

## President's Report

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2023-24 Annual General Meeting • May 27, 2024

The 2023-24 season was a year of growth, both on and off the ice. The Barrie Women's Hockey Association saw our registration numbers grow, at almost every level – and for the first time we've grown past the levels seen prior to the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020.

Work this year included a several initiatives to strengthen and grow the Barrie Women's Hockey Association on behalf of our members. Some highlights of these initiatives include:

- A newly expanded Adult Women's House League that included both recreation and advanced divisions.
- An exciting new partnership with Georgian College to provide more hockey opportunities for their student athletes.
- Record combined participation in our Sharkfest and Family Day Winter Classic tournaments, resulting in the highest net profit seen from these events.
- A new High-Performance Program to provide expanded development opportunities to our highest skill level players.
- Another exciting sold-out year of the First Shift program, which provides an important opportunity for new players to experience hockey.

In addition to all of these items, the success of the Barrie Jr. Sharks stands out as remarkable. This year's U22-AA team finished with an astonishing number of records and firsts for the BWA, including a record of 25 wins, 16 loses and 2 ties following the U22 Elite regular season and a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish – both the best ever for a Barrie Jr. Sharks Team. The team went on to play in the Bronze Medal Final at the U22 Elite League Championship Weekend – the first appearance in a medal game for a Jr. Sharks Team. And the team ended the 2023-24 season by winning the Bronze Medal at the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Provincial Championships – the BWA's first ever medal at this level. Congratulations to the players, coaches and staff of the 2023-24 Barrie Jr. Sharks on a remarkable season!

In addition to all of the exciting ways we improved our on-ice programs this year, the BWA also did some important behind the scenes work to strength our association's foundations and ensure we are in a strong position for years to come:

- In December of 2023 the BWA moved into a new office location on Welham Road, after 12-years at our former location on Saunders Road. The new location provides the BWA with additional space to be able to offer new and expanded programs to our members and teams. The Association and our operations are settling in, with further improvements to come this summer.
- The Board of Director made significant updates to the BWA's Policies and Procedures. In many cases these updates were important to ensure our Policies and Procedures match the long-standing practices of the association, and to eliminate long outdated language that no longer reflected our programs. We also introduced new policies to better define the tryout process, including an outside player selection policy drafted to strike a better balance between promoting the advancement of our members, while continuing to provide opportunities for capable players from communities within Central Ontario to play high-level hockey.

- Led by our Secretary, the BWAHA made important updates to our bylaws and articles of incorporation to ensure compliance with the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) which will begin to be enforced by the end of 2024.

Once again, this hockey season, we were fortunate to have hundreds of volunteers to support the teams and programs that our players participate in. Hockey doesn't happen without volunteers, and I can't express enough appreciation for what they do. Paying a registration fee alone doesn't make hockey possible – every practice, meeting, training session, game, tournament – every rewarding moment our participants experience is only possible because it was created by volunteers. On behalf of all of our members I want to thank all of our volunteers for your continued dedication.