

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are looking at yet another successful hockey season coming to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on an outstanding year. We have seen women's hockey enter into the Olympics and as a result have continued to experience tremendous growth. We are now looking at 1093 teams, over 16,000 players, almost 4,000 team staff and a record 362 registered officials. With this growth we see new successful associations and teams enjoy their first season as well as continued expansion within our existing associations. In an effort to manage the growth, the membership attending the 1997 OWHA Annual General Meeting called for a new committee to develop a process by which new teams and associations could apply for membership in the OWHA. Utilizing the newly developed application process new communities are now applying for programs for the 1998/99 season. However, this does not come without providing challenges to all of us, as it puts a additional strain on all our existing resources at all levels.

As Team Canada prepared for the Olympics, a very successful exhibition game was hosted by Kitchener. The Three Nations Cup took place in December. The OWHA hosted two games between Team Canada and Team Finland. Congratulations to Ottawa District Women's Hockey (Nepean) and Belleville Girls Hockey on a fantastic job of hosting the sellout games.

I would like to thank Cobourg for once again hosting a very successful Senior AAA Provincial Championship in February, with the final game being won by the North York Aeros in overtime. The Aeros went on to represent Ontario at the Esso Women's Senior National Championship, held in Calgary Alberta, bringing home the silver medal.

Peterborough played host to the 1998 Ontario Winter Games from March 6th-8th. Fifteen Midget AA teams played down for the right to attend the Ontario Winter Games. Eight teams successfully qualified for the competition with Ottawa NCCP winning the gold medal. Thank you to all the hard working Peterborough volunteers for a terrific event.

The OWHA hosted the largest Provincial Championships ever this April with 277 teams competing in 34 divisions. Teams came from across our province, Thunder Bay to Windsor to Ottawa to challenge for provincial gold. It was a great weekend filled with exciting competition.

The OWHA worked with Hockey Quebec to initiate an annual event for senior teams that will be called the Central Canadian Women's Hockey Championship. The teams representing each of the provinces will be the top two teams from provincial championships in Senior AAA (excluding the team going to Esso Nationals), Senior AA, Senior A. This means that Provincial Championships for the Senior AA & A divisions must be held earlier. This year the inaugural event was held in Val Belair and very successfully hosted by Hockey Quebec. Next season's championship will be held in Ontario.

At the recent Canadian Hockey Annual General Meeting our OWHA Executive Director, Fran Rider was presented with the new CHA Female Hockey Breakthrough Award. The award recognizes leadership in female hockey. Congratulations Fran from all members of the OWHA.

As we are all aware, good volunteers are hard to find, and the jobs can be very time consuming. I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time over the past year, as your efforts have been extremely valuable to the success of female hockey in Ontario.

I would like to thank the membership of the OWHA for having had the opportunity to serve as your President over the past several years. I have really enjoyed the past, at least 14 years, with the OWHA, where I started as Regional Director of what is now Metro and Central East regions. Over that time I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal from working with so many great people, all of which has allowed me to grow as an individual, and for that I sincerely thank you. I would also like to offer a special thank you in particular to all the members of the executive and those who served as various committee members, for providing your support, help and assistance over the past season. 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

1997/98

A SEASON OF CELEBRATION FOR THE OWHA AND OUR FEMALE HOCKEY FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

For over 100 years, women have played hockey in Ontario – a surprising revelation to many. For close to 100 years, many skeptics have questioned and even ridiculed girls and women who enjoy playing hockey. For over 20 years, a prime goal of the OWHA has been to pass the word that girls and women can and should play hockey.

How things have changed!

We now look back over the past century and thank those true pioneers who started the movement for acceptance.

We now welcome the reformed skeptics who took the time to watch and learn the values of female hockey.

We now have a Canadian public who is well aware of female hockey and anxious to enroll their daughters and themselves as players, referees and/or volunteers.

Some things that have changed:

-) Our Olympic participation brought front-page coverage in newspapers, headline news on television, pictures and articles in major magazines and coverage on radio talk shows.
-) Players were featured on cereal boxes, miscellaneous products, public service announcements and television commercials.
-) Players are endorsing various lines of hockey equipment designed for female players.
-) Young girls and boys playing on backyard rinks proudly refer to themselves as “Drolet” or “Wickenheiser”.
-) A huge number of Canadians fell asleep at their jobs because they spent their nights in front of television sets cheering for Their Team.
-) Female hockey is a regular topic of conversation in households throughout Ontario.
-) Young girls and older women are realizing their dream, as they are now participants in the great sport of ice hockey.

What has not changed:

-) The sincere desire of the vast majority of female hockey enthusiasts within Ontario, Canada and other countries who are determined to continue to work together to build even greater opportunities in the future.
-) This is truly the best example the universal sporting world could experience!

It is well known throughout the world that the Ontario Women's Hockey Association has been the leader in developing strong domestic programmes for girls and women at all ages and levels of ability. Also, it is recognized that the OWHA led the charge for the ultimate Olympic dream.

Now, it is up to everyone within the OWHA to continue to move the game forward with OUR Values – **FAIR PLAY * FUN * EXCELLENCE * GOOD CITIZENSHIP * INTEGRITY AND HONESTY * EQUITY** - always at the forefront.

This past season, we experienced much success throughout the province. Details of centrally operated programmes are outlined in these executive reports. The success stories of individual players, teams, leagues and associations are regularly highlighted in local newsletters, newspapers and on a growing number of web sites. Players exhibit positive self-esteem as they move forward with increased confidence through perfecting new skills. Also, the participants cherish everlasting memories and friendships.

Some say that success brings hardships. Others say it brings challenges. As in the past, the OWHA will stand strong against the negatives and move forward with the positives – our future will bring opportunity.

What are our some opportunities:

- Double Registration. Input from our membership has proven that allowing double registration has meant the difference between a girl's team existing or not existing in specific communities. The CHA Board had the vision to allow branches (provinces) the opportunity to support this policy. At the time this report went to print, the position within Ontario was not confirmed.
- The right of female hockey participants to impact their own destiny. It is recognized that female hockey has its own identity. It is not burdened with problems and baggage from history. For the game to continue to develop to its maximum value, it is important to allow the differences to continue. There are many lessons to be learned from "male" hockey, but to impose "male" hockey regulations and standards to female hockey is not in the best interests of hockey.
- Private enterprise, professional hockey and outside interests. It has become quite evident that female hockey is recognized as a place to make money and/or build credibility. We must carefully evaluate all programmes supported by our systems and ensure the membership understand the difference between CHA/Branch programmes and those outside the system. Those programmes that are partnerships between the private sector and hockey must be clearly identified and meet the values of both hockey and the companies involved.

The OWHA looks forward to working with our colleagues across the country as we move towards the close of a century of success!

Fran Rider

FOOD FOR THOUGHT THE GOOSE STORY

Next fall when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in "V" formation, think about what science has learned about why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following it. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock can fly at least 71% further than if each bird flew on its own. Perhaps people who share a common direction can get where they are going quicker and easier if they co-operate.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it feels the resistance of trying to do it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of flying with the flock. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will work with others who are going the same way as we are. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose flies on the point. It pays to take turns doing the hard jobs for the group. The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Finally, (get this) when a goose weakens or is wounded and fall out of formation, two geese fall out and follow him down to help protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they set out on their own or with another formation until they catch up with the group. If we had the sense of a goose, we would stand by each other like that!

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 1997-98 hockey season has been an eventful one for both the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and women's hockey as a whole. Events such as the Olympics, The Central Canadian Championship, Provincial Championships and the added number of league and house league championships all exemplify the tremendous growth and interest in women's hockey. It is an exciting time but there will be challenges ahead which will all require commitment and teamwork from all levels of this association. I believe that the Ontario Women's Hockey Association will continue to be a leader and role model for women's hockey and have I enjoyed having an opportunity to meet and work with hockey people from across the province.

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

This year the committee has been very busy with the Under 18 programme as the Canada Winter Games are being held in February 1999 in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. We have been holding preliminary camps since February and hope to complete the process by the first of October. This year, local associations (Aurora, Belleville, Brantford, London, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Peel Storm, Sarnia, Stouffville and Thunder Bay) have hosted the camps and I would like to thank all those who worked hard to make the camps so successful. By the time this process is completed over 600 girls will have been involved in the programme and the evaluation data will be put into the OWHA database. We have an excellent group of people who have given up a great deal of time and effort to this association, in particular this committee, and I would like to personally express my appreciation – Bill Bowker, Beth Duff, Wendy Gamble, Sandra Hefford, Karen Hughes, Barb Jeffrey, Rick McFarlane, Cathy Phillips, Grahame McPherson and Becky Reid. Special thanks to Pat Nicholls and Kathy Dyer, OWHA Development Coordinator.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TOURNAMENTS

One hundred tournaments were sanctioned by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association for the 1997-98 hockey season. Tournament manuals were updated and one hundred and twenty-one were shipped to OWHA associations/teams.

The Silver Stick Tournament in Gaylord, Michigan was a success and plans are to bring the Tournament to Ontario in the 1998-99 season.

CATEGORIZING

One hundred and twenty-seven teams were re-categorized either up or down during the 1997-98 season. The submission of game results by competitive teams are a great help. Thanks for the support of the majority of teams re-categorized because it is a very difficult and time consuming job.

REQUEST FOR SANCTION

Approximately eight hundred and fifty sanctions were issued to OWHA teams in the 1997-98 season. Of forty-two requests to play in minor (boys) hockey tournaments twenty-four were denied. With one hundred sanctioned OWHA tournaments in Ontario this past season, OWHA teams should not need to attend minor tournaments. Remember a sanction is required to play non-OWHA teams and those teams must be registered with the Canadian Hockey Association or other IIHF member federations.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A record number of 281 teams participated in 35 categories. Sincere thanks to Cobourg for hosting a very successful Senior AAA Championship. The gold medal final went into overtime with the North York Aeros defeating the Mississauga Chiefs. With the win the Aeros qualified to represent Ontario at the Esso Senior Nationals.

All other divisions played at 5 complexes (18 ice pads) in Mississauga, Brampton and Etobicoke. Sincere congratulations to all winners, qualifiers and regional playdown participants. A true spirit of sportsmanship prevailed as all enjoyed being part of this special event.

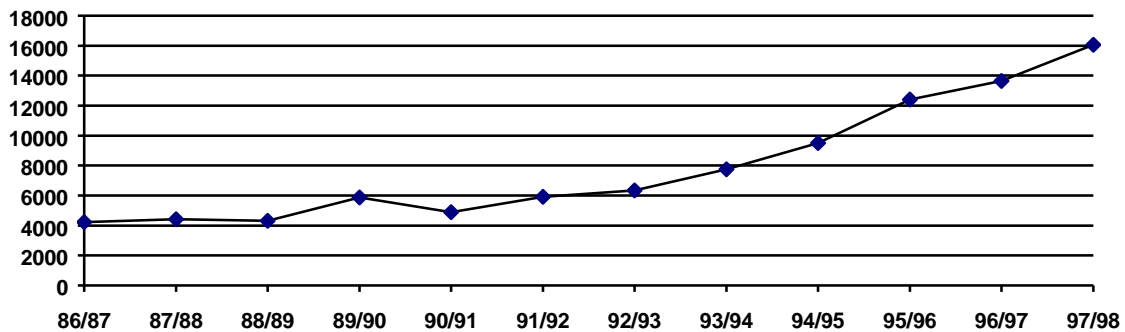
Sincere thanks to all volunteers who helped make the 1998 Provincial Championships the best ever.

1998 OWSA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

DIVISION	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
Senior AAA	NORTH YORK AEROS	MISSISSAUGA
Senior AA	OTTAWA NORTHSTARS	BURLINGTON
Senior A	SARNIA	NEWTONBROOK
Senior BB	NEWTONBROOK	WINDSOR
Senior B	PETERBOROUGH	KITCHENER
Senior CC	ALVINSTON	PORT STANLEY
Senior C	STONEY CREEK	THUNDER BAY
Intermediate AA	NORTH YORK	OTTAWA
Intermediate A	SUDBURY	PEEL
Intermediate B	THUNDER BAY	GLOUCESTER
Intermediate C	PORT ELGIN	OTTAWA BEL AIR
Midget AA	LONDON	OTTAWA NCCP
Midget A	OTTAWA	KINGSTON
Midget BB	FLAMBOROUGH	COBOURG
Midget B	OAKVILLE	ALGOMA
Midget C	HAWKESBURY	HEARST
Bantam AA	SCARBOROUGH	BRANTFORD
Bantam A	COBOURG	SUDBURY
Bantam BB	KANATA	STONEY CREEK
Bantam B	NEPEAN	COCHRANE
Bantam C	PARRY SOUND	OAKVILLE
PeeWee AA	BRAMPTON	SCARBOROUGH
PeeWee A	BARRIE	CHATHAM
PeeWee BB	SARNIA	LEASIDE
PeeWee B	THUNDER BAY	SUDBURY
PeeWee C	LAMBETH	WINDSOR
Atom AA	DURHAM WEST	SCARBOROUGH
Atom A	DURHAM WEST	CORNWALL
Atom BB	NEPEAN	LONDON
Atom B	MISSISSAUGA	BRAMPTON
Atom C	WINDSOR	ETOBICOKE
Novice A	MISSISSAUGA	BRAMPTON
Novice BB	KITCHENER	PETERBOROUGH
Novice B	BELLEVILLE	CHATHAM
Novice C	LEASIDE	BRANTFORD

REGISTRATION REPORT

OWHA GROWTH CHART (Players/Year)



The 1997-98 OWHA Team/Player Registration packages were prepared for and distributed at the September General Meeting.

The addition of a fine for late registrations served its purpose as the bulk of registrations were received on or before the deadlines. In turn we were able to remit insurance fees to the Canadian Hockey Association by the due date.

With added growth comes the challenge of improving our registration system each year. This season saw improvements. We instituted a new "financial" database this year to track finances by team. With continual player & staff additions throughout the season we are unable to provide you with your team's financial statements and rosters until year-end. Financial statements will be provided along with your team roster printout.

To register local association executive an "Association" database was developed. However it remains difficult to obtain listings of local association volunteers. The key individuals we have identified as necessary to communicate with at the local level are the President, OWHA Communications Officer, Treasurer, Registrar, Referee-in-Chief and Director of Development. Forms are available for completion.

We are exploring ways to improve the method of registering our teams and players. We are endeavoring to find ways to cut down the time for the local volunteer handling registrations and also data entry time at the OWHA office.

Communication is key in any organization. An amendment has been put forward to the membership for discussion at this year's Annual General Meeting (#7 Regulation 3"A") which, if accepted, will enable us to form contact lists much earlier. As it stands now, the earliest our Regional Directors can receive a list of teams registered in their regions is by early December. The proposed change is asking for team & contact information (not players) to be forwarded to the OWHA office by August 31st along with the regular \$25.00 team fee. Player & staff registration information plus provincial bonds will remain at the October 31st deadlines. This change, if accepted, will enable us to produce competitive team contact lists by our General Meeting in September. This will also assist the tournaments looking for teams and our Regional Directors in their categorization efforts.

Many thanks to Mississauga Bantam AA, Oakville volunteers and Burlington Bantams for their help in stuffing 1500 registration packages. Special thanks to our hardworking data-entry clerks. Heather, Lina, Barb, Michelle & Sara cheerfully tackled the often frustrating chore of entering over 16,000 players and almost 4,000 staff. Thank you also to the provincial qualifying teams for providing the requested information. Kudos to Michelle, Lina & Heather for your great work leading up to and at Provincial Championship registration.

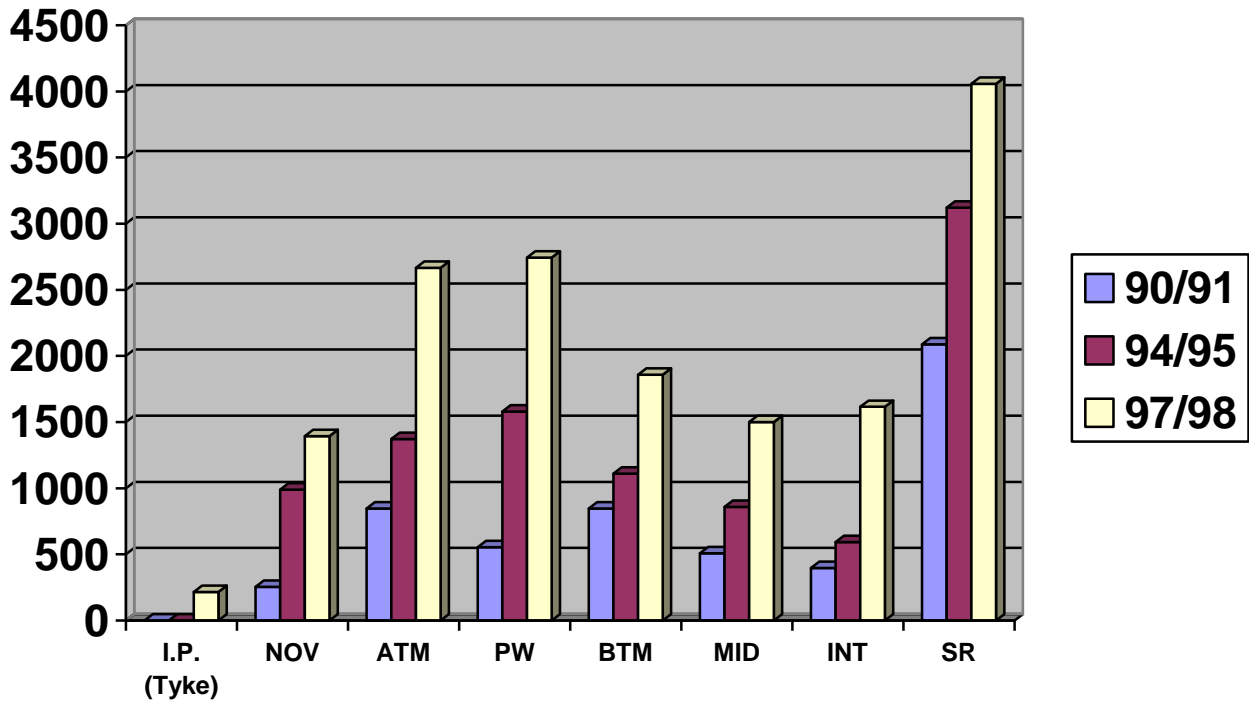
OWHA PLAYER & TEAM DISTRIBUTION

CATEGORY	PLAYERS					TEAMS				
	<u>97/98</u>	<u>96/97</u>	<u>95/96</u>	<u>94/95</u>	<u>93/94</u>	<u>97/98</u>	<u>96/97</u>	<u>95/96</u>	<u>94/95</u>	<u>93/94</u>
COMPETITIVE										
Senior AAA	88	119				5	7			
Senior AA	198	223	112	124	108	12	14	6	7	6
Senior A	460	526	210	203	252	29	34	13	13	16
Senior BB	182	200				12	13			
Senior B	204	151	503	489	475	12	9	33	33	31
Senior CC	199	209				13	13			
Senior C	318	343	356	360	305	22	22	22	23	20
Senior D *			630	621	672			41	41	46
Intermediate AA	103					6				
Intermediate A	126	121	109	51	76	8	7	7	3	5
Intermediate BB **	n/a	187				N/A	12			
Intermediate B	198	n/a	49	76	53	12	---	3	5	3
Intermediate C	223	325	235	105	60	18	22	15	8	4
Midget AA	235					15				
Midget A	90	211	124	137	134	6	14	8	9	9
Midget BB	113	90				7	6			
Midget B	133	117	211	239	169	9	8	14	15	12
Midget C	196	263	221	206	111	13	19	15	14	8
Bantam AA	198					13				
Bantam A	119	312	218	151	118	8	21	14	10	8
Bantam BB	294	143				20	11			
Bantam B	138	188	227	194	212	9	13	15	13	15
Bantam C	355	285	470	335	163	25	21	32	23	11
Peewee AA	121					8				
Peewee A	174	236	201	162	152	11	16	13	11	10
Peewee BB	359	342				23	23			
Peewee B	307	189	366	335	185	20	13	24	22	13
Peewee C	319	356	533	503	349	22	25	37	35	24
Atom AA	158					11				
Atom A	116	214	151	118	122	7	14	10	8	8
Atom BB	125	197				8	13			
Atom B	248	110	266	225	198	16	8	18	15	14
Atom C	267	237	525	454	261	17	17	37	30	18
Novice A	98	109	83	100	78	7	8	6	7	5
Novice BB	93	74				7	5			
Novice B	120	148	185	142	147	8	11	13	10	10
Novice C	149	163	228	236	166	10	12	15	17	12
SUB TOTAL	6824	6,388	6213	5566	4566	449	431	411	372	308
NON COMPETITIVE										
Senior Rec.	997	759	674	481	424	68	50	45	37	31
Senior HL	1412	1370	1224	783	555	103	93	83	53	39
Intermediate HL	965	734	546	377	334	65	52	38	28	27
Midget HL	733	593	582	271	219	49	46	42	24	18
Bantam HL	755	396	411	449	324	52	33	32	37	28
Peewee HL	1463	1257	1135	565	483	107	96	84	50	38
Atom HL	1751	929	737	565	542	120	77	59	49	40
Novice HL *	934	879				64	70			
Novice/Tyke HL			774	569	401			60	43	28
Initiation Program (Tyke) **	215	330				16	17			
SUB TOTAL	9225	7,247	6083	4060	3282	644	534	443	321	249
Grand Total	16,049	13,635	12,296	9626	7848	1,093	965	854	693	557

Please note that the "AA" division was introduced to the Atom, Peewee, Bantam, Midget and Intermediate levels for the 1997-98 season.

** The categorization process determined that the Intermediate "BB" division was not required for the 1997-98 season.

**OWHA REGISTRATION – PLAYERS / DIVISIONS
1990 3 1998**



**Ontario Women's Hockey Association
REGISTRATION GROWTH STATISTICS (1992-1998)**

TEAMS	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
Competitive	246	308	372	411	435	449
House League	165	249	321	443	526	644
Total Teams	411	557	693	854	964	1093

PLAYERS	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
Senior	2485	2798	3122	3704	3880	4058
Intermediate	446	524	594	939	1367	1615
Midget	565	644	859	1138	1274	1500
Bantam	569	819	1110	1326	1324	1859
Peewee	898	1181	1580	2235	2380	2743
Atom	798	1124	1371	1679	1687	2665
Novice /Tyke*	551	744	990	1270		
Novice					1373	1394
Initiation Program (Tyke)					330	215
Total Players	6,333	7,848	9,626	12,296	13,635	16,049

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

DISCIPLINE REPORT

SUSPENSIONS BY DIVISION

Divisions	# Reported Suspensions	% of Total
Atom	9	3%
Peewee	34	12%
Bantam	56	23%
Bantam / Midget	5	2%
Midget	42	16%
Intermediate	53	21%
Senior	60	23%
TOTAL	259	100%

Of reported suspensions:	
30.5 %	Checking from Behind
17%	Fighting
12.7 %	Verbal Abuse

Above is a listing of reported suspensions by division. Please note the alarming percentage of suspensions for “checking from behind” infractions. This is a very dangerous practice that can result in serious injury and/or paralysis. Please do your part in stressing the seriousness of this action. Also fighting is not part of the game and must be stopped. Verbal abuse is never appropriate and is contrary to the Canadian Hockey’s Harassment and Abuse guidelines.

It is up to each and every member of the OWHA to do our part to maximize safety and fun and to minimize risk of injury.

We challenge every OWHA team to set a goal for a suspension free 1998-99 season!

Pat Nicholls

EASTERN REGIONAL REPORT

It’s that time again, time to wrap up another year of female hockey in Eastern Ontario. We, as Regional Directors, are requested to provide our annual report every year. Well, this is my third time doing this, but this time, it is not as easy as it has been in the past! This time, it is time to say “goodbye”, not just for the season, but from my standing with the OWHA. As you all know, I am stepping down from my position as Regional Director for Eastern Ontario with the OWHA. So...that means it is time to say goodbye to many committed people, committed to the growth and development of girls’ and women’s hockey; goodbye to the long hours of telephone calls and paperwork; goodbye to the commitment of meetings and tournaments, goodbye to the enjoyment of seeing progress; goodbye to watching the little ones go after the puck; and goodbye to all of my friends in hockey. I wish everyone all of the best in their hockey dreams!

This past season has brought with it many great experiences and challenges. The challenges of the Great Ice Storm provided for a nurturing environment with many helping hands. Hockey organizations throughout Eastern Ontario were generously donating all or parts of their tournament revenues to the Ice Storm Relief Funds; and many others, both at an organization level as well as on an individual basis, contributed many long hours to giving a helping hand. In my opinion, these unselfish and generous contributions provide even more strength, integrity, and recognition to female hockey in general.

Progress...with great emphasis on Women’s Hockey in the Olympics, all hockey organizations have felt or will ultimately feel a positive impact from this. Many more girls and women want to get involved in hockey at differing levels. There are so many opportunities for female hockey – the time is now to go forth with further developing female hockey. With all of you and the OWHA this development is presently happening and will continue to grow. We can do this together...teamwork!

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to say many thanks, thanks to all of you for your tremendous amount of commitment to female hockey. And many thanks for making my experience as Regional Director fulfilling. I have had many experiences that brought me much joy and laughter, knowledge and growth on numerous levels. Thank you!

Best of luck to one and all! Keep dreaming!

Yours in Hockey,
Carol A. Banks

WESTERN REGIONAL REPORT

Now, that this busy 97/98 hockey season has been concluded, sincere congratulations are due to all Western Region female hockey teams for their excellent participation in house league, league, tournament, regional and provincial championship competition. The boundless enthusiasm and profound commitment to fair play demonstrated by most teams throughout the season, have made the monitoring of games a truly satisfying experience.

Unfortunately, we are still faced with far too many undesirable elements of the game, such as rough play and intent to injure. All too often, these totally unacceptable offences appear to be spurred on needlessly by some undisciplined parent spectators who have yet to embrace the principles of the Fair Play Codes as outlined in the revised CHA edition 'Safety requires Teamwork'. I would like to thank the many associations for their high commitment toward the elimination of these detrimental aspects to our game of hockey.

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 Western Region district representatives, Dan Campbell, John Courtney, Les Drury, Kathy Dutot, Jamie Hughes and Mary L'Heureux have made my job far more bearable. In addition, special thanks are due to Les Drury for acting on my behalf during so many occasions this year as a result of my out-of-province work engagements.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable summer break to allow you to 'recharge your batteries' in time for another exciting hockey season.

G.W. Gedies

NORTHERN REGIONAL REPORT

Yet another hockey season has come and gone for the Ontario Women's Hockey Association, and this year has been the best for the Northern Region.

The number of players and teams continue to grow at a rapid rate as well as vast improvement in skill levels and team competitive levels.

The Northern Region this year had several teams in the medal rounds at the Provincial Championships with much success in all divisions.

It is with much thought and regret that I have decided to not continue as Regional Director for this Great Northern Region. At this time I have several personal commitments and endeavours, that makes it impossible for me to make a full commitment to the OWHA, I hope in the future to be able to assist the female hockey program in some small way again, as well as work with my many friends that I have made over the years.

I would like to thank the team contacts, the zone reps of the three areas, as well as the many hockey friends I have made over the past years for their hard work and understanding in the development of female hockey. It is because of people like you that my job was a pleasure to do.

I would also like to give a special thank you to the OWHA Executive for becoming good friends and a real pleasure to work with (even though the meetings and heavy work load sometimes seemed like they would not end) we did find time to generate some memories.

So Thanks for the memories from Wayne's World up North!!!!!!

Wayne Barrie

CENTRAL EAST REGIONAL REPORT

Well once again another hockey season is over, and many teams are already starting tryouts for the 98/99 season. I would like to thank all the volunteers who give so much of their time for the girls hockey.

I would like to congratulate Peterborough Senior "B", Cobourg Bantam "A", Durham West Atom "AA", Durham West Atom "A" and Belleville Novice "B" for winning the Gold at the Provincial Championships.

Congratulations also go to Cobourg Midget "B" and Peterborough Novice "BB" for winning the Silver.

The Central East region is growing in women's hockey, this past season saw an increase of 34 houseleague teams, 1 senior rec and 5 competitive teams for a total of 110 Houseleague, 9 Senior Rec, 75 competitive. Total number of teams in the Central East region equals 194 and total players equals 2,978. I expect there will be an enormous increase for next season, as with the coverage of the Olympics and Team Canada I have received many, many calls.

Again thanks to all who helped out when I was unavailable, and again to my family for being understanding with so many weekends away.

Fran Jay

CENTRAL REGIONAL REPORT

They roared into our life like a January storm. The OLYMPICS. The phone calls started. "Hello Marg; My daughter was watching the game on T.V.; and now she wants to play hockey." For all of us at the Ontario Women's Hockey Association it is great news. It means that more girls are starting to play and that we are growing. It is very exciting. Recently I went to a meeting where a new league is being formed with new teams and best of all new young ladies joining hockey. I hope for all the players that this year was exciting but most of all it was fun. This season I think for some coaches and managers it was a learning experience that will only improve our game. IMPROVE I think is the key words. The increase in the AA and A categories is terrific and will only increase next year.

The teams that got into their cars and drove to tournaments in record numbers was amazing. For the junior teams the parents should be applauded. Well done Moms and Dads. Senior Ladies thank you. Now back to the coaches and managers who should be commended for their dedication during the season. That's why you all get the "big bucks". For all our members I hope to see you in the arenas but before I finish my small report I would like to mention the unexpected loss of Randy Stock. Randy was a founder for the OWHA and if any of you attended the Barrie tournament you more than likely talked to Randy or his wife Cheryl. Thank you Randy. A trust fund has been set up for Randy's family. Contributions to the trust fund may be made at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Account # 01142-7392435).

Marg Allen

CENTRAL WEST REGIONAL REPORT

What a great year it was for female hockey in Ontario, Canada and the World. Congratulation to all of Team Canada and especially the players from Ontario. They represented the OWHA with great sportsmanship and dignity throughout the whole Olympic experience. Special congratulations to Becky Kellar from Hagersville, our region's contribution to Team Canada.

Our region seems to have exploded with new interest in the game of hockey. It looks like we will have four new associations starting up for the 1998-99 season. Please make these new teams welcome in our leagues and tournaments. Their volunteers can use all of our knowledge and expertise to make their teams successful. As they grow so do we in the OWHA.

Thank you to Kitchener and Hamilton for hosting the early season regional meetings. The feedback I received was positive. Thanks to all who attended. The associations that did not send a representative for each team seemed to have the most trouble with suspension reporting and the submitting of Game results sheets. I had to spend a lot of time on the telephone explaining the need for the Game Result sheet being sent in on time and what the consequences for late forms were. For some teams, this was two years in a row. I hope that the team officials are finally getting the message.

The suspensions that were reported showed a disappointing increase in the Game Misconducts for Verbal Abuse and Fighting. Sadly, the Pee Wee category showed a great increase in suspension – fighting, kicking, verbal abuse and checking from behind. We must encourage our players to show better respect for their opponents and the game officials. Please coaches – lead by example.

I hope for next year to use a better system for reporting suspensions – better for you and me.

To all of the associations who hosted tournaments this season - a big thank you for all of the hard work and dedication from your volunteers. They never seem to get the thanks they deserve and far too often they get criticized – usually by the people who were 'too busy' to help. So thanks for making the tournaments run smoothly and for making me feel welcome when I attended.

Sue Gibson was your District Rep. And as usual did a great job of helping me through the year. Her assistance was hugely appreciated at regional Play-down time and we made an awesome pair at the Provincials. Thanks for working with me again this year.

Saving the best for last – we had an incredible year at the Provincials. I would like to congratulate all of the teams who had the privilege of participating at this year's Championships. You represented yourselves and the region very well. Central West region won four Silver and three Gold Medals this year, our best ever I think.

Winning Silver Medals were:	Kitchener	Senior B
	Brantford	Bantam AA
	Stoney Creek	Bantam BB
	Brantford	Novice C

Gold Medal winners were	Stoney Creek	Senior C
	Flamborough	Midget BB
	Kitchener	Novice BB

Congratulations to all!!

Thanks to my family for understanding my passion in hockey. Enjoy your summer and see you in September.

Betty Solomon

METRO TORONTO REGIONAL REPORT

What an exciting year for female hockey! A silver medal at the Olympics! The interest generated in female hockey world wide has gained the attention of many. I think we can all agree hockey is now a girls sport, there are few people left calling it a boys game.

The Associations in Metro region saw their numbers grow as a result of the World Championship, no doubt there will be more growth as a result of the Olympics.

I'm sure all Associations are experiencing the same changes with parents and players having new outlooks, new goals, new expectations, as the competition increases and opportunities in female hockey grow. The Associations, and the OWHA for that matter, must try to keep up. The players are looking to their home club for safety, development, experiences and opportunities and we all must learn how to provide it.

I've seen far too much time spent by volunteers in hockey on matters that could have been avoided with some solid attention being given ahead of time. Registration errors of prime concern. We must take the time to do things right, read the regulations and follow them and when in doubt ask!

All too often we find people looking for angles, ways to go around the rules. These rules are in place, have developed for the betterment of the game for our children, maybe more effort should be put in simply adhering to them.

Try-outs – there is a need – for many reasons players move, for many reasons associations must re-group but unfortunately they have taken on the air of a free-for-all in Metro. Isn't it strange that associations resent a new team springing up trying to form the perfect team when in fact, they are trying to do it too! What ever happened to building your rep teams based on the girls who are part of your organization, building a solid, attractive program to develop your own and proudly take them on to compete and win.

Can we call all these things growing pains? I do. On one hand it tells us 'we've made it, we're recognized, people are paying attention', but on the other it asks 'is this really what we want, what the girls need?'

Although not in the job description, a large part of my job as Regional Director seems to be to educate members on the do's and don'ts of female hockey and in order to be successful at this I require one simple ingredient. Caring. Caring to read the rules and regulations, caring to ask the questions, caring about the influences you have on your team, the life lessons they are learning, caring about your players and the memories you leave with them for the rest of their lives. Any player capable of playing in the Olympics one day will be seen, will be invited to play higher levels, will put extra time on the ice, play more games. Should one of your players go this far wouldn't it be nice to hear them say how much they enjoyed their younger days, the banquets, the fundraisers, the community projects. Do they need to be on the ice 12 hours a week at seven years of age to go to the Olympics? They either have it or they don't.

Lets move ahead into the next stage of female hockey on a positive note. As female hockey becomes a household word lets do it in style. Lets help each other, support each other, develop female hockey different then male hockey, promote fairplay and fun along with the competition, players will always develop better under these conditions anyway.

I thank everyone for their cooperation and interest in the Metro region. I especially enjoyed the playdowns in the Midget AA division as they vied for a position at the Ontario Winter Games and again saw many, many 1 or 2 goal spreads in both playdown and tournament games being played by Metro teams. League play will always show wider spreads as the divisions are seldom pure.

As I learn more, I try to pass it on the best I can to help everyone enjoy their hockey to the fullest.

Bev Duffy

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The 1997-98 season has brought with it growth consistent with the previous three to four years. A few years ago predictions were made that the Ontario Women's Hockey Association would reach the 20,000 player mark (16,000+ in 97-98) by the turn of the century. With the exposure gained through the Olympic berth, that goal is very realistic.

At this time we have 20 new teams/associations who have expressed interest in joining the OWHA for the 1998-99 season. The New Team / Association Application Form and approval process have been developed.

An increase in membership will lead to added demands on volunteers. With that in mind, we are continually looking for ways to assist the volunteer in saving time. Investigation in to different options for our team/player registration procedure has begun.

The number of inter-branch player transfers, international player transfers and international team tour requests have remained consistent with previous years. Currently we are aware of two teams planning trips to England during the 1998-99 season.

Requests for "Certificates of Insurance" from BF Lorenzetti & Associates increased in 1997-98. Twenty-one associations or teams requested a certificate for various reasons including promotional displays or fundraising in local malls, use of school facilities for clinics etc.

With an increase in the number of games played it is not surprising that Injuries reported to the OWHA office are up over the previous season. To date we have received 133 Canadian Hockey Association &/or HTCP Injury Survey forms. Reported injuries range from minor to very serious. Some injuries are as a result of checking from behind. Please urge your players to eliminate this dangerous action from our game. Please remember that our players are also students or employed and play hockey for fun & recreation.

Breakdown of CHA & HTCP injury reports (by division and also by competitive or house league competition) as follows:

Division	Competitive	House League	Totals
Initiation (Tyke)	n/a	0	0
Novice	1	0	1
Atom	3	4	7
Peewee	12	3	15
Bantam	19	1	20
Midget	26	2	28
Intermediate	14	3	17
Senior	26	17	43
Referees	1	1	2
TOTALS	102	31	133

Many thanks to all volunteers across Ontario who put an extraordinary amount of time and effort towards providing hockey opportunities for the players in their community. When you ask local executive members what their plans are for the off-season they just look at you, chuckle and say "Off-season?" Year round effort is now required to keep local programs running.

We are very fortunate to be involved in Canada's fastest growing sport. It is quite a task keeping up with our ever-growing membership and the new challenges which face our sport.

Best wishes to everyone for a fun & safe "off-season".

Melanie McFarlane

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The realization of a dream in female hockey came true when the players took to the ice in the first ever Women's Hockey game at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. This dream was fulfilled through the hard work and selfless dedication of our many players, parents, coaches, managers, trainers, officials, administrators, and volunteers.

Our sincere gratitude to the associations and coordinators who hosted the many certification clinics that were held in 1997-98. Coaches, instructors, referees, and trainers were welcomed by OWHA associations to participate in 47 clinics held province wide.

REFEREES

The OWHA referee program grew once again in 1997-1998, registering 362 officials. This is an increase of 35 officials from 1996-97, and 75 from 1995-96. However, we are still suffering a significant loss of first year referees. Many attribute this to the verbal abuse suffered while officiating games. It is of utmost importance that coaches, parents and players realize that officiating is a very challenging skill to master, and as with all aspects of sport, it improves with practice and most importantly, patience.

The OWHA takes great pride in congratulating Marina Zenk and Laurie Taylor-Bolton on their Olympic officiating assignments in Nagano. Marina Zenk had the honour of dropping the puck for the historic first ever female hockey game at the Winter Olympics, played between Sweden and Finland. Marina culminated the Games by being selected to referee the Gold medal game between Canada and USA, when the assigned referee fell ill. Laurie Taylor-Bolton had the privilege of refereeing the Bronze medal game between Finland and China. Both did a superb job, and made the OWHA (as well as the rest of Canada) very proud of the high quality of officiating that so many take for granted.

Congratulations to OWHA officials Deb Maybury, Sue Cassidy and Sharon Watts on officiating at the first C.I.A.U. Women's National Championship in Montreal.

The OWHA was pleased to have our top female officials attend the following provincial, national and international events:

	<u>REFEREES</u>	<u>LINESMEN</u>
Three Nations Cup, Lake Placid, N.Y.	Laurie Taylor -Bolton Marina Zenk	
Ontario Winter Games, Peterborough	Deb Hands Jacqui Palm Val Burrell Deb Maybury Chantal Champagne	Patricia Peebles Carrie Lanning Julie Bissonnette Jill Tuckey Sharon Watts Brenda Jones Leslie Drew
Esso Senior Women's National Championship, Calgary, Alberta	Deb Maybury Jacqui Palm	Sue Cassidy Sharon Watts Julie Bissonnette
CIAU Women's National Championship Montreal, Quebec	Deb Maybury	Sue Cassidy Sharon Watts

More and more female hockey players want to round out their hockey "portfolios" and become certified officials. We urge local associations to develop their own referee program and encourage young girls to give officiating this great game of ours a try. Thanks to Referee-in-Chief Ivan Locke, and the rest of the Committee-Rick Morphew, Doug Nicholls, Betty Solomon, Sue Cassidy, Laurie Taylor-Bolton and Marina Zenk, for their time and dedication to the OWHA Referee program.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Deb Adams for undertaking the grueling task of scheduling officials for the highly successful 1998 OWHA Provincial Championships. 122 officials took part in 512 games, played on 18 ice surfaces, in 5 different arenas! Excellent job!

CANADIAN HOCKEY OFFICIATING PROGRAM (CHOP)

DATE	LOCATION	LEVEL
September 6	London	Jr & Sr
September 7	Stoney Creek	Jr & Sr
September 7	Toronto/Etobicoke	Jr & Sr
September 13	Barrie	Jr & Sr
September 14	Peterborough	Jr & Sr
September 20	Toronto / Leaside	Jr & Sr
September 21	Whitby	Jr & Sr
September 27	Oakville	Jr & Sr
October 4	Aurora	Jr & Sr
October 4	Ottawa	Jr & Sr
October 25	Hamilton	Jr & Sr
October 25	W.O.A.A.	Jr & Sr
October 26	Sarnia	Jr & Sr
November 9	Mississauga	Jr & Sr
November 30	Cambridge	Jr & Sr

COACHING

In 1997-98, the number of NCCP Coaching clinics hosted by OWHA associations went down slightly from the previous year. Although several associations booked clinics, some had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. The OWHA urges all coaches to take the time out of their busy schedules to become certified. Certification provides the coach with the tools to become better coaches. This in turn will reflect in the athletes we serve, who demand and deserve the utmost in quality coaching. Many associations have gone above and beyond the minimal mandatory NCCP "Coach Level" requirement, insisting that their coaches obtain the NCCP "Intermediate" certification.

One of the OWHA premiere sponsors, the Royal Bank, hosted the inaugural "Women in Coaching" seminar. The event took place in November, at the Canada versus USA exhibition game held in Kitchener, with 37 "aspiring" or novice female coaches taking part. Don McKee & Karen Hughes were the seminar facilitators, with Team Canada's Head Coach Shannon Miller as guest speaker. Participants worked on assigned tasks, and took in the game. Many thanks to group leaders Margot Page, Cathy Phillips, Diane Boles, Eunice Campbell and Becky Reid.

NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NCCP)

DATE	LOCATION	LEVEL
September 20, 21	Woodstock	Coach
September 27, 28	Barrie	Coach
October 18, 19	Stoney Creek	Coach
December 6, 7	London	Coach
November 1, 2 & 9	Sarnia	Intermediate
March 30, 31, Apr. 6, 7	Aurora	Coach

INITIATION PROGRAM

As the popularity of female hockey soars, many very young players are taking to the ice. At this critical time in their development, it is important that their first encounter with hockey be a fun, safe and positive experience. With this in mind, The Canadian Hockey Initiation Program (sponsored by Chrysler Canada) was developed. The structured learn to play program teaches the game's basic skills, while also developing self confidence in an atmosphere of fun, friendship, and fair play.

Canadian Hockey and the OWHA encourage our associations to make the "IP" a valuable part of their hockey programs. The CHA has been doing extensive research and development, in the hope that all may one day reap the benefits of this invaluable program.

Many adult players are taking the opportunity to finally learn the game that they have yearned to play for so long. Some of our associations have adapted the lesson plans from the "IP" program to suit adult participants. As with the children's program, the adult programs focus on basic skills, fun, friendship, and fair play.

Two "IP" Instructor certification clinics were held this year. Associations interested in learning more about the Initiation Program are encouraged to call the Development Coordinator to get the details on this FUN and exciting introduction to our game!

CANADIAN HOCKEY INITIATION PROGRAM (IP)

DATE	LOCATION	LEVEL
September 14	Mississauga	Instructors
April 5, 1998	Newcastle	Instructors

TRAINERS

The OWHA and local associations hosted ten Hockey Trainers Certification Program clinics this past season. Mississauga hosted the first ever OWHA Level I/II Combination clinic, which gave participants Standard First Aid training and CPR, as well as the required Level I training.

Many Level I trainers upgraded their certifications by taking part in Standard First Aid courses on their own. The OWHA encourages all those who serve as their teams trainers to take this extra step. The confidence and ability gained through First Aid courses is invaluable and could reduce the suffering and return to play time of an injured player.

HOCKEY TRAINER'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (HTCP)

DATE	LOCATION	LEVEL
September 21	Mississauga	I/II Combo
October 4	Barrie	I
October 11	London	I
October 25	Stoney Creek	I
October 27, 28	Hamilton	I
November 8	London	I
November 22	Aurora	I
December 2, 3	Oakville	I
December 7	Burlington	I
December 13	Hamilton	I

INITIATIVES

OWHA Initiative meetings are held in communities interested in starting a female hockey program. The meeting is helpful in bringing together interested parties, to gauge community support, and to answer questions and concerns that are inherent with any new endeavor. The OWHA, in some cases, will hold such meetings in communities that are identified as potential sites to develop female hockey programs.

The North Bay Girls Hockey Association hosted a hockey skills camp, which brought out new and beginner players, giving the players the opportunity to experience the fun of hockey. After the ice sessions, Team Canada Alumni Cathy Phillips was on hand to answer the many questions of the enthusiastic audience.

"Try On" skill sessions were held in Midland and Elmvale in March. Team Canada players Laura Shuler and Jayna Hefford, along with University of Toronto Head Coach Karen Hughes, Team USA alumni Jeanine Sobek, and Kelly Weaver (member of the 1987 Canadian team, at the inaugural World Tournament) led the on-ice skills session. Information sessions were held for the players and parents, as well as question and answer periods with Laura Schuler and Jayna Hefford. Well over 100 players participated in the sessions, which bodes well for the development of female hockey in the Georgian Bay area.

The newly formed Simcoe and District Women's Hockey Association hosted a skills session and Initiative meeting in early April. Team Canada member (and local resident) Becky Kellar was on hand for both the on-ice activities and as a guest speaker at the meeting. The meeting was the largest of the initiative meetings held by the OWHA to date, with more than 150 parents and players in attendance. The players and parents were very enthusiastic and the future bodes well for female hockey in the area.

Kathy Dyer

If you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, put on work boots!

REGISTRATION / TAMPERING COMMITTEE

This committee met a total of seven (7) times. Ontario was well represented with members from Sudbury, Sarnia, Mississauga, Metro, Scarborough, Hamilton and Durham. Our thanks to all for giving their time for their fellow friends within the Ontario Women's Hockey Association.

A New/Team/Association Application Form was introduced along with the amendments to the constitution for newcomers to the OWHA. These will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

The needs of all, highly populated or remote areas alike, were rolled into solid guidelines to protect the existing members of the OWHA and ensure new growth in a positive form.

Forming under an Association structure for the protection and best interest of the players was agreed by all to be the best route to promote, where screening, development, fun and sportsmanship would prevail.

Tampering and try-outs being hot issues some key amendments to the use of the permission to skate forms were recommended to keep this under control. A Tampering Report Form was recommended to let the members know the OWHA does want to know about these issues and with proof can address them.

ONTARIO WINTER GAMES

The Ontario Winter Games were held in Peterborough on March 6,7, and 8, 1998, with eight Midget AA teams from across the Province representing the OWHA. It was an exciting weekend of hockey for the athletes and their coaching staffs and the many fans who attended the games. The calibre of play and the skill level of our athletes was very high and a tribute to our grass root programmes. The Opening Ceremonies were a delight to watch, with the Parade of Athletes (with our teams being the best dressed group!), the fireworks, the laser show and the lighting of the 1998 Winter Games flame; but, I believe we all enjoyed the live entertainment provided by a young ten year old songstress the most.

Sincere thanks to the City of Peterborough, the Peterborough Girls Hockey Association and the any other volunteer who made the Games such a tremendous success. A special thank you to all the athletes, coaching staff, officials and parents who represented the OWHA so well in promoting our favourite sport – female hockey!

MARKETING

The recent participation of women's hockey at the Olympics, has had a significant impact on the respective activities of the Marketing Committee during the 1997/98 season. Many countless hours had to be devoted throughout this last year toward a variety of marketing services in support of that historic event. This activity is now behind us and it was an overwhelming success. Significant follow-up work is now well under way.

As in previous years, the committee continues to be besieged by various product manufacturers for endorsements of their particular product lines as potential fund-raisers for our membership. While many exciting potential sponsorships for female hockey have been identified for further study and negotiations, the marketing committee must exercise extreme care in establishing the long term benefits to the OWHA membership prior to formalizing any kind of partnership. Hopefully, a number of mutually beneficial partnerships will be consolidated in the months ahead.

Specific marketing accomplishments this season include:

- Molson Breweries First Annual Women's Classic Golf Tournament, August 11, 1997. Lori Dupuis, Geraldine Heaney, Angela James, and Laura Schuler golfed and Jayna Hefford attended. Sincere thanks to Molson for generously donated half the proceeds (\$6,000.00) to the OWHA
- Thanks to Pat Kahnert and the Royal Bank on the production of the video "Suggestions on How to Have a Great Hockey Season"
- The Toronto Maple Leafs support has been extensive. Young OWHA players participated in skills features during intermission. The Leafs recognized Geraldine Heaney and France St. Louis at a post Olympic ceremony at centre ice.
- Special thanks to the Toronto Maple Leafs for donating half the proceeds of their "Have a Heart Dinner" (\$45,000.00) to the OWHA.
- Negotiations with the FAN 590 radio station resulted in their involvement as the host broadcaster of the provincial championships. Although we received no cash for this sponsorship, we did receive approximately \$8,000.00 worth of promotion for the event and female hockey.
- Bell Cellular donated cell phones with unlimited local air time for the duration of the provincial championship.
- The OWHA worked with the National Film Board of Canada and CHV Productions to host a media reception as a launch of "The Game of Her Life" video and the opening of the provincial championships. The press conference received extensive coverage on television, radio and in newspapers.
- The OWHA has negotiated a deal with CHV to purchase the videos at a discounted rate. We are selling individual copies at the retail store rate. Teams and/or associations have an opportunity to purchase in bulk and utilize these as a fund raiser.
- Beatrice/Parmalat has received a great deal of media coverage for their involvement
- The OWHA has entered into negotiations with Beatrice/Parmalat to determine possible areas of involvement. Earlier this year, Beatrice announced sponsorship of the (North York) Aeros. Subsequently, we were successful in negotiating support for the OWHA's final Canada Games camp to be held at the Beatrice Ice Gardens in February 1999.

As yet, no final decision has been made in regard to the new OWHA logo. While a number of intriguing design proposals have been submitted for consideration thus far, none of them appears to incorporate the essential features so necessary for the multi-faceted range of present and future marketing activities. We are working with professionals on the development, approval, launch and use of the logo.

In conclusion, the tremendous publicity created in female hockey as a result of the Olympics will continue to have a significant impact on securing suitable sponsorships for our membership to help combat anticipated operational cost increases. Special care has been taken by the Marketing Committee to focus primarily on sponsors with a strong commitment to the development of female hockey.

CANADIAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION REPORT

HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

The Canadian Hockey Association's board of directors approved new initiatives to continue the progressive education in the area of harassment and abuse. These new initiatives for the "Speak Out!" program include a three hour training and education program for 75,000 CHA coaches to be implemented across Canada by the year 2000: establishing two volunteer advocates in each of the 13 CHA branches across Canada who will be responsible for the implementation of the Speak Out! Education program; and distributing a video to be used within the four (4) development program clinics and parent, coach and administrator meetings.

These new initiatives will compliment the current Speak Out! Campaign launched at the beginning of the 1997-98 hockey season which urged all participants to speak out against all forms of harassment and abuse - emotional, physical and sexual. Over 210,000 English and 40,000 French brochures for the 10-13 age group, another 122,000 English and 25,000 French brochures for the 14-20 category and 500,000 English and 100,000 French guides for parents and guardians as well as over 500,000 bag tags featuring the Kids Help Phone Number and over 8,000 English and 2,000 French posters were distributed to hockey arena's targeted towards players, coaches, parents, trainers and officials across Canada last season.

PLAYING RULE CHANGE FOR 1998/99

All CHA Councils supported unanimously, a new playing rule on trash talking which states that any player or team official who makes discriminatory remarks during competition may be assessed a 10 minute misconduct or a gross misconduct.

ESSO SENIOR NATIONALS

➤ March 19-22, 1998 at Father Bauer and Max Bell arenas in Calgary, Alberta

Final Round Robin Standings:

Group A

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Ontario	4	4	0	0	29	2	8
Alberta	4	3	1	0	20	5	6
Saskatchewan	4	2	2	0	10	9	4
Nova Scotia	4	1	3	0	6	33	2
Manitoba	4	0	4	0	5	24	0

Group B

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Quebec	4	4	0	0	34	4	8
Host	4	3	1	0	17	7	6
New Brunswick	4	2	2	0	11	8	4
BC	4	1	3	0	10	11	2
PEI	4	0	4	0	5	34	0

Consolation Game (Fifth and Sixth place game)

New Brunswick 4 Saskatchewan 3

Bronze Medal Game

Quebec 4 Host (Edmonton Chimos) 2

Gold Medal Game

Alberta (Calgary Oval x-Treme) 3 Ontario (North York Beatrice Aeros) 2 Overtime

- Congratulations to the Aeros on the silver medal performance.
- Congratulations to Ontario's Amanda Benoit who was named Best Forward of the Championship

CANADIAN WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

1997-98 Women's National Team Player Appearances:

The National Women's Team received extensive media coverage throughout the entire 1997/98 seasons. From October to January, CHA's media coordinator received an average of 25 voice mail messages per day requesting player appearances. This number does not include faxes and/or phone calls.

The Women's National Team received front page coverage on the following magazines:

1. Chatelaine
2. Elm Street
3. Homemakers
4. Impact
5. MacLeans
6. Quest
7. The Hockey News
8. U of T Alumni Magazine

In addition to the above, the team received coverage in Time Magazine and Sports Illustrated.

Members of the women's team appeared in the following commercials

1. Bell Canada Lesley Reddon
2. Esso Commercial Nancy Drolet, Hayley Wickenheiser
3. Chrysler Vignette Judy Diduck, Therese Brisson, Geraldine Heaney, Fiona Smith, Karen Nystrom, Lesley Reddon, Laura Schuler, Lori Dupuis
4. Esquire The entire team
5. "Road to Excellence" The entire team
6. General Mills vignettes Cassie Campbell, Vicky Sunohara, Nancy Drolet, Geraldine Heaney, Judy Diduck, Fiona Smith, Danielle Goyette, Rebecca Fahey, Laura Schuler, Lori Dupuis
7. Government Commercial Jennifer Botterill, Cassie Campbell, Vicky Sunohara, Lori Dupuis
8. McDonald's Jennifer Botterill, Lori Dupuis, Stacy Wilson

Members of the team appeared in profiles on CBC, CBS and TSN as well as, two documentaries – the National Film Board and Le Pointe.

Members of the team also made and continue to make personal appearances at schools, banquets, other sporting events, charity functions, etc.

During pre-Olympic competition the National Team was honoured to wear the "Rose" crests in tribute to a very special friend - Rose Cherry.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Women's National Senior Team:

Evaluation Camps:

- May 8 – 10 Calgary
- May 22 - 24 Montreal
- May 29 – 31 Mississauga
- May 19 – 21 Halifax

An average of 40 players are invited to each camp.

Tentative Schedule:

October, 1998	Evaluation camp in the first 2 weeks of October
January, 1999	Selection camp for the World Championship
March, April 1999	Pre-Competition camp for World Championship
April 1999	World Championship

CENTRAL CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP - QUEBEC / ONTARIO CUP

For many years, there has been a Western Shield – an annual regional championship featuring the western provinces. A few years ago, the eastern shield was established with teams from the 4 maritime provinces competing. These events have helped the growth of female hockey in these provinces.

The inaugural Central Canadian Women's Hockey Championship was held in Val Belair Quebec on the April 24th weekend.

Some details include:

- ⊗ Aims of the event:
- ⊗ To promote senior women's hockey
- ⊗ To allow senior women's teams to participate in another high level competition
- ⊗ It is designed to be a competition of provincial champions from Quebec and Ontario. Division I would feature Ontario's two runner-up teams from the Senior AAA Provincials with Divisions II and III the gold and silver medalists from the Senior AA and Senior A divisions respectively. As an inaugural event, there was not sufficient lead time to attract the champions and we filled in as needed. Congratulations and thank you to the following teams:

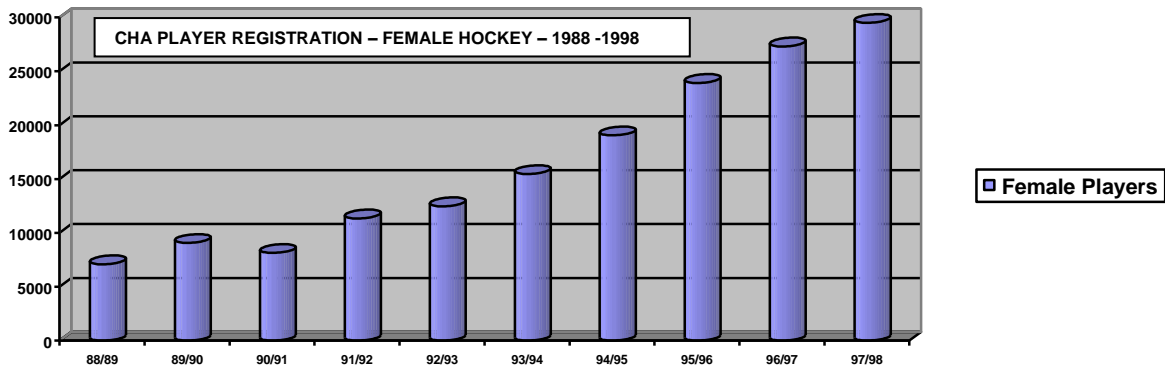
DIVISION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	FOURTH PLACE
Division I	Quebec	Quebec	Ottawa North Stars, Ontario	Scarborough, Ontario
Division II	Quebec	Quebec	Peel Storm, Ontario	Stoney Creek Sabres, Ontario
Division III	Newtonbrook Panthers, Ontario	Quebec	Belleville, Ontario	Quebec

- ⊗ The 1998/99 championship will be hosted by the OWSHA. Details will be announced at a later date.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Sincere best wishes to Glynis Peters, Manager of the CHA Women's Program. Glynis is recovering from surgery on her neck due to recurring problems suffered in a bicycle accident a couple of years ago.
- Female Hockey Athlete Development Model 2000
- The CHA adopted the high performance plan for female hockey. The program has various high performance stages and includes the National Women's team and competitions Canada Winter Games, National Under 18 competitions and national Under 22 competitions and teams. There are national and regional components.
- Under 22 Program: NIKE is sponsoring a camp for 22 players scheduled in August in Calgary.
- Double Registration: At the recent CHA Annual General Meeting a decision was made that would allow each province to determine their own policy on dual registration for female players within both the "male" and female programs.
- Sincere congratulations to Murray Costello on his retirement as Canadian Hockey Association President after 19 years.
- Best wishes to Bob Nicholson as he assumes the role of President on June 1, 1998.

CHA FEMALE HOCKEY REGISTRATION



The Ontario Women's Hockey Association continues to derive its official affiliation to the International Ice Hockey Federation through the Canadian 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 1997-98 - CHA

		SR AAA & AA	SR. Other	**	INT.	MIDGET	BANTAM	PEEWEE	ATOM	NOVICE	I.P.	H.S.	TOTAL
BC	PLAYERS	87	1329			137			852				2405
	TEAMS	5	65			9			57				136
ALTA.	PLAYERS	58	1075			585	148	225	26	16			2133
	TEAMS	3	63			38	10	15	2	1			132
SASK.	PLAYERS			1174									1174
	TEAMS			80									80
MAN.	PLAYERS		311	90	50	544	35	372	450	152	256	4	2264
	TEAMS		18	0	3	36	0	22	19	0	0	0	98
ONT.	PLAYERS	286	3772		1615	1500	1859	2743	2665	1394	215		16049
	TEAMS	17	259		109	99	127	191	179	96	16		1093
QUE.	PLAYERS	720		1515									2235
	TEAMS	48		101									149
N.B.	PLAYERS		195			11	38	167	91	91	110	310	1013
	TEAMS		12			0	0	5	0	0	0	18	35
N.S.	PLAYERS		144			90	133	88			322		777
	TEAMS		8			5	7	5			0		25
P.E.I.	PLAYERS		102			207	7	134	99	69	66		684
	TEAMS		7			16	1	10	8	5	5		52
NFLD.	PLAYERS				43	96	89	79	78	70	71		526
	TEAMS				3	6	6	5	5	4	4		33
NWT/HA	PLAYERS		79				5	42	40	17	47		230
	TEAMS		6				0	3	2	1	0		12
TOTALS	PLAYERS	1151	7007	2779	1708	3170	2314	3850	4301	1809	1087	314	29490
	TEAMS	73	438	181	115	209	151	256	272	107	25	18	1845

** SASKATCHEWAN – Includes all female players
 MANITOBA – Includes house league (Winnipeg)
 QUEBEC – Includes all Female Players (Intermediate and Under)

MALE to FEMALE “PLAYER” RATIO BY PROVINCE

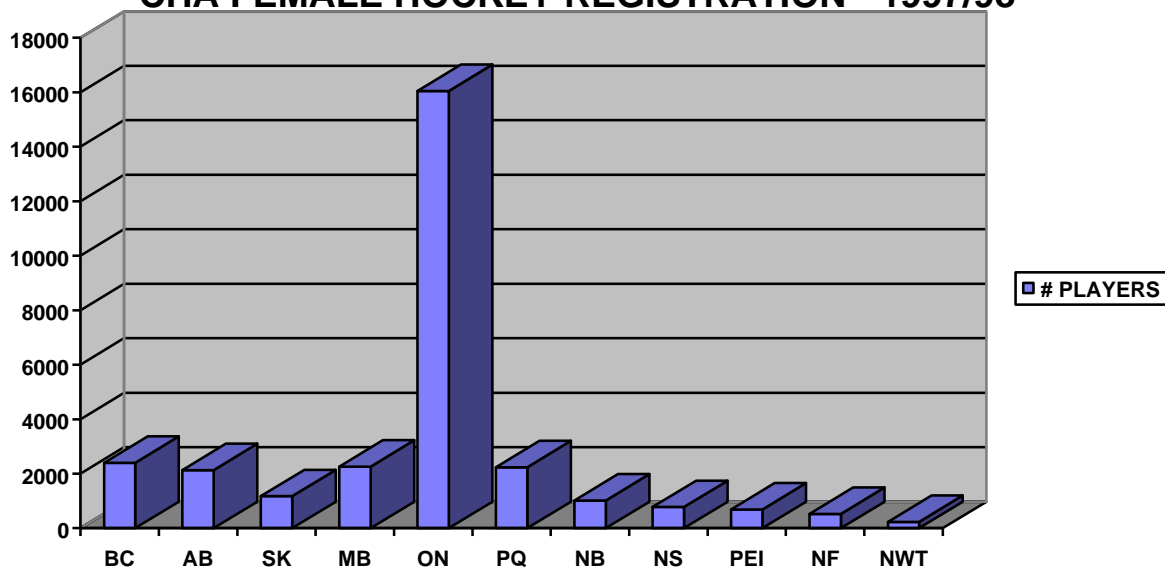
PROVINCE	MALE	FEMALE	RATIO
BC	45012	2405	18.72
ALBERTA	55735	2133	26.13
SASK	32193	1174	27.42
MANITOBA	23733	2264	10.48
ONTARIO	168459	16049	10.50
QUEBEC	91172	2235	40.79
NB	14187	1013	14.00
NOVA SCOTIA	14965	777	19.26
PEI	4557	684	6.66
NFLD	8702	526	16.54
NWT	3094	230	13.45

Please note that the Ontario numbers reflect OWSHA registration numbers only. The number does not include girls playing in minor (boys) hockey or high school hockey. Therefore the comparative ratio for Ontario would be lower than 10.5 males to every female player.

MALE to FEMALE “TEAM” RATIO BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE	MALE	FEMALE	RATIO
BC	2934	136	21.57
ALBERTA	3596	132	27.24
SASK	2097	80	26.21
MANITOBA	1709	98	17.44
ONTARIO	11522	1093	10.54
QUEBEC	4700	149	31.54
NB	826	35	23.60
NOVA SCOTIA	302	25	12.08
PEI	322	52	6.19
NFLD	566	33	17.15
NWT	186	12	15.50

CHA FEMALE HOCKEY REGISTRATION - 1997/98



OLYMPIC HOCKEY REPORT

Nagano, Japan, 1998 – “The Realization of The Dream”

The road to the Olympics was long and challenging. The Ontario Women’s Hockey Association sincerely congratulates those many individuals throughout Ontario, Canada and other countries who have contributed to the realization of a dream for the 1998 participants and fans. Truly, women’s hockey has shown the world the potential accomplishments possible when people share combine strengths for universal goals!

Special congratulations to Our Silver Medalists – TEAM CANADA. You have brought credibility to our game and have etched a permanent spot in history as part of the very first Winter Olympic Games for female hockey. Team members include:

#	Player	Birthdate	Residence	Ht	Wt	Pos	Shot
Goalkeepers							
30	LESLEY REDDON	15/11/70	Mississauga, Ontario	5’8”	130	G	L
33	Manon Rheame	24/02/72	Charlesbourg, Quebec	5’7”	132	G	L
Defence							
4	BECKY KELLAR	01/01/75	Hagersville, Ontario	5’7”	150	D	L
6	Therese Brisson	05/10/66	Fredericton, New Brunswick	5’7”	150	D	R
9	Fiona Smith	31/10/73	Edmonton, Alberta	5’2”	124	D	L
21	Judy Diduck	21/04/66	Sherwood Park, Alberta	5’6”	140	D	L
77	CASSIE CAMPBELL	22/11/73	Brampton, Ontario	5’7”	134	D	L
91	GERALDINE HEANEY	01/10/67	Weston, Ontario	5’8”	130	D	R
Forwards							
3	France St. Louis	17/10/58	St. Hubert, Quebec	5’8”	145	C	L
7	Jennifer Botterill	05/01/79	Calgary, Alberta	5’9”	155	C	L
12	LORI DUPUIS	14/11/72	Williamstown, Ontario	5’8”	165	C	L
14	Kathy McCormack	16/02/74	Fredericton, New Brunswick	5’9”	170	LW	L
15	Danielle Goyette	30/01/66	St. Nazaire, Quebec	5’7”	133	LW	L
16	JAYNA HEFFORD	14/05/77	Kingston, Ontario	5’5”	135	C	L
17	Stacey Wilson	12/05/65	Moncton, New Brunswick	5’6”	128	C	L
18	Nancy Drolet	02/08/73	Drummondville, Quebec	5’6”	138	C	L
22	Hayley Wickenheiser	08/12/78	Calgary, Alberta	5’9”	170	C	R
27	LAURA SCHULER	03/12/70	Scarborough, Ontario	5’6”	142	RW	L
61	VICKY SUNOHARA	18/05/70	Scarborough, Ontario	5’7”	143	C	R
89	KAREN NYSTROM	17/06/69	Scarborough, Ontario	5’6”	140	RW	R

Head Coach: Shannon Miller, Calgary, Alberta
 Assistant Coaches: Daniele Sauvageau, St-Eustache, Quebec
 Ray Bennett, Calgary, Alberta

OWHA REFEREES

Sincere congratulations to Marina Zenk from Ottawa, Ontario and Laurie Taylor-Bolton from Barrie Ontario. Marina and Laurie were the two officials from Ontario approved by Canadian Hockey and the International Ice Hockey Federation. Marina was selected to referee the very first game in the history of the Olympics – Sweden vs Finland. Also, Marina served as the referee in the gold medal final while Laurie wore the stripes for the bronze medal game. Their outstanding performance throughout the Olympics clearly demonstrated that the OWHA officiating program ranks at the top in the world. Laurie and Marina are exceptional role models for our young officials.

1998 WINTER OLYMPICS - NAGANO GAME SCORES – TEAM CANADA

<i>Canada</i>	13	Japan	0
<i>Canada</i>	2	China	0
Canada	5	Sweden	3
<i>Canada</i>	4	Finland	2
USA	7	<i>Canada</i>	4
<u>GOLD MEDAL</u>			
USA	3	<i>Canada</i>	1

OTHER OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mayor Hazel McCallion, 16 year member of the OWHA Board of Regents and Honourary Chairperson of both the 1987 First Women's World Hockey Tournament and 1997 Women's World Hockey Championship travelled to the Olympics and celebrated her 77th birthday in Japan. Team Canada's families threw a surprise party for the Mayor at Canada House with special guest Don Cherry and his CBC camera crew. Sincere thanks to Christie Smith, President of General Mills for her participation and for the generous donation of a special cake!
- General Mills had an impressive display in Canada House (a gathering place for Canadians and visitors). At the display complimentary postcards were available. These featured many of Canada's Olympians. Women's hockey scored another victory as these were the most popular!
- Female hockey has found many innovative ways of capturing the attention of the media to showcase our great sport. Congratulations to Geraldine Heaney for stealing the show on CBC TV at opening ceremonies with her strategically placed Olympic ring tattoo.
- Sincere thanks to those who assisted with various fund raisers that helped our players families join them in Nagano. Special thanks to Ron Taryshyn of Avion travel.
- A 27 hour trip – to meet people who think nothing of travelling 2 hours out of their way to help a lost Canadian.
- Sushi bars, McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Chicken.
- A place where you wander, hopelessly lost in the middle of the night, wondering if the streets are safe, then you remember seeing lost and found areas displaying single American quarters and other change – indeed a very honest place!
- A culture of incredibly high technology combined with crowded living conditions.
- A place where female hockey made its mark in history – players who had been ridiculed for their participation in "hockey" were sought after for interviews, autographs and endorsements.
- A place that changed the face of female hockey forever.

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association extends sincere thanks to the Nagano Host Committee, The International Ice Hockey Federation and the International Olympic Committee.

