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Stouffville Sun-Tribune

# SPORTS

## Spirit, York Jr. A teams joined by Muskies

The Ontario Junior Hockey League has made revisions to its divisional alignment for the 23 teams preparing to ice entries for the upcoming season, the Jr. A league announced Monday.

Part of those revisions will be in the divisions as the Buckland Cup champion Stouffville Spirit will be part of a five-team North Division with the three other returnees from York Region, the Markham Waxers, Newmarket Hurricanes and Aurora Tigers.

New to the North division will be the Lindsay Muskies, who last season played in the East Division.

The Orangeville Flyers, who were a part of the North last season, move to a six-team Western Division.

*OJHL governors used Yonge Street as a general guideline for dividing the conferences.*

The new layout will see the North and East Divisions form one conference and the South and West Divisions the other.

With an odd number of clubs slated to begin the 2012-13 season, each team will play a 55-game schedule with each team playing 27 home and 27 road games plus one Governors' Showcase match-up against a conference opponent.

The schedule, the league added, will be unbalanced and based solely on conference alignment with no weight given to divisional opponents.

Also restructured for 2012-13 is the league playoff format, which will now see the top eight clubs in each Conference continue on to post-season play.

The No. 1 and 2 seeds in each conference will be given to the first place finisher in each division.

The best-of-five preliminary round and first-round byes from past seasons have been eliminated and all series will use a best-of-seven format.

— Michael Hayakawa

## Burrows wants profitable OJHL

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA  
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Kenny Burrows holds the portfolios of part owner and general manager of the Stouffville Spirit junior A hockey club.

The Stouffville resident can now add another title to his current hockey responsibilities — Ontario Junior Hockey League director.

With the league conducting its annual general meeting in Mississauga last weekend, one of the items on their itinerary was to form a new board of directors, as the existing board's two-year term expired upon the completion of the 2011-12 campaign.

Burrows was one of four new people named to the board for a two-year term and will take on the position of director for the North and East Divisions.

"I'm looking forward to my new role," he said. "I knew a couple of the guys who were on the board that weren't going to be there anymore, so they were looking for some replacements and I just put my name in."

One of his main responsibilities will be to represent and talk to the governors in the North and East divisions and be a liaison to the league's board of directors.

Having been involved in the league since the late 1990s in hockey and administrative capacities with the Spirit, Newmarket Hurricanes and now defunct Collingwood Blues,

Burrows feels the experience he's accumulated over those years will be an asset to the foundation the prior board began to lay down.

A big part of that sought to improve the calibre of competitive play by reducing the number of teams to the current 23 from 37 just two seasons ago.

*'A lot of teams are losing money and we need to stop that from happening. We need to lay down a foundation for the teams and go from there.'*

"The people who stepped down (from the board) did a good job in getting the league to this point. We've gone further over the last three years than I thought we would. I want to see it continue on the hockey side and I think I can add a little experience to this," he said.

Burrows wants the league to lay down a business model.

"On the hockey side of things we have to bring money to the league and the teams. That's what this league needs most," he said. "It needs cash."



**KEN BURROWS:** New OJHL director has worked for teams in Stouffville, Newmarket and Collingwood.

"A lot of teams are losing money and we need to stop that from happening. We need to lay down a foundation for the teams and go from there."

"But the league has gone in the right direction and the calibre of hockey has improved. Hopefully, we can add to it and I have some ideas."

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