



# GUELPH MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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## GMHA Board Nominees for 2022-23

### Directors at Large

#### Steve Van Dam

I have been involved in GMHA for almost 14 years. I would like to give back and try to keep our association going in a positive direction. I have coached at all levels of the GMHA rep program, have been a trainer and a house league coach for many years. I own my own business and am a huge believer in the importance of ongoing communication and transparency with all my staff and customers.

#### Erin Appleby

Growing up in a small town, our activities were a big part of our family, and my parents were always actively involved in each and every organization. As my own children have become involved in their activities I have always tried to give back.

I firmly believe that sports bring significant value to a child's life and help shape them as a person. Of course, they love to win but as a parent I know there is so much more. Their sports teach them about teamwork, cooperation, and respect along with many other life skills.

If elected to become a member of the GMHA board, I would bring a passion and dedication to make GMHA the best it can be and ensure the organization operates with integrity in all decision making.

During the last two seasons, I have acted as a manager for my youngest child's rep team. As well, during tryouts I supported other rep coaches and board members to ensure a smooth registration process. I can bring a significant amount of experience from both prior positions on not-for-profit boards as well as a wealth of knowledge from a career in business. I am a licensed accountant which allows me to provide a solid understanding of business and finances to support and ensure the organization continues to be financially viable with full transparency to all members.

Throughout my years in executive positions within the private sector I have a vast knowledge of building strategies and structuring an organization to execute effectively. Along with this, significant time spent managing teams while dealing with conflict resolution and team management are all key transferable skills that I can bring with me to the GMHA board to support the organization.

#### Alex Gruevski

My son was most recently in the Advanced Development Program. I am looking for an opportunity to help GMHA in any way I can. In my professional career I have been working with corporate boards for nearly a decade and feel that as a board member I can offer experience and expertise that could be useful to the board in its governance.

I have over 16 years of experience leading businesses of all sizes. I am currently the head of finance for a privately held mass timber manufacturer in St. Thomas, Ontario. I am a CPA, CGA with experience working primarily in mining and industrial environments for the majority of my career. I have had extensive experience working with boards and ownership groups and I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty to understand the details of the organization. I have not only led finance groups but also have experience managing operations as well and have an interest in learning new things to



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help understand an organization's breadth as opposed to just my area of expertise. I love working with a diverse group of people and thrive in a collaborative environment.

## **Lucas Kusiak**

The Kusiak (Kuzzy) boys have been part of the Gryphons family for 5 years. Having 2 sons who love hockey I feel it's my turn to give something back to this organization. During the last 2 years of the pandemic, I have watched kids navigate the minefield of ever-changing rules and guidelines just to play the sport they love.

I feel that my professional background could add more clarity and some guidance on potential liability pitfalls when making decisions during these uncertain times. I'm looking forward to pitching in any way I can.

## **Bryan Gillmore**

I am interested in being involved with the GMHA to help lead the organization as it seeks to develop and continue to provide for the community. I believe my experience in the not-for-profit community and my understanding of board governance/operations would be of value to the GMHA community.

I am a parent of a player and have been involved with GMHA for the past 5 years.

I founded and run a not-for-profit. I am very familiar with how not for profit organization are to run fiscally and in compliance with by-laws.

I have extensive experience as a board member and/or committee member with a number of non-profit organizations within Guelph (i.e. Michael House, Guelph Minor Baseball Association, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, Guelph Children's Foundation).