

GMHL season underway this week ? Red Wings on the road for first four games

The Greater Metro Hockey League has again expanded for the 2013 / 2014 season.

With the addition of new teams this year, including the nearby Alliston Coyotes, the League now has 20 teams in the line-up for this season.

The new squads include two new franchises out of Toronto - the Predators and the Blue Ice Jets.

In addition to the Coyotes, Seguin Township, Halton, and Meaford all have teams entering the League.

The Shelburne Redwings will be out for their fourth season since forming in 2010.

The Redwings had a decent season last year ending with a 19?23 record including two games that were lost in an overtime period.

That gave them a tenth place finish in the 14 team league of last season.

With the addition of the five new squads it's anyone's guess how things will go this year. Usually you have to get in to about 10 games before the league starts showing how things will shape up.

Redwings management have not yet announced the final roster for this year and are still recruiting.

Former captain, Owen Bennington, a three year veteran of the squad has joined the Val-d'O'r Foreurs in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

Bennington came to the Redwings from the Grey Buce Highlanders AAA as a 15 year-old defenceman then moved to the forward line the next year.

The GMHL season will get started on Thursday, September 5, with the first game between the Halton Ravens and the Bradford Rattlers.

The Rattlers are the defending GMHL champions having an undefeated regular season last year then going on to sweep the first three rounds of the playoffs.

They won the title ? the Russell Cup ? with a win over Temiscaming in six games in the final series.

On the bench for the Redwings will be returning head coach Igor Vasilyev and associate head coach Nikita Vasilyev.

The Redwings will be on the road for their first four games travelling to Powassan, Alliston, Temiscaming, and South Muskoka before returning to home ice at the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex in Shelburne.

Their home opener is slated for Friday, September 27.

The puck drop is scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

By Brian Lockhart