

# Minor Hockey is doing its best, VP says

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players. The midget/juvenile league is the only league in the association that has had problems completing games. I wonder why? Imagine the delays we would incur if there was full body contact in the league.

Providing increased arena facilities does not fall under the scope of the GMHA. Such decisions are made by the town and recreation department. If your statement regarding approval of the twinning of Alcott Arena is correct, perhaps you should direct your concerns in this area to the town. My personal understanding of the situation, from a recent article in the local papers, is that priorities are being directed toward the provision of a new facility for Acton.

I personally, along with other members of the GMHA executive,

take strong exception to your comment re "Should we as parents support this shoddy hockey and let them get away with it." Tell me - what is it that we are "getting away with?" What "phone calls" and what "talking" has not worked? In discussing your letter with current and longtime executive members, your name was not recognized by any nor is there any record of any phone calls or discussions with you personally with regard to any problems you may or may not have had.

Further, nobody on this executive has, in the past or present, displayed "this apparent flagrant disregard for our children's hockey..." Most of us ourselves have children involved in hockey or have had in the past. A handful of us put in numerous hours each week in the name of hockey. I personally average 15-20 hours per

week on hockey, as do many others. Many of these hours often cut into our personal and business routines.

You claim to have "supported?" Georgetown hockey for 12 years. If showing up for one of your sons' games on a regular basis constitutes "support," then your concept is somewhat self patronizing. What "things" have to be changed? Surely not through the mythical "phone calls" and non-existent "talk" you alleged to in your letter. Have you considered the conventional method of instituting change? Have you considered a position on the hockey executive? How about equipment manager, director of hockey, league commissioner, director of finance, treasurer, secretary. Maybe convenor, operations manager. Possibly a committee member for development, fun-

draising, sponsorship, communications or advertising and many more. All require real "support" beyond the hour or a half for one of your sons' games.

The GMHA operates on a yearly budget of approximately \$140,000 to \$150,000, of which \$80,000 to \$90,000 is paid out for ice rental from the town. If you have any questions regarding the disbursement of association funds, including your \$130 registration fee, please feel free to contact any executive member and they will see that you are provided with appropriate information.

Also, I would be remiss if I didn't question your reference to 5 a.m. practices. Let's get "real." Mrs. Adams - when was the last time your sons or any other player have practised at 5 a.m. in Georgetown? The answer is - never!

As members of an association

such as the GMHA, we realize that we are accountable to the public at large and often are subject to criticism and ridicule. We accept that, some of us more gracefully than others, but like it or not, we do. It's part of the "job." What we do not have to accept is the unfounded, exaggerated and unsubstantiated statements, by uninformed individuals who feel it necessary to embellish their statements in order to lend credence to their so-called concerns.

In closing, I encourage you to continue to attend your sons' hockey games, but please do not confuse the term parent/spectator with "supporter."

Sincerely,  
 Yours in hockey,  
 Hal Pells, Vice President,  
 Senior Hockey, Georgetown  
 Minor Hockey Association

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