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MJHL COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE 2018-2019



A new Manitoba Junior Hockey League season has arrived – the 99th year of Junior hockey in Manitoba – and everyone associated with the league is full of optimism for another excellent season. From players and coaches to the hundreds of loyal volunteers who provide fuel for the engine of each team a new season brings hope, excitement and vital energy to each community.

The MJHL has enjoyed great success in the form of individual accomplishments such as Steinbach Pistons goaltender, Matthew Thiessen, being drafted by the Vancouver Canucks in June at the 2018 NHL Draft. In March 2018, former Virden Oil Capitals defenseman Zach Whitecloud signed

a NHL contract with the Vegas Golden Knights and played his first NHL game toward the end of the season. These are two shining examples of MJHL players who have developed, excelled and achieved their goals by devoting themselves to their craft while playing in the league. We wish them, and all MJHL players continued good luck. The league has enjoyed good fortune and we look forward to more outstanding accomplishments by our teams and players.

The league office and its member clubs are ever mindful of the privilege we enjoy being able to commit ourselves to the new season of Junior 'A' hockey as it unfolds. Our hearts continue to ache as we remember and honour our hockey family members of the Humboldt Broncos. Words simply cannot adequately convey how we hurt as we reflect on the tragedy of April 6, 2018 and how it affected the families and friends of those who passed away and were injured.

The MJHL, including all those associated with the league will always provide a shoulder to lean on in support of our compatriots in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. We wish all MJHL clubs, all SJHL teams and our extended hockey family across the world a successful and safe 2018-2019 season.







STEINBACH PISTONS LOCAL PRODUCT GULA HAS BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

TEINBA

Darby Gula's hockey journey has kept him close to home. And that's just okay with him. The Steinbach native has spent his entire threeyear junior hockey career with the hometown Pistons, where he enjoyed a 29-point rookie season in 2015-2016, and topped that by scoring 34 points a year later.

Gula broke out in a big way with the Pistons in 2017-2018, setting franchise records for goals (14), assists (47), and points (61) by a defenceman in a single season – all while helping Steinbach to the Turnbull Trophy and ANAVET Cup championships in April and May.

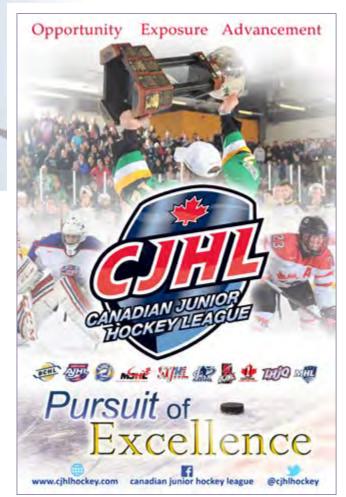


VOLUNTEERS

He also achieved a long-term goal earlier last season as he committed to the Bemidji State University Beavers (WCHA) of NCAA Division I for the 2018-2019 season. "I'm confident that Bemidji State is the right school for me," said Gula. "Playing US College hockey and furthering my education was one of the main goals I set for myself so it feels great to have accomplished that early on."

Gula received the MJHL's Top Defenceman award in 2017-2018, was named to the MJHL First All-Star team, and also received the Top Defenceman award at the RBC Cup in Chilliwack. He will be the first player from Steinbach to play for the Pistons and also play NCAA Division I hockey, which will be an inspiration to local players.

"I wouldn't have wanted to play my junior years anywhere else," he said. "The coaches and management have done such a good job of building a competitive team, while also taking huge strides to develop the program to give our players opportunities to reach the next level."



YEARBOOK 2018-2019

WE



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< Ashton Anderson Neepawa Natives 2017-2018

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Daniel Taillefer Steinbach Pistons 2015-2016

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Mitch Van Teeling Dauphin Kings 2013-2014

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BUSINESS

DAUPHIN KINGS HEAD IN NEW DIRECTION

he Dauphin Kings are sporting a new look this season as the club enters their 51st campaign in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. The team recently decided it was time to rebrand their product and that sees them going down an old road but with a new revamped design.

The Kings will move away from their former Lion in front of a crown logo and change to a new, modern re-design of their vintage crown logo. "We had a lot of good responses to our third jersey last season for our 50th anniversary," says Kings Director of Marketing &

Media Relations Christian Laughland. "We wanted to keep things similar to that logo but adjust things for a new modern look and this is the design we came up with."



Dauphin's colours will change a little along with the logo switch. Now instead of red, white and blue the Kings colours will consist of dark blue and white.

"We're also in the process of a culture change here in Dauphin and looking forward to the next 50 years. We've had a number of compliments on the new logo and hopefully all the positive feedback will turn into positive results on the ice," added Laughland.

www.dauphinkings.com

FROM THE MJHL **TO THE NHL**

Dauphin Kings

Ron Chipperfield Brad Church Butch Goring Darcy Hordichuk Mike Korney Kirby Law Ron Low Jeff McDill Blaine Stoughton Jeff Penner Barry Trotz (NHL coach)

Neepawa Natives

Triston Grant Shane Hnidy Mark Kolesar

OCN Blizzard

Steve McIntyre Jordin Tootoo

Waywayseecappo

Wolverines Cody McLeod Sean Collins

Portage Terriers

Rick Blight Troy Bodie Dan Bonar Junior Lessard Curt Ridley JP Vigier

Selkirk Steelers

Murray Anderson Chuck Arnason Joe Cooper Darren Helm **Gerry Hogue** Dale Krentz Andrew Murray Lyle Phair Jonny Sheppard Alex Shibicky Joe Thorsteinson Nick Wasnie Neil Wilkinson

Waywayseecappo

Wolverines Cody McLeod Sean Collins

Swan Valley Stampeders

Barry Brust Nathan Deobald Justin Falk Chris Levesque **Brodie Dupont**

Winkler Flyers

Eddie Belfour Frank Bialowas Don Gibson

Winnipeg Blues

Tyler Arnason Paul Baxter Lonny Bohonos Brian Engblom Garnet Exelby John Ferguson Jr. Kevin Hodson Sheldon Kennedy Grant Ledyard Duvie Westcott Ryan Garbutt Dale Weise

Winnipeg Saints

Travis Hamonic Mike LeClerc Mike Maneluk Colton Orr Dave Richter **Mike Ridley Russ Romaniuk** Jim Ramsey (NHL Head Trainer)

Brandon Travellers

Ray Allison Laurie Boschman

Kenora Muskies

Charlie Simmer Rick St. Croix

St. James Canadians

Murray Bannerman **Brad Chartrand** James Patrick Steve Patrick Jr. Travis Zajac



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FLYERS' BRODY MOFFATT CARRIES-ON FAMILY HOCKEY TRADITION

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League has many examples where sons follow in the footsteps of their fathers and crack an MJHL roster just like their dad did. That too can be said for third year Winkler Flyers forward, Brody Moffattt, whose father Shane was a member of his home town Portage Terriers back in the 1980s.

"It's pretty special to be able to play in the same league as my dad once did and to be part of a great organization in Winkler," said Moffatt.

Since day one, Moffatt has been a great ambassador for the Winkler Flyers both on and off the ice by volunteering countless hours helping with minor hockey teams, the Winkler Hockey & Breakfast Club, school reading programs and other community events.

"Brody is a hard-working kid who is the first to volunteer for charitable causes," said Ken Pearson, General Manager, Winkler Flyers. "He does whatever is asked of him on and off the ice and he's somebody that youth in the community as well as his own teammates can look up to."

Moffatt, who was a third round pick of the Flyers in the 2014 MJHL Bantam Draft continues to be a leader on the ice, in the dressing room and in the community, and is someone that the Orange and Black as well as the Moffatt family can be proud of. ■

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OIL CAPITALS VETS CROSS & DALKE GEAR UP TO LEAD THE ROOKIES

he 2018-2019 season is the final year of Junior 'A' hockey for Virden Oil Capitals veterans, Tristen Cross and Ben Dalke, and it couldn't be more special for them and the team. Both players have spent three years in the MJHL with the Oil Capitals and it means a lot to them to end their MJHL career in Virden.

or 'A' ho VIRDEN OIL CAPITALS

During the 2017-2018 hockey season, Tristen Cross racked up a total of 38 points (9 goals, 29 assists). This season, Cross is ready to lead and show the younger players what it means to be a true Oil Capital. Hailing from Virden, Cross has been around since the inception of the Oil Capitals. Playing for the team means a lot to him, and the community appreciates having local players to lead their team to victory. "I've always loved playing in Virden," said Cross. "Being my





hometown just amplifies that feeling of pride when I put on the Oil Caps jersey. It's been a dream come true to play here and I've made friendships and memories for life."

Ben Dalke started and finished the 2017-2018 season strong with the Virden Oil Capitals. He racked up a total of 39 points (18 goals, 21 assists). "Coming back as a veteran feels great," states Dalke. "It's nice to come back to a familiar en-

vironment, settle in immediately, and pick up right where you left off. To lead as a veteran is a big responsibility and something I don't take lightly. I've learned all the traits it takes to be a good leader and wish to pass on that experience to the younger players."





YEARBOOK 2018-2019

SWAN VALLEY STAMPEDERS CELEBRATING 20TH SEASON

A s the Swan Valley Stampeders enter the twentieth season in franchise history, looking back you'll find plenty of successes both on and off the ice.

From hometown heroes to a handful of eventual NHL draft picks in their alumni, the Stampeders have been an exciting entertainment option for local hockey fans for years. Residents of the Swan River Valley are proud to support this exciting brand of hockey and are looking forward to the next group of players who will wear the crest.

As a team with one of the smallest drawing areas in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, the Stampeders depend on more than just fan support. Fundraising, corporate sponsorship and community projects all play a huge role in keeping this franchise moving forward.

Many local players have pulled the Stampeders sweater over their head while others, both local and otherwise, have used this proud Junior 'A' franchise as a stepping-stone to furthering their careers. Barry Brust (Minnesota Wild), Ricky Kozak (Philadelphia Flyers), Dalyn Flatt (New York Rangers), Brodie Dupont (New York Rangers) and Justin Falk (Minnesota Wild) all started their junior hockey careers in the Valley before going on to play in the Western Hockey League and then drafted into the National Hockey League.

In addition to the five NHL drafted players above, the Stampeders have also sent countless players on to U.S. College hockey (both Division I and III) along with several members to Canadian University and College programs.

Countless hours are spent in the community by players each season including school visits, minor hockey practices, volunteering at community events and more throughout the Valley.

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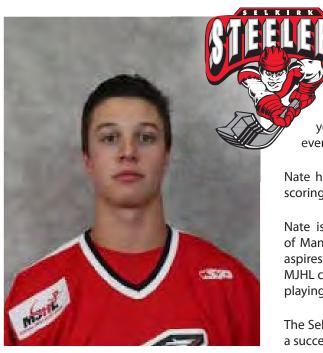
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EXPECTATIONS HIGH FOR SELKIRK STEELERS WINGER NATE HALVORSEN



Nate Halvorsen grew up playing hockey out of Greendell Community Center in the South St. Vital area of Winnipeg. He then continued on to play for the St. Vital Victoria's, Winnipeg Warriors, and the Winnipeg Wild. As a 14-year-old with the Winnipeg Wild, Nate was drafted by the Waywayseccappo Wolverines in the MJHL draft. Shortly after being drafted he

was traded to the Selkirk Steelers. Nate went on to play his rookie year with the Selkirk Steelers in 2015/2016 and has been with the team ever since.

Nate had a strong 2017/18 season, finishing third in regular season team scoring with 25 goals and 34 assists.

Nate is currently enrolled in post-secondary education at the University of Manitoba. This year he will be entering the Faculty of Criminology, and aspires to be a police officer. As for his hockey career, he hopes to achieve an MJHL championship title as well as a post-secondary scholarship to continue playing hockey.

The Selkirk Steelers will be relying heavily on Nate Halvorsen's leadership for a successful 2018-2019 hockey season. ■



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HARD WORK THE KEY FOR PORTAGE TERRIERS **FORWARD TY BARNSTABLE**

If t's been a blast and more than I could ask for," says Terriers defensive forward Ty Barnstable. Heading into his final year of junior eligibility, the 20-year-old has loved his time in Portage.

Growing up in Regina, Saskatchewan, he was like every other kid on the prairies - he played hockey as much as he could. Football, lacrosse, baseball and handball all took a backseat to his first love on the ice.

The second oldest in a family of three, 'Barney' always wanted to play junior hockey and hoped it would take him far. No plans are set in stone, but Kinesiology and business could be in his

future. "I would like to play as long as I can. If hockey can pay for some college or university classes that would sure help," he said.

Acquired at the trade deadline in 2017, the 5'10" centre made quite the impact despite not being the biggest player on the ice. "I don't think I have the most skill, but if I get the face-off and out work you I will put myself and my team in a good position to be successful."



Players with that type of attitude are respected in Portage and he was immediately handed the assistant captain role. "It was quite surprising and I didn't expect it. I came in with an open mind and I fell in love with [Portage]," added Barnstable.

In 2016-2017 he finished the season with 21 points in 24 games, and scored 10 goals in 18 playoff games enroute to the Turnbull cup. Last season was a productive one for Barnstable, who had 40 points in 60 games, but his season ended with a

first round playoff loss to the Winnipeg Blues. He hopes this year will be different. "We will be young to start, but I feel we can be successful."



COMMUNITY SUPPORT KEY FOR OCN BLIZZARD

The OCN Blizzard Jr 'A' Hockey Club is pleased to announce the partnership and continued commitment of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN). The partnership was confirmed at a meeting with OCN Chief and Council and Andre Murphy, team President and Shawna Hrappstead, team Office Manager. The meeting, which was described as "successful and stimulating" will guarantee the continuation and commitment from OCN to support the operation of the OCN Blizzard.

"It's been some time since we have seen the detail and commitment from the OCN Blizzard organization and its board of directors," commented OCN Chief, Christian Sinclair.

The OCN Blizzard organization is committed to a successful 2018-2019 season and looks forward to a promising future. "It's going to be a good season," said Hrappstead. "Having the support of OCN will ensure long-term viability and provide a great opportunity for success both on and off the ice. The community events, fundraisers and promotions we have for the hockey season are sure to energize and excite the community."

The OCN Blizzard, with returning players Wyatt Riendeau, Trygve Many-Guns, Tony Apetagon, Logan Thiessen, Rylan Bartley and Keevan Daniels-Webb, are focused on providing Blizzard fans with exciting hockey action all season.





WOLVERINES START NEW CHAPTER FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Exciting times await the Waywayseecappo Wolverines organization as they enter their 20th season in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

Taking over at the helm last November, Head Coach and General Manager Taylor Harnett has quickly put his stamp on the club from his recruiting efforts, to hand selecting his staff and executing renovations to team facilities.



Updating the team's logo and look was also important for the Wolverines. And with a new look, comes a new attitude. As an organization, the decision was made to freshen up the logo and uniforms for this milestone season in the MJHL.

The Wolverines are dedicated to success and are looking to build a championship calibre team that can compete to bring a Turnbull Memorial Trophy to their loyal fans. It's a great time to be a Wolverine.

New to the Wolverines coaching staff this year is Associate Coach/General Manager, Josh Lee. The Edmonton product and former Midget AAA Assistant Coach played four years in the Alberta Junior Hockey League between Sherwood Park and Fort McMurray where he captained the Crusaders and was an AJHL all-star. The hiring of former Wolverine and Russell, MB native Troy Hickman as Director of Scouting will make a significant impact for the Wolverines. Hickman is a familiar face in the community and has spent the last seven seasons as a scout for the Western Hockey League's Prince Albert Raiders.

Another former Wolverine coming into the fold this season is Goaltending Coach Justin Holder. Holder spent the 2013 to 2015 seasons with the Wolverines and was most recently the Midget AAA Brandon Wheat Kings goalie coach. Rounding out additions to the Wolverines staff is Director of Marketing

and Communications, Erik Swar. Swar joins the team after spending the last three years in radio between Flin Flon and Estevan.



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YEARBOOK 2018-2019

JEREMY LINK: THE DEFENSIVE BACKBONE OF THE WINNIPEG BLUES

As a member of the Winnipeg Blues, Jeremy Link is now entering his last year of Junior 'A' hockey, and will be counted on to be the backbone of the team that has graduated eight 20 year-olds from the previous year.

Jeremy had a terrific 2017-2018 season with the Blues, after spending his first two years in the MJHL with the Neepawa Natives. Jeremy is looking forward to being a top goaltender in the MJHL in the 2018-2019 campaign and is working towards achieving his goals of acquiring a NCAA scholarship.

Jeremy's statistics ranked him in the top four in the MJHL in minutes played and he was the MJHL Goalie of the Month for January 2018.

Away from the rink, Jeremy has a variety of interests and is currently in his first year of Kinesiology at the University of Winnipeg. In his spare time, Jeremy is very involved as a volunteer with the minor hockey association in his community. Throughout



the hockey season, he will take on a leadership role with the Blues' Minor Hockey Skills
Clinics. Jeremy will again be a backbone in net for the Winnipeg Blues this year.



OVER 90 YEARS OF CHAMPIONS

- 1919 Y.M.L.C. (Young Mens
- Lutheran Club) 1920 - Selkirk
- 1021 M(incident)
- 1921 Winnipeg Falcons 1922 - Varsity University of
- Manitoba
- 1923 Varsity University of Manitoba
- 1924 Winnipeg Tammay Tigers
- 1925 Varsity University of Manitoba
- 1926 Winnipeg Tammay Tigers
- 1927 Elmwood Millionaires
- 1928 Elmwood Millionaires
- 1929 Elmwood Millionaires
- 1930 Elmwood Millionaires 1931 - Elmwood Millionaires
- 1932 Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1933 Brandon Native Sons
- 1934 Kenora Thistles
- 1935 Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1936 Elmwood Maple Leafs
- 1937 Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1938 St. Boniface Seals
- 1940 Kenora Thistles
- 1941 Winnipeg Rangers
- 1942 Portage Terriers

- 1943 Winnipeg Rangers
- 1944 St. James Canadians
- 1945 Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1946 Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1947 Brandon Elks
- 1948 Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1949 Brandon Wheat Kings
- 1950 Brandon Wheat Kings
- 1951 Winnipeg Monarchs 1952 - Winnipeg Monarchs
- 1953 St. Boniface Canadiens
- 1954 St. Boniface Canadiens
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- 1958 St. Boniface Canadiens
- 1959 Winnipeg Braves
- 1960 Brandon Wheat Kings
- 1961 Winnipeg Rangers
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- 1965 Winnipeg Braves
- 1966 Winnipeg Rangers
- 1967 Flin Flon Bombers 1968 - St. James Canadians
- 1968 St. James Canadia
- 1969 Dauphin Kings 1970 - Dauphin Kings 1971 - St. Boniface Saints 1972 - Dauphin Kings 1973 - Portage Terriers 1974 - Selkirk Steelers 1975 - Selkirk Steelers 1976 - Selkirk Steelers 1977 - Dauphin Kings 1978 - Kildonan North Stars 1979 - Selkirk Steelers 1980 - Selkirk Steelers 1981 - St. Boniface Saints 1982 - Fort Garry Blues 1983 - Dauphin Kings 1984 - Selkirk Steelers 1985 - Selkirk Steelers 1986 - Winnipeg South Blues 1987 - Selkirk Steelers 1988 - Winnipeg South Blues 1989 - Winnipeg South Blues 1990 - Portage Terriers 1991 - Winkler Flyers 1992 - Winkler Flyers
- 1993 Dauphin Kings
- 1994 St. Boniface Saints
- 1998 Winkler Flyers 1999 - OCN Blizzard 2000 - OCN Blizzard 2001 - OCN Blizzard 2002 - OCN Blizzard 2003 - OCN Blizzard 2004 - Selkirk Steelers 2005 - Portage Terriers 2006 - Winnipeg South Blues 2007 - Selkirk Steelers 2008 - Portage Terriers 2009 - Portage Terriers 2010 - Dauphin Kings 2011 - Portage Terriers 2012 - Portage Terriers 2013 - Steinbach Pistons 2014 - Winnipeg Blues 2015 - Portage Terriers 2016 - Portage Terriers 2017 - Portage Terriers

2018 - Steinbach Pistons

1995 - Winnipeg South Blues

1996 - St. James Canadians

1997 - St. James Canadians



NEEPAWA NATIVES CELEBRATE 30TH SEASON

The Neepawa Natives are celebrating 30 years of MJHL hockey in Neepawa and are proud of the achievements of the past and promise for the future. "Everyone in the organization is excited entering our 30th season and our goal is to continue to be a competitive team and move players on to post-secondary hockey programs and professional leagues," said Dustin Howden, Head Coach. "We have graduated over 90 players who have gone on to further their hockey careers and a fact we're very proud of."



"On behalf of the entire Natives organization, we thank community of Neepawa and surrounding area, MJHL and local team sponsors, volunteers and our dedicated fans," added Howden. "We appreciate the support so very much these 30 years could not have been possible without it."

There's no doubt the Yellowhead Centre in Neepawa is the place to be this hockey season. ■

For the 30th season, the Natives will have a different look as they take the ice. The usual red, white, and black will be turned to silver, white, and black – a nod to the colours worn in their inaugural season.





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years, hockey fans in Manitoba

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The 11-team MJHL

have enjoyed great Junior hockey action and have watched hundreds

of their favourite young players

reach collegiate and professional levels -

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other six times for a 60-game regular season. The playoff structure is traditional with the top eight teams in the standings earning a spot in the playoffs. Each round of the playoffs is an elimination tournament three consisting of rounds of best ofseven series. Prior to each playoff series the eligible playoff teams seeded are

from highest to lowest based upon regular season standings with the higher seeded team receiving home-ice advantage. The winner of

is presented with the Turnbull Trophy. champions of the The

the final series becomes

the MJHL champion and

MJHL and Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League will meet in the ANAVET Cup with the winner advancing to the Canadian championship finals May 11-19, 2019 in Brooks, Alberta.

The MJHL is a tough, competitively balanced league. This has created some tremendous playoff series to the delight of MJHL fans throughout the province.

> The MJHL's mission statement is: 'To provide each player with an elite hockey development experience with strong а education emphasis on and citizenship. To deliver exciting Junior 'A' hockey action to fans throughout the province and enhance Manitoba communities in the spirit of sports excellence and goodwill. Theleagueprovidesgreat opportunities for young men who are interested in developing as hockey players while pursuing

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RURAL MANITOBA REACH: ADVERTISERS BENEFIT FROM MJHL DIGITAL SIGN NETWORK

The *MJHL Digital Sign Network* is entering its sixth season delivering outstanding reach and frequency to the rural MJHL audience. Each of the league's 11 team arenas are equipped with a high resolution digital LED sign – 18' wide x 3.31' high – in highly visible locations. The digital LED signs offer full video and full animation for advertising messages. Savvy and cost-conscious advertisers such as RBC, Manitoba Hydro, Subway, Chevrolet, IBAM and Viterra – just to name a few – are choosing the MJHL Digital Sign Network for its effective rural audience reach.





The MJHL's Director of Corporate Partnership Services, Trevor Kennerd, says the MJHL Digital Sign Network is unique in Manitoba. "The MJHL Digital Sign Network is a cost-effective way to reach a Manitoba-wide audience with time-sensitive messaging," said Kennerd. "Each digital ad runs for 10 seconds and rotates through the cycle frequently – 192 plays per day – providing solid advertising impact and retention." The MJHL Digital Sign Network has the potential to reach 2.4 million arena visitors/ users annually."Ad agencies and media buyers have given the MJHL Digital Sign Network a 'thumbs-up' for rural Manitoba reach," said Kennerd. "Reaching a broad rural Manitoba audience is a challenge for advertisers and the MJHL Digital Sign Network provides an affordable solution."

Kim Davis, MJHL Commissioner, adds the digital sign concept is tried and true. "We made a significant investment in the digital

LED sign network and the response from our league partners and advertisers is very positive," said Davis.

Advertising revenue from the digital signs is distributed amongst all MJHL teams to support local hockey programs in addition to building the MJHL Scholarship Fund.



For media rates and information, visit: mjhlhockey.ca





MJHL DIRECTORY

MJHL ADMINISTRATION **Commissioner: Kim Davis** MJHL

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NEEPAWA NATIVES

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VIRDEN OIL

CAPITALS

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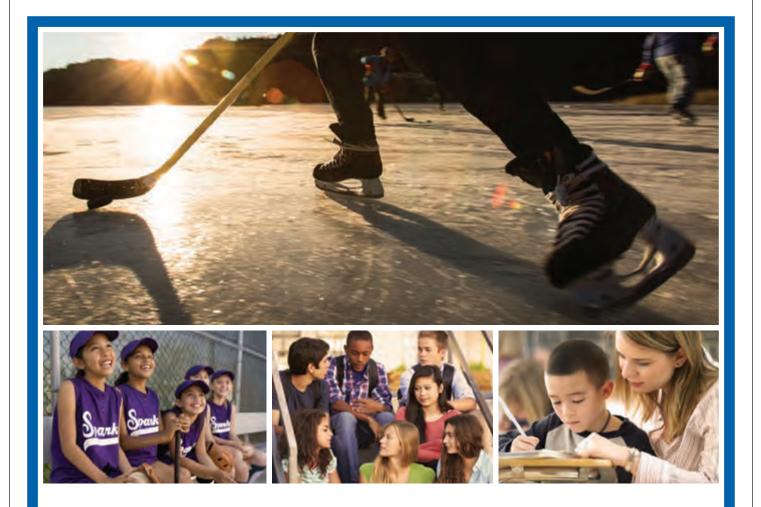
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