atom C	237	525	454	261	17	37	30	18
Novice A	109	83	100	78	8	6	7	5
Novice BB	74				5			
Novice B	148	185	142	147	11	13	10	10
Novice C	163	228	236	166	12	15	17	12
Sub Total	6,388	6213	5566	4566	431	411	372	308
NON COMPETITIVE								
Senior Rec.	759	674	481	424	50	45	37	31
Senior HL	1370	1224	783	555	93	83	53	39
Intermediate HL	734	546	377	334	52	38	28	27
Midget HL	593	582	271	219	46	42	24	18
Bantam HL	396	411	449	324	33	32	37	28
Peewee HL	1257	1135	565	483	96	84	50	38
Atom HL	929	737	565	542	77	59	49	40
Novice HL *	879				70			
Novice/Tyke HL		774	569	401		60	43	28
Initiation Program (Tyke) **	330				17			
Sub Total	7,247	6083	4060	3282	534	443	321	249
Grand Total	13,635	12,296	9626	7848	965	854	693	557

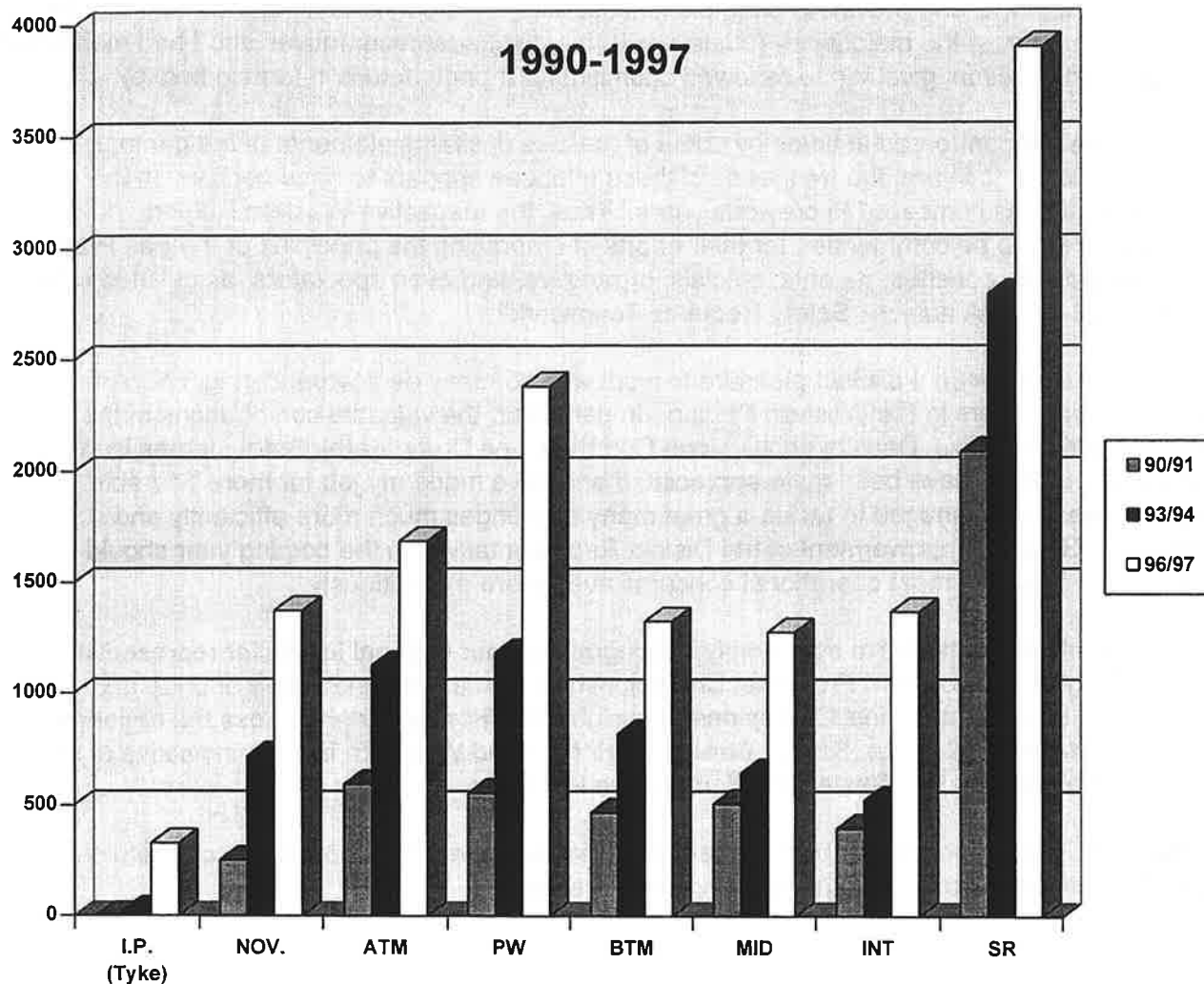
Please note the addition of the "BB" category in each of the junior divisions. In the senior division AAA,BB,CC categories were added.

* The Senior "D" category has been eliminated from the Senior division starting with the 1996-97 season.

** In previous reports the Novice and Tyke age groups have been combined. Please note that the "Tyke" level is now referred to as "Initiation Program". Growth at this age level now invites a separate reporting of team & player numbers.

Pat Nicholls

OWHA REGISTRATION - PLAYERS / DIVISION



What Hockey Means to me:

"It is to have fun. To have fun, you must be a team player.

To be a team player you must:

Cheer for your teammates

Believe in your team

Protect your teammates

Pass the puck

Never give up!"

Alison Rotsch, 12, Mississauga Chiefs Pee wee B

WESTERN REGIONAL REPORT

Now that this busy 96/97 hockey season is winding down, congratulations are certainly due to the Western Region female hockey teams for their excellent participation in house league, league, tournament, regional and provincial championship games. The outstanding enthusiasm and fair play displayed during the majority of games, which the district representatives and I had monitored throughout the season, give rise to renewed optimism for a bright future in female hockey.

While we are still confronted at times by some of the less desirable elements of the game, eg., fighting and intent to injure, the frequency of these offences appears to have declined in the Western Region as compared to previous years. Thus, the respective Western Region associations are to be commended for their efforts of embracing the principles of the Fair Play Codes for players, coaches, parents, officials, organizers, and even spectators, as outlined in the revised 1996-97 CHA edition 'Safety Requires Teamwork'!

Once again, it has been a distinct pleasure to work with so many dedicated, caring, cooperative and patient volunteers in the Western Region. In particular, the valuable contributions of the District Representatives, Dan Campbell, John Courtney, Les Drury, Kathy Dutot, James Hughes and Mary L'Heureux have been quite appreciated and have made my job far more bearable. Together, we have managed to tackle a great many challenges much more efficiently and effectively. Greater empowerment of the District Representatives in the coming year should enable us to deal with most operational concerns even more expeditiously.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our regional teams for representing the Western Region at the recent Provincial Championships with a profound sense of pride and dignity. The final count of nine 'Champions' and eight 'Finalists' from right across the region, ie Alvinston, Bluewater, London, Sarnia, Stratford, Windsor and Wingham is quite indicative of the competitive balance in the Western Region and the Province.

To everyone, please accept my best wishes for a good summer break so that we can return once again full of enthusiasm for another exciting hockey season.

Gerhard Gedies

CENTRAL REGIONAL REPORT

As Regional Director for Central Ontario, my report is divided into different categories. First, I wish to talk about all the nice people I have met through the year starting with my first meeting at the Bonair Golf and Country Club where I was introduced to members from Coldwater, Parry Sound, Orillia and Barrie. It was on to Sharkfest in Barrie, Mississauga's annual Christmas Tourney and Orangeville's in January. I was then given a slight rest for about a day or two and then we swung into Huntsville, Burlington and, of course, Brampton. I will not forget the last tournament, which is Orillia. I hope Oakville and Burlington do not think that I have forgotten them for they should be proud of the growth that they have achieved.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention my Sr. teams. They were great to work with and I had a lot of very interesting FAXes. Thanks, ladies and gents.

Secondly, I have to thank all the people who were so patient with me. It was my first year as a Regional Director and, contrary to popular belief, I had a lot of fun and made some friends, I hope. All you volunteers out there, I hope to hear from you for the 1997-1998 season, as we need you more than ever as the OWHa continues to grow. Thank you again for an enjoyable experience.

Marg Allen

NORTHERN REGIONAL REPORT

Northern Ontario continued to experience growth in 1996-97. New teams joined the OWHHA from Schreiber, Longlac and Moose Factory. Moose Factory registered 2 teams and they have the distinction of being our northernmost centre. Moose Factory is located 160 miles due north of Timmins and on James Bay! Established centres continued to thrive and are thrilled to see the new teams starting up.

Tournaments were held in Dryden, Garden River, Iroquois Falls, Lake of the Woods (Kenora), Manitouwadge, Marathon, Nipigon, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Wawa and White River. Northern convenors, and teams look forward to teams coming from all over Ontario to compete at their tournaments and experience their northern hospitality.

Thunder Bay Girls Hockey hosted an NCCP coaching clinic in November. Thunder Bay GHA is now twenty teams strong and growing. Four teams travelled to the provincial championships in the Senior A, Intermediate BB, Midget A and Pee wee BB divisions., Bruce Mines, Cochrane, Sault Ste Marie, Kirkland Lake, Sudbury, Timmins and Walden also competed. Cochrane captured the Bantam C gold medal.

Many thanks to my district reps for all their assistance. Best wishes to everyone for a great summer and remember to keep your stick on the ice.

Wayne E. Barrie

CENTRAL EAST REGIONAL REPORT

Another season of hockey is over and many are already starting their preparations for the 97/98 season.

I would like to thank all the team contacts that were so very helpful to me during the 96/97 hockey season.

This past season has seen many changes as women's hockey is becoming highly competitive, as displayed by the World's Championship in Kitchener, this past March. I think we will see more girls coming out to play as a direct result.

I was fortunate enough to be a host with Team Switzerland at the Worlds and it was a week that I will never forget. If you were there for the Gold Medal game between Canada and the USA, you'll remember that the arena was packed, the crowd was loudly in support of Canada, and Canadian flags were being waved all around and throughout the arena.

I would like to welcome a new association - Whitby - to the Central East region, joining us at the beginning of the 97/98 season.

Cobourg hosted the Senior AAA Provincials. The attendance was fantastic, and for many it was their first time seeing women's hockey being played.

The Provincials were another big event. So many games ended in ties, or wins by one goal. I personally feel that this means teams were categorized into their proper divisions. I would like to thank all the teams for forwarding their game report forms to me on time. It certainly made my job easier for the teams of the Central East region.

Congratulations to the following teams for winning the 1996/97 Provincial Championships:

Aurora Novice "A" **Oshawa Atom "BB"** **Cobourg Midget "B"**

and the following for winning the silver:

Belleville Novice "B" **Durham West Atom "C"** **Cobourg Bantam "BB"** **Peterborough Sr. "B"**

In closing, I would like to thank my family, for the understanding (once again) for my being away for so many weekends.

Fran Jay

CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL REPORT

What an exciting year for women's hockey in Ontario! The World came to our Province and saw the best female hockey players put on an incredible show. We were truly lucky to be able to participate in such an event. I would like to thank the countless volunteers who gave so freely of their time and expertise to help with this world class championship and show everyone who witnessed it, that Canadians really know their hockey.

Although much of my hockey season was dominated by helping with the women's world championship, the Brantford satellite game in particular, I did manage to see a lot of hockey being played across the region. I would like to thank Hamilton and Cambridge Girls' Hockey Associations for hosting information meetings at the beginning of the season for the teams in their area. I hope these were helpful to the groups that attended and plan on having them again next year. They allowed me to meet a lot of the people in the region and answer any questions they had. Hopefully, next year, we will be able to get every coach and manager out so that there will be less confusion about any new or old rules.

I would like to congratulate all the teams who won their regional play-downs and earned the right to participate in the Provincials. As our numbers continue to grow across the Province, it is becoming harder and harder to get to the finals. To the silver and gold medal winners, we are proud of you for representing our region so well.

To the many associations who hosted tournaments throughout the year, I wish to congratulate you on a job well done. I know how much time and effort it requires to make everything run smoothly. The volunteers in every organization deserve a lot of credit for their tireless dedication and hard work.

My year as Regional Director has been extremely enjoyable and I look forward to serving you again next year. My district Rep, Sue Gibson of Hamilton, has been a tremendous help and I hope she enjoyed her year working with me as much as I enjoyed my year with her.

I would not be able to spend the countless hours on the telephone and the many weekends away from home, if it were not for the support of my family. I would not, and could not, do this without their constant love and support. I thank them for their understanding and encouragement.

May your summer be safe and enjoyable.

Betty Solomon

"You meet new girls. You have fun. You shoot the puck & play your position. You do your best & have fun. And help the goalie out. And at the end you shake hands and say
"GOOD GAME" ."

Lisa Marcaccio, 8, Stoney Creek House League Sharks

"I like Hockey because it's fun to score goals! You get to meet new friends! Its fun to skate with your friends to! I play defence sometimes. I enjoy playing hockey in the winter.
Hockey is cool!"

Randi Phinney, 8, Kenora Novices

EASTERN REGIONAL REPORT

Another hockey season has finished, and many fond and enjoyable memories to relish! My second year as the Regional Director for Eastern Ontario has brought with it many experiences. This year was a challenge, as was last, with many things learned, fond memories obtained, laughter enjoyed and shared, and accomplishments achieved. That is not to say that there were no "rough" things that had to be pursued - the Eastern Region had its share of difficulties, but, in my opinion, with the teamwork and cooperation that existed (and still does!) within this region, these difficulties were merely bumps in the road to success.

On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to making this year another success for girls' and women's hockey. Everyone plays an important role in "our" success, don't ever forget that - no matter how trivial you may feel the task is, it is important to us and to the success of the world's greatest winter sport!

Amongst all of the successful tournaments, league games, and exhibition play, the Eastern Region was fortunate enough to host the 3 Nations Cup - Canada, USA and Finland. And once again, our National Team came out on top, with many exciting and competitive games to be entertained by and to learn from. Hands come together to applaud all of the local associations (Ottawa District Women's Hockey Association, Cornwall Girls' Hockey Association, North Frontenac Girls' Hockey Association and Smiths Falls Girls' Hockey Association) and their fantabulous volunteers for showcasing such outstanding International Hockey. You all should be very proud to be able to have such success at the International level...the Eastern Region will be remembered for its organizational abilities and its many dedicated volunteers! And for those of us who were fortunate enough to have experienced the Worlds' in Kitchener, we should all feel very proud of such a successful event, and to how well the Ontario volunteers work together - Together Everyone Attains More - Team Canada says!!

Congratulations to all of the successful Provincial Champions!

Thank you, one and all, for supporting me as Regional Director role, and having the confidence in me to perform this volunteer position. To that end, to everyone, I wish a safe, fun-filled and relaxing summer - Enjoy! All of the best in the upcoming season!

Carol A. Banks

"At 3 she wondered what it would be like.
At 5 she got skates.
At 6 she started to play.
At 10 she was the captain of her team.
At 15 she played hard.
At 20 she made it to the top - Team Canada
LIVE THE DREAM."

Karen Kramer, 16, North York Storm

METRO TORONTO REGIONAL REPORT

I have enjoyed being Regional Director for Metro. I thank everyone for their cooperation on the never ending rules and paperwork involved to try to make the hockey the best it can be for all the players and volunteers involved.

We had four (4) tournaments in the Metro Region. Scarborough Girls H.A. starting off with an early September event, followed by one in January, the Willowdale Red Wings had a late addition in January and Leaside held their tradition March Tournament.

One of Metro's biggest highlights this season was hosting a Satellite game for the World Championship at North York Centennial Arena. North Metro G.H.A. members be proud of the excellent work put forth by President Brenda Howard and the many, many volunteers who gave their time to let the world see female hockey at its best. Well done everyone!

One area I found difficult to monitor was suspensions. Not all coaches are aware of their responsibility to prove suspensions are served. Many felt they complied with the rules when they sent game sheets into their Competitive League Discipline Chair. The OWHHA rule is they must be sent to your Regional Director or the OWHHA office within 48 hours. I always worried there would be repercussions when I didn't get these, but, fortunately, there were none.

I hope everyone recognizes the efforts of the Re-Categorization Committee as being outstanding. In Metro Playdowns, of the 32 games played, 12 (37.5%) were tied, 10 (31%) had a one goal spread, 6 (18.75%) had a two goal spread, 3 had a three (9.3%) goal spread and only 1 game saw a 4 goal spread. Pretty closely matched I'd say. Excellent hockey and sportsmanship being displayed. There was some disappointment from the divisions having 3 and 4 teams competing in a one game round robin, but your concerns are being addressed by the Provincial Committee.

Eight Metro teams were in the final games of the Provincial Championships. Six went on to become Ontario Champions: Etobicoke Novice C, Newtonbrook Sr. AA, North York Bantam BB, North York In. A, Scarborough Bantam A, Scarborough Midget C. The two finalist teams were Etobicoke Bantam B and Newtonbrook Sr. A. Congratulations to all!

Our huge growth in numbers over the past 3 or 4 years brought with it huge expectation from everyone. The only area that has not grown is the number of volunteers within the OWHHA organization leaving too few doing too much. We must all be patient while we 'catch up' in some areas that aren't up to par and try to turn criticism into recommendations. People must pass on their experience, take the time to offer help and remember that the OWHHA is volunteers just like you. Yes, we have paid personnel to handle some of the workload, but try to put into perspective the number of players and teams being monitored and the activities falling under the jurisdiction of the OWHHA and all it is involved in, then ask yourself just how much can be squeezed into the evenings and weekends of these volunteers.

We are all part of some very exciting years for female hockey. We're moving farther and faster than most of us ever imaged. We can all take pride in being part of these advancements. We have more and more teams playing internationally, the calibre of hockey improves day by day and Canada has already proven they are the number one team in the world. Look out Nagano, here we come!

At the World's Championships, I had the privilege of attending a Seminar involving eight different countries trying to develop hockey in the hope of participating in the Olympics one day. They look to the OWHHA for guidance and they get it. The OWHHA - US - YOU - have had and are having all the growing pains and all the others will learn from our successes and 'not so' successes. The OWHHA are the one and only female Hockey governing body in the WORLD. In Ontario, what we have, where we are in hockey far exceeds anywhere else in the world. Be proud, give support, be happy to be part of the success

In closing my report, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and, most of all, encourage everyone to keep hockey fun! The most important ingredient for the success of hockey at any level.

Bev Duffy

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Congratulations to all players, coaches, managers, administrators, officials, trainers parents and volunteers who worked together to make the 1996-97 season an exciting and successful year.

Many thanks to all associations and clinic coordinators who assisted in providing the OWHa membership with certification clinics in the 1996-97 season. OWHa associations welcomed coaches, instructors, referees and trainers to 41 certification clinics held all across our province.

REFEREES

The OWHa registered 327 officials in 1996-97. This is an increase from 287 last season. We had 169 officials register with the OWHa for the first time. However, out of 133 new officials from last season (95-96), only 56 returned for the 96-97 campaign. Of paramount concern to the CHA when the Zero Tolerance Policy was introduced was for the young officials. Older officials are experienced and may be able to handle verbally abusive situations with less difficulty. Young officials are often intimidated to the point where they give up on refereeing. Officiating is a very challenging aspect of our sport and as coaches, parents & players we must also allow the young officials to learn and develop in a welcome environment.

CHA's Dave Baker, Manager Officiating is also concerned that obstruction fouls are creeping into the female game. He encourages players to maintain the high skill level and not resort to obstruction. The officials must call the obstruction fouls.

The OWHa was thrilled to have a number of our top female officials assigned to national and international competitions.

	REFEREES	LINESMEN
Three Nations Cup, Ottawa	Joanne Baker Deb Maybury Laurie Taylor-Bolton Marina Zenk	Sue Cassidy Chantal Champagne Brenda Jones Sharon Watts
Esso Senior Women's National Championship, Richmond, B.C.	Deb Maybury Marina Zenk	Joanne Baker Sue Cassidy Jacquie Palm
1997 Women's World Hockey Championship, Kitchener, Ontario	Laurie Taylor-Bolton Marina Zenk	Sue Cassidy

We look forward to continue 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 Morpew, Doug Nicholls, Marina Zenk, Sue Cassidy and Laurie Taylor-Bolton for their continuing dedication to the OWHa Referee program.

CANADIAN HOCKEY OFFICIATING PROGRAM (CHOP)

CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
Stoney Creek	Sept 7, 1996	Jr/Sr
Etobicoke	Sept 8, 1996	Jr/Sr
Ottawa	Sept 14, 1996	Jr/Sr
Barrie	Sept 21, 1996	Jr/Sr
Peterborough	Sept 22, 1996	Jr/Sr
Toronto/Leaside	Sept 28, 1996	Jr/Sr
London	Sept 29, 1996	Jr
Durham West	Oct 6, 1996	Jr
Sudbury	Oct 19, 1996	Jr/Sr
Hamilton	Nov 3	Jr

TRAINERS

Ten OWHA Hockey Trainers Certification Program (HTCP) clinics were run this past season. There continues to be great interest in the HTCP as many local associations encourage the "Moms" to become involved.

Many thanks to John Panethere, former Safety & Research Coordinator of the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario, for his expertise and guidance over the past years. John was a valuable resource for the OWHA to tap into regarding safety & risk management. We wish him well and look forward to working with him in his new capacity as Technical Program Coordinator for the Ontario Hockey Federation.

HOCKEY TRAINER'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (HTCP)

CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
Durham West	Sept 22, 1996	1
Barrie	Oct 5, 1996	1
Sarnia	Oct 5, 1996	1
Ottawa	Oct 26, 1996	1
London	Oct 27, 1996	1
Brampton	Nov 10, 1996	1
Stoney Creek	Nov 30, 1996	1
Burlington	Dec 1, 1996	1
Cambridge	Dec 7, 1996	1
Hamilton	Jan 19, 1997	1

INITIATION PROGRAM

As female hockey grows, more and more young girls are starting to learn the game of hockey at the ages of 4-7. The Canadian Hockey Initiation Program is sponsored by Chrysler Canada and was developed to make the child's first contact with hockey a safe and positive experience. It's a structured learn-to-play hockey program designed to introduce beginners to the game's basic skills while also developing self confidence. These goals are achieved in an atmosphere of fun and fair play.

Canadian Hockey and the OWHA continue to encourage associations to add the "IP" to their local hockey programs. It is the best start we can give to our young players. An increasing effort will be placed over the next few years to educate and assist our local associations in establishing this valuable program in their communities. Seeing the excitement that female hockey is generating, Chrysler Canada is pouring additional sponsorship dollars into the Initiation Program and specifically geared towards the promotion of the female program.

Canadian singer and Juno Award winner Sandra Beach has recorded a theme song for Canadian Hockey's Initiation Program. It should be available for branches/divisions by the end of summer.

The "IP" concept has also been re-worked by some associations to offer an adult Initiation Program. Many women in their 40's, 50's and even 60's are giving the game a try.

Two "IP" clinics were held this season. Associations interested in finding out more about the Initiation Program are encouraged to call for all the details on this FUN introduction to hockey.

INITIATION PROGRAM (I.P.)

LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
Newcastle	Sept 21, 1996	Instructor
Toronto	Oct 27, 1996	Instructor

COACHING

In 1996-97 OWHHA associations continued to support and encourage their coaches participation at NCCP Coaching clinics. Many associations are becoming proactive, going beyond the mandatory NCCP "Coach Level" certification to insist that their head coaches achieve the NCCP "Intermediate Level" certification.

Our competitive team registrations indicate that there is an increasing number of coaches/team and also encouraging growth in the number of female coaches.

Year	Female Coaches	Male Coaches	Total	Coaches/ CompetitiveTeam*
1995-96	633	840	1473	3.58
1996-97	<u>754</u>	<u>1033</u>	<u>2,045</u>	4.11
	+ 121	+ 193	+314	

* For # of teams please see registration chart on page 7 (Registration Report)

NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	LEVEL
London	April 28, May 4,5, 1996	Intermediate
Mississauga	June 1996	Coach
Windsor	Sept 7 & 8, 1996	Coach
Brampton	Sept 21 & 22, 1996	Coach
Niagara Falls	Oct 5 & 6, 1996	Coach
Barrie	Oct 26 & 27, 1996	Coach
London	Nov 2 & 3, 1996	Coach
Thunder Bay	Nov 16 & 17, 1996	Coach
Toronto	Nov 16 & 17, 1996	Coach
Durham West	May 31, June 1 & 7, 1997	Intermediate

INITIATIVES

OWHHA Initiative Meetings are held in communities wishing to start up a female hockey program. 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 OWHHA as having the potential to develop a local program.

Our largest initiative meeting ever was held this season in Whitby on a very chilly Sunday evening in mid-January. A record 150 people attended the information session. With strong support from the Town of Whitby, the future looks great for the Whitby Girls Hockey Association.

HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE FOR ONTARIO

The HDCO is the agency which administers government funding for hockey in the Province of Ontario. The OWHHA together with representatives from male hockey sit on its Board of Directors.

The HDCO administers the trainers and risk management programs in Ontario. Injury data analysis is also an important risk management function. Our thanks to our teams for their injury data input.

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.

CANADIAN HOCKEY REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM(S) CANADA:

- National Women's Team - World Champions for the 4th consecutive time - 3 Nations Cup champions - successful qualifiers for the 1998 Winter Olympics!
- National Junior Team - World Champions
- National Men's Team - World Champions

Canadian Hockey Association (CHA) was the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) prior to their (CHA's) merger with Hockey Canada. The CHA, or the preferred terminology "Canadian Hockey" is now marketing under one logo with merchandise widely available in retail outlets.

HARASSMENT AND ABUSE:

- The CHA Board of Directors unanimously approved all recommendations brought forward by the sub committee on harassment and abuse. The Chairman reviewed a first draft of guidelines and procedures for local associations and clubs.
- A press conference in August or September will be held to announce a campaign that will be entitled, "Speak Out".

INSURANCE:

- No major changes are anticipated to the program for the 1997/98 season.
- Canadian Hockey Health Benefit Trust and Major Medical/Dental Plan has been in operation since September 1, 1988. The Major Medical has handled in excess of 18,000 claims. The Plan is operated as a business yet still maintains an element of common sense and compassion which allows it to respond to a variety of individual circumstances.
- The trend of high dental expenditures and increasing hospital costs (as provincial health care plans continue to restrict benefits) are continuing. The Health Benefit Trust has commissioned a study researching policy wordings, benefit levels and the wording of the agreement itself.
- The Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy was again carried by Unum Canada. The broker is Alexander and Alexander. Claim statistics to mid-April 1997 were: 6 deaths, 0 plegia and 3 loss of sight.
- an agreement is being finalized in regards to the National Equity Fund - the terms & conditions under which the surplus dollars from the Self-Insured program will be dealt with in the years ahead.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

- over the past few years, several coaches not wearing helmets at practices have died. The motion that: "every coach participating in on-ice activities wear a "CSA APPROVED HELMET" while carrying out his/her duties." was referred to the risk management and safety committee. Teams and associations have the authority to make this mandatory.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Welcome to The Northwest Territories - unanimously accepted as a member of Canadian Hockey.
- the Female Council recommendation to establish an annual midget national championship to begin in the year 2000 and in non Canada Games years was referred to the Board.
- the Female Council recommended a seat be provided for a female council appointee on the business and marketing committee and the harassment and abuse committee.
- the Female Council recommendation to support the 3 components of the Nike-Canadian Hockey proposal and that the Female Council be consulted as the program is developing was referred to the research committee.
- the board approved the Female Council recommendation that an annual award be presented at the Annual General Meeting for outstanding contribution to the development of female hockey.
- for the 2nd consecutive year, the Quebec Provincial Championship hosted female under 15-year olds and by next year, they hope to add another division.

PROMOTIONS AND MARKETING:

- A new joint marketing initiative with the Canadian Olympic Association and NHLPA was introduced to expand sponsorship and licensing opportunities leading to the 1998 Olympics. New sponsors and promotional partners include General Mills, IBM and McDonalds.
- Air Canada and Imperial Oil premier sponsor agreements are in the process of being renewed for a 3-4 year period. Associate agreements also being renewed include Sears, HFC and Irving Oil.
- New promotional partners for 1997-98 included FedEx, Molson, Campbell's Soup and Esquire.
- Negotiations with Nike include a new player development program entitled the NIKE Skills Development Program.
- Considerable interest has been expressed in the women's program. Chrysler has confirmed for 1997-98 and the process is being finalized for support from Air Canada, Esso, Royal Bank and Sears.
- The net revenue projected from the licensing program is anticipated to be \$284,000.
- Projected sales for Breakaway (resource centre) indicate that gross sales will reach in excess of \$2,000,000 this year.
- Dates for the 1998 Esso Senior National Championship have been set. Competition will be held next March 19th-22nd in Calgary, Alberta at the Father David Bauer Arena.

A HAT TRICK OF WINNERS:

Three very important supporters of the OWHHA were recognized with top honours from Canadian Hockey. All three held major volunteer roles at the 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship.

- Congratulations to Brent Ladds, winner of Canadian Hockey's award of merit. Brent is President of the Ontario Hockey Association. He has served on the OWHHA Board and has provided extensive leadership and support for close to twenty years. He has made exceptional contributions to hockey and has been a key partner in the successful development of the OWHHA. He recently chaired the accreditation committee of the Women's World Championship.
- Congratulations to Pat Doherty, winner of Canadian Hockey's Gordon Jukes award. Pat has worked extensively in training players and volunteers. His writing includes an administrators manual. As former chairman and life member of the OHA, Pat has been a solid supporter to women's hockey. He was a key volunteer at the recent world championship.
- Congratulations to Frank Libera who was recently elected to Life Membership in Canadian Hockey. Frank has been a major supporter of women's hockey including: chairing the female council, the 1990 world women's championship and playing a very key role in the 1998 world championship as chairman on the steering committee.

ESSO SENIOR NATIONALS, March 6 to 7, Richmond, B.C.:

Final Team Standings:

1. Alberta	2. Quebec	3. Ontario	4. New Brunswick
5. Saskatchewan	6. British Columbia	7. Manitoba	8. Prince Edward Island

Most Valuable Goaltender:	Jane Clegg, Saskatchewan
Most Valuable Forward:	Nancy Drolet, Quebec
Most Valuable Defender:	Geraldine Heaney, Ontario
Most Valuable Player:	France St. Louis, Quebec
Most Sportsmanlike Player:	Dawn McGuire, Alberta
Most Sportsmanlike Team:	Prince Edward Island

IN-LINE HOCKEY:

- In-Line hockey is now part of Canadian Hockey
- Everything is new and, the 12 Canadian branches have different approaches, involvement and interest.
- Canadian Hockey is working towards having in-line as part of the next Canada Summer Games. Branches are being encouraged to lobby for in-line as part of provincial games.
- Canadian Hockey acquired NIHA (North American In-Line Hockey Association) assets Feb. 24/97.
- A full in-line office is in operations in Calgary
- Membership for 1997 will be about 24,000 to 27,000 members



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 1996-97 - CHA

		SENIOR	INT.	MIDGET	BANTAM	PEEWEE	ATOM	NOVICE	INIT.	H.S.	TOTAL
BC	PLAYERS	1,586		134	90	187	875				2,872
	TEAMS	69		10	6	13	58				156
ALTA.	PLAYERS	1,107		457	47	211	97	41			1,960
	TEAMS	62		30	3	15	7	3			120
SASK.(1)	PLAYERS									878	878
	TEAMS									59	59
MAN.	PLAYERS	215	41	462	106	291	288	130	133	1	1,667
	TEAMS	12	3	36	5	22	15	2	0		95
ONT.	PLAYERS	3,900	1,367	1,274	1,324	2,380	1,687	1,373	330		13,635
	TEAMS	255	93	93	99	173	129	106	17		965
QUE.	PLAYERS	720	1,485								2,205
	TEAMS	48	99								147
N.B.	PLAYERS	97		5	17	54	41	55	50	239	558
	TEAMS	6								14	20
N.S.	PLAYERS	82		152	166	124	22	423			969
	TEAMS	4		6	7	4					21
P.E.I.	PLAYERS	91	20	87		74	67	42	23		404
	TEAMS	6	1	8		6	5	3	2		31
NFLD. (3)	PLAYERS			149	86	87	63	64	67		516
	TEAMS			8	5						13
TOTALS	PLAYERS	7,798	2,913	2,720	1,836	3,408	3,140	2,128	603	1,118	25,664
	TEAMS	462	196	191	125	233	214	114	19	73	1,627

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.

(1) Saskatchewan - High School number includes all female players

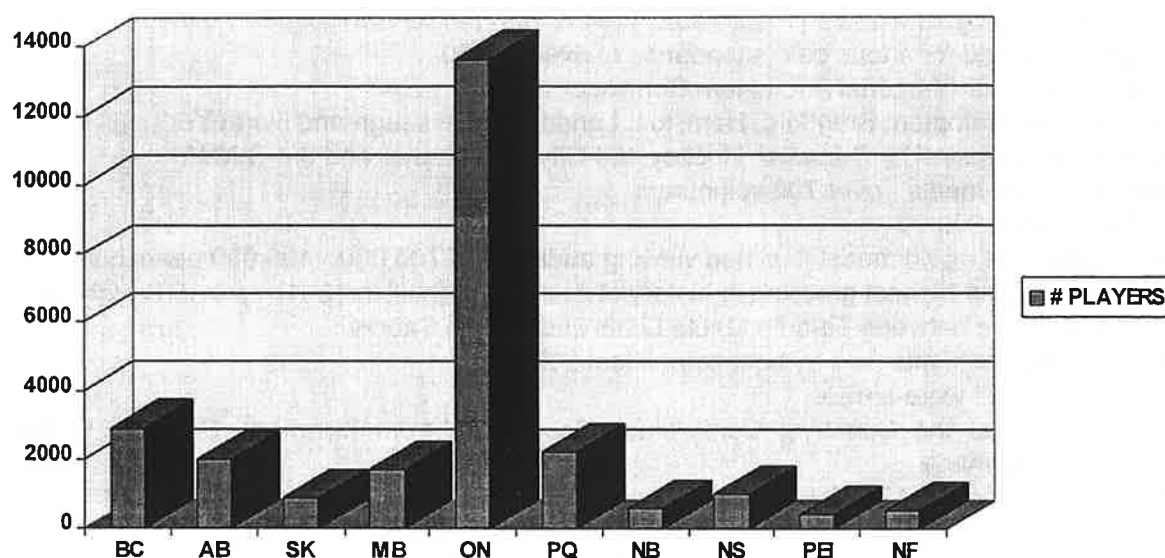
(2) Quebec - Intermediate number includes all female players 20 & under

(3) Newfoundland - Females in Pee wee and below play on male teams

Total CHA Registration 1996/97 season:

	Players	Teams		Players	Teams
British Columbia	45,732	2,945	Ontario	200,884	13,870
Alberta	59,279	3,740	Quebec	94,449	5,430
Saskatchewan	33,271	2,200	Nova Scotia	16,602	374
Manitoba	26,607	1,840	New Brunswick	15,390	884
Newfoundland	9,940	588	Prince Edward Island	5,167	369
Western Hockey League	416	18	Grand Total	507,737	32,258

CHA FEMALE HOCKEY REGISTRATION - 1996/97



"Boys and girls are the same. I play hockey like my brothers. And I like hockey school. I want to play girls hockey. I want to be a goalie like my brothers. When I am older, I want to be on the girls Team Canada hockey team. In hockey school I have to skate around the ice then I have to go to my corner. My mommy watches me fall down on the ice and she laughs at me. I make her laugh. My mommy plays hockey too, and I want her to score a goal. After I go to my corner we play a game. I want my mommy's friends to score goals too. I love hockey"

Kelsey Seelert, 5, Durham West

Kelsey's Mommy is enrolled in the Durham West GHA "Right Start Adult Initiation Program"

1997 WOMEN'S WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP



MISSION STATEMENT

To leave a female hockey 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.

The 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship was an overwhelming success. The teams played skillful hockey, advancing the credibility of the sport both within Canada and abroad. Visitors to Ontario were thoroughly entertained as they were treated to a week of enjoyment and warm hospitality. Volunteers were numerous, recognizing that working on this championship was a special privilege, totally committing themselves for the good of others. All who attended have permanent memories of the excitement and the warmth of everlasting friendships.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- March 31 to April 6, 1997
- Canada won their 4th gold medals (1990, 1992, 1994 & 1997) - USA 4th silver & Finland bronze
- 20 games were played for a total paid attendance of over 62,000
- 14 games at Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex
- Satellite games in Brampton, Brantford, Hamilton, London, Mississauga and North York
- IIHF championship hosted by Canadian Hockey, the City of Kitchener and the OWH
- Over 200 accredited media - over 700 volunteers
- Budget of over \$700,000.00
- 2 games live on TSN - gold medal final had viewing audience of 700,000 - 400,000 per minute
- Gold medal game was highest grossing in history of Auditorium (built in 1951) - previous high was a 1995 exhibition game between Toronto Maple Leafs and Buffalo Sabres
- Total number of room nights paid by host committee: 2053
- 15 on-ice officials - all were female
- 25 coaches attended the Coaching Conference. They came from Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, USA & Canada
- 1810 lbs of laundry done - 1726 towels were laundered
- Honourary Chairperson - Mayor Hazel McCallion - star supporter of female hockey
- Honourary Chairperson - Hamilton game - Cathy Phillips - Team Canada 1990
- IIHF sponsor - NIKE
- CHA Premier Sponsors: Air Canada, ESSO, Royal Bank, TSN
- Gold Level Event Sponsors: Bell Mobility, Canadian Olympic Association, Dare, MTD, NHL, Revlon, Toronto Maple Leafs, City of Kitchener, Province of Ontario, Sport Canada, Kitchener-Waterloo Record, Four Points Sheraton
- Silver Level Sponsors: Cora Group, Gatorade, Harvey's, Hockey Hall of Fame, Honeywell, Cara, Louisville, Molson's, Schneiders, Ontario Hockey Federation, Sawmill Creek, CHYM-FM, CKGL, CKCO-TV, KOOL FM / OLDIES 1090
- Bronze Level Sponsors: Dominoes Pizza, Ericsson, Laidlaw, Latina Restaurant, National Sports, Ontario Hockey Association, Robin Hood MultiFoods

The OWH extends a very special thank you to the City of Kitchener, their steering committee delegates, Keith Bauk and Caroline Oliver and to Canadian Hockey's Frank Libera, Ron Robison and Yvonne Bergmann. This championship truly was a team effort thanks to the outstanding skill and commitment of these individuals. We owe them all far more than words can express.

Sincere thanks to the many people who contributed to the success of this championship. It will go down in history as another major turning point in female hockey.



FINAL STANDINGS

#	POOL	WINNER	SCORE	LOSER	SCORE
1	B	USA	7	Norway	0
2	B	Finland	5	Sweden	0
3	A	China	6	Russia	2
4	A	Canada	6	Switzerland	0
5	B	Sweden	2	Norway	2
6	B	Finland	3	USA	3
7	A	China	11	Switzerland	3
8	A	Canada	9	Russia	1
9	B	Finland	10	Norway	0
10	B	USA	10	Sweden	0
11	A	Switzerland	3	Russia	3
12	A	Canada	7	China	1
13	B3 vs A4	Sweden	7	Switzerland	1
14	A3 vs B4	Russia	2	Norway	1
15	A1 vs B2	Canada	2	Finland	1
16	B1 vs A2	USA	6	China	0
17	Olympic Qualifier	Sweden	3	Russia	1
18	7th/8th	Switzerland	1	Norway	0
19	BRONZE	Finland	3	China	0
20	GOLD/SILVER	Canada	4 (O/T)	USA	3

FAIR PLAY CUP WINNER (fewest penalty minutes) : FINLAND

ALL STAR TEAM

POSITION	NAME	COUNTRY
Goalkeeper	Patricia Sautter (34)	Switzerland
Right Defence	Cassie Campbell (77)	Canada
Left Defence	Kelly O'Leary (27)	USA
Left Wing	Hayley Wickenheiser (22)	Canada
Centre	Riikka Nieminen (13)	Finland
Right Wing	Cammi Granato (21)	USA

PLAYER AWARDS: Three best per team:

TEAM	PLAYER
Canada	Hayley Wickenheiser (LW #22); Geraldine Heaney (LD#91); Cassie Campbell (RD #77)
China	Hongmzi Liu (RW #3); Xuan Li (LD #4); Hong Dang (LW #5)
Finland	Riikka Nieminen (C #13); Tiia Reima (LW #16); Sari Krooks (RW #17)
Norway	Inger-Lise Fagernes (LD #6); Birgitte Lersbrytggen (C #18); Camilla Hille (RW #15)
Russia	Ekaterina Pachkevitch (C#25); Janna Chtcheltchkova (RD#13); Svetlana Gavrilova (RW#17)
Switzerland	Patricia Sautter (G #25); Jeanette Marty (LW #13); Doris Wyss (RW #17)
Sweden	Gunilla Andersson (RD #23); Erika Holst (C #8); Maria Roothm (LW #7)
USA	Cammi Granato (LW #21); Shelley Looney (RW #15); Kelly O'Leary (RD #27)

Hockey means friendships to me. Hockey is a team sport it is not a one person sport. So you have to have friends and friends lead to friendships. Hockey also means goals, like to me, making Team Canada and making the Olympics. I love hockey, and I would not give up hockey for the world."

Amanda Martin, 9 London Devilettes

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 1997 - A WORLD OF THANKS

Murray Costello, President, Canadian Hockey:

"The 1997 World Championship for Women is now in the history books as, undoubtedly, the most successful ever held in women's programming. It was a wonderful event and served to move women's hockey further ahead than anyone could ever have expected."

Mayor Richard D. Christy, Mayor, City of Kitchener:

"No detail was overlooked and this could only be achieved because of the significant contribution of caring and enthusiastic group of volunteers, like you."

Ron Robison, Senior Vice President Business Operations, Canadian Hockey:

"I just wanted you to know that, although our Canadian Women's Hockey Team prevailed for another gold medal, the real highlight of the Women's World Championship was the outstanding performance of your world class Volunteer Committee. You can take pride in an extraordinarily successful event which undoubtedly exceeded expectations in virtually every area. You have raised women's hockey from an event perspective to a new level."

Judy Rash, Senior Program Officer, Sport Canada:

"Congratulations on a wonderful tournament. You should take great pride in seeing the continued growth of the game and its public recognition."

Juerg H. Fluehmann, Deputy Consul General, Switzerland:

"I attended the games in Kitchener and North York with my family. Congratulations to the organizing committee for a successful world championship."

John Pickett, Director, Nike International, Hockey Sports Marketing:

"The IIHF Championships in Kitchener definitely made a significant statement for women's hockey and helped to elevate the sport for the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. From a business point of view, Nike Inc. was very pleased with our sponsorship and the visibility we received from this event. Our partnership with the organizing committee worked well with the athletes, media and the volunteers, at the same time the television numbers on TSN were quite favourable."

Scott Farley, General Manager, Ontario Hockey Federation:

"The event has proven to be a positive factor in the continuing growth and popularity of female hockey in Ontario, Canada and throughout the world. The Championship, through promotion, Off-ice activities, overall organization, and finally, the competition itself, showcased the tremendous efforts of the volunteers and host committee. The Championship has left a legacy for which everyone involved with the Ontario Hockey Federation can be proud of. It certainly bodes well for the future of hockey, and specifically female hockey in our Branch."

David Baker, Manager, Officiating, Canadian Hockey

"The officials themselves were in awe of the treatment they received. I know that this will be an event that will be remembered for years to come."

Ed Pupich, President, Northern Ontario Hockey Association:

"Congratulations on a fantastic World Hockey Championship. Your hard work produced excellent dividends and your efforts are commendable."

Brent Ladds, President, Ontario Hockey Association:

"On behalf of the Ontario Hockey Association, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the OWHA for their efforts in hosting a successful Women's World Hockey Championship. The event went a long way toward promoting women's' hockey, not only in Canada but hopefully around the world. Your Board of Directors and organization deserve a great deal of credit for their efforts."

Georgina Short, Newfoundland Women's Hockey:

"The greatest game in the world!!! You are to be congratulated for a great week of hockey."

Kelly Dyer, Louisville Hockey:

"Great job on the world's."

Sandra Pluim-Siefort, Case Co-ordinator, Big Sisters:

"On behalf of Kitchener-Waterloo and Area Big Sisters, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the donated tickets to several of the Women's World Hockey Games. We would like to congratulate you on the success of the event. We had a number of Big Sisters and Little Sisters/Buddies call to reserve and use their tickets. They were thrilled about watching such exciting hockey."

Marina Zenk, Referee, 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship:

"Just a quick note to congratulate your organizing committee for doing an excellent job in hosting the Women's World Hockey Championship in Kitchener. As a participant, officials were treated first class. One of the best I have ever participated in as an official"

Andrea Kennedy:

"I am 12 years old and have been playing hockey for 3 years for Burlington Girls Hockey. Last Tuesday night my family and I were lucky to attend a Women's World Hockey Championship game in Kitchener. I really like watching the game. It was neat watching women play instead of men."

Nicolette Franck, Student Volunteer:

"I have to say that this past week was the most memorable experience of my life. As a younger player and fan, I am glad to see that women's hockey is growing rapidly and is further recognized by everyone around the world."

Joy Dezio, National Hockey League:

"Congratulations for the outstanding coverage the WWHC received. The Kitchener games were certainly the talk around this office!"

Joan Magnus:

"I attended the Women's World Championship on Saturday, April 5. Everything that I saw, from the ushers in their team jackets, the displays, organization, the VIP Lounge, announcements, advertising, programme, presentations and much more, were all 1st class. It was a credit to Women's Hockey in general and also a credit to Canada. I was proud to be both a woman and a Canadian. You have a great bunch of girls on that team and a great coach and staff. They conducted themselves in such a manner that I commented it was a pleasure to attend and also to see such a presentation of hockey for the children attending. It was a well-played, exciting game with no fights or bad language, just good hockey."

Rita Wyczynski, Partner, The Art of Partnership:

"Congratulations on a great event and an exciting finish! It was a thrill to be there to watch and be part of this memorable event."

Jackie Fraser, Guelph pee wee player, (hearing impaired):

To: CHYM FM, "My mother listens to your radio station every day and on her way to work. She tells me that you're announcing about the Women's World Hockey Championship 1997 in Kitchener, Ontario. Please keep announcing about the World Women's Championship, it will help all the future girls like me for the future of girls hockey."

Carolyn Johnson:

"The recent Women's World Hockey Championship was a wonderful event, and my family (including two bantam age players) and I, will not soon forget the thrill of being in the Aud for the final gold medal game with so many fellow Canadian fans. It was a great logo."

H. Ian Macdonald, President Emeritus, York University:

"We enjoyed the games at the recent Women's World Hockey Championships. Obviously, it was a great success and I am delighted by the continuing progress of women's ice hockey."

Susan Dalziel, Female Council Delegate, Prince Edward Island:

"I want to congratulate you on a tremendous World Championship - I'm sure the best World Championship. The event was for the players but it was evident you certainly considered the importance of the fans, the volunteers and the community in your planning and hosting. Everyone was made to feel a part of the event."

Joan Dewdney, former OWSHA board member:

"Congratulations to all. Without all the background work - 4 championships wouldn't have been so soon (or never) remember "87?"

"We thank you so very much for the tickets to see the hockey game. April 3rd was a terrific afternoon. Not many people get an opportunity like this." - **Jinna Savatdy**

"I had a really good time. I learned a lot about hockey. When I got home, I could not stop talking about the hockey game." - **Cassandra**

"Thank you for sending us the 52 tickets. It was a great opportunity for us to see women playing hockey." - **Woodland Park Students in grades 5 and 6**

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to see the Norway vs Sweden game at the Women's World Hockey Championship. We really enjoyed watching it. It was wonderful." - **Jameel, Krystal, James, Aliya, Mark, Sarah, Neil, Heather, Navjeet, Cody, Jaquie, Kelly, Sara, Christina, Arthur**

"DON CHERRY" SWEEPSTAKES

A very special thanks to Don Cherry, who came up with the idea of the "DON CHERRY SWEEPSTAKES". Don has been a long time supporter and friend of women's hockey. His generosity enabled the OWSHA to raise approximately \$60,000.00 for the development of female hockey. In addition, it is impossible to put a dollar figure to the promotional value of Don's numerous references to women's hockey on television, radio, newspaper articles and speaking engagements. He speaks with great respect for the skills and values in the women's side of the game.

Sincere thanks to the prize donors:

PRIZE	DONOR	WINNER
Don Cherry's 2 tickets to Toronto Maple Leaf game	Don Cherry	Terry Prentice
Don Cherry's shirt and tie	Don Cherry	Betty Griffin
Free Esso gas for a year - \$1000 value	Imperial Oil	Sarah T.
2 tickets to join Ron Ellis in Toronto Maple Leaf alumni box	Ron Ellis	Cal Hiltz
Angela James's Team Canada jersey	Canadian Hockey	Maureen Pace
Autographed Doug Gilmour sweater	Toronto Maple Leafs	Russ Conroy
2- VIP World Championship Ticket Packages	World Championship	Don Cooper

Special thanks to Imperial Oil for their generous donation of \$10,000 cash and \$1,000 worth of gas. According to Roger Purdie, the company's vice-president and general manager, marketing, "It reflects our commitment to supporting hockey at the grass-roots level across Canada, and especially the growth and development of women's hockey, the fastest-growing segment of the game today."

Thanks to another special friend of women's hockey, Ron MacLean who regularly promotes women's hockey and acted as MC for the press conference. Ron also refereed a Senior AAA game. Thanks also to Mayor Hazel McCallion, Lois Kalchman, Fred Walker, Doug Reddon, the Hockey Hall of Fame, participating associations, the media and the many others who added to the success of this program.

Sincere thanks Don - you look great in a single breasted blazer! Thanks also to Rose and "Blue Two".

1998 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

For the first time, women's hockey will be a full medal sport in the Winter Olympics. The top five countries - Canada, United States, Finland, China, and Sweden qualified as a result of the 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship. They will join a host team from Japan at the six country event in Nagano.

DETAILS:

Opening Ceremonies: Saturday February 7

Women's Competition: February 8 to February 12

Men's Competition:	Preliminary Round	February 7 to February 12
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Final Round February 13 to 22

Over 60 countries, approximately 3,000 athletes, 68 different events, 7 sports

WOMEN'S HOCKEY SCHEDULE:

DATE	TEAMS		TIME	SITE
February 8	Sweden	Finland	12:00	Aqua Wing
	Canada	Japan	16:00	Aqua Wing
	China	USA	20:00	Aqua Wing
February 9	Finland	Japan	12:00	Aqua Wing
	USA	Sweden	16:00	Aqua Wing
	Canada	China	20:00	Aqua Wing
February 11	Sweden	Canada	12:00	Aqua Wing
	Japan	China	16:00	Aqua Wing
	USA	Finland	20:00	Aqua Wing
February 12	China	Sweden	12:00	Aqua Wing
	USA	Japan	16:00	Aqua Wing
	Finland	Canada	20:00	Aqua Wing
February 14	Japan	Sweden	12:00	Aqua Wing
	Finland	China	16:00	Aqua Wing
	Canada	USA	20:00	Aqua Wing
February 17	BRONZE MEDAL		14:00	Big Hat
	GOLD MEDAL		18:00	Big Hat

HOCKEY SITES:

AQUA WING STADIUM, Higashi Wada

12 km from Olympic Village - 60 x 30m. 6,078 spectators

BIG HAT STADIUM: Wakasato

7 km from Olympic Village - 60 x 30m 10,104 spectators

INFORMATION:

- ➔ Airports - Tokyo, Nagoya, Kansai
- ➔ Internal Transportation - private cars
- ➔ Accommodation - western style (\$280. Cdn per night); Japanese style (\$90); Pensions (\$84)
- ➔ km from Tokyo: 251 km from Nagoya; 441 km from Osaka

MARKETING REPORT

In light of the recent women's world championship, most members of the Marketing Committee have devoted a great deal of their precious time throughout this last year toward a variety of marketing services in support of that historic event. While this activity is now behind us, significant follow-up work has yet to be completed.

Throughout this past year, the committee has been besieged by various product manufacturers for endorsements of their particular product lines as potential fund-raisers for our membership. Beyond those activities identified at the last annual meeting, no additional commitments have been made at this point in time, nor will they be made without due consultation with the members at large.

As many of you may have heard by now, Clay Melnike, our part-time marketing expert, had to withdraw his services for the time being due to other personal commitments.

Thus, many of the time consuming exploratory negotiations with potential sponsors for OWHHA events had to be postponed until either Clay might resume his services or other arrangements have been made.

Any suggestions, in particular, in regard to locating potential future OWHHA sponsors to help combat anticipated additional revenue shortfalls from government subsidies, would be greatly appreciated.

*G.W. Gedies,
Interim Chair*

**Fundraise through sale of the 1972 Canada/Russia Summit Series
Commemorative Coin. Watch for details coming from Canadian Hockey.**

BAUER "Leave an IMPRESSION"

The OWHHA was given the opportunity to showcase our great sport through the first period intermissions at the recent Women's World Hockey Championship. A poster contest concept was developed. Recognizing the great opportunity this was for a sponsor we approached companies in hopes of assistance in offsetting the costs of the program. Through Canadian Hockey we were introduced to Bauer Inc. Bauer was excited at the opportunity to become involved in a program that reached the grassroots of female hockey.

OWHHA players were asked to draw/write "What Hockey Means to You" on a poster. Throughout this Annual Report we have included quotes from entries in the Bauer "Leave an Impression" Contest. All "Impressions" received were entered into a random draw and not judged on merit.

Over 200 OWHHA players won the opportunity to get on-ice in Kitchener and joined former Canadian National Team players on-ice at the 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship. Winners also received a Bauer Team Canada Logo'd jersey and a ticket to the game. Two young winners from Thunder Bay travelled to Kitchener on their own expense to join in the fun. Larissa Sheehan and Andrea Druhar will never forget their once in a lifetime experience!

Many thanks to all players who participated in the Bauer "Leave an Impression" contest. A special thank you to Julia Greenhalgh of Bauer and Yvonne Bergmann from Canadian Hockey for their terrific support of the "Leave an Impression" contest.

"A friendship that will last my lifetime!"

Seteena Veberschlag, Kitchener Novice Leafs

ESSO KIDS PROGRAM

The Women's World Championship organizing committee had the exciting opportunity to work together with Imperial Oil to bring the ESSO SCHOOLS PROGRAM to Kitchener and the surrounding area during the 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship.

Imperial Oil offered the first fifteen elementary schools in the Waterloo County Public and Separate School Boards who responded, the opportunity to bring 50 students to the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium for an exciting afternoon of women's hockey. The agenda included a tour of the Hockey Hall of Fame display and Toronto Maple Leaf Shooting Zone. Grades 4-6 students also had a chance to talk to former Canadian Women National Team members in the "Esso Theatre". To cap off their visit the students cheered the championship contenders in the 4:00pm games.

The response from schools to the offer was overwhelming. The fifteen spots filled up fast. Delighted with the response, Imperial Oil generously sponsored an additional 15 schools to attend a World Championship game.

The students and their teachers enjoyed their visits. Many letters of thanks were received.

A very special thank you to the Waterloo County Separate & Public Boards of Education for all of their cooperation in this venture. Special recognition to Kim Kugler and her staff in the ticket office in Kitchener.

Extra special thanks to Roger Purdie, Peter Wilson & Sandra Pringle of Imperial Oil for their sponsorship of this program. Their sponsorship included the transportation, game tickets and free water bottles for every student. The school children brought so much excitement into the Auditorium. It was a thrill to watch them discover the great sport of women's hockey! Thanks ESSO!

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to go to the Women's World Hockey Championship...I really got excited at 2:00pm....That night I went home and I asked my dad if I could play hockey and he said "I'll see".
Yours truly, Katelyn Laing

"Many thanks from my students and myself. It was a great experience for the whole class and a terrific way to promote women's Hockey!" Lori DeMarco, Coronation Public School

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of the students that attended...We enjoyed our afternoon very much....Thank you again for a wonderful opportunity!"

Sincerely, Bonnie Bremner, Principal, Avenue Road Public School



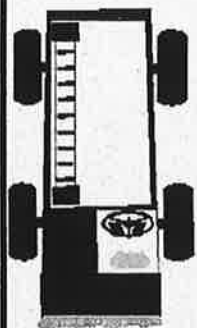
* The Esso Kids Program is part of the Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation.

L learning athletic skills, yes, then being aware that you also learn life skills and to be successful you must combine both

I international in its appeal, the game of hockey is played by all regardless of race, language or creed.

F friendship bonds are developed by teammates and opponents through victory and defeat that can never be broken by outside forces.

E exercise for all, recreation for many and a career for a special few.



BAUER "Leave an Impression" by

RON ELLIS

Toronto Maple Leafs



KITCHENER  CANADA

**WOMEN'S
WORLD
HOCKEY
CHAMPIONSHIP**

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