

Bio's of Candidates

President

Brent Strand

Brent Strand is the proud father of two hockey-loving daughters and a passionate supporter of girls' hockey. A dedicated member of the Flames organization since 2017, Brent has worn many hats over the years—including head coach, assistant coach, team manager, on-ice helper, and Equipment Director. In 2024, Brent stepped into the role of CGHA President and has made an immediate and lasting impact in a short amount of time.

Since taking on the presidency, Brent has worked collaboratively with a newly formed board to clarify roles and responsibilities, streamline communication, and build a more responsive, transparent organization. He has been a consistent advocate for player development across all levels of the league and continues to ensure that every athlete has access to meaningful opportunities to grow in skill and confidence.

Brent has also played a key role in shaping the coaching experience within CGHA. He has been involved in every coaching interview this season, helping to implement a fair and consistent hiring process for all candidates. Known for his hands-on leadership style, Brent regularly spends time at the rink, connecting with players, coaches, and families. He makes himself available to members, answering questions, offering support, and championing the CGHA community with visible and enthusiastic presence.

In addition, Brent has represented CGHA in broader conversations with other youth sports organizations, advocating for equity and opportunity for girls in hockey.

With over 15 years of experience as a senior-level manager outside of the rink, Brent brings leadership, dedication, and a strong vision for the future of the organization. His ongoing commitment is to focus on what matters most: supporting coaches, empowering players, and fostering a lifelong love of the game.

Registrar

Suzanne Hurley

My name is Suzanne Hurley, and I have proudly served as the Registrar for the Clarington Girls Hockey Association for the past five years. I have a strong understanding of the registration system and maintain a close working relationship with the OWHA. My connection with the organization began in 1995 when I played for the Clarington Girls, and that passion has continued as both of my daughters have also played within the organization.

I joined the Board to help promote girls' hockey in our community and to give back by volunteering my time and support. I am passionate about supporting youth sports and ensuring that registration and team processes are as smooth and efficient as possible for families and staff. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth and success of the Clarington Flames.

Thank you once again for the opportunity, and please let me know if any further information is required. I look forward to continuing to serve our hockey community and working collaboratively with the Board in the upcoming season.

Treasurer

Jessica James

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the position of Treasurer with the Clarington Flames Girls Hockey Association. I have served as Treasurer since January and would be excited to continue in this role. I bring more than 17 years of financial and administrative experience with the Municipality of Clarington, skills that align closely with the financial oversight and reporting requirements of a Treasurer.

My two daughters play with the Clarington Flames, and I'm eager to give back to the association that has already provided them with such a positive experience. I would be honoured to continue contributing my professional expertise and enthusiasm to support the organization's financial health and continued growth.

Director of Tournaments - 3 Nominees

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Steve Summerhill

My name is Steve Summerhill, and I am honored to formally accept the nomination for the position of Director of Tournaments and Sponsorship on the CGHA Board of Directors.

As a dedicated father to two daughters, one of whom currently plays within the organization, and the other eagerly waiting until she's old enough to lace up her skates, my commitment to girls' hockey and the Clarington community runs deep. My family and I have proudly called Bowmanville home for over a decade, and I remain a passionate and active member of our local community.

Professionally, I am a self-employed business owner with over 15 years of experience leading a company that employs more than 100 staff. My work has consistently prioritized community involvement, relationship building, and organizational leadership, skills I am eager to bring to this role.

Over the past three years, I have been actively involved with CGHA in a variety of volunteer capacities. I currently lead the Fundamentals Program, focusing on developing and inspiring our youngest athletes. I am also the Assistant Coach for the U9B team and Conveyor for U9 House League. In previous seasons, I have held roles as Head Coach for both the U9 House League and U9 Development Stream programs. My involvement extends further through volunteering with the U9 Development Drop-In Sessions, U13BB team, and U18 House League. I was also proud to participate in the First Shift Program, which provided an incredible opportunity to help new players and families discover the game of hockey.

I believe my combination of professional leadership, community minded values, and hands-on experience within CGHA make me a strong candidate for this position. In the area of sponsorships, I took the initiative and secured four business sponsors to cover the 2025/2026 U9 house league division. I also see great opportunity to enhance our tournament excitement and offerings by creating impactful sponsorship packages that align with CGHA goals. I am passionate about continuing to support and grow the organization in a way that benefits the organization players and families.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute further to the CGHA as your Director of Tournaments and Sponsorship.

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Jessica Knapp

Hello, I'm Jessica Knapp, some of you have may have heard my name around Bowmanville. I have a passion for volunteering, fundraising and working with kids, and kid sports.

I have been an active member of my children's school (Harold Longworth in Bowmanville) for 7 years with volunteering with hot lunches, organizing and helping with fundraisers and holding events like the school Fun Fair and annual Holiday Market.

I was an active member of BUSC (Bowmanville United Soccer Club) for over 7 years. I held the position of convenor and photo coordinator. There I would book the photographer, communicate and plan out the photo day schedule with over 80 teams.

I have been an active leader with Scouts Canada for 5 years. Here I help plan and organize meetings, take kids to camp and help them earn badges. We have done many volunteering activities within the community as well.

Last year I was my daughters team manager for one of the Flames U13 HL teams. I set up the tournaments, organized a group outing to an Oshawa Generals game, posted our standings on the Flames website, submitted the game sheets ahead of the game and made sure the referee had the game code.

I am hoping to bring new ideas, a smiling face, and my passion for volunteering to the flames board if chosen for the position.

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Jonathon Norris

My wife and our two daughters have lived in Clarington for the past 12 years, and our community involvement centers around the activities of our children, whether it be school-based committees/volunteering, or community sports. Abigail (15) and Alexis (13) have played for Clarington Flames (house league) since the age of 6, and approximately 7 years ago, I volunteered as an on-ice helper. The following season, I was recruited as an assistant coach, and since then, I have coached both girls simultaneously, including being head coach during the infamous "COVID season". A joint replacement kept me off the ice for the past two years, but this season I'm back behind the bench of Alexis' U15 HL team. Abigail is no longer playing hockey, but joined a travel volleyball team, which I support whenever possible. Both girls are also avid equestrians, and my wife (Kris) is a

local real estate agent, personal fitness trainer, and has been a trainer for the Clarington Flames.

Professionally, I have worked in the finance industry for over 20 years, and over the past few years have run a home-based consulting business. A home-based business provides me with significant flexibility in my schedule and the ability to dedicate time to additional causes, one of which is increasing my involvement with the Clarington Flames as the Director of Tournaments and Sponsorship.