

WMHA Volunteer Awards 2022-2023 Season

Volunteers are the pillars of the minor hockey experience and without them the foundation of the game simply wouldn't exist. From administrative staff, to coaches, trainers, team managers, or parent liaisons. The kids within Windsor Minor, and our community wouldn't be fortunate to enjoy the hockey experience if it wasn't for you all. Plus it beats just being a boring hockey parent, who would want that? It is thanks to all of your commitment, time and determination that serves not just your teams, but the Windsor Minor Hockey Association as a whole. When we all look back in 10, 20, 30 years, at the hockey experience we provided our community, especially during the 2 hardest years of our lives, we'll be extremely proud of what we all accomplished together. So please. Raise your glass, and toast with me, to everyone volunteering at Windsor minor hockey. To the volunteers!!

U7 House Coach of the Year - Eric Timm



U9 House Volunteer Award - Laura Chabot



U9 Coach Of The Year Award - Carley Wright



U11 House Volunteer Award - Kevin Riberdy



U11 House Coach Of The Year Award - Randy Marion



U13 House League Volunteer of the Year - Dan Domenicucci



This U13 volunteer has been a long time volunteer for WMHA. He started out coaching travel hockey as a non-parent coach showing his dedication to the love of the game. More recently he has coached his own child, in addition to stepping up to help when another team needs an on-ice helper, direction in practice, and even at our new hockey players program "First Shift". This year he stepped up to coach a team so that we could have a 4th team, and took the Bumble Bees through the year with dedication and focus. This year's U13 volunteer is Dan Domenicucci. He is not able to be here tonight, but we will make sure he receives this award very soon.

U13 House League Most Improved Player - Charlotte Johnston



Charlotte is a hard worker who strives to be better each time she gets on the ice. She has a positive attitude, and respects what the coaches ask of her. She intently listens and tries each task that is asked of her, and throughout the year made great strides improving her skating, stick handling and overall playing. Finally in February this season, she got in position, and scored her first goal! The team and staff cheered like never before! She has earned most improved player for the U13 division this year. Way to go Charlotte!

U13 House League Most Sportsmanlike Player - Callum Muir



Callum Muir is a goalie that works hard to improve each time he steps on the ice. This year as he played for the house league and an additional team, he got plenty of ice to improve his game. He listens to what coaches say, and works diligently on his side to side and up/downs. He tells others good jobs, congratulates the other team on their successes and always supports the team. It is for these reasons, Callum has received the Most Sportsmanlike Player award! Great work, Callum!

U13 House League Most Dedicated Player - Oliver Hayward



Oliver is a long-time goalie who has both shared and stood alone in the goalie position. He is early to the arena, warming up and getting ready for his game. He does what is asked of him, and listens to others for feedback. He is calm and works hard each time he skates out onto the ice - whether he starts the game, or steps in mid-way through. He has continued to be committed to the role of goalie and takes this commitment seriously, rarely missing a practice let alone a game. Well done, Oliver!

U15 House League Volunteer of the year - Michelle Lalonde



This volunteer for U15 has been a staple no matter what team they are on. They have always stepped up to help with any aspect of the start up, team organization, jerseys, or whatever is needed. You can always be greeted with a smile and they treat all the kids on the team like their own kids. They don't like being on the front lines, but do a ton of work behind the scenes that allows teams to function. This year's recipient for volunteering in U15 is Michelle Lalonde.

U15 House League Most Improved Player - Richard Mailloux



Most improved hands down Richard Mailloux from Red team. It is his 1st year playing and he couldn't even skate or stop his legs. He would shake and he was afraid to fall. He ends this season skating and skating hard. He had 2 or 3 assists this year and is a very coachable kid doing whatever he could or whatever he was asked to do. Congrats, Richard!

U15 House League Most Sportsmanlike Player - Nick Freeman



Nick Freeman is a goalie new to our association, but not the role of goalie! He moved this year to a new school, new town and new hockey association to step in when teams were already made. He was moved around and he joined the select team in addition to his house league team. He always was accepting of the feedback, and was very committed to working hard, expecting the best he can be each game. He shared the bench with other goalies, and did so with grace. He also filled in when goalies were absent in the U21 division with new players and coaches once again! Congrats on being most Sportsmanlike! Thanks Nick for stepping up this year!

U15 House League Most Dedicated Player - Riley Guthrie



Juggling a busy schedule including house league hockey, select hockey, competitive basketball and school (plus an occasional call-up to U21 house league hockey at just 13 years old), Riley is a dedicated and reliable performer for his team. He is like an extension of the coaching staff, always reminding his teammates of proper positioning and encouraging them from the bench during games. He's also been willing to play every position on the team - center, both wing spots, and left and right defense - without complaint, to put his teammates in the best position to succeed.

U21 House League Volunteer of the Year - Charlie Durning (Convenor)



This year's volunteer of the year for U21 was one of the most committed volunteers I have seen. He took the time to get to know the kids and other volunteers, and knows his hockey. He has extensive experience with hockey, and truly loves the game. He was unmatched in his dedication to the U21 division, even though he had no child or need to be there - only because he wanted to help out where it was needed. We honestly couldn't do it without him. This year's recipient is our invaluable convenor, Charlie Durning!

**Unfortunately, only days after this event, Charlie passed away in his sleep. We thank him and his family for his immense dedication and excellent example of what a volunteer truly is. Moving forward, the U21 Volunteer Award will now be named, "The Charlie Durning Memorial Award".

U21 House League Most Improved Player - Gabriel Griffore



Gabriel started the season as one of the youngest in the division, moving from U15 to U21. He came out each week, trying his best. He was included with the team, and tried hard to make the passes, get in position and be an active member on the ice. His speed, stick-handling, and confidence improved as the year went on. He was part of the team that went to Day of Champs and one. It is for these reasons that he is this year's Most Improved player. Congrats Gabriel for being a great team player this year!

U21 House League Most Improved Player - Karter Holman



Karter was one of the youngest players moving into the U21 division and a goalie. He stepped in front of many shots from many fast and skilled players. Throughout the year, he built up confidence and skill and led his team to the semifinals and many wins where he stood on his head. He rallied his team to win and supported his teammates in defeat. He gained so much confidence as a young goalie in the division and has earned the title of Most Improved Player. Well done, Karter!

U21 House League Most Sportsmanlike Player - Justin Downes



Justin is a coach's dream. In addition to being a very effective player, he is absolutely zero maintenance and takes instruction very well. Despite being a bit soft spoken by nature, he has taken on a leadership role with his team and is someone his teammates look up to. He rarely if ever takes a penalty and never has a bad word to say about anyone, teammate, opponent or official. Congrats on your award, Justin!

U21 House League Most Dedicated Player - Owen Woytowich



Owen is an experienced goalie who this year did not share the net and was the only goalie for his team. He would step up for any other team he could and fill in when a goalie was not available or sick. He is a hard worker, at the arena every game night, and willing to stand on his head for his team. In the last couple weeks, he played up to 6 games in one week (2 nights of hockey). Thanks for all your time and dedication, Owen!

Knobby Knudsen Award House League - Dave Tramontozzi



This volunteer has been around the arena for many years on a variety of teams, often in the same year! He is dedicated to helping our association, and is always thankful for the efforts of others. He makes a positive impact on the players and teams he is a part of, and strives to make hockey a positive place when kids develop and work together. In addition to helping WMHA, he also volunteers in other organizations requiring a large amount of his time in the “off season” as well. This year many spoke highly of his contributions, rushing from one event to another, often hoping the border guards wouldn’t hold him up from getting to Knox. This year’s recipient is Dave Tramontozzi.

Youth Volunteer of the Year - Noah Treimanis



Noah reached out early on as a player, to ask where he could volunteer his time. He didn’t have to get hours for school, he just wanted to help. He spent his time volunteering with the younger division, with U5, U7 and U9 teams. These kids looked up, way up, to see Noah’s smiling face. This year and last he earned an enormous amount of hours volunteering, encouraging our youngest and newest hockey players. It is for these reasons, he has earned the title of “Youth Volunteer of the Year!” Thanks for all your time and dedication, Noah!

Travel Coach of the Year - Kerry Knight



The travel committee is proud to give the travel coach of the year award to Kerry Knight. Kerry has done an outstanding job this year with a squad that lost a couple top players to other teams. His team continued to improve and was considered one of the hardest teams to play against in Bluewater. Over the past two seasons Kerry has won a tournament, finished as Bluewater runner up, sent his team to the semi's in tournaments and this year they knocked out a tough Kent team in dramatic fashion. In the semi final round, his team fought hard through three games against the team that inevitably played in the OMHA championship game. Kerry always brings dedication, work ethic and knowledge to the teams he coaches. We are happy to present the coach of the year award to Kerry Knight.

**Only days after this event, our longest serving Coach of WMHA, Coach Carl Olender, passed away in his sleep. He represented what it was to volunteer, give of himself, all the while coaching the player and the person. He taught the players that once they were on a team, they were hockey "family". His string activity taught the players that they were tied together, supporting and sticking with each other forever. Moving forward, this award will be called, "The Coach Carl Olender Memorial Award"



Rick Murdoch Award - Rick MacMillan



The Rick Murdoch award is given each year to a volunteer that goes above and beyond their role as a parent or volunteer. Like Rick Murdoch, affectionately known as Murdy and past president of WMHA, this person continues to give of his time beyond his children's teams, beyond his role and steps in wherever needed. This person has stepped in to coach, train many levels of players in addition to being in a large professional role outside of WMHA. This volunteer has been involved for many years as both a parent, board member, and non-parent coach volunteer. This year's recipient is Rick MacMillan!

WMHA Bob Probert Community Award - Central Park Athletics - Leigh Ann and James King



The Bob Probert Community Award is given each year to a business that has greatly contributed to the WMHA association. This year's recipient has gone above and beyond in every opportunity they could, even when it wasn't asked of them. They're caring, compassionate, and they truly love what they do. This is why they've been able to have success after success, and why the Central Park Athletic's has become the premier location for all things sports entertainment. We are proud to be part of their network, we couldn't ask for better landlords. This year's recipients are Leigh Ann and James King from Central Park Athletics.

President's Award - Kipp Van Kuren



The President's Award is given to someone that exceeds any and all expectations of the president, at any one or many jobs performed within Windsor Minor. There were a few choices that stood out immediately. Narrowing it down was next to impossible. However, one person's character and drive stood out. So I have to begin with a small story.

As you may or may not know, I play a ton of video games, and part of that is Call of Duty warzone. I have this one friend online, that pays to win. For those of you who don't know what that means, simply, they buy clothes, suites, or weapons that give you an advantage over people that don't spend money. Well, said person is a total menace online. In the game he hides in spots where no one can see him, and gets very scummy kills. This friend also loves to upload said videos online, to youtube, and here are a few names of them:

Scumbag rat bush camper

Scummy Camper WZ2

Big scummy dub

Solo win for the old guy

And many many more.

He even changed his name in the game to 'scummy bush camper'

The reason I'm telling this story is to show how insane video games can make people. Because outside of the video game, this guy is one of the nicest, the most progressive thinkers, he's been a huge staple in helping change Windsor minor for the better, he's a family man through and through. if you've been to central park on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or even a Saturday or Sunday, then you've probably seen him around, and no I don't think he lives at the rinks, but I'm not sure. He's been the face of the travel program, he's a board member within blue water, and most importantly, he's going to be the next president of Windsor minor hockey. Ladies and gentlemen, my friend, the big scummy bush camper, and recipient of this years president's award: Kipp Van Kuren.