



***2023-2025
Annual Report***

October 23, 2025

Contents

President's Address	4
Board of Directors 2023-2024 Season	6
Board of Directors 2024-2025 Season	6
Treasurer's Report.....	7
Markham Minor Hockey Association (House League/AA/A/BB/MD)	7
Markham Waxers AAA Zone	8
House League Report	8
Registration Summary	8
Volunteers	8
VP/GM Senior Representative Report	9
2023-2024 Season	9
Achievements	9
Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year	9
2024-2025 Season	9
Achievements	9
Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year	9
VP/GM Junior Representative Report	9
2023-2024 Season	9
Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year	10
2024-2025 Season	10
Achievements	10
Paul Giallonardo Coaches of the Year	10
VP/GM AAA Zone Report.....	10
2023-2024 Season	10
2024-2025 Season	10
Hockey Development Report	11
Highlights of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Seasons	11
Coach Mentorship Program	11

Coach Seminars.....	11
Coach Mentors.....	12
Player Development Program	12
Plans for 2025-2026 Season	12
Long-Term Hockey Development Program Goals.....	12
Head Trainer Report	13
2023-2024 Season	13
2024-2025 Season	13
Referee-in-Chief Report	14
2023-2024 Season	14
2024-2025 Season	14
Ice Scheduler Report	14
Ice Allocation.....	14
Playoff Format	15
Waxers Organization and Team Websites	15
Waxers Awards.....	16
2023-2024 Award Winners.....	16
Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year Award.....	16
Neil Bullock Scholarship	16
Ruff-n-Redi Team Community Service Award	16
Julianna Kozis Perseverance Award	16
2024-2025 Winners	16
Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year.....	16
Neil Bullock Scholarship Winners	17
Ruff-n-Redi Team Community Service Award	17
Scott Badali Volunteer of the Year Award	17

President's Address

Submitted by George Schnarr

This AGM meeting covers the last two hockey seasons (2023-2024 and 2024-2025) based on the timing required to change accounting firms from Lott and Company Accountants to Schwartz Professional Corporation. This is now completed, and we will be moving back to the yearly AGM as of the fall of 2026.

Across Canada, the sport of ice hockey has been through challenging times with declining participation, new rules around early age development, and “unsanctioned” hockey growing in popularity. On behalf of the entire Waxer organization, I’m pleased to report that together we are meeting these challenges head on, and we continue to invest in the future of hockey within our region of the OMHA.

A significant part of this investment began with the Growing the Game/First Shift programming that started in the 2022-23 season under the direction and support of Rich Brewda, Al Nixon, and Errol Misquitta. This initiative to get new families interested in trying hockey has grown in the last two years and we’ve offered financial incentives to then bring these kids into our Waxers house league programming. The cost is more of an investment in the future of our hockey club at a time when some programs surrounding us are shrinking and a few have stopped operating altogether.

Another investment revolves around the increased efforts required in managing the business side of our hockey club while finding new volunteers remains a challenge given the demands most sporting families already face. To this end, we brought on Allyson Gaunce-Garnett in 2024 as additional support to assist and back up Deb Larsen in managing the administration of supporting over 1,100 participants plus over 200 coaches, managers, and other volunteers.

Financially speaking, we are fortunate to be able to afford these investments but will continue to ensure we understand how many players we can retain in the longer term to justify the funds allocated to “Growing the Game.”

As some of you may know, over the last two hockey seasons we unfortunately lost two long-time Waxer coaches and volunteers to cancer—Paul Giallonardo and Scott Badali. To honour these two dedicated and well-respected young men, the Waxers organization named the Coach of the Year award in Paul’s honour and, in Scott’s honour, we created a new Volunteer of the Year award. Further details are presented later in this report.

Lastly, I personally want to thank our dedicated group of staff and volunteers who, despite the many challenges, keep doing the time-consuming work each week to make

the Waxers Hockey Club an important and growing part of our community here in Markham and the surrounding area!

Board of Directors 2023-2024 Season

Markham Minor Hockey Association

Position	Term	Current Occupant	Elected (E) / Appointed	Term Expires
Past President	Immediate	Neil Bullock	N/A	N/A
President	One two-year	George	4/1/2023 (E)	2025
Vice President General Manager of House	One two-year	Darren Mori	4/1/2024 (A)	2026
Vice President/General Manager of Senior	One two-year	Mike	4/1/2024 (A)	2026
Vice President/General Manager of Junior	One two-year	Ryan Lawrie	4/1/2023 (E)	2025
Secretary / Treasurer	One two-year	Annie Lee	4/1/2024 (A)	2026

Markham Waxers AAA Zone Inc.

Position	Term	Current Occupant	Elected (E) / Appointed	Term Expires
Past President	Immediate	Neil Bullock	N/A	N/A
President	One two-year	George	4/1/2024 (A)	2026
Vice President	One two-year	Stephen	4/1/2023 (E)	2025
Secretary / Treasurer	One two-year	Annie Lee	4/1/2024 (A)	2026

Board of Directors 2024-2025 Season

Markham Minor Hockey Association

Position	Term	Current Occupant	Elected (E) / Appointed	Term Expires
Past President	Immediate	Neil Bullock	N/A	N/A
President	One two-year	George	4/1/2023 (E)	2025
Vice President General Manager of House	One two-year	Vacant		
Vice President/General Manager of Senior	One two-year	Mike	4/1/2024 (A)	2026
Vice President/General Manager of Junior	One two-year	Ryan Lawrie	4/1/2023 (E)	2025
Secretary / Treasurer	One two-year	Annie Lee	4/1/2024 (A)	2026

Markham Waxers AAA Zone Inc.

Position	Term	Current Occupant	Elected (E) / Appointed	Term Expires
Past President	Immediate	Neil Bullock	N/A	N/A
President	One two-year	George	4/1/2024 (A)	2026
Vice President	One two-year	Stephen	4/1/2023 (E)	2025
Secretary / Treasurer	One two-year	Annie Lee	4/1/2024 (A)	2026

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Annie Lee

We engaged the services of Schwartz and Company, Professional Corporation - Chartered Professional Accountants to provide financial statements for the organization.

Effective April 1, 2023, the association realigned its accounting policy. In previous years, we reported all of rep hockey (BB/MD through AAA) in one account and house league in a separate account. We will now present financial statements that reflect our corporate structure: Markham Minor Hockey Association, which includes house league and rep from BB/MD to AA, and Markham Waxers AAA Zone, which includes only AAA.

As an association – Markham Minor Hockey Association (Rep and House League) and Markham Waxers AAA Zone – we paid the administrator, ice scheduler, director of hockey development, coach mentors, and chief referee fees of \$140,624.42. Payments to the administrators and ice scheduler are allocated by percentage of teams in each: house league, rep and AAA Zone. Payments to the director of hockey development and coach mentors are covered in rep team assessment fees.

Markham Minor Hockey Association (House League/AA/A/BB/MD)

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Revenue	\$1,649,607	\$1,597,624
Expenditures	\$1,776,623	\$1,672,309
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures	(\$127,016)	(\$74,685)

As of March 31, 2025, the Markham Minor Hockey Association net assets balance was \$212,225. This balance includes only the historical house league portion of assets accumulated up to March 31, 2023.

Revenue increased slightly due to an increase in registrations partly attributable to the 'Growing the Game' initiative. Association increased expenses to fund First Shift programs and a collaboration with the City of Markham's 'Learn to Play Program'.

To keep hockey affordable, registration fees remained unchanged even with expected ice cost increases.

Expenses increased primarily due to a 7.1% increase in the hourly rate for ice at City of Markham rinks, Canlan Ice Sports, and Richmond Hill rinks combined.

Rates for timekeepers and referees were increased to align with minimum wages increase as of October 1, 2024.

Ice expense was up due to three fewer teams year over year.

Markham Waxers AAA Zone

	2024-2025	2023-2024
Revenue	\$435,238	\$398,474
Expenditures	\$422,421	\$341,778
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures	\$12,817	\$56,696

As of March 31, 2025, the Markham Waxers AAA Zone's Net Assets balance is \$479,472. This balance includes the historical rep portion (AA, A, BB, MD) of assets accumulated up to March 31, 2023.

Due to the anticipated increase in the City of Markham's ice rate, assessment fees were raised \$2,500 per team (approximately \$147/player).

Expenses increases were due primarily to a 7.1% increase in the cost of City of Markham ice and Richmond Hill ice.

House League Report

Submitted by Deb Larsen

Registration Summary

Division	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
U21	113	100	96
U15	62	86	92
U13	95	93	92
U11	90	97	96
U9	66	61	71
U8	74	60	46
U7	80	107	77
Total Players	580	604	570
Volunteers	168	121	150

Volunteers

We are a volunteer organization. The dedication and the countless hours our volunteers contribute annually are what allow the Markham Waxers House League to offer the programs that we do. Thank you to the men and women who volunteered as coaches, trainers, and on-ice volunteers. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated people take on these important roles. Their dedication and devotion to creating a fun and safe environment for our children is appreciated.

VP/GM Senior Representative Report

Submitted by Mike Matthews

2023-2024 Season

Fourteen teams were fielded in the U14 through U18 age groups: three teams at AA, two at A, and nine at BB. The non-contact BB program continues to be very popular in the U14-U18 age groups. As past champions, the U18 AA team hosted the OHF Championships but were unable to repeat as champs.

Achievements

York Simcoe Champions: U18AA, U18BB3

York Simcoe Finalists: U18BB1, U16BB1

Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year

Kevin Sally, U14 AA

Mark Swailes, U18 BB1

2024-2025 Season

Thirteen teams were fielded for the U14 through U18 age groups: three teams at AA, three at A, and seven at BB. The non-contact BB program continued to be very popular in the U14-U18 age groups.

The U18 age group experienced great success with the AA, A and BB1 teams all winning the York Simcoe Championships. The A and BB1 teams eventually finished as OMHA finalists.

Achievements

York Simcoe Champions: U18 AA, U18 A, U18 BB1

York Simcoe Finalists: U15AA, U14 BB

OMHA Finalists: U18A, U18BB1, U14 BB

YS President's Cup Champions: U16 BB2

YS President's Cup Finalists: U16 BB1, U14 A

Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year

Chris Bahen, U18 BB1

VP/GM Junior Representative Report

Submitted by Ryan Lawrie

2023-2024 Season

Twelve teams were fielded for the U8 through U13 age groups: four teams at AA, five at A, one at BB, and two at MD.

Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year

Brendan Murray, U11 A

2024-2025 Season

Eleven teams were fielded for the U8 to U13 age groups: four teams at AA, five at A, and two at MD.

Achievements

YS President's Cup Champions: U12AA

Paul Giallonardo Coaches of the Year

Jeremy Chitiz U12AA

Rich Brewda U11A

VP/GM AAA Zone Report

Submitted by Stephen Gaunce

The AAA Zone fielded a full slate of teams from the U10 through U18. Lake Ontario Freedom of Movement rules continued to be in place for our U10, U14, U15, and U16 teams. Our teams play by different 'residency' rules in the OMHA AAA League. We continue to put forward motions at the OMHA AGM to put all teams on the same footing.

2023-2024 Season

The Waxers had three teams who went to their respective OMHA Championship weekends:

- U12, coached by Raffi Torres, went to the semi finals
- U13, coached by Mike Gellard, went to the semis
- U18, coached by Dan Daoust and Dave Turner, won OMHA Gold medal

The U18 team then went on to win the Central Canadian U18 Championship held in Sault Ste. Marie and then represented our area at the Telus Cup Canadian championship for U18 AAA. The event was held in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The team made it all the way to the Semi-finals!! What a year for the players, coaching staff and families.

Winners of the Paul Giallonardo AAA Coach of the Year were Dan Daoust and Dave Turner, U18.

We would like to thank all the players, families, and coaches for their dedication and support throughout the season. To all those graduating players, good luck with all future endeavors.

2024-2025 Season

The Waxers had three teams who went to their respective OMHA Championship weekends:

- U10, coached by Mike Angelidis, went to the semi finals
- U13, coached by Raffi Torres, went to the semis
- U18, coached by Dan Daoust and Dave Turner, won OMHA Gold medal

The U18 team then went on to represent the OMHA at the Central Canadian U18 Championship held in Kemptville. The team made it all the way to the Semi-finals! What a special accomplishment for the players, coaching staff and families.

The winner of the Paul Giallonardo AAA Coach of the Year was U10 coach Mike Angelidis.

We would like to thank all the players, families, and coaches for their dedication and support throughout the season. To all those graduating players, good luck with all future endeavors.

Hockey Development Report

Submitted by Michael Gouglas

The Hockey Development Program (HDP) operates and encompasses the Coach Mentorship Program and the Player Development Program. The mission of the HDP is to provide the support and resources necessary to aid in the successful development and continued learning of all of our coaches and players as members of the Markham Minor Hockey Association. The HDP runs under the direction of the HDP director, Michael Gouglas, appointed by the Markham Waxers Executive. The director oversees all aspects related to the program and communicates these operations to the Executive. The HDP consists of coach mentors, instructors, and volunteers.

The HDP works in partnership with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and Hockey Canada. Whenever possible, the HDP uses resources and programs available through these governing bodies executing them at the local level.

Highlights of the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Seasons

- Players and Goalie Clinics were held in April, Fall and Winter.
- Development Skates were held prior to the evaluations for the appropriate age groups.

Coach Mentorship Program

Coach Seminars

The Hockey Development program presented one coach seminar. In September, Terry Brown (Trenton) and Jason Hertner presented a seminar for all our house league coaches. This included an on-ice and off-ice session. It was well attended, and each coach received a drill package to take home.

Coach Mentors

All coaches within Markham Waxers hockey had access to a designated coach mentor who was able to provide the skills, knowledge, and support required to help them improve their coaching performance. The goal of the Coach Mentorship Program is to strengthen our coaching body and foster an improved level of camaraderie between all the coaches within the Waxers organization.

2023-2024 Coach Mentors

- Ted Baker
- Phil Kestin
- Dan Daoust
- Rob Binetti
- Chris Bahen

2024-2025 Coach Mentors

- Ted Baker
- Jamie Bruno
- Dan Daoust
- Rob Binetti
- Chris Bahen

Player Development Program

The Player Development Program continues to expand. This year we successfully combined both the Rep and House League skill clinics to take advantage of our talented team of on-ice instructors. Moving forward this program will continue to improve and provide our players and parents an opportunity for additional skill instruction unmatched by many other associations.

Plans for 2025-2026 Season

- Work closely with the OMHA/Hockey Canada in preparation for any new programs and accreditations being rolled out presently or in the near future.
- Combine the house league hockey development team with the rep program.
- Schedule coach seminars throughout the season.
- Continue to recruit new junior instructors and mentor them.
- Ensure all coaches gain certification status for the upcoming hockey season.
- Look for ways to offer coaches professional development opportunities under the new certification and training process.

Long-Term Hockey Development Program Goals

- Continue to recruit high-calibre individuals who are committed to contributing to the success of minor hockey in Markham.
- Realize better player and coach retention throughout the association.
- Continue to promote Markham Waxers hockey as one of the premier destinations for young, talented players and coaches.

Head Trainer Report

Submitted by Barb Matthews

The Markham Waxers organization requires team trainers to inform the head trainer when a player was removed from play with a suspected injury or concussion. Once reported, guidance was provided regarding the proper return to play protocols.

2023-2024 Season

The Markham Waxers organization continued to use the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (HB) concussion program. Our policies and procedures were reviewed by Rashan Edwards (OT for Concussion program) to ensure they reflect updated research regarding concussion and any further recommendations in accordance with 'Rowans Law.'

Annual education took place for team trainers' this season. The cost for these services for the 2023-2024 season was \$4,500 (+GST).

Players who suffer a concussion during the year have access to the Holland Bloorview's early concussion care program with the fees being billed to and covered by the Waxers organization. The cost of treatment varies depending on the player's needs but is approximately \$200-375.

A total of 50 injuries were reported to the head trainer this 2023-2024 season.

2024-2025 Season

Markham Waxers' Concussion Policy was updated. Protocols are based on the template provided by the Parachute Canada Website. All bench staff signed the Preseason Concussion Education Sheet, made available from Parachute Canada website, as proof that they had reviewed and understood the Markham Waxers' concussion policies and protocols which are in accordance with 'Rowans Law.'

John Sage, from Apple Creek Sports Medicine Centre, presented a session over Zoom, to help educate our bench staff on concussion management. A recording of this session was posted on our website for future reference and for those who could not attend.

A total of 24 injuries were reported to the Head Trainer this 2024-2025 season.

Referee-in-Chief Report

Submitted by Jerry Brens

2023-2024 Season

We hosted an OMHA Entry Level Clinic at Markham Village with 25 new Markham officials in attendance. Chris Webb and some of our senior officials held a camp for linesmen.

This was the season that the AAA Zone was adjusted bringing Richmond Hill residents into Markham AAA Zone.

2024-2025 Season

Markham and Richmond Hill began using Horizon Ref-Web for assigning of referees and timekeepers. This allowed the two centers to work closer together assigning officials. A mentoring system for our new officials was created and led by Chris Webb and a couple of senior officials.

A *Back-to-Basics* camp was open to all officials and mandatory for new and one-year officials.

Ice Scheduler Report

Submitted by Joe Quercia

Ice Allocation

The Waxers used a total of 180.5 hours of ice per week for the following:

- House league practices and games
- Rep (AAA, AA, A, BB and MD) practices and games
- Select program
- Minor Development program
- Development clinics

Additional ice at CanLan Ice Sports in Scarborough was purchased and used as practice ice for teams.

The team ice allocation was balanced prior to the season to address all team requests and to allow the participation of AP players with their affiliated teams. During the year ice was made available to teams for extra practice or to replace a lost practice due to playoffs.

Evaluation ice booked for 2024-2025 season was a success. Evaluations were held at Angus Glen with a few select evaluations at Milliken Mills

Playoff Format

As each season progresses, ice schedulers and representatives from other associations continue discussions with playoff formats to adjust any issues that may arise with the approval of the York Simcoe Minor Hockey League (YSMHL) and Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA). The OMHA advised that all 2024-2025 teams will play in the OMHA playoffs regardless of the standings from the season. This will give each team to participate in the OMHAs.

Meetings are held with ice schedulers to review and provide recommendations to adjust the playoff format as required. Playoff format is not available on the YSMHL website.

Thank you to all the teams for another great season and looking forward in assisting all the coaches, managers, and new staff member's next season.

Waxers Organization and Team Websites

The Waxers continue to provide an integrated club website. The website hosts each team's individual site that provides all team information. The organization website is the main location to review upcoming and new events that take place within the organization. As ice scheduler for the Waxers, the major benefit of the website is the integration of all schedule changes that occur from TheOneDB, which is linked to other associations. Ice schedulers can see each other's schedule and assist each other when rescheduling home and away games.

Here are a few of the most important features of the website.

- Fully integrated team websites
- Web-based site maintenance that can be shared amongst authorized people in our association.
- Fully integrated scheduling by our ice scheduler
- Automatic email and/or text message notification with schedule changes, game results, and more
- Social network integration such as auto-tweeting news articles to Twitter™
- Password-protection of pages managed by the team webmasters.
- Automatic archiving of previous seasons
 - Mobile and tablet access is now available for team managers to manage and update their team website.
 - Parents with VIEW access only can see their team schedules and receive updates when changes occur.
- NEW: Sportsheadz has developed an APP for IOS and Android that will allow teams to sign up for real time updates and schedules.
- Sportsheadz continues to enhance the functionality of the website to ensure all teams are up to date with details and managing their own team website.

Waxers Awards

Submitted by Deb Larsen

2023-2024 Award Winners

Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year Award

At the 2023-2024 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the Waxers announced that the Waxers Coach of the Year award would be named the Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year award. This award is given to an outstanding coach in each rep category (AAA, AA, A, BB/MD) and every house league division (U7 – U21).

Paul was a longtime coach and hockey development instructor with the Waxers. He bravely battled cancer but passed away December 10, 2023, at the age of 39.

We are proud to say that Paul was a rostered Waxers coach for over 12 years. His teams won OMHA championships, tournaments, and represented the OMHA at OHF Championships. He had been selected as the Waxers AAA Coach of the Year three times.

Paul was part of our Hockey Development leadership group since its beginnings in 2013. He worked with players of all skill levels and at all age levels. Paul was a great resource for other coaches and willingly assisted other Waxers teams.

We miss him dearly. Paul's dad, Mario, attended our awards night and presented the awards to the 2023-2024 recipients:

BB/MD	Mark Swailes, U18 BB
A	Brendan Murray, U11 A
AA	Kevin Sally, U14 AA
AAA	Dan Daoust and Dave Turner, U18 AAA

Neil Bullock Scholarship

Nicholas Chipun

Ruff-n-Redi Team Community Service Award

U13 AA under head coach Bobby Berkenblit

Julianna Kozis Perseverance Award

William Switzer

Zeidan Somani

2024-2025 Winners

Paul Giallonardo Coach of the Year

BB/MD	Mario Ilari
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A	Bobby Berkenblit
AA	Kim Rasmussen
AAA	Dan Daoust

Neil Bullock Scholarship Winners

Rep: Talan Ware

House League: Ethan Lovell

Ruff-n-Redi Team Community Service Award

U12 A under head coach Brendan Murray

Scott Badali Volunteer of the Year Award

At the 2025 Players' Banquet, the Markham Waxers Hockey organization were pleased to present the inaugural Scott Badali Volunteer of the Year award. This award along with a \$500 prize will be awarded annually to an outstanding, young volunteer currently playing on a Waxers team, in both rep and house league.

Scott was a longtime coach and hockey development instructor who bravely fought a battle with melanoma, but passed away on December 14, 2024, one month before his 40th birthday.

We are proud to say that Scott was a rostered Waxers coach and trainer for over eight years. Scott was a part of our Hockey Development leadership group since it began over ten years ago. He worked with players of all skill levels and at all age levels at both the house league and rep levels.

Scotty loved the blue and white of the Markham Waxers almost as much as he loved his Toronto Maple Leafs. He never hesitated to donate his time and energy for whatever Waxers cause needed him and positive attitude and love of the game infected all those who were lucky enough to interact with him.

We miss him very much.

We were pleased to have Scott's wife Erin and his son Brook, along with his brother Andrew with us to present the award.

The winners of the inaugural Scott Badali Volunteer of the Year award are Joshua Lam (house league) and Colin To (rep).