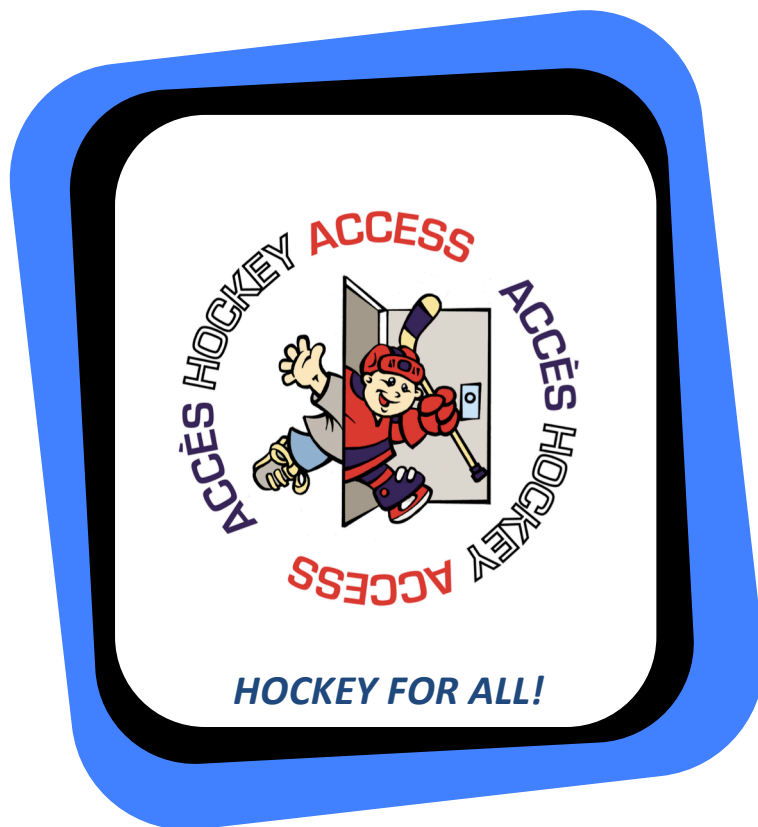


Accès Hockey Access

Annual Report 2013-2014



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Message from the President

Hockey Access has now completed its 6th year of operation and the organization continues to provide support for underprivileged families interested in providing access for their kids to play hockey. The increasing notoriety we had identified in a previous annual report has now reached municipalities outside of Aylmer. Three minor hockey associations (Maniwaki, Fort Coulonge and Shawville) have expressed an interest in providing the same type of support for families in their catchment areas. Access Hockey met with their respective presidents and shared their knowledge on how to start up such an organization. Additionally, we provided some of their young players with equipment that they could keep in order to begin a small inventory for further development. We anticipate that other associations may approach us in the future subsequent to a presentation made to Hockey Outaouais's board of directors. It is safe to say now that our objective of expanding to other municipalities in the Outaouais region has begun.

Schools in our region are now beginning to show an interest in initiating their students to the game of hockey. We suited eight (8) from St Michaels High School in Wakefield, Québec. Had we not provided this equipment these students would not have played.

Equally interesting in terms of expanding access to the sport of hockey was the provision of 30 pairs of skates for Hockey Outaouais's women's hockey. Women's hockey in the Outaouais is fairly new and these skates were provided on the basis that they be used to initiate young girls to the game and create future development.

Our partners (Caisses Desjardins, City of Gatineau, Les Partenaires d'Aylmer – Québec en forme, Loisir Sport Outaouais, Canadian Tire Foundation – Jump Start, Ottawa Senators, Aylmer 30+ Hockey League, and Aylmer Minor Hockey Association) continue to provide us with the same support as they too believe in the cause. We are very grateful to them.

Our warehousing space provided by the City of Gatineau is phenomenal and enables us to not only store our equipment but a space to also greet and dress the kids (one stop shopping!). We also opened up our doors to two major events in Aylmer; the Canadian women's hockey team camp and a regional figure skating competition with both event organizers using our space to enhance their events.

I take this opportunity to encourage you to visit our website (www.accesshockey.ca) as there are testimonials of parents that summarize much better than I can the reason for our existence.

In closing I want to once again thank all those who donated equipment or generously contributed their precious time to the cause. The Hockey Access team, consisting of Luc Boyer (treasurer), Jean Delisle (VP), Conrad Venne (secretary), Victor LeBlanc (special projects), and Rick Toppa (special projects) once again graciously gives their time and effort towards a cause they have generously embraced. My hat goes off to you!

Steve Goodwin - President, Hockey Access

Hockey Access Presentation

Hockey Access is a six-year-old organization that has already helped close to 500 children and youth from underprivileged families enjoy the game of hockey.

Hockey Access started when four hockey dads, passionate about the game and very aware that their own children were fortunate to be able to practice a sport where they not only learned the game but made many new friends and experienced many great things, discussed how it would be nice to be able to make a difference in the lives of less fortunate children. These four fathers also realized that they, and many other hockey parents, had a substantial amount of used hockey equipment sitting in their homes. Thus was founded **Hockey Access**. We serve the Aylmer community located in the Outaouais region of Quebec and hope to continue to increase the number of families and children/youth that we help introduce to the wonderful sport of hockey, an activity that may someday be their buoy in life.

Hockey Access has been created to help underprivileged families participate in organized hockey and allow them to live a rewarding group sport experience. During its first six years of operation, **Hockey Access** supplied used and new hockey equipment to several kids from underprivileged families. **Hockey Access** also provided for the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association registration fees and, for some of the children, team fees.

Mission

Hockey Access' mission is the following:

To help and encourage underprivileged Aylmer children and youth to join the local organized hockey league by providing them with financial and material support.

Target Population

Underprivileged children and youth residing in Aylmer.

Overall Goal

Our overall goal is to help as many underprivileged children and youth of the Aylmer community overcome the financial constraints that prevent them from playing hockey. More specifically, we wish to help them join the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA) and recreational hockey by providing them with financial and material support.

Values

At **Hockey Access**, we believe that there should be no financial barriers to playing hockey. All kids, irrespective of their family's economic situation, should be given an opportunity to participate in an organized hockey league.

We also believe in the value of organized sports activities for health and for the social development of children and youth. Hockey can contribute to individual valorization, to an increased sense of belonging, and to the creation of solid friendships. All these elements are essential to healthy child development.

What Makes This Project Unique?

Hockey Access is the only organization in the region offering this type of support (i.e. providing not only equipment to play but also financial support to cover costs related to hockey).

We also believe that what makes this project unique is the fact that each one of us is directly involved in minor hockey (either as a parent, a coach, a team manager or a combination of these roles) and has a very clear understanding of the costs involved and the equipment required, i.e. of the potential barriers for children and youth of low-income families. Not only is this project unique because of our direct involvement, but also because we maintain that involvement throughout the hockey season by keeping track of the participants' development as the season progresses.

Our ultimate dream is to keep encouraging these young people to pursue hockey for as long as possible and perhaps thus giving them a source of happiness, belonging, friendship and a solid foundation to build upon for the rest of their lives.

Team

Here are the people who form the **Hockey Access** team:

President	Steve Goodwin
Treasurer	Luc Boyer
Vice-President	Jean Delisle
Secretary	Conrad Venne
Special Projects	Victor LeBlanc
Special Projects	Rick Toppa

Many more volunteers helped the above team from time to time and we want to thank them all for their contribution.

Operations

Hockey Access must accomplish two main tasks to fulfill its mission:

- raise funds to help young people financially;
- assemble and maintain a hockey equipment inventory.

Funds are essential to buy new equipment and to pay for association and team fees.

Hockey equipment is not given to young people but rather lent to optimize use. **Hockey Access** and the Recreational Hockey Program (RHP) participants receive equipment for the season and return it at the end

To build the hockey equipment inventory required for our operations, **Hockey Access** collects used equipment in a special container located at the Robinson arena in Aylmer. Some new equipment is also purchased with funds raised by the organization.

Hockey Access operations include the following activities:

- Collection of used equipment
- Cleaning and repair of used equipment
- Assembly of complete equipment sets
- Equipment loan management
- Fundraising and finding partners
- Other administrative tasks required by the organization

Year 2013-2014 Activities

In this chapter, we present Year 2013-2014 objectives and main activities.

Year 2013-2014 Objectives

- Organize the collection of hockey equipment
- Start collecting equipment
- Store equipment appropriately
- Dress and register approximately 20 kids in the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA)
- Dress and register 30 to 60 kids in the City of Gatineau Recreational Hockey Program
- Establish partnerships
- Find sponsorships
- Advertise **Hockey Access** to the Aylmer community

Year 2013-2014 Main Activities

- 20 players dressed and registered with the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA)
- 50 players dressed and participated in the City of Gatineau Recreational Hockey Program (RHP)
- Substantial collection of equipment
- Warehouse space secured

Equipment

- A large-sized container located inside the Robinson arena was emptied 8 times during the year.

Partnerships

Ottawa Senators, AHMA, City of Gatineau, Loisir Sport Outaouais

Sponsorships

Caisses Desjardins, Aylmer 30+ Hockey League, Québec en forme, Canadian Tire Foundation

2013-2014 Income Statement

Opening Balance at 1 April 2013	\$12,607.47
Revenue (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014)	\$5,912.79
Expenses (1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014)	\$10,259.14
Net Income (Loss)	(\$4,346.35)
Closing Balance as of 31 March 2014	\$8,261.12

Vision for 2014-2015

Operational Objectives

- Maintain an appropriate system for the collected equipment
- Procure more new helmets and gloves (these items are scarce and usually not in the best of conditions when used)

Major Risks and Potential Hurdles

Community pressure is always present with other associations looking to secure our warehousing space for their own use. Should the City of Gatineau decide to change their position on the usage of this space our organization would once again be in need of finding some alternative.

Annex 1: Hockey Access in the Media

This year, our president Steve Goodwin receives the "Volunteer of the Year Award" from Hockey Outaouais. In the photo, Steve is being recognized for this achievement at an Ottawa Senators game by Senators President Cyril Leeder, and Hockey Outaouais Vice-President Pierre Fortier.

For the full story, visit the following link to the article which appeared in the November 25, 2013 issue of the Journal La Revue:

<http://www.journallarevue.com/Sports/Hockey/2013-11-25/article-3500797/Un-petit-coup-de-main-devenu-grand/1>

