

# History of Hespeler Minor Hockey



## Hespeler Minor Hockey - Over 80 Years of Community Hockey

You would be hard pressed to find anywhere in Canada the hockey tradition that is associated with the community of Hespeler and the Hespeler Minor Hockey Association.

Hespeler Minor Hockey Association first appeared in OJHA (OMHA) competition as early as the 1936-37 season. This means that Hespeler is one of the oldest organizations in the OMHA which first formed in the 1934-35 season.

As early as 1910 photos exist of new Irish “home children” immigrants to Canada playing hockey on the Coombe residence on Guelph Avenue.



In the photo you will notice the kids using hockey sticks made a block away at the Hespeler Wood Specialties factory. Opening in 1905, it still operates as Heritage Wood Specialties Incorporated. It is the oldest operating hockey stick factory in the world.



In the 1960s and 70s you would be hard pressed to find someone that did not use a Hespeler brand hockey stick made at the Sheffield street plant.

The travel teams in HHMA have captured approximately 40 OMHA Championships and Finalists Titles.



1947 Hespeler Juvenile Championship Team.

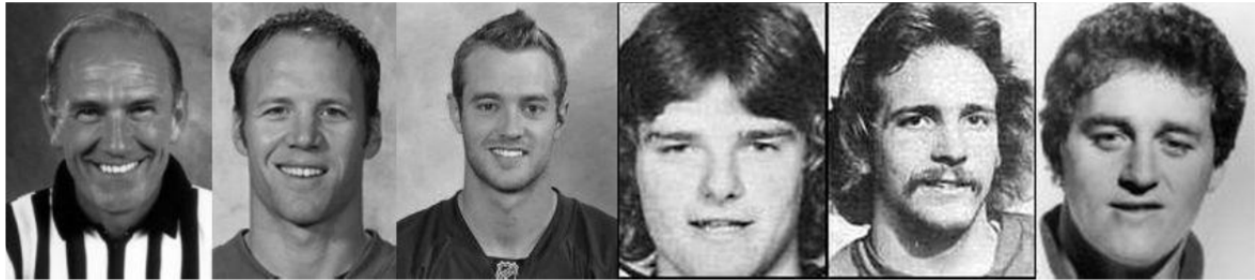
The HMHA is well known for its Hespeler Olympics tournament that has been held for the last 50 years.

Hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky had one of his many legendary hockey moments while playing at the HMHA Olympics.

In the Olympics of 1970-1971, Wayne played 9 games, scored an amazing 50 goals and gathered 16 assists.



The HMHA has a rich history of players who were in the National Hockey League including: Paul Woods, Kirk Maltby, Ken Ellacott and Red Laurence, as well as NHL linesman Bob Hodges. Even today, Hespeler's favourite son, Tim Brent played for the Toronto Maple Leafs and other big league teams.



The Hespeler Minor Hockey Association today has a complete Learn to Play and house league program from CHIP through to Juvenile Divisions. Their travel teams compete in the OMHA and their house league teams play in a competitive local league.

Like many hockey associations, the HMHA are faced with the challenge of getting people new to the community and who are unfamiliar with hockey to come out and try the sport.

With over 80 years of providing hockey to local youth, Hespeler Minor Hockey Association has a proven record that will help them today and in the future continue to give youth a chance to learn this great game of hockey in a fun and safe environment.

