

Biography - Payam Zareian

I was born in Toronto and moved to Whitby when I was three years old. I attended F.M. Heard Public School and later graduated from Sinclair Secondary School with a bilingual diploma. I went on to earn a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Accounting, from Ontario Tech University. Since graduating, I have launched two businesses in the Durham Region and continue to invest in the local community.

Over the years, I've been involved with several local nonprofits, including "Dear Santa Durham," which raises funds for Hearth Place (Durham's Cancer Support Centre) and Denise House. I was also a member of the Lakeridge Health Foundation during the pandemic.

Growing up, I played competitive sports - something I still do today. When my son began playing hockey, I had no idea what to expect. Honestly, I was nervous for both of us, but I'm incredibly proud to say his experiences have far exceeded our expectations. After an incredible undefeated 2024-25 season (43-0) and winning the OMHA Red Hats, my son will be playing for the U11 AAA Wildcats next year.

Our first year in the Whitby AAA Hockey program had its challenges—lots to learn, some ups and downs—but the Board made a real difference. They were always willing to listen, explain decisions, and offer guidance, even when we didn't always agree. I came to appreciate just how much work the Board does—and how limited their time and resources can be.

This is where I believe I can contribute. As a serial entrepreneur with a background in accounting, and with hands-on experience volunteering for U6–U9 teams over the past three years, I bring a strong understanding of both the sport and the business side of running a successful program. My passion for hockey—and for youth sports in general—drives me to help build the best possible experience for players and families, while keeping financial responsibility top of mind.

Thank you for your consideration.