

## Presidents Report – February 2008 – KDMHA

This year has been a roller coaster of emotions to say the least. We have dealt with personnel issues, ice issues, competitive issues, cost issues, player issues, and legal issues.

I personally have been involved in “secret ice deals”, “back room negotiations”, “libel” and various other accusations against my person.

Will Trayner along with the division Convener and I have been involved in removing a coach from the bench, a decision we did not make lightly.

A Division Convener along with the trainer and I have been involved in meeting with a hockey mom in order to avoid a lengthy drawn out tar and feather campaign against another member of our Executive and the Coach of the team.

I also have seen our major midget team win the Silver Stick. I have seen several of our teams stick together through tremendous difficulties – inclusive of injuries, lopsided losses, etc, etc. I have seen young boys and girls transforming before my eyes into good, honest young men and women. I have seen fist fights and verbal fights all in the name of this great game we call hockey.

I have seen a player banned from even stepping foot in the Community Centre.

Hockey is a very, very emotional game. We are constantly bombarded with the issues surrounding our beloved Senators. We cannot drive for more than 15 minutes in the car without hearing something about hockey. We live in a region dominated by hockey. No other sport comes close as far as emotions, dedication, devotion, spirit, or competitiveness. No other sport draws as many outside comments or opinions as does our National Sport.

I have been to meetings in Westport, Morrisburg, Spencerville, Kemptville, Winchester, Brockville and Smiths Falls representing the KDMHA. I have not had to fight too hard this year to defend our positions, or our thoughts about hockey, but I did have to defend our decision to keep a Peewee player where he could best develop his skills... because we were “cheating” by allowing him to play there.

All in all, there are highs and lows associated with this year, but I love being involved with hockey, because I am involved with some of the best people I could ever ask for, the KDMHA Executive.