

Toronto ON – November 14, 2024 – Ontario Lacrosse is saddened to share the passing of volunteer and friend Jessica Bates, a dedicated and beloved volunteer of the Brantford Minor Lacrosse Association (BMLA).

For years, Jessica was not only an essential part of the BMLA, but a warm and selfless presence in the lives of all who knew her. She brought passion, positivity, and the spirit of giving to every aspect of her volunteer work. Her contributions made a lasting impact on countless young players, coaches, and families, and her legacy within the BMLA helped to shape and stabilize the organization. Jessica wasn't just dedicated; she was truly passionate, pouring her love and energy into the game. She cared deeply for every player, every family, and every team member within the BMLA—her kindness and compassion touched everyone she met.

Beyond her dedication to lacrosse, Jessica was a beacon of selflessness and generosity. She led with a gentle strength, always stepping up to help wherever she was needed, and always making time for others. Her warmth and kindness extended to every corner of her life; she cherished her family deeply and inspired everyone to be better friends, neighbours, and teammates.

“Jessica’s tireless commitment to lacrosse and her unwavering support for the youth in the Brantford community will always be remembered,” remarked Mary Sticca, OLA Vice President, Minor Box. “We are so grateful for her many contributions throughout the years, as the President of Brantford Minor Lacrosse and as the Registrar of Zone 8, but most importantly, as a friendly face to so many people in each arena that she entered. Jessica will be missed.”

Jessica’s legacy will live on in the hearts of everyone she impacted, but her absence will be felt profoundly. We extend our deepest condolences to her husband, Aaron, their three boys, and their family, who will carry forward the values she instilled in them: kindness, strength, and dedication. An announcement on a celebration of Jessica’s life will be forthcoming.

