



# ICE TIMES



VOICE OF AMATEUR HOCKEY IN ONTARIO

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Vol. 28 No. 1

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14 pages

## Waterloo Wolves Black Atom MD Show Amazing Display of Sportsmanship



*The most amazing display of sportsmanship shocked the arena...Please let them all know this had a lasting effect on our kids and our parents. Absolutely amazing group of individuals.*



**A**t the West London Byron Optimist Tournament that ran from January 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, the Atom MD Championship game featured two ALLIANCE Hockey teams; the Waterloo Wolves Black and the Brantford 99ers. The Brantford 99ers were crowned tournament champions following a 4-1 victory but it was the actions of the Waterloo Wolves at the end of the game that left the 99ers with a very special memory...

Story told by B. Whitfield:

*In all my life around hockey I have never seen this...As our team was finishing with pictures and awards our 99er players turned to exit the rink, we all looked up and this is what we were looking at...*

**C**ongratulations to both teams! This story is a great example of good sportsmanship being displayed in our rinks. We commend both teams on the actions displayed at the end of this game. It reflects very well on the game, your teams, and your families. You should all be very proud!



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The HDCO would like to hear any feedback you have regarding this publication. This newsletter was developed for

the amateur hockey enthusiast in Ontario and we enjoy receiving your comments and suggestions. Please send any remarks to: Hockey Development Centre for Ontario, 19 Waterman Avenue, Suite 215 Toronto, Ontario M4B 1Y2 or email us at [hockey@hdco.on.ca](mailto:hockey@hdco.on.ca)

# Barrie Davis Memorial Award Winner Barry McCrory

**B**arry McCrory has been involved in hockey in the community of Sudbury for over 30 years. He has always been willing to undertake any role and no matter whether it was a coach, administrator, trainer and teacher Barry excelled at the role. Essentially, if there is a hockey job, Barry McCrory has done it.

Barry is an integral member of the Sudbury Minor Hockey Association. He has shared his expertise with numerous players and coaches throughout Sudbury and has always been willing to go the extra mile for the betterment of Hockey. Barry is a long serving member of the

Sudbury Minor Hockey Association Board. In this role Barry is an elder statesmen providing cogent advice and guidance as our association works towards increasing our numbers and positive hockey experiences in the SMHA.

One of his proudest accomplishments is following in his father Gerald's footsteps by stepping into the role of the Chairman of the Big Nickel Hockey Tournament. This tournament is the premiere hockey tournament in Northern Ontario and about to enter its' 37<sup>th</sup> year. Barry thrives in that role.



**Barry McCrory**

Barry also runs the McCrory Hockey School that his father created. In an age where the focus is on ensuring that children get the best possible introduction into our great sport Barry and his Father can be considered pioneers as through the years, they have indoctrinated many young players into hockey where they remain long term participants. Barry actually boasts now that he has some adults coming through the hockey school with their youngsters that he taught many years ago in the same hockey school.

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# ICE TIMES

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# HTCP Online Mentor Support Network



**T**he HTCP Mentor Support Network is an online interactive forum that was created to enhance the e-learning program environment by providing an ongoing support mechanism for our trainers.

The online forum provides a unique opportunity for trainers to post questions in a safe and collaborative environment concerning situations they may be facing as a trainer and to get answers or seek advice for their specific needs and challenges from experienced and reputable mentors. In addition, participants can browse discussions on various topic areas of interest.

This program is only available to trainers who are enrolled in the HTCP e-learning program.

The objective of this unique program is to offer valuable learning opportunities, mentorship support and guidance through access to a network of qualified and dedicated volunteers.

Participants will have access to:

- ◆ Experienced professionals who have an extensive background and knowledge of safety and risk management in hockey
- ◆ Ask a general question or seek and receive guidance
- ◆ Browse peer-to-peer group discussions
- ◆ Continuous learning through participation and access to the HTCP e-learning centre and mentor support program.

For additional information on the HTCP in Ontario visit the HDCCO website. If you are interested in becoming a team trainer and obtaining program certification contact the HDCCO or visit [www.hdcoelearning.com](http://www.hdcoelearning.com)



## Trainer's Corner

## DR. TOM PASHBY PROVINCIAL TRAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD



**We are pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Lisa Parise recipient of the 2016 Dr. Tom Pashby Provincial Trainer of the Year Award.**

**L**isa was nominated by the NOHA for her significant involvement with hockey and the Hockey Trainers' Certification Program. Lisa is known for taking great pride in her role as a team trainer and is relentless in keeping her players safe and healthy. She is the first to show up at the rink and the last one to leave. A certified HTCP Level 3 trainer as well as a registered Nurse with Critical Care Certification via the Canadian Nurses Association, Lisa also volunteers as a mentor for the HTCP Online Support Network.

The Dr. Tom Pashby award honours those individuals who consistently demonstrate outstanding dedication and service in the areas of safety and risk management as well as a commitment to the values of safety, enjoyment, fair play, education and integrity in the game of hockey through their involvement in the Hockey Trainers Certification Program (HTCP) in the province of Ontario.

We are honoured to add Lisa to the list of individuals bestowed with this award.

We would also like to acknowledge the following regional recipients nominated by their respective association:

Dean Caron – Hockey Northwestern Ontario  
Carla Vine – Northern Ontario Hockey Association  
Dennis Brown - Ontario Minor Hockey Association



**Lisa Parise Presented with the Dr. Tom Pashby Trainer of the Year Award—NOHA AGM 2016**

# Meadowvale Hawks Win 2017 Dodge Caravan for Kids Cup!

**S**tratford, ON – Family Day 2017 was a great

day of hockey for 16 novice teams from across the province. This past weekend in Brantford, ON was the annual Dodge Caravan for Kids Family Day tournament, hosted in partnership with the OMHA and Dodge Canada. The day was filled with lots of hockey, and a ton of fun!



The semi-final games set up an exciting final between Meadowvale and West London, which was the 5<sup>th</sup> game of the day for each team. However the long day resulted in a terrific final game, which featured a loud crowd and great hockey. The game saw West London jump out to an early 5-2 lead, however at the 14:51 mark of the second half, Meadowvale started the comeback, scoring 4 unanswered goals to mount a terrific comeback, and win the 2017 Dodge Caravan for Kids Cup. Congratulations to both teams on a well-played Championship!



The tournament featured all 16 teams playing 3 round robin games, competing in an

exciting skills challenge, were served an awesome lunch by the Lookout Lounge, and awarded gifts from Dodge Canada. After the round robin games the top team from each division played in a Semi-Final to see who would compete for the Cup.

The first semi-final game featured an all Alliance matchup between the West London Hawks, and Sarnia White Lightning, with

West London winning by a score of 4-2. The second semi-final game was between the Oakville Red Devils and the Meadowvale Hawks, which featured a 3-3 tie at the midway point of the game. However Meadowvale would score 4 goals in the second half of the game to defeat Oakville 8-4.

The final proved to be a great end to a terrific day. All the players had fun playing alongside their teammates and it was an exciting day of hockey for all. Big thanks to all the teams, sponsors, and volunteers who made the day a success





# Barrie Davis Memorial Award—Barry McCrory

*Continued from Page 2*

Barry has been a coach and mentor at all age levels and categories. From Initiation to Midget AAA to Girls Hockey to Junior Hockey to scouting, Barry has excelled. Each season for the last 30+ he has been a part of a hockey team in one capacity or another.

Although he did not coach in the 15/16 season, he did assist a Minor Atom team by mentoring their inexperienced coaching staff.

In 2016 / 2017 Barry will return to the coaching ranks as a Co-Coach on a major Atom AA team to help these young players take the next step into AAA hockey for the 2017/2018 season.

In 2016 / 2017 Barry will return to the coaching ranks as a Co-Coach on a major Atom AA team to help these young players take the next step into AAA hockey for the 2017/2018 season.

During his time away from the ice last season, he stepped up to become Commissioner of the Northern Ontario Hockey League. He has much respect in the hockey community that it was a very smooth transition from the previous Commissioner.

Sudbury Minor Hockey was fortunate enough to host the All-Ontario Peewee AAA Championship in April 2016 and Barry was the Co-Chair of that very successful venture. With this season's hosting opportunity for the All-Ontario Central Regional Midget AAA Championship and the very prestigious Telus Cup National Championship on the horizon for the 2017-2018 season, you can be sure that Barry will be heavily involved in the planning and operation of those events.

Barry has been an Account Manager with Coca-Cola for over 32 years. He and his wife Linda have been married for 31 years and they have 2 grown children that have come up through the hockey ranks. In March of 2016 he became a grandfather for the first time to little Noah and he is already thinking about what it will be like to coach him when he's old enough.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Simpson and Craig Maki – SMHA Executive Members  
August 3, 2016

**The Barrie Davis memorial award has been created to honour the past Chairman of the HDco and President of the HEO (formerly ODMHA) for his commitment and spirit towards making the game of hockey a positive and safe experience for all participants.**

**The Award also recognizes Barrie for his fairness and ability to bring people together to solve issues within the game of hockey.**

**The Barrie Davis Memorial Award is presented annually by the Hockey Development Centre for Ontario (HDco) Board of Directors to a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the development of Amateur hockey in the Province of Ontario in one of more the following categories over a 10-year period: Promoting the sport; Promoting fair play values; Involvement as an athlete, coach, official or administrator; Builder or developer in the sport of ice hockey.**

**List of Award recipients can be found at [www.hdco.on.ca](http://www.hdco.on.ca)**

## Remembering Tyler Cragg

**By Brendon Crossman**

**T**o an outsider, the Tyler Cragg Memorial Tournament was a chance to capture a gold medal; to take home bragging rights.



For those in the Toronto Jr. Canadiens organization – and to anyone who had the pleasure of knowing the tournament's namesake – the event was a way to honour a man that dedicated his life to the game, touching so many others along the way.

**Tyler Cragg** first got involved in the Jr. Canadiens organization in 2000 and went on to serve the club as a head coach and president, while also acting as general manager of the Canadian Ice Academy in Mississauga.

"Tyler started coaching in the Markham Islanders organization in the late 90s," wrote Toronto Jr. Canadiens general manager **Johnny Winstanley** in an email to *Breakout*.

"He took over the 1990-born JRC team for the 2000-01 season and then coached in the organization for 15 years, was president and general manager for six years and also coached the inaugural season with our Jr. A program."

A leader in every sense of the word, Cragg was the driving force behind the creation of the Canadiens Cup tournament, the event that now bears his name.

He took pride in everyone he coached," Winstanley praised. "His 1990 team was a very special group to Tyler. He had **Alex Pietrangelo** on that team and he would love to sit and tell us stories about how good he was as a kid." **Continued on Page 6**

## Remembering Tyler Cragg

Not as a player, but as a kid. That's what mattered most to Cragg, ensuring his boys developed as human beings as well as hockey players. Pietrangelo is a perfect example of Cragg's goals coming to fruition – he now captains the St. Louis Blues.

It was in April 2013, while preparing for the Jr. Canadiens' year-end banquet, that Cragg had his first seizure. Within two days he had a lesion – a damaged or abnormally functioning area – removed from his brain.

The ensuing diagnosis was a shock to everyone who knew the otherwise healthy 41-year-old: Glioblastoma Multiforme, a form of brain cancer.

Cragg tackled the news the only way he knew how – with unbeatable spirit and unmatched determination. He hardly missed a beat at the rink, returning to both the Jr. Canadiens and the Academy as he began treatment at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto.

Through it all, Cragg continued to pour his heart and soul into his greatest passion. "He dealt with his illness in a very positive manner and fought every minute," said Jr. Canadiens president **Peter Friedmann**.

Born in British Columbia, Tyler grew up in a military family and his parents, **Erik** and **Karen**, eventually landed in Orleans, Massachusetts, where his father opened a dentistry practice. In the spring of 2015, Tyler joined his family in the small town on Cape Cod to continue his recovery from a stroke that followed his third brain surgery in two years. On August 18, 2015 – Cragg's 44th birthday – a Go Fund Me page with a goal of \$55,000 was established to raise money for his treatment. The target was surpassed within days, thanks in large part to the generosity of those in the JRC, GTHL and Ontario Junior Hockey League communities.

"Coaches he competed against for years stepped up," recalled Winstanley. "People donated who had

never even met Tyler, but had kids in the JRC organization. I'm sure his family read every name that donated to him."

"Tyler was fully aware of the efforts and they were very much appreciated by the Cragg family," added Friedmann, who, along with his family, visited Tyler on a regular basis and is remains in touch with the Craggs. Less than four months later, on Dec. 7, 2015, Tyler died after "courageously fighting cancer without complaint for nearly three years." He was surrounded by family and had recently had a visit from **Rick Crumpton, Joe Pietrangelo** and **Brian Hood**, some of his closest friends from the JRC organization.

Cragg's impact on the players he led and the organization he represented with such high esteem for more than a decade, continues through his name – from the tournament he helped create to the newly renamed Jr. Canadiens Coach of the Year Award to the bursary fund established in his memory.

"When you think or speak about Tyler the same thing always comes up," said Winstanley. "He was a great hockey guy and an even better person." **And that's how he'll always be remembered.**



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## Home Ice

**T**he Ontario Minor Hockey Association is proud to present Home Ice powered by Under Armour, a new web series that focuses on the life of minor hockey players. The series highlights all aspects of minor hockey and beyond the boards with focus on school and being a positive member of the community. Home Ice provides behind-the-scenes access into the personal lives of the team members including the family perspective while weaving the story-line of a hockey season for a group of dedicated young men.



## Hometown Hockey Digital Magazine

**F**ocusing on the pride, passion and participation of our national game, Hometown Hockey delivers a cross-section of coaching tips, parental advice and interviews for the hockey family to enjoy. From minor hockey to the NHL, Hometown Hockey scores with its readers!

## Breakaway, The Minor Hockey Podcast



**B**reakaway, the minor hockey podcast puts you in alone with some of the best and brightest minds in the game today. Each week, Dan Pollard sits down with the leaders of hockey to discuss everything from scoring more goals to how to grow the game.

Subscribe to Breakaway, The Minor Hockey Podcast on iTunes, Stitcher, PlayerFM, SoundCloud or wherever you consume your podcasts. The podcast – which is free to download at [OMHA.net/Breakaway](http://OMHA.net/Breakaway)



# OHL Veterans Reflect upon Reaching 300-game Milestone

By Josh Sweetland / [ontariohockeyleague.com](http://ontariohockeyleague.com)

It takes playing in parts of five seasons of OHL hockey to reach the 300-game mark; five years that are some of the most formative in the lives of the young men throughout the league who continually strive for excellence on the ice and in the classroom.

Three fifth-year veterans in Windsor Spitfires winger Jeremiah Addison, Owen Sound Attack forward Matt Schmalz and Peterborough Petes defenceman Brandon Prophet were the first to reach the 300-mark recently during the league's 2016-17 campaign and each took some time to reflect on the path that has led them to this point in their careers.

Interestingly, Addison and Prophet started out in the same place, with Addison going 12th overall to the Saginaw Spirit from the Toronto Marlboros Minor Midgets in the 2012 OHL Priority Selection and Prophet following 20 selections later at 32nd overall to the Spirit.

"It's funny how it works out," said Addison when met with the news that his former teammate will play his 300th regular season game on February 23rd. "Proph and I spent a lot of time together as rookies along with Zach Bratina and Brandon Lindberg. We all kind of learned the ropes together and had a lot of fun."

Addison, who was a seventh round pick by the Montreal Canadiens in the 2015 NHL Draft, has 23 goals, 15 assists and 38 points in 39 games with the Mastercard Memorial Cup host Windsor Spitfires this season.

The Brampton, Ont. native, played his 300th regular season game on February 26th against Sarnia, says there's no other way he'd rather close out his time in the OHL.

"I feel like I've learned something new with every different team I've played for," he said. "In Saginaw I got accustomed to the league. In Ottawa I took on more of a leadership role and began to contribute more and I feel like those past experiences have prepared me for this new challenge in Windsor as I try and help our team win a Memorial Cup."

While Addison says his future career aspirations outside of hockey include pursuing a career in Sports Psychology, former Spirit teammate Brandon Prophet is working towards a career of his own.

The son of a recently retired OPP Community Service Officer, Prophet aspires to become a firefighter, something he's formed an appreciation for through watching his dad Rob over the years and also through the community engagement he has enjoyed during his time in the OHL.

"It's amazing the impact you can have in your community," said the Petes captain. "I've learned a lot on the ice, but I've also come away with valuable lessons off of the ice as well. I'd like to be a firefighter, but will also be using my education package provided by the OHL to get a degree first."



A Brockville native who spent his minor hockey days in the Rideau-St. Lawrence Kings and Upper Canada Cyclones programs, Prophet says five years in the OHL go by faster than you think.

"It feels like yesterday I was a new guy in Saginaw," he noted. "I always tell our young guys to work hard and enjoy their time, because one day from some of the captains on teams I've played for such as Vince Trocheck, Eric Locke and Mike Webster and I hope that when my time is up I'll have left a good impression like they did."

Prophet has a goal and 12 assists through 48 games with the Petes this season as they continue their quest for the franchise's first East Division title since they last won a championship in 2006.

"We've got a great group assembled with very good coaches that are here to help us," he said. "We have talent all through our lineup and we're all looking forward to going on a deep run in the playoffs."

Another player on a contending team in his overage season, Owen Sound's Matt Schmalz, a fifth round pick of the Los Angeles Kings in 2015, reaches his 300th game on March 2nd as the Owen Sound Attack visited the Peterborough Petes.

The 6-foot-6, 217lb. winger was originally a first round pick by the Kitchener Rangers from the Southern Tier Admirals Minor Midgets in 2012 but spent over three seasons with the Sudbury Wolves before joining the Attack this past summer. Through 51 games this season, he has 14 goals, 12 assists and 26 points.

"I've had an outstanding experience in this league," Schmalz reflected. "From lining up against guys like Mark Scheifele to being teammates with pros like John Gibson and Ryan Murphy, I've had the privilege of playing with some really good players."

"Through it all I think I've come to understand myself as a player and have placed more of a focus on my strengths," he added. "I've learned a lot in the OHL, made some mistakes, scored some memorable goals and feel like I've grown a lot in the process. It all happens really fast."

Other OHL players that could potentially play in their 300th regular season game before the season is through include Sault Ste. Marie's Bobby MacIntyre, Hamilton's Michael Cramarossa, Erie's Kyle Pettit, and Kitchener's Darby Llewellyn.





## OHL Introduces Under-18 Priority Selection

*ontariohockeyleague.com*

**T**oronto, ON – The Ontario Hockey League announced in January the introduction of an annual Under-18 Priority Selection for Midget AAA hockey players in Ontario.

The inaugural OHL Under-18 Priority Selection will take place on Wednesday April 12, 2017, beginning at 7:00 pm with picks submitted online by OHL member clubs and displayed in real-time at [ontariohockeyleague.com](http://ontariohockeyleague.com).

“Midget hockey in Ontario features hundreds of talented players who continue to develop their game,” said OHL Commissioner, David Branch. “Working with our Minor Hockey partners, the OHL Under-18 Priority Selection will serve to assist in the continued growth of Midget hockey and provide further opportunities for players at different stages of their overall hockey development.”

The concept of the OHL Under-18 Priority Selection has developed with full support from Hockey Canada’s three Ontario Branches including the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO), and Hockey Northwestern Ontario (HNO).

“The Ontario Hockey League has long been a leader in the advancement of young athletes and the new Under-18 Priority Selection is a continuation of that development,” said OHF President, Tony Foresi. “We believe this second draft will offer players a chance to develop at their own pace while still working toward their hockey goals.”

“The OHL has added a great incentive for those players who may have required an additional year or two of development to reach their full potential,” said HEO President, Ron McRostie. “HEO is excited that some late developing athletes may have an additional opportunity of reaching their goals.”

“The new Ontario Hockey League Under-18 Priority Selection is a great opportunity for players that have continued to develop in Midget AAA hockey within the province,” said HNO President, Glenn Timko.

“We see this U18 draft as a positive opportunity for players in the Northwest, to have another chance at being selected by an Ontario Hockey League club.”

The OHL Under-18 Priority Selection will be held in addition to the league’s current Priority Selection process which takes place this season on Saturday April 8, 2017, for all 2001 birth year players and those eligible players currently not playing Midget hockey.

Eligibility for the OHL Under-18 Priority Selection includes all Midget players (1999 and 2000 birth years for 2017 draft) not currently on an OHL Member Team Protected List who were carded with an Ontario based Midget AAA Hockey Club within the OHF, HEO, or HNO in the current season.

The order of selection for the Under-18 Priority Selection shall be the same as the Under-16 Priority Selection format which is determined through the final preceding regular season schedule. The non-playoff teams shall select first determined by inverse order of finish, followed by all other teams with the selection position also determined by inverse order of finish.

The inaugural Under-18 Priority Selection will be capped at four rounds with all OHL Member Teams required to draft a minimum of four players.

To enhance opportunities specifically for goaltenders, should an OHL Member Team select a goaltender with one of their selections, the club has the option to select another player (skater only). An additional round will be added to facilitate the drafting of any additional skaters utilizing the same selection order and process.

## Merkley Makes Big Strides in Rookie Season

*By Josh Sweetland / [ontariohockeyleague.com](http://ontariohockeyleague.com)*

**F**ollowing in the footsteps of Jakob Chychrun and Aaron Ekblad as a defenceman selected first overall in the OHL Priority Selection, Ryan Merkley knew big expectations were placed upon him, but the 16-year-old from Mississauga has certainly met, perhaps even exceeded those in his rookie season.

Merkley, who has 10 goals, 35 assists and 45 points in 52 games on a young Guelph Storm blue line this season, has surpassed the point totals of both Chychrun (16-17—33) and Ekblad (7-27—34) during their 16-year-old seasons in the league and is coming up on



### Ryan Merkley Makes Big Strides

Kevin Mitchell (10-46—56, 1997-98) for the most points by a rookie blueliner in franchise

history. Currently dwelling in the depths of the Western Conference, the Storm have had their share of struggles this season, but Merkley has grown through adversity.

“We’ve had some tough nights, but I’ve been given all the opportunity a player could ask for to grow and get better and I think that’s important,” said Merkley. “We’re young, but the future is exciting.”

Storm GM Mike Kelly, who recently announced that he’ll be retiring at season’s end, has seen his career come full circle.

Now in his 20<sup>th</sup> season as an OHL general manager, Kelly, then with Guelph, selected Jeff O’Neill as the first overall pick of the 1992 OHL Priority Selection. While the Storm took their lumps early, they reached an OHL Championship Series prior to O’Neill’s departure to the NHL and had continued success leading into their first ever OHL title in 1998.

“I think we draw a lot of parallels with Ryan and this group to Jeff and his back in the early 90’s,” said Kelly of the comparison. “I think Jeff may have had a bit of a head start considering he had played a year of Tier II as a 15-year-old whereas Ryan is coming straight out of minor midget, but in terms of them both being extremely talented world class players there’s a real similarity there.”

Kelly, who laid the groundwork for Guelph’s championship in 1998 and was GM of the 2014 OHL Champion Storm, says Merkley has surpassed expectations, but has also gone through the same challenging process of any 16-year-old in the OHL. The right-shot defenceman had 44 points (7-37—44) in his minor midget season with the GTHL’s Toronto Jr. Canadiens.

“I think he’s even more talented than we first thought,” he

said. “There aren’t too many nights that go by where he doesn’t leave you saying ‘wow.’ I think that’s been fun for our fans, for our staff and for our players too. Ryan has handled the challenges of rookie life well and has learned a lot about being away from home, keeping up with school and playing without the puck. It’s all come together nicely for him.”

While nights like the Storm’s recent 8-1 drubbing at the hands of the defending Mastercard Memorial Cup champion London Knights are tough to swallow, Merkley finds hope in the future with the emerging core in Guelph.

“We’ve got a lot of talent here in guys like Givani Smith, Nate Schnarr, Isaac Ratcliffe and Dmitri Samorukov,” said Merkley. “It’s been a learning process, but I think we’re getting there. We want to be competing for another championship in the next few seasons.”

## Dropping the Puck—Not as Simple as it Seems



The line change routine is an integral part of every draw. It is all about synchronicity. Good line changes and subsequent clean draws (no matter which level of Hockey Canada, be it Novice house league through Midget AAA and into Junior and University hockey) start at the beginning of the game in the “reception” line with coaches. Introduce yourself. Knowing coaches’ and captains’ names, and them knowing yours, is an “ice breaker”. It sets the tone for familiarity that leads to communication and respect.

Get to know the league you are regularly working. Ensure that for every stoppage of play for changes you are going to come out into full view for both Home and Visitor benches, then park yourself, look at the coach, call out his name if need be, wake him up and ask if he wants to change if he has forgotten.

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All too often we either hide down low or skate in a big circle with our hand in the air, to no one in particular and call it a line change procedure. The excuse that the coach doesn't care is irrelevant. We have a procedure to follow and a standard to set!

We should not have any variations in the face off standard no matter what level of hockey. Remember, you give the Visiting coach 5 seconds first, raise your arm closest to the benches sharply and high, and then give the Home coach 5 seconds for his line change. Obviously you have discretion if a team is not interested in a line change to reduce the time restriction, but be clear with your signals and observant of their actions.

Simply put, our job is to conduct face offs, not throw centres; however always ensure that neither centre gets an unfair advantage. During the first period you will meet the vast majority of centres and lines from both teams. Set the standards right away. Procedures have to be recognizably routine by the officials. Done right, we will have sixty minutes with clean draws, original centres and a quick game. However, it starts with the mechanics and consistency of the line change procedure.

While the Referee is conducting the line change by soliciting the visitors first, then the home team, terminating the change and skating backwards to the goal line or a neutral position, the linesman sets the wingers and any other players ready for the draw. The Referee "hands it off" to the linesman, with a clear point. The linesman now blows his whistle, signifying he is ready to release the puck. The players set behind him are now the sole responsibility of his partner positioned at the face off



dot across from him in the neutral zone or diagonally outside the blue line in a deep zone, for a clear view should he see encroachment behind his partner.

The linesman dropping the puck loudly tells the other players to "hold the circle" or "hold your position", then clearly tells the centres to square their feet in the hash lines and with both sticks down flat on the white of the dot release the puck. Rule 10.2(a)

states they will "stand squarely facing opponents' end of the rink and clear of the face off restraining lines."

No timing is involved and, above all, no hand movements, particularly the puck hand, which is at the belt line. For all the times we ask for consistency in our roles as officials, this is the one time to be inconsistent when dropping the puck. You have five seconds from the time you blow your whistle to releasing the puck. Do not get into a rhythm of whistle-drop, whistle-drop. Vary your timing. Face the puck up and visible to the centres, while you remain upright with your feet shoulder width apart and your knees slightly bent for balance. Avoid bouncing around and keep your whistle hand tucked in tight to the thigh of your leg to avoid contact. Now drop the puck with a gentle rotation and hope it lands flat. Hold your position, as the players all know where you are, and then back out when it is safe to do so. Remember, you control the draw.

Dropping the puck, not as simple as it seems.

John Reid, HEO Minor RIC.



# OHA: PJHL Hosts EHC DÜBENDORF From SWITZER- LAND

The Provincial Junior Hockey League (PJHL) was formed following the 2015-16 hockey season when all eight Junior C leagues in the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) merged. In late December and early January, the OHA hosted EHC Dübendorf from Switzerland for International games against six PJHL teams. The OHA has hosted many International teams



OHA President Karen Phibbs said that all teams benefited from this experience and gained a new appreciation for different approaches to playing hockey. Phibbs also said, "This was a wonderful opportunity for our players, coaches and communities to experience the International game and to meet and learn from a group of young athletes from another part of the world and different culture who love the game of hockey as much as we do."

For EHC Dübendorf, this was a great opportunity to play in Canada on the smaller ice surface and experience the Canadian style first-hand. EHC Dübendorf Head Coach Nico Eilinger said: "Canada is the motherland of hockey. For every hockey player in Switzerland, and maybe in Europe, it is a dream to play games in Canada."

It was a lot of hockey for the Swiss team, 6 games in 7 days, and although they lost all six games during the International series, they

thoroughly enjoyed their experience and their time in Canada.

Photos by OHA Media



over the years, but this was the first time an International team competed against PJHL teams.

HC Dübendorf plays in the Swiss Ice Hockey Federation's Tier III Junior league "Junioren Top", which is comparable to the PJHL. The PJHL was represented by four North Conference teams: the Kincardine Bulldogs; the Mount Forest Patriots; the Mitchell Hawks; and the Alliston Hornets, and two East Conference teams: the Port Perry MoJacks; and the Napanee Raiders.

The tour was initiated by Doug Kennedy, General Manager of the Kincardine Bulldogs. Kennedy, the PJHL and the OHA hope to make this an annual event so that more teams throughout the PJHL can experience International competition.

Brad Grant, Chairman of the OHA Board of Directors said, "We are proud of our teams and communities throughout the OHA and this is a great way of showcasing our talent and our supporters within the Association to a wider audience. This was also an incredible opportunity to promote the new league, as the PJHL continues to evolve and develop over the coming years."



## PJHL vs EHC Dübendorf Results:

- Dec. 28: EHC Dübendorf (2) at **Kincardine Bulldogs (4)**
- Dec. 29: EHC Dübendorf (4) at **Mount Forest Patriots (6)**
- Dec. 30: EHC Dübendorf (0) at **Mitchell Hawks (4)**
- Jan. 1: EHC Dübendorf (3) at **Port Perry MoJacks (6)**
- Jan. 2: EHC Dübendorf (1) at **Napanee Raiders (8)**
- Jan. 3: EHC Dübendorf (0) at **Alliston Hornets (6)**

**For more information on the PJHL vs EHC  
Dübendorf Tour,**

visit: <http://ehcdubendorf.pjhlontario.ca>



# OHA 2016-17 CHAMPIONSHIPS



## ACH – Robertson Cup

March 18 – April 2, 2017

Defending Champions: Stoney Creek Generals

[www.allancuphockey.com](http://www.allancuphockey.com)



## PJHL – Schmalz Cup

April 18 – May 8, 2017

Defending Champions: Ayr Centennials

[www.pjhlontario.ca](http://www.pjhlontario.ca)



## OJHL – Buckland Cup

April 12-25, 2017

Defending Champions: Trenton Golden Hawks

[www.ojhl.ca](http://www.ojhl.ca)



## 2017 Dudley Hewitt Cup

Host: Trenton Golden Hawks (OJHL)

May 2-6, 2017 (Trenton, ON)

[www.centralcanadianchampionship.com](http://www.centralcanadianchampionship.com)



## GOJHL – Sutherland Cup

April 25 – May 8, 2017

Defending Champions: Caledonia Corvairs

[www.gojhl.ca](http://www.gojhl.ca)



## 2017 RBC CUP

Host: Cobourg Cougars (OJHL)

May 13-21, 2017 (Cobourg, ON)

[www.hockeycanada.ca/rbccup](http://www.hockeycanada.ca/rbccup)

# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2017 PENALTY FREE SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE WINNERS!

PRIZE	TEAM NAME	CITY
WAYNE GRETZKY TORONTO TEES	PHANTOM WOLVES #74 WHITE	MISSISSAUGA
WAYNE GRETZKY TORONTO TEES	EAST ENDERS M. PEEWEE A	TORONTO
HHOF PASSES	WEST HILL ATOMS #25	SCARBOROUGH
THE HOCKEY NEWS SUBSCRIPTION	NEPEAN KINGS	OTTAWA
THE HOCKEY NEWS SUBSCRIPTION	PLATER FINANCIAL	SARNIA
THE HOCKEY NEWS SUBSCRIPTION	DANTE CLUB	SARNIA
THE HOCKEY NEWS SUBSCRIPTION	NORWEST STARS	THUNDER BAY
THE HOCKEY NEWS SUBSCRIPTION	SARNIA CEMENT	BRIGHT'S GROVE
KOBE SPORTSWEAR HOODIES	YORK TOROS	MISSISSAUGA
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	RICHMOND HILL STARS	RICHMOND HILL
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	OSHAWA HAWKS (2009)	OSHAWA
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	ERINDALE SPITFIRES #16	MISSISSAUGA
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	WEST LONDON HAWKS	LONDON
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	WOLVES	KITCHENER
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	BANTAM TEAM 43 GOLD	SCARBOROUGH
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	REDWINGS	OAKVILLE
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	HALTON HILLS THUNDER	GEORGETOWN
LASER QUEST TEAM PARTY	CUMBERLAND NOVICE B5	OTTAWA
McDONALD'S MAC-A-MONTH CARDS	ORONO LEAFS	BOWMANVILLE
McDONALD'S MAC-A-MONTH CARDS	ORILLIA HAWKS	ORO-MEDONTE
McDONALD'S MAC-A-MONTH CARDS	NEPEAN COYOTES	OTTAWA
NORTH BAY BATTALION OHL TICKETS	VERNER KINGS SPORTS-WEAR	LAVIGNE
NHLPA PRIZE PACKAGE	#18 R.D NOVICE	SCARBOROUGH
OMHA PRIZE PACKAGE	ORANGEVILLE FLYERS TYKE 1	ORANGEVILLE
OSHAWA GENERALS OHL TICKETS	NORTHMINSTER	OSHAWA
OSHAWA GENERALS OHL TICKETS	SIMCOE ST	OSHAWA
PLAYDIUM PLAY CARDS	MINOR PEWEE A	MISSISSAUGA
PLAYDIUM PLAY CARDS	LPC WILD PEEWEE A #71	MISSISSAUGA
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	GRIZZLIES	SUDBURY
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	NIAGARA FALLS FLYERS TYKE 1	NIAGARA FALLS
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	CORNWALL COLTS	CORNWALL
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	MIDGET 3	THUNDER BAY
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	PETRIES CYCLE & SPORTS WILD	THUNDER BAY
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	STITTSVILLE SPARTANS (B5)	STITTSVILLE
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	WATERLOO RED M. BANTAM	WATERLOO
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	MINOR PEEWEE RATTlers	KITCHENER
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	SARNIA SABRES PURPLE	SARNIA
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	JIFFY LUBE	SARNIA
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	ICE DOGS	CALEDONIA
PIZZA PIZZA PARTY	SUDBURY WOLVES	SUDBURY
RYR SPORTS INC. TOQUES	BLUE DOOR BISTRO	SLATE RIVER
RYR SPORTS INC. TOQUES	ENGLEHART EXPRESS	ENGLEHART
RYR SPORTS INC. TOQUES	FOREST HILL	TORONTO
RYR SPORTS INC. TOQUES	EAST ENDER TI-CATS	TORONTO
RYR SPORTS INC. TOQUES	BLACK ATTACK	MAPLE

PRIZE	TEAM NAME	CITY
SUDBURY WOLVES OHL TICKETS	SUDBURY TIMBERWOLVES	SUDBURY
TORONTO MARLIES AHL TICKETS	WEST MALL LIGHTNING	TORONTO
TORONTO MARLIES AHL TICKETS	TORONTO EAGLES MINOR ATOM A	TORONTO
VICEROY PRACTICE ICE	NAPANEE NOVICE 3	NAPANEE
VICEROY PRACTICE ICE	SGR ATOM C HOUSE 1	CARDINAL
VICEROY BAG OF PUCKS	WINDSOR WILDCATS	WINDSOR
VICEROY BAG OF PUCKS	NORTH DUNDAS DEMONS	CHESTERVILLE
WINDSOR SPITFIRES OHL TICKETS	BELLE RIVER SOOTERS	ESSEX

## PENALTY FREE SWEEPSTAKES MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD WINNERS

NAME	TEAM NAME	CITY	AGE
ETHAN BARBOZA	ERINDALE SPITFIRES #116	MISSISSAUGA	16
CAMERON DOWNEY	LETIRIM HAWKS NOVICE C1	OTTAWA	7
JACOB KEMSLEY	COLLINGWOOD NOVICE AE BLACKHAWKS	COLLINGWOOD	7
ISAIAH LEPAGE	FORT HENRY MIDGET BLACK PALADINS	KINGSTON	16
RILEY LEWIS	DOFASCO WOLVES	STONE CREEK	12
TAIT PORTER	MILTON WINTERHAWKS M. PEEWEE A	MILTON	11
MADELEINE SLOAN	WEST OXFORD INFERNO PEEWEE BB	WOODSTOCK	12
RIDGE SMITH	CHRIST CHURCH ATOM	OSHAWA	10
NOAH SOLOMON	WILLOWDALE BLACKHAWKS PEEWEE AA	TORONTO	12
RYLEE STROHM	SOUTH COUNTY PREDATORS PEEWEE WHITE	HARROW	11



For more information on the  
Penalty Free Sweepstakes  
program visit the HDCO website at  
[www.hdco.on.ca](http://www.hdco.on.ca)

