

Ian Dunn – 2016-17 Alliance Hockey Referee of the Year
Presented by Chris Perkins

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Bluewater Referee's Association, the Sarnia Hockey Association and the Sarnia-area Referee supervisors to introduce to you our nominee and recipient of the 2016-17 Referee of the Year Award: Mr. Ian Dunn.

Ian began his career as an Alliance Hockey referee in 1996 and other than a brief hiatus to attend university has been an active official in the Sarnia area since this time.

As an official, Ian has the respect of his peers and is known within the Sarnia area to be competent, fair and respectful. There is not a local referee who hesitates when assigned to work a game with Ian. Ian is open to coaching and I know he works hard to improve as an official each time he takes to the ice.

Ian has accomplished something that is very challenging for referees in the Sarnia area – he has earned the respect of the local coaches. They know when he is working a game they will receive impartial officiating – there are no hometown type calls in Ian's games.

Ian's skills as an official have prepared him to work higher levels of hockey however, he has chosen to direct his time and energy into something more important: Growing the house league officiating program in the Sarnia area.

An opportunity to become involved with the Sarnia Hockey Association presented itself to Ian in September 2013.

At that time, he took on the challenging position of House League Referee Director and Assignor.

Ian has not only revitalized the program but has expanded upon it.

As a board member of the Sarnia Hockey Association, Ian is well respected and his commitment to improving the game of hockey through refereeing and the development of officials is evident.

Working with the local referee supervisors, Ian developed a rating system for the house-league officials to ensure the stronger ones are paired with those who need a bit more time to develop their skills.

Through his use of an online system, he has permitted local supervisors to know the officials who are working games each weekend helping ensure every official receives coaching throughout the season.

Ian has been successful in resurrecting the 3-official system at the bantam house league level in Sarnia.

This has been invaluable to the local supervisors as a means for identifying officials who show talent and to provide an opportunity for these officials to gain valuable experience as the referee in the 3-official system.

Ian has more recently established a timekeeper program whereby younger officials are assigned to travel games to work the score clock and keep the game sheet as a means of increasing their involvement in the game, gaining experience as off-ice officials, and providing a valuable service for the Sarnia Hockey Association.

All this in only 4 years!

Please join me in recognizing the effort and achievement of our Referee of the Year; Ian Dunn.