

Harmsen prepared for OMHA role

Peter Harmsen contemplated running for an Ontario Minor Hockey Association regional executive member post two years ago.

Serving as president of the York-Simcoe Minor Hockey League at that time, the Stouffville resident decided not to after recalling several executive members in his organization had left and their vice-president passed away.

But when the opportunity arose this year when re-elections took place during the OMHA annual general meetings in Richmond Hill this month, Harmsen decided to go for it.

That proved to be a wise decision as Harmsen was elected as the OMHA's regional executive member for Region 4.

The region which Harmsen will oversee encompasses 14 OMHA centres ranging from Richmond Hill in the southwest, Markham in the southeast and extending north to Orillia.

WAS YORK-SIMCOE PRESIDENT

"It's a little bit of a change where I'll be shifting focus a bit," he said after serving as York-Simcoe president for the last three years and prior to that as vice-president.

Citing the time commitment he will put in under his new position will be greater than when he was with York-Simcoe, Harmsen said a large part of his new responsibilities will be involved in the rules and regulations aspects.

"I'll be dealing more with corporate issues

like ones dealing with discipline rather than local ones when I was with the York-Simcoe Minor Hockey League," he said.

However, during his time as president of the York-Simcoe Minor Hockey League and having worked close with the OMHA and the prior regional executive manager for Region 4, Harmsen said he won't enter his new position as a total stranger.

STOUFFVILLE HOCKEY RESUME

"When I was with the York-Simcoe league, we worked closely with the OMHA regional executive manager and developed some new programs and made changes to the playoff format. So a lot of work has been done.

"Sure it'll be a transition and there's a lot of unknowns, but I know a lot of the people already," the retired police officer said.

Harmsen had been with the Whitechurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association since the 1992-93 season.

During his time with the WSMHA, Harmsen wore several different hats including that of house league coach, trainer and manager of various rep teams and serving on the executive.

In taking on his new post with the OMHA, Harmsen will step down from his most recent position within the WSMHA as their director of rep tryouts.

—Michael Hayakawa

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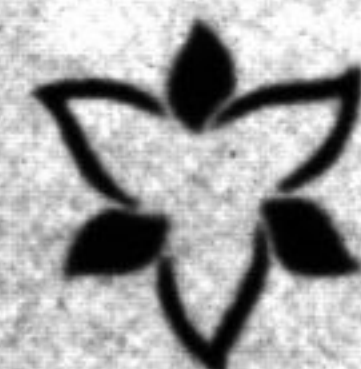
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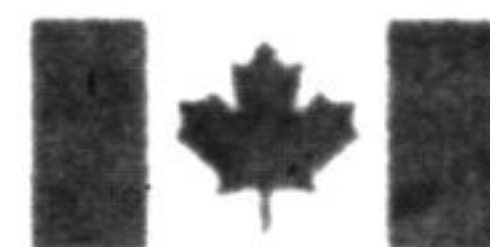
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