



OMHA TEAMS SKATE INTO MOST MEMORABLE TIME OF YEAR

225 local minor hockey associations in 28 leagues to start Play-downs beginning this month

RICHMOND HILL, ON (January 10, 2018) – More than 31,000 minor hockey players competing on 6,750 teams will begin competing in Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) Playdowns starting in January, running through to March, representing the most active provincial hockey initiative in Canada every year.

Teams from across the province will be challenging for 87 championships, all represented under OMHA stewardship.

“Hockey plays a critical role in building stronger, healthier communities. We understand the values instilled through hockey help build lifelong relationships, character, self-esteem and good citizens,” says Ian Taylor, Executive Director at the OMHA. “This time of year is a culmination of the commitment, dedication, and perseverance shown from all of our member associations.”

Thousands of association members will be active in the province-wide Playdowns, including:

- 13,400 coaches and assistants
- 9,000 trainers and support staff
- 5,000 on-ice officials

More than 48,000 rep games are played through OMHA leagues each year, while one in five Hockey Canada players are represented through the OMHA. However, even with 9,500 new players registering in 2017, there is still an ongoing desire to attract participants and deliver the benefits of the sport to an even greater number of youth, explains Taylor.

“Expanding the reach of the game is one of the main focuses of our grassroots initiatives. There are many programs that exist to try to alleviate some of the concerns that may exist from those who are new to hockey,” he says. “We continue to look at ways of growing the game to appeal to young families that are not currently involved, especially now that they have more options for recreational activities than ever before.”

ABOUT THE OMHA

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association, founded in 1935, is a leader in community sport and oversees a participant base of 300,000 consisting of players, coaches, trainers, officials, hockey volunteers and parents across the province. The OMHA works with its 225 local minor hockey associations and annually coordinates 28 leagues to create the best minor hockey experience in Canada. For more information, visit <http://www.omha.net/Playdowns2018>

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OPP Report from January 10, 2018: **Concerned Citizens Report Impaired Driver in Bridgenorth**

Driver More than Three and a Half Times the Legal Limit

Members of the Peterborough County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were called to assist with a possible impaired driver in Bridgenorth yesterday afternoon shortly before 3:30pm.

The 54 year-old male driver, from Selwyn, Ontario was stopped and found to be extremely intoxicated. Breath tests revealed the male’s blood alcohol concentration was nearly three and a half times the legal limit. Charges for the driver include: Impaired driving and Driving with more than 80mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood.

The Peterborough County OPP reminds motorists to plan ahead when consuming alcohol use a designated driver, utilize a cab, public transit or stay overnight. Any amount of alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to make sound judgements.

Peterborough County OPP values your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please visit Crime Stoppers at: www.stopcrimehere.ca or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

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