

September 2013

ONTARIO
HANDBALL
ASSOCIATION

KILLSHOT



Action at Teachers College, New York City circa 1904

Editorial

In 1995 I wrote my first article for Killshot. 18 years later, many magazines and articles later I sit here as Editor, writing my last one. I have decided to step down as Editor of Killshot; a decision that was not easy. Truth is, my attention has been needed elsewhere on a personal level. If I can't commit to something full tilt, it is better I bow out and let it be done well by someone who can. In addition to writing for and editing Killshot, I have had the privilege to serve as OHA President, be a part of two Canadian Nationals Committees and teach a number of handball clinics. It truly has been a reciprocal relationship' I have received a tremendous amount of support from this game and the people who play and loved supporting in return.

The OHA Board is an amazing group of people. People who volunteer their time usually are. Everyone on this Board takes time away from their families, friends and careers to strengthen the future of handball, and they deserve our thanks and support. Handball can be as big as we, the handball community, make it.

Results of the Canadian Nationals, OHA 4 wall singles and 3 wall tournaments are included, as well as some news and notes from the OHA and CHA.

I have grown up playing handball, and have a tremendous affection for everyone I have met. I will carry the memories we share together with me forever.

Scott Wilson

OHA Board of Directors

President – Jenine Wilson – jeninewilson@ymail.com

Vice President – Adam Johnston – innovationproductions@hotmail.com

Junior Development – Wally Oprzedek - coprzedek@cogeco.ca

Treasurer – Mark Polgrabia – mpolgrabia@yahoo.ca

Secretary – Peter Service

Membership Director – Nathan Body – nbody@peakpowersports.ca

Tournament Director – Vacant (Board taking over responsibilities temporarily)

Women's Director – Jenine Wilson – jeninec@rogers.com

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Ontario Handball Association

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Burlington Ontario

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For more information, please visit us on the web at:

www.ontariohandball.ca or on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/211355182221489/#!/pages/Ontario-Handball-Association/247002671977117>



Ontario Handball Association
4325 Harvester Road, Unit # 12
Burlington, Ontario
L7L 5M4

ONTARIO HANDBALL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REGISTRATION

SPORT I.D.		MEMBERSHIP NO.	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL	SEX
STREET ADDRESS		APT #	
CITY	PROVINCE	POSTAL CODE	
HOME PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE	
OCCUPATION		CLUB OR SCHOOL	
D M Y	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D M Y
BIRTHDATE	NEW	RENEWAL	EXPIRY

If you would like to contribute to the Ontario Handball Association's junior development program please fill in the contribution along with your name and forward it to:

OHA JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT
4325 HARVESTER ROAD, UNIT # 12
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO, L7L 5M4

Contribution: \$ _____ On behalf of: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ANNUAL FEES :	SENIOR	JUNIOR
FEE RECEIVED \$ _____	1 YEAR	\$25.	\$15.
CASH _____ CHEQUE _____			
RECEIVED BY _____	DATE _____		
PROCESSED BY _____	DATE _____		
MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO:	THE ONTARIO HANDBALL ASSOCIATION		



The Canadian Handball Association is pleased to announce that the 2014 National Handball Championships will be held in Langley BC, May 14-17, 2014. The club and city have much to offer; we are including some links so everyone can check it out.

The host club (Newlands) includes a golf course and sports bar and the host hotel (Coast Hotel and Convention Centre) is just a few minutes away and includes a casino. Langley is serviced by two airports, Vancouver and Abbotsford.

The CHA will be participating in the hosting of this event by supporting Bob Meyer who has agreed to run point on organizing the event. Bob welcomes any support, many of us have run a Nationals so we know what is entailed and while Bob is putting together his committee there is much that can be done by everyone to help out. Let's all support Bob as much as we can. It's been a long time since the Nationals were held in BC and this may open the door to future Nationals out west.

Also, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the CHA Hall of Fame. Nominations for players and builders are being accepted at this time. For more information including the nomination form please visit the CHA website at:

<http://www.canadianhandball.com/index.html>

http://www.cascadescasino.ca/hotel_convention.html <http://newlandsgolf.com/index.htm>

2013 Canadian Nationals

Luis Moreno dominated in Canada at the 2013 Canadian Handball Championships defeating Vic Perez of Los Angeles, California 21-11, 21-10. Then Moreno teamed up with fellow American Andy Nett to capture The Open Doubles Title when they defeated the team of Kevin Kopchuk, & Vic Perez.

Winnipeg Manitoba's Lisa Fraser-Gilmour defeated Tracy Davis of Tucson, Arizona to capture the Women's Open Singles Title and lost in the Women's Open Doubles Finals with partner Vera Aguiar of Winnipeg to Tracy Davis and Canadian Junior phenom partner Leslie Amminson of St. John's, Newfoundland. Merv Deckert was the other Winnipeg Handball player to be, as he dominated at the National Competition by capturing the Men's 40+ Singles event, defeating Nathan Body of Burlington, Ontario 21-8, 21-6. Then Merv teamed up with long time Winnipeg friend and doubles partner, John Friesen to capture another Canadian Doubles Title when they defeated the Florida team of Boyd Yesler & Tim Murray in the Men's 60+ event.

If that wasn't enough excitement on the court, off the court, two of the world's finest handball players, Lisa Fraser-Gilmour and Merv Deckert, were inducted into The Canadian Handball Hall of Fame. To view all results go to www.canadianhandball.com



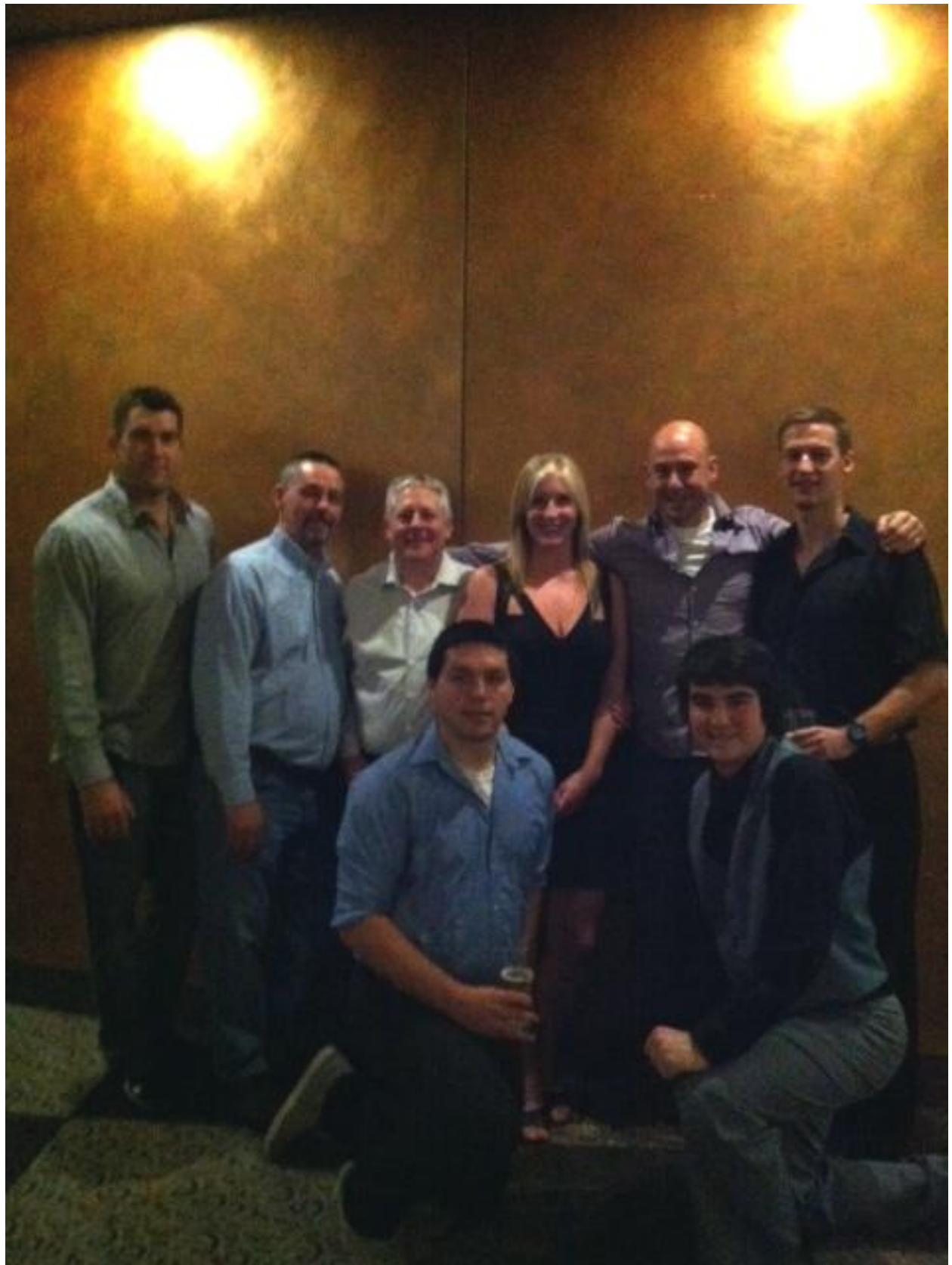












John Choma Memorial

This August, Ontario 3 wall enthusiasts came out for the John Choma Memorial Tourney in Scarborough. Again it was a doubles tourney which produced some tremendous handball action. In the Open division, reigning Champs Lindsay Hall and Kevin Kopchuck made their way to the finals with impressive victories over Nasim Bajwa/Barry O'Conner and Chris and Grant Jennings. On the other side of the draw, perennial champ Peter Service teamed with Ryan Bowler to blast through Art Avalo/Gerard Caya and Brad Warren /Larry Martin.

The final was an intense affair as the action included flat rollouts and sizzling passes. When the smoke cleared, Hall and Kopchuck were able to repeat and lay claim to champs for another year.

The OHA would like to thank all participants and volunteers, and looks forward to more great action next year.

OHA Presidents Message

At this year's AGM in April, some changes were made to the OHA board of directors. All elected positions were up for nomination and all parties (elected and non) were willing to remain in their positions with the exception of Brad Warren, who after two years in the role of President, stepped down. Thank you to Brad for his time and effort in promoting handball and giving back to the game.

I have been a member of the OHA Board as Women's Commissioner for over a decade, working throughout the years with wonderful people. When the opportunity of Presidency became available, I was immediately interested. As most people know, Handball has been part of my life since I was a child, many would say it's in my blood. Taking on the task of Presidency has always been one of my goals, I attribute much of this to years of admiring my dad's commitment and devotion to Handball, and my own desire to contribute to a sport that has been so good to my family.

In addition to being a personal goal, the decision to pursue the role of Presidency was made easy with the current board of directors. These are people who continue, year after year to offer their time, energy and dedication to Handball.....a sport close to all our hearts. Thank you to a wonderfully supportive and enthusiastic team.

As a board, our focus is to promote handball at the grass root level; initiating introductory big ball 1 wall lessons and encouraging an increase in overall participation. The other goal I have is to encourage and support as many experienced players to re-visit their love for handball. This can happen in a variety of forms- playing, helping run a clinic, volunteering to help at a local tournament, initiating a junior program, etc. For many of us, the concept of giving back to handball is a natural gesture, but the OHA needs more support and volunteers to help us keep the game alive.

Please contact myself or any members of the board by visiting our website www.ontariohandball.ca to find out more about how you can help Handball grow throughout Ontario.

Jenine Wilson

OHA President



The 2013 June Hill Memorial Ontario 1-Wall Handball Tournament

Thanks to all players who participated in this year's revamped 3rd annual event, held recently at Brant Hills Public School in Burlington, ON. For the last 2-years, the tournament has had a junior focus, recruiting and running clinics for new players, while bringing existing junior players from across the province together for a 1-day singles tournament. This year's format was modified to include "senior" players, in an effort to expand the number of Big Ball 1-Wall players of all ages across Ontario. The change proved successful, resulting in our largest draw to date, with 32-players participating.

Showing some swagger, the more experienced junior players requested that they compete with the seniors, resulting in a 16-player "Open/Young Buck/Living Legend"-division. The juniors showed that they can definitely play with the big boys, and that it's just a matter of time before they're winning Open Divisions. The "4-Wall Small-Ballers" embraced the tournament motto "Any Ball, Any Wall", and gave the juniors all they could handle, and more.

The Round-of-16 provided entertainment all day long, featuring several Young-Buck vs Open-Player match-ups:

- Junior Matt Shrum advanced furthest in the main draw, narrowly defeating junior phenom Johnny Audet 31-30 in the quarters. Matt went on to face experienced 1-wall player Fernando Burgos in the semis, this time coming up on the short-end of the same 31-30 score. Both of these matches could easily have gone either way.
- In the other semi-final, Ryan Bowler advanced by defeating Living-Legend Peter Service. In the final match, Ryan defeated an exhausted Fernando Burgos 31-16, to add another Ontario Championship to his resume.

- In the “Drop-down”, energizer-bunny Sal Lipuma defeated junior Aaron Shrum by a score of 31-24.

The 6-player “Rookie-Division” utilized a round-robin format for the experienced younger players, as well as older juniors in their 1st year of play. The improvement amongst all the kids was evident as the day went on. At the completion of the round robin, Brock Speller earned a hard-fought victory over Tyman Edelcoort 31-27 in the championship match.

The “B/Golden Masters/Ladies”-Division also utilized a round-robin format that featured a contingent of Niagara U’s Small-Ball 1-Wallers, and former Junior 1-Wall World Champion Jenine Wilson. At the conclusion of round-robin play, it was an all-Rennie final, with Steve defeating younger brother Dave, 31-28 (I think).

Thanks to all the volunteers and the entire handball community for your generous donations, these tournaments can’t happen without your support, which allows all of our juniors to participate free of charge. We are already planning next year’s event, which is tentatively scheduled for the 1st Saturday in June 2014, at Tecumseh Elementary School, located in Burlington, ON. We are hoping to hold a Tecumseh Re-union, and give long-time junior supporter Rob Pearce, along with the hundreds of Brian Goto’s –handball alumni, a chance to re-live the glory days.

Stay tuned for details.





OHA 2013 Singles

Congratulations to all of the winners of this year's Ontario 4-Wall Handball Championships. Ivan Burgos took the round-robin **Rookie-division**, and Junior Player of the Year honours. Matt Shrum beat Alam Burgos in a thrilling 11-9 tie-break to take the **C-Division** title. By winning the **B Championship** over junior Aaron Shrum, Irish phenom Joe Gallagher gets to play with the big-boys in the open. Fred Bowler took the **Golden Division**. Ivan Elliott won the **50's** and living-legend Peter Service the **Masters**. In the **Open division**, Lil John Audet pushed Ryan "Boom-Boom" Bowler to the brink, but Ryan held on to win the 11-7 tie-break, and Senior Player of the Year Honours.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event, as always it was a successful day with lots of laughter and of course.....great handball. The OHA looks forward to future events and commencing our tournament season in September.









OHA Annual AGM

Saturday April 20th, 2013 at 2 pm

Adam Johnston (Vice President)

- Welcome, review of past OHA year and introduction of board members.

Wally Oprzedek (JUNIOR CO-ODINATOR REPORT)

- The Ontario Handball Association (OHA) currently has groups of junior players playing both 1-wall and 4-wall handball at various locations across Ontario and New York State, including: Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Smithville, Grimsby, Hamilton, Toronto, Newmarket, Pickering and Buffalo, NY. If you know of an individual or group of kids that would like to learn the game, please contact OHA Junior Development Co-ordinator Wally Oprzedek via the **ontariohandball.ca** website.
- Bruno Polgrabia spoke about his experience helping with a recent clinic in St. Catharines, expressing what a positive and fun time he had helping Wally and Mark introduce handball to dozens of kids.

Nathan Body (MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR)

- Memberships continue to run January-December, \$25/person. If your membership has expired, or if you unsure of your membership status please contact Nathan via **the ontariohandball.ca** website.

Mark (TREASURER REPORT)

- Review of Insurance information (why we need it, what it covers and the cost)

Jenine (WOMEN'S COMMISSIONER)

- Goal remains to encourage the introduction of handball to female youth by attending upcoming clinics. Greatly due to the efforts of Wally (junior co-ordinator) this has been a collaborative effort and growing success. The other goal is to encourage and support as many experienced female players to re-visit their love for handball by taking part in local handball events, attending association meetings, running clinics, etc.

Mark (BOARD NOMINATIONS & VOTES)

- Reviewed positions that are eligible for nomination, including Secretary, Vice President and President.
- Secretary: open to the floor for nominations, during AGM no one expressed interest in the position, however Peter Service later confirmed that he would accept same. Nomination made by Wally Oprzedek, second by Mark Polgrabia. **Position of Secretary accepted by Peter Service.**
- Vice President: open to the floor for nominations, Nathan Body nominated Adam Johnson, second by Peter Service. **Position of Vice President accepted by Adam Johnston.**
- President: open to the floor for nominations, Wally Oprzedek nominated Jenine Wilson, second by Ivan Elliott. **Position of President accepted by Jenine Wilson.**

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40pm

June 2013 OHA Junior Report - A Busy 6-Months for Ontario Juniors Handballers...

The last 6-months have been extremely busy for our Ontario's Junior Handballers, participating in a series of events across Ontario, Canada and the United States. None of this would be possible without the generous donations of time and money from individuals within our handball community. The OHA has demonstrated that Junior development is their #1 Priority, by supporting and funding junior participation in the following events during the last 6-months, with some impressive results by our kids:

- **2012 USHA National Junior Four-Wall Handball Championships, in Des Plaines, IL**
 - Ontario Junior, John Audet of Niagara Falls, ON teamed up with Brant Bidegain of Rancho San Diego, CA to win The Boys Doubles 19 and Under Nationals Crown.
- **2013 Ontario 4-Wall Singles and Doubles Championships, in Burlington, ON**
 - In singles, Ivan Burgos won the round-robin Rookie-division. Matt Shrum beat Alan Burgos in a thrilling 11-9 tie-break to take the C-Division title. Junior Aaron Shrum had tremendous success playing in his first B-Division event, advancing to the finals against Irishman Joe Gallagher. In his last year as a "Junior", John Audet pushed Ryan Bowler to the brink of the Open Finals, losing a thrilling 11-7 tie-break.
 - In the doubles event, the juniors played in the B and C-Divisions, and demonstrated that it's just a matter of time, before they are progressing up through the ranks.
 - At the conclusion of the 2012/2013 season, Ivan Burgos was named Junior Player of the year, participated in every Ontario Junior Handball event last year, as well as winning the 11 & Under division of the 2012 4-Wall Canadian Championships. At every

event, he demonstrated determination and sportsmanship, often playing against much older and physically larger kids.

Congratulations, Ivan!!!

- **2013 Canadian National 4-Wall Handball Championships, in Winnipeg, MN**
 - We had 4-Junior players participate in this year's Canadian Championships, competing in the "A", 19 & Under, 15 & Under and 11 & Under Divisions. Alam Burgos won the 15 & Under singles and doubles, teaming up with with Rory Rakochey of Alberta. Ivan Burgos took 2nd in the 13 & U Singles. Matt Shrum played with Josh Lavin of Alberta, and lost a hard fought tie-breaker to take 2nd in the 17 & Under Doubles. Aaron Shrum took 2nd in the 19 & Under singles, and then placed 2nd with Fernando Burgos in the A-dubs.
 - Congrats also to Matt Shrum (and thanks to the CHA) for winning the Junior Essay Contest, and winning a bursary from the CHA for his travel expenses to the nationals.
- **2013 June Hill Memorial 1-Wall Handball Tournament, in Burlington, ON**
 - 15-Juniors competed in the "Rookie" and "Open/Young Buck/Living Legend" Divisions. See the tournament report for details of their success.
- **Weekly South Lincoln High School 4-Wall Lessons during the 2012/2013 Season**
 - The SLHS Handball Club would like to thank the OHA, SLHS and the Grimsby Peach King Center for their contributions of court time and equipment for weekly lessons
 - Congratulations to the winners of the 2012/2013 SLHS Handball Awards: Matt Shrum won Player-of-the-Year, Brock Speller was Rookie-of-the-Year and Tyman Adelcoort was Most-Improved Player.
- **Partnering with YMCA's across Ontario**

- During 2013, Mark & Bruno Polgrabia and I have conducted 2-clinics at the St. Catharines Y's Youth Action Nights for over 100-kids (and we had as much fun as they did).
- Ivan Elliot, Fernando Burgos and the Niagara-area players have continued to support juniors down in the Niagara and Fort Erie facilities.
- During the 2013/2014 season, the intent is to continue conducting clinics in Niagara, and to establish regular weekly lessons now that we have exposed the kids to the game. We are also looking to expand clinics and lessons to other areas of Ontario, with the next focus being the Burlington/Hamilton-area, led by Brian Goto and Adam Johnston.
- **July 2013 Junior Handball Clinic/Camp with Lake Forest's Coach Dau, in Calgary, AL**
 - Alan Burgos and I attended this event with the intent of coming back to Ontario, and sharing Coach Dau's strategies in clinics/lessons during the upcoming 2013/2014 season.
 - Special thanks to the CHA and Alberta Handball Association for their support, and to Bill McGrath and Rob & Laurie Rakochey for their hospitality during the week.
- **The Scotiabank / Canadian Football League Game-changer Campaign**
 - It was very nice to be nominated as a Scotiabank "Game-changer", but I really look at myself as being the "name" or "face" that got nominated representing the OHA and all of the volunteers supporting junior handball across Ontario. This campaign is as an opportunity to promote the game of handball within Canada, and to potentially receive some funding for our Ontario Juniors. Please support the online campaign by voting every day that you can at <https://www.scotiabankgamechangers.com/Nominee>. The number of votes is part of the consideration in awarding prizes to charitable organizations.

At this point in time, we have approximately 30-juniors playing 1-Wall and 4-Wall across the Niagara Region, primarily in Fort Erie, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Smithville, and Grimsby. We need to continue this growth by expanding our activities across the entire province. Our growth strategy is to start the kids playing 1-Wall, and once we get them hooked, introduce them to the 4-Wall game by conducting regularly scheduled lessons and tournaments. If you are interested in conducting a clinic, or starting lessons in your community, and would like some support, please contact myself, or any member of the OHA Board. All of our contact information is on the OHA website <http://www.ontariohandball.ca/about-us-2/about-us>. The future of our game depends on it.

Summer's here..."Any Ball, Any Wall"...take a kid you know (and a couple of his friends) over to a schoolyard and hit a Big Blue against the wall. They'll have a blast...and so will you!!!

Wally Oprzedek
OHA Junior Development Co-ordinator