Simcoe/Kawartha Regional Report 2017

Area Chair: Bob Parsons

I think overall the merge of the two regions went well. The struggle we have in these areas are lack off older athletes. These kids and recruited officials are closely tied to school programs. When they graduate they move on to other areas or just drop out.

We set a standard price and advertised it so coaches knew well in advance what they were going to pay - $250 per mat - I paid out $175 to $225 depending on travel time and experience. The reserve was used for snow day cancellations to reimburse some gas money if tournaments were cancelled. Cancellations for snow are a common thing for both areas.

This year Stephanie Tonn did a great job and covered most events in the Kawartha area. We also used Andrea Waklin and Billy Jenkins from the Lindsay area. Darryl Owen, Jade Parsons, and Curtis Wilson also covered some events. For Orillia area we had a few younger officials register.

We held the Ontario Youth Festival in Orillia and the younger officials from that area had the opportunity to work with Darryl, Steph Tonn and Marty to learn some valuable pointers. Unfortunately Alexander has left for Thunder Bay and Sam for Montreal. Both want to carry on reffing in their areas. This leaves me again bringing up very young officials to fill them spots.

I have reached out to Kawartha schools to encourage them to develop local officials to save them money, but to date no names have come forward. I am looking forward to keep trying to grow both areas.

Bob