



## **Hamilton/Stoney Creek April 2009 into 2010**

In April 2009, the Stoney Creek Girls Hockey Association (SCGHA) adopted a tobacco-free policy with the goal of preventing youth from starting to use tobacco industry products. The policy requests that coaches, all team staff, executives, and players not use tobacco products during games, practices, and team functions.

The SCGHA launched its new tobacco-free policy at the first game of the season for the Stoney Creek Junior Sabres on September 25, 2009. The game started with an announcement about the new tobacco-free policy followed by a presentation of a Play, Live, Be...Tobacco-Free pin to the team captain of the visiting Kitchener/Waterloo Rangers. The SCGHA also encouraged visiting coaches, parents, players, and fans to be positive role models by not using tobacco industry products in areas where youth are present.

The SCGHA will continue to promote their tobacco-free policy throughout the 2009-2010 season by wearing Play, Live, Be...Tobacco-Free patches on their hockey pants as a visual reminder of the policy. Tammie Weston, SCGHA President, encourages other teams to be positive role models for their athletes by adopting a tobacco-free policy for their organization.

Submitted By Don Curry, Hamilton Public Health Services