

Greater Metro season gets underway ? without Shelburne

By Brian Lockhart

With 26 teams in the line-up for the 2016/17 season, the Greater Metro Hockey League started the first games of the new schedule this past week.

Locally, the Orangeville Ice Crushers and New Tecumseth Civics, based in Alliston, both have teams entered in the League this season.

The Ice Crushers are returning for their second season.

The Civics are starting their first season after a change in ownership and re-branding from last season's Alliston Coyotes.

After a difficult season last year, the Shelburne team did not complete the season at the Centre Dufferin Recreation complex and the team has since folded.

There are several new teams in the League this year, and the GMHL is spread across the Province from Timiskaming in the north, over to Wiarton, and down to Tillsonburg.

There are three Toronto teams entered this season - the Ice Jets, Attack and the Predators.

Tottenham, the dominant team from last year is back, but with a different ownership and coaching staff.

The New Tecumseth Civics held their season- and home-opener on Thursday, September 8, when they hosted the Bradford Rattlers at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre and it turns out the first game of the year wasn't much of a contest.

The Civics took an early three-goal lead in the first period.

Returning for the second frame, they again kept up the pressure and notched three more to make it a 6-0 game heading into the third period.

The final period saw the Civics finish with two more while shutting down the Bradford attack to win the game with an 8-0 shut-out.

The Orangeville Ice Crushers lost their first game of the season taking a 4-1 hit to the Bradford Bulls.

The Crushers home night will be Wednesday's at the Alder Street arena in Orangeville.