



AMALGAMATION VOTE MARCH 2010

Important Information Meeting on Monday, January 11th – 7:30pm Bobcaygeon Arena

JOINT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over the past year, Executive members from both the Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon Minor Hockey Associations have been working together to improve the quality of our respective Hockey programs. It is the recommendation of the majority of your Executive members that we now proceed with the creation of a new Minor Hockey Association. This new hockey centre would combine the Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls membership and play out of both arenas. To this end, we have considered the pros and cons of a new amalgamated centre and have held informal meetings with many of our teams seeking your input.

Your Executive now believes that we are ready to take this process to the next level but will first need a clear mandate from our membership. This will be through a formal voting process. If a majority vote for amalgamation is received in BOTH centres, the OMHA will then assist in the creation of new boundaries and negotiations with adjacent centres while we consider options for a new team name, logo and constitution. If a majority vote is not received in either centre, current amalgamation discussions will end.

Let's fill the Bobcaygeon arena on January 11th. This is a pivotal time for both of our organizations and all opinions need to be heard.

“Blended” teams update

One of our cooperative projects this season was the creation of blended teams at the PeeWee and Bantam levels where low player numbers and diverse talent limited our ability to field competitive teams. With attention to OMHA rules and residency restrictions, combined tryouts were held with Bobcaygeon for the Fenelon PeeWee and Bantam OMHA teams.

Unfortunately, while the competitive benefits of this strategy may already be apparent at the Bantam level (15-1 and 15-5 win/loss records for TriCounty and OMHA respectively), league restrictions on playoff eligibility and AP'd players have frustrated all involved. Nonetheless, it is important to note that many of these league restrictions would not apply to an amalgamated centre.

What's next?

In order to move forward with a formal amalgamation, we must now demonstrate to the OMHA that a majority of our membership in both organizations is in favor of amalgamation. In March 2010 a formal vote will be held in both organizations seeking an answer to the question: **“Do you support the joining together of Fenelon Falls District Minor Hockey Association and Bobcaygeon Minor Hockey Association to become one Association?”**

There will be an important information meeting on Monday January 11th at the Bobcaygeon Arena where an OMHA representative and members of both Executives will be on hand to answer your questions and comments on what amalgamation would mean for our organizations. We also hope to have a representative from the Mariposa Lightning Association present for insight on their earlier experiences amalgamating the Oakwood and Little Britain Associations. To ensure that as many families can attend as possible there will be no games or practices scheduled on that evening. **Whether you support or are opposed to amalgamation, please plan to attend this important meeting (January 11th @ 7:30pm - Bobcaygeon Arena).**

Steve Oldridge
President, FFDMA

Rick Staples
President, BMA