

BRETT STEELE, ALLIANCE HOCKEY AWARD OF MERIT

Presented by Kirsten Carr & Fernando Nogueira

It is our pleasure to introduce an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to minor hockey, working tirelessly for the good of hockey within KMHA and making a notable impact on the game and for all participants.

The recipient of this year's Alliance Award of Merit is a classic example of a true volunteer, mentor, coach, and an official who has made a real difference to our Organization through his years of hard work and innovation.

1. He has officiated with the Alliance for close to 20 years since his minor hockey days and now officiates at the highest level of minor hockey.
2. He sits on our Referee Executive Committee to review and update our referee advancements and working categories.
3. He works prominently with us for our annual recruitment of new Officials.
4. He takes the lead in assigning our flagship AAA Blue Line Tournament and is the force behind our Granby exchange where Officials from Quebec join us in Kitchener to work our Blue Line Tournament and we reciprocate with them to work their Granby Showcase Tournament in Quebec.
5. He is instrumental in promoting and organizing our Officials at our KMHA charity Golf Tournament, (for Donna's Kids), where proceeds go to young athletes who can't otherwise afford to play hockey.
6. He supports our Referee Association in numerous ways at meetings and in the dressing room, and is a true inspiration, earning the respect of players, coaches, conveners, and of his fellow officials. He has become a true role model to our Association.
7. He attends all our meetings and participates in a positive manner.

This is a summary from the Referee perspective, but what makes him more remarkable is his volunteering unselfishly and passionately as a coach and mentor with our Ice Pirates program, a special needs hockey initiative that provides children and adults with developmental challenges, the opportunity to play our national sport.

Despite his notable accomplishments, he is a man of humility. He brings the best out of the players he coaches and his fellow officials, and the example he sets is an inspiration to everyone who works with him. Simply stated, whenever it's all on the line, he's the guy to call upon.

On behalf of the Alliance, Kitchener Minor Hockey and all of the kids he has impacted, I would like to congratulate Brett Steele on receiving the prestigious Award of Merit for 2017.