**Presidents Report - April 2023**

My name is Mike Edgar, and I am the President of the Petrolia Minor Hockey Association.

Welcome to our Board Members, Volunteers, Coaches and families.

Thanks as well to Bryan Boyle for facilitating our PMHA AGM again. Bryan has been doing these for us for over 10 years now and he brings a high level of organization and professionalism to our meetings.

I am very proud of our organization for providing our kids and families a great minor hockey experience and an opportunity to learn many life skills that they will take forward. PMHA has a strong reputation and history that we want to protect, as well as learning, growing and adjusting to ensure we change with the times.

As you may or may not know the Board is declared, as no additional nominations were received.  Thank you all for letting your names stand for the upcoming season. I also want to thank Brian Vanderburgt for his time on the board as he is ending his term. Brian is the only director leaving the board this year.

We do have 3 positions to fill this year, two 2-year terms and one 1-year term. Please reach out if you are interested in joining the board. Tyler Scott will be moving into Brians’ role while supporting our new registrar. The other open roles are Director of Fundraising and Concussion Protocol/COVID Coordinator.

There are challenges with the OMHA reclassification, Inflation, increased ice and referee fees, and the loss of gate fees. We have had multiple volunteers bail from bingo duty which has put us in a poor position with the OLG charities group. These bingos can net us around $10K per year if we comply with the schedule so we need a better commitment on that front from our volunteers to secure that income.

We have tried hard to hold the line on registration with 2022 being the first increase in over 6 years. There will be a slight increase again this year as we need to cover our operational costs for the upcoming season. David will run through the financials at the AGM and they are available for you to review. We also have plans for a fundraising director position which will be separate from Amy’s work with volunteers so we can put a large focus on newer and more varied possibilities for fundraising.

On the flip side we have many positives to focus on within PMHA. Some of our teams had very successful seasons, winning many games, some tournaments and a Silver Stick Regional title for the U18 C team. They also won a follow-up April tournament with other regional winners and finalists. Thanks to Ryan Stokes and Doug Kuipers for spearheading it and the families that volunteered to help. We had success at U9, U11, U13 and U18 and even the teams who struggled under the new reclassification showed positive signs against some of the C Centre rep teams. It may not be perfect, but we will continue to do the best we can. I feel players can gain lessons to take forward in life whether they win or lose and that is not the be all and end all of what we are doing.

I would like to point out some of the behind-the-scenes work done to try and gain more ice time and better develop our players. Rob Wilson went out of the box scheduling multiple Max Ice practices as well as shared practices between 2 teams. Dan Wellington put a focus on creating additional ice time for players by testing out Sunshine Skates. They are early, but we had a decent response so expect to see them again next year. Thanks to Chris Edgar, Dan Veenema and the high school hockey players that helped run these skates. Mike Nesdoly has been reviewing the data on this and he will speak to the percentage and time increases seen by PMHA players based on these changes. This will also be available on the website.

An organization does not function without the engagement, support and effort of many people. We have expectations of everyone involved with PMHA and we always want to carry ourselves at a high level to keep our reputation strong. I would like to thank the following groups for doing this:

**Our Players** – Whether it was your first career game or your last game with Petrolia Minor Hockey, you played the game with enthusiasm, excitement and determination. You exhibit the “play hard but fair” mentality that Oilers hockey was built on and make us proud win, lose or draw.

**Our Executive** – You all work very hard to ensure that our kids can play hockey in a safe environment and gain opportunities to learn and grow. We are developing hockey players but more importantly, good people.

**Our Team Staff** – Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Managers and Parent Reps volunteer their time to coach and mentor our kids. This is a huge responsibility and can have a large impact on an individual’s life. Our Association is very lucky to have such a dedicated group of individuals.

**Our Referees** – Without you, our games would not be played. It can be a thankless job and we have shortages based on how poorly refs are treated. PMHA had no games impacted by this shortage in the area, which is testament to the great collaboration between PMHA and Bluewater referees that is run by Rob Wilson and the quality refs we have in the area. Thank you for your dedication.

**Our Volunteers** – This group is the heart of PMHA. We could not function without the support of our volunteers be it coaching, sitting on the board, working Silver Stick, timekeeping, running bingos or running the clock. This has always been a strength of PMHA and we thank you for your commitment. Many hands make lighter work.

**Our Town** – On behalf of PMHA I would like to thank the Town of Petrolia for all they do. We value the strong relationship and appreciate the efforts of the staff.

**Our Families** – I wanted to personally thank you for all you do. It was great to have the cheering sections in the rink for our Oilers this year and without your support these kids would not be gaining all the benefits that team sports can give.

Thank you,

Mike Edgar

PMHA President