



January 11, 2021

The Orangeville Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), the Orangeville Girls Hockey Association (OGHA) and Skate Canada Orangeville, would like to thank the Town of Orangeville, the staff of the Recreation Facilities, Alder Arena and Tony Rose Arena, for making it possible for our associations to provide hockey and learn to skate programs for our members while we endure the pandemic. Medical professionals and years of extensive research prove that physical activity is extremely important for everyone's mental and physical health, and we are thankful to have been able to provide opportunities for our members to participate in programs offering some form of normalcy during these extraordinary times.

We are here in collaboration, to ask for reduced hourly ice cost for minor registered sports groups, that will allow us to continue to run our programs respectfully.

As you are aware, on December 14, the area covered under the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health Unit was placed in the Red-Control zone by the Province of Ontario. Being in The Red-Zone has meant additional restrictions on our programs and membership and limiting the number of participants allowed on the ice at any given time to just ten.

It is the hope of all three organizations that once the current lockdown is lifted by the Provincial Government, we will be able to reinstate our programs to their full potential according to the protocols for our region. Given the current situation surrounding Covid-19 in the Province of Ontario, we assume that when our region is removed from the current lockdown, we will return to similar restrictions that we faced in the Red-Control zone.

Under normal circumstances Orangeville Minor Hockey, Orangeville Tigers and Skate Canada ice rentals can include anywhere from 15-50 skaters per hour. Due to the restrictions and limitations only permitting 10 skaters on the ice per hour, our costs will now increase exponentially. Our plan is to provide all our members the equal opportunity to be on the ice at least once per week and in order to do this, we will need to rent a significant amount of additional ice time from the Town.

With this said, it is not viable for our associations to continue to pay the full amount of \$186.76 + \$24.28 HST for a 50-minute ice rental and still offer any resemblance of programming that the youth of Orangeville so desperately need.

We respectfully request the Council of the Town of Orangeville to reduce the cost of ice rentals by 50% for our associations, retro-active to December 14 when we entered the Red-Control zone and to continue for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season.

Please see the attached submissions from each of our associations citing further information for this request.

We thank you for your time.



Orangeville Minor Hockey

HOME OF THE FLYERS



January 11, 2021

Orangeville Minor Hockey association's vision is to foster, promote and teach amateur hockey within the Town of Orangeville and surrounding district and to provide maximum opportunities for all eligible individuals to participate regardless of ability. The Orangeville Minor Hockey Association in a normal season would have roughly 950 members playing competitive and recreational hockey. This year a main factor was the uncertainty of the COVID 19 and only had 674 registrations, down 30 %.

We are aligned with Orangeville Tigers and Skate Canada in asking for reduced ice cost for the remainder of the 2020-21 season.

- Rosters had to be adjusted from an average 15 per team to 8-10 based on birth year
- More teams/groups had to be created 75 instead of 41
- Needed more volunteers to be coach or trainer and had to be (re)-certified per guidelines (need a coach and trainer for each team)
- We felt it was not ethical to request any sponsorship funding from the community due to the pandemic
- Unable to host the Early Bird and Ray Hunt Tournaments which are a major source of funding
- Current funding will only allow for 8 more skates per team/group
- Will require appx 90 hours a week to allow each team/group to participate for one 50-minute skate
- Reduced costs by asking players to reuse jerseys and socks

Should the public guidelines get lifted and we can participate again, the reduced ice cost will allow us to continue longer.

We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rick Stevens – President

Scott Lawson – Vice President House League

Terry Sheppard – Vice President Rep



ORANGEVILLE GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
75 FIRST STREET, SUITE 323, ORANGEVILLE, ON L9W 5B6

To The Council of the Town of Orangeville:

January 11, 2021

The Orangeville Girls Hockey Association (OGHA) would like to convey our thanks to the staff of the Recreation Facilities. We have a great deal of respect for the staff, and we have worked cooperatively with them to make our hockey programs run smoothly since September.

The OGHA respectfully requests the Council of the Town of Orangeville to consider reducing the cost of ice rentals for our association by 50 percent during the period of time that we entered the Red- Control zone on December 14, 2019, and for the remainder of the 2020-2021 hockey season. Once the Provincial Government lifts the lockdown, if allowed, we plan to continue to run skills and drills programs for all of our members, following the protocols. However, we anticipate that our operating costs will now increase significantly because of the restrictions permitting a maximum number of 10 skaters on the ice at a time. Our usual ice rentals include anywhere from 15-35 skaters per session. We want to be able to provide all of our minor members the equal opportunity to be on the ice at least once per week during this time. In order to do this, we may need to rent additional ice time from the Town.

It has been conveyed numerous times during the course of this pandemic by many health professionals that physical activity is of the utmost importance for our physical and mental health. We were excited in August when the Ontario Women's Hockey Association informed us that we would be allowed to run programs for our members this year. We worked cooperatively and made great progress with the staff of the Recreation Department to get our programs up and running.

Because last season ended abruptly on March 14, 2019 and we were aware of many families facing financial hardships and uncertainties because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we offered our registration fee at the early-bird rate to all members for this season regardless of when they registered. Because of a decrease in the number of registrations and the lower fees offered to members, our revenue from registration is down \$32,000.00 compared to last year. Our overall revenue has been reduced significantly this year due to fewer sponsors and other sources. The cost of ice rentals increased this season and the costs for our officials (referees and timekeepers) increased this year because of Covid-19.

Every year our association hosts tournaments which are the major source of our fundraising. The revenue from these tournaments subsidizes our operating expenses every year and keeps the costs down for our entire membership. Without the tournament revenues we would need to charge our players, at minimum, an additional \$100.00 each to be able to run our programs. This year, because of Covid-19, we will not be holding any tournaments, and in fact we anticipate that it will take another year or two until tournaments are allowed to take place again. Without any revenue from tournaments this year, we will be running a huge deficit.

Each year, the OGHA spends approximately \$250,000.00 on rentals with the Town of Orangeville. With this in mind, we are asking Council to take into consideration the situation we are now in, and for the reasons stated above, reduce the cost of our ice rentals by 50 per cent since December 14 when we entered into the Red - Control zone. We will gladly suggest that during some blocks of ice rentals, it may not be necessary for the arena staff to flood the ice in between groups, which will help reduce costs for the Town.

We appreciate your time and consideration on this matter, and look forward to your response and our continued partnership with the Town of Orangeville Parks and Recreation Department.

Regards,
Michelle Whyte, President, and Members of the Executive of the OGHA



To Orangeville Town Council,

For generations, Canadians have stepped on to backyard rinks, frozen rivers, ponds and arenas from coast to coast to coast. Skating is part of who we are, and Skate Canada is the perennial leader in teaching Canadians how to skate.

Some dream of reaching an Olympic figure skating podium, or enhancing skating skills for hockey, ringette or speed skating. Others are looking to go for a leisurely glide with family for fun, fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Whatever your skating goals, Skate Canada will help get you there.

Skate Canada Orangeville has been teaching our community to skate for over 60 years. We take pride in offering quality and fun programs. Children have been enrolled in our learn to skate program who then move on to our figure skating program, join Orangeville Minor Hockey, Orangeville Girls Hockey or just to know how to skate for exercise and participate in the town's public skate programs. Skate Canada Orangeville also offers powerskating programs that have helped many hockey players with their skating skills. Skate Canada Orangeville to many is known for figure skating but that is only small portion of what we offer to our community.

Skate Canada Orangeville has taken pride in the ability to continue to offer quality and safe programming during COVID. Prior to Covid we had the ability to offer our Canskate programs with up to 50 participants on the ice which helped to subsidize ice for our figure skaters. Below you will find points on our programs and challenges to continue offering our quality programs to our community.

Challenges for the 2020/21 skating season:

- cannot fill the Canskate program to capacity with the current gathering size restrictions – the club relies on this program to keep club viable
- coaching fees per capita will be high given gathering size restrictions however will need to provide this work to keep our coaching team in tact
- fundraising opportunities will be greatly reduced
- expenses continue
 - administration: website hosting, software, processing fees for on-line registration, paper
 - badges and rewards
 - new learn-to-skate props per Covid-19 protocols
 - cleaning supplies
- what's different this year?
 - registration numbers – interest in skating – comfort level of parents
 - demographics – changes in family income due to Covid-19
 - gathering size – may change throughout the season
 - facility ice costs – fees may increase or decrease
 - time allotted for cleaning, movement between groups, etc.
 - may not have canskate registration to bring in money to support starskate
 - will not have the usual successful fundraising opportunities eg. donuts, pizza

We were able to begin offering our program in September and realized the demand and continued interest.

- Canskate (learn to skate) – Oct-Dec: 20-25 skaters on ice + 4 professional coaches
- Figure skating – Sept-Dec: 15 skaters on the ice
- Power skating – Sept-Dec: 20 skaters on the ice (2-3 professional coaches)
- Challenges that will continue:
 - requirement for us to finance cleaning/buffer times
 - very few fundraising opportunities relied on to pay club's administration expenses (website hosting, software cost, processing fees, badges, program props)
- Reduction to 10 on ice:
 - cannot deliver canskate program at current ice rate – not viable unless we double the registration cost to families – then risk not enough registrations due to high cost
 - figure skating - relies on income from canskate to stay viable – will need to increase registration cost substantially if no canskate income – again, risky

When the Ontario Government lifts the lockdown we are hoping that we can continue to offer a safe affordable place for children to get physical exercise, learn a new skill, and have fun. This will not be possible at the current ice rates that we are paying. Skate Canada Orangeville would like the Town of Orangeville to lower the ice costs for our organization so that our programs can continue with great success and provide our community a place to have fun and learn to skate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Skate Canada Orangeville Executive