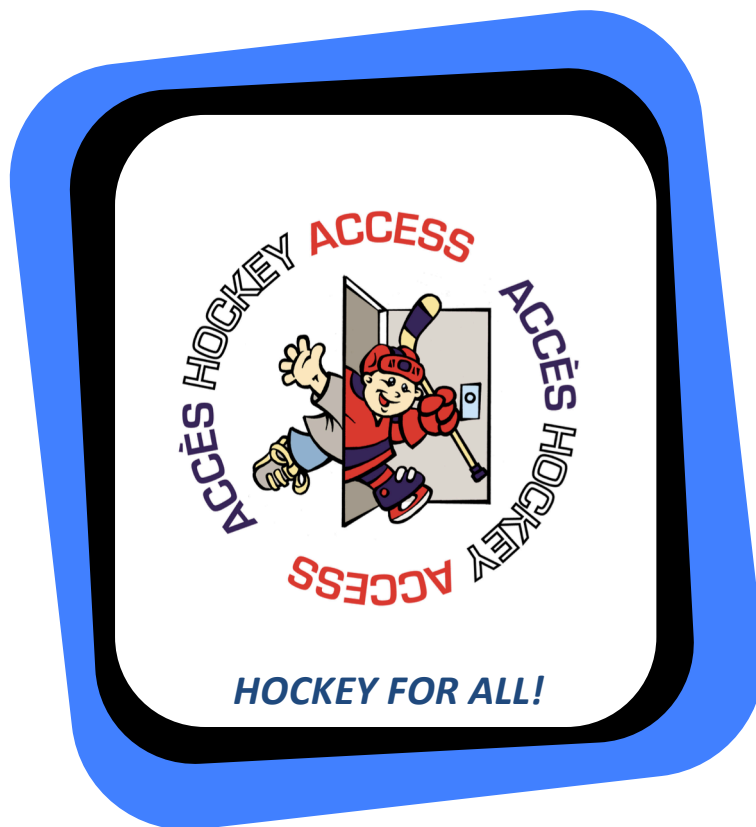


Accès Hockey Access

Annual Report 2014-2015



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Message from the President

This was perhaps the biggest year in Hockey Access's history. To begin with, our board of directors was approached by the City of Gatineau to explore the possibility of building a warehouse for our organization. All five of us were quite overwhelmed with the news and at the same time proud that we had come this far. This new building will require an investment of approximately \$250,000 from the City. When Hockey Access began, none of us could have predicted such an outcome.

This year also saw the largest number of participants in the Recreational Hockey Program (RHP) run by the City. We suited 72 participants so that they could enjoy the game of hockey every Friday night at the local arena. The expansion was mostly due to a greater outreach by the City who promoted the program to more schools in Aylmer.

The expansion of our services to schools keeps on growing. The following quote illustrates the need.

Hello Mr. Goodwin,

I am the principal of DWKS and intend to have all students participate in hockey.

We have just started a developmental hockey program for our elementary students and many of them do not have skates/equipment. We are a small K to 11 school located on L'Isle-aux-Allumettes, Quebec just across from Pembroke, Ontario. Our school is located in a rural/poor community and our school is ranked 10/10 on the MELS "underprivileged" scale.

I have experience in grassroots hockey having established a local hockey program (9) years ago that continues today. I realize however, that despite this local possibility, some kids still don't get the chance to lace up, like Marcel and Danilo, being raised by their grandmother.

The school program allows for this to happen and these boys with others will hit the ice. I have goalie equipment, paid ice-time and help. What is missing now is equipment....

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Neil Fleming - Principal, Dr. Wilbert Keon School

Another school, "Euclide Lanthier", approached us to loan equipment to their teaching staff for a friendly game of hockey with their students. This initiative once again enabled kids to be initiated to the game of hockey.

New this year was the support provided to a Youth Centre in Maniwaki. The mission of Youth Centres in Quebec is to offer psychosocial services, including social emergency services,

required by a young person by virtue of the Youth Protection Act and the act respecting young offenders. It also offers services for child placement, family mediation, and expertise at the Superior Court on child custody, adoption and biological history. Providing hockey equipment to some of these youths may help them thrive in a different environment and aspire to a better life.

Similar in nature was the skates we provided to youth from the “Centre Communautaire Entre-Nous” in Aylmer. Their mission is to provide youth with life skills enabling them to make good choices. Their organization hosted an evening of “Learn how to skate” for teens.

And on a completely different sphere of activity, Hockey Access provided 20 hockey bags for the “Grande Rivière High School” in Aylmer. These bags were filled with clothing and given to young Costa Ricans on a school trip.

Worthy of mention is the success our first participant in Access Hockey is demonstrating. Jordan Brennan, the first recipient of equipment and support from our organization played for a Junior A team in the Barrie, Ontario region this year. Jordan has gone through his entire minor hockey in the Outaouais and over the years developed a passion for the game of hockey. He has shown determination and proof that with a little bit of support kids are capable of doing great things.

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.

Lastly, on the financial front, our organization received \$2,500 from the Hockey Night in Canada Help Fund. Worthy of mentioning is the support we receive from minor hockey teams in Aylmer who transfer us their end of year financial surpluses.

Steve Goodwin

President,

Hockey Access

Hockey Access Presentation

Hockey Access is a seven-year-old organization that has already helped close to 600 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 three 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 2014-2015 Activities

In this chapter, we present Year 2014-2015 objectives and main activities.

Year 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 Main Activities

- 20 players dressed and registered with the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA)
- 72 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

2014-2015 Income Statement

Opening Balance at 1 April 2014	\$8,261
Revenue (1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)	\$6,518
Expenses (1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015)	\$6,376
Net Income (Loss)	\$142
Closing Balance as of 31 March 2015	\$8,403

Vision for 2015-2016

Operational Objectives

- Maintain an appropriate system for the collected equipment
- Include an internet payment method on our website for corporations and individuals who want to make a donation to Hockey Access

Major Risks and Potential Hurdles

Rapid growth is still the biggest risk for the organization at the moment. Currently, the whole organization is run by volunteers with limited time and resources. Increasing demand and increased visibility will likely require more effort to ensure the organization's success.

Annex 1: Hockey Access in the Media



Hockey Access receives \$2,500 from the Hockey Night in Canada Help Fund. Read the full story at

<http://www.cbc.ca/sports/hockey/hockey-night-in-canada-help-fund-donates-more-than-54k-1.2749232>