

President's Report 2015 16

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Richmond Minor Hockey Association, I want to thank you for coming to our 2016 Awards Night and Annual General Meeting.

I also want to thank the wonderful team of volunteers who made a tremendous difference to our organization this past season.

I want to thank our Board Members who bring enthusiasm, wisdom and commitment to their volunteer work. I am proud and honored to work alongside you, to learn from you, to problem solve with you and to celebrate with you. I think every member of our organization should be very happy to know that our Board Members are willing to continue on in their roles. The background knowledge and experience that you will bring to the 2016 17 season will be tremendous for our organization.

I also want to thank the members who take on leadership roles with teams, divisions and tournaments: our outstanding crew of managers, safety people, treasurers, coaches, committee members and chairpersons. We would not exist without you and I find it inspiring to witness the work that you do on behalf of Richmond youth. You are making a difference to our community and especially to Richmond Minor Hockey.

I want to acknowledge the work of volunteers who are working behind the scenes, from organizing special events to arranging for on-ice helpers, applying for grants and enlisting the support of sponsors, your work is making a difference.

And, finally, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of our First Shift volunteers. Nothing has made me prouder to represent Richmond Minor than watching twenty plus volunteer coaches working with ninety new hockey players this Spring. Your smiles and encouragement have been endless as you introduce these children to our sport. Thank you!

Last year, at this time, I wrote that we have many reasons to be optimistic and I am even more so today. At that time, I mentioned that we have a long term commitment from dedicated hockey professionals who are working each and every day to enhance our program. They are not only coaching our players, they mentor our coaches and advise our Board. They are helping us to attract and retain quality coaches to our organization and they deliver outstanding skill development programs. This has been proven by our 2015 16 results in both Presidents League and A league hockey.

I want to speak briefly about the opportunities for collaboration within the City of Richmond. This past season, we held a joint Coach Conference with The Richmond Ravens Female Hockey and we have also met informally with other Richmond youth sports associations. It is my hope that we will continue to seek opportunities to work together in the months and years ahead.

As we look ahead to 2016 17, we are faced with a very exciting challenge: managing growth. This past season, our registration grew by 10% and we are hoping for similar growth in the next twelve months. This is a very exhilarating position to be in and we will spend much of the "off season" preparing and planning for new teams and team officials in our Novice Divisions.

Best wishes for a very enjoyable off season. We look forward to seeing you back at the rink in less than four months,

Carolyn Hart
President, Richmond Minor Hockey Association