

# *Accès Hockey Access*

*Annual Report 2008-2009*



Rémi Côté

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# *Message from the President*

**Hockey Access** just completed its first year of operation and what a year it was! This annual report provides highlights of that year and at the same time, I hope, is an information tool for those who want to learn more about our organization.

At the beginning of the year, our original goal was to supply hockey equipment for 3 or 4 kids and help with the fees associated with joining the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA). To our surprise, we provided equipment and registered 14 kids, in addition to supplying equipment to 35 other students enrolled in a recreational hockey program (RHP) run by the city of Gatineau. All this thanks to the contribution of newly found partners such as the Aylmer Youth Centres, the City of Gatineau, Canadian Tire Foundation, AMHA (Aylmer Minor Hockey Association), Hockey Wash, 3M, and the 30+ Aylmer Hockey League. We can certainly say: **mission accomplished!**

To top things off we recently received support from the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) for the coming year. NHLPA will provide for 15 new sets of hockey equipment valued at 25 000 \$. This support will allow us to supply quality equipment to more kids and will give **Hockey Access** some visibility, an important aspect if we want to grow the number of kids we can serve.

I want to take this opportunity to 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), Aline Trudeau (special projects), and Rémi Côté (special projects), is doing outstanding work in an atmosphere of sharing and fun. My wish for next year: To continue to help families in need and have fun doing it.

Steve Goodwin

President, **Hockey Access**

# ***Hockey Access Presentation***

**Hockey Access** is a one-year-old organization that has already helped 44 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 year 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 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 a 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 have already been approached to expand our coverage outside of the Aylmer community to other areas of the Outaouais region.

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 around 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	Aline Trudeau
Special Projects	Rémi Côté

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 their use. **Hockey Access** participants receive equipment for the season while participants in the Recreational Hockey Program (RHP) receive their equipment every time they play hockey and return it right after.

To build the hockey equipment inventory required for our operations, **Hockey Access** collects used equipment in a special container located at the Duchesnay 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 and sponsors
- Other administrative tasks required by the organization



# ***Year 2008-2009 Activities***

In this chapter, we present Year 2008-2009 objectives and main activities.

## ***Year 2008-2009 Objectives***

- Organize the collection of hockey equipment
- Start collecting equipment
- Store equipment appropriately
- Dress and register 3 to 4 kids in the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA)
- Establish partnerships
- Find sponsorships
- Advertize **Hockey Access** to the Aylmer community

## ***Year 2008-2009 Main Activities***

- 14 players dressed and registered with the Aylmer Minor Hockey Association (AMHA)
- 35 players dressed and participated in the City of Gatineau Recreational Hockey Program (RHP)
- Substantial collection of equipment
- NHLPA gave **Hockey Access** 15 complete hockey equipment sets
- Many partnerships established
- Sponsorships found
- 3 events covered by media with great success

## ***Equipment***

- A large-sized container located inside Duchesnay arena was emptied 6 times during the year.

## ***Players helped directly by Hockey Access***

- 14 children from underprivileged families, selected from the Aylmer Youth Centres.
- 35 children selected from a school located in a lower income bracket of the city « École du Village »

## ***Recreational Hockey Program (RHP)***

Witnessing the success of the organization, the City of Gatineau approached **Hockey Access** to establish a partnership and invite us to collaborate on their new project Recreational Hockey Program (RHP). A second mandate for **Hockey Access** was born. Under this program, **Hockey Access** equipped 35 more players than what had been anticipated to start with. RHP and **Hockey Access** offered young people from l'École du Village in Aylmer the possibility of practicing their favorite sport for free (with equipment) in a slightly less rigid/structured environment than a usual minor hockey league (no coaches, simulated games, no pre-formed teams, etc.). The purpose of this program is really to provide an introduction to hockey for those who would normally not have this opportunity and who are not interested in the competitive or organized aspect of minor hockey.

## ***Partnerships***

NHLPA, AMHA, City of Gatineau, Youth Centers, Canadian Tire Foundation

## ***Sponsorships***

Hockey Wash, 30+ Hockey League, 3M.





# ***2008-2009 Financial Report***

## ***Income***

30+	1000 \$
Novice Express team	200 \$
Novice Faucon team	150 \$
Mariniers BB Atome team	700 \$
Sponsorship from Centre d'usinage ZR	900 \$
Various donations	570 \$
BB Voiliers team	383\$
Total	4129 \$

## ***Expenses***

Printing cheques and deposit slips	131\$
Rona – storage bins	126\$
Container manufacturing cost	280\$
Hockey Wash	867\$
Hockey Wash	127\$
Total	1531\$

## ***Overall Results***

**Hockey Access** has a **budget surplus** of **2 598 \$**.

# ***Vision for 2009-2010***

**Hockey Access'** success in 2008-2009 makes us believe that we will have more kids interested in our programs in the coming year. Also, depressed economical forecasts for 2009 will likely have a negative impact on family revenues thus driving more families to our door.

We also believe that the NHLPA sponsorship will give **Hockey Access** more visibility in the community. A special media day will be organized to announce the sponsorship.

Other organizations have approached us already to extend the **Hockey Access** program to other sectors of Gatineau. This needs to be properly analyzed by the board of directors so that an appropriate decision is made.

Finally, **Hockey Access** will spend more effort than it did in the past in finding sponsorships for the coming year.

## ***Operational Objectives***

- Find a good location to store the collected equipment

## ***Major Risks and Potential Hurdles***

Growth is the biggest risk for the organization at the moment. Currently, the whole organization is run by volunteers with limited time and resources. Growth in demand and more visibility will likely increase the level of effort required to ensure the organization's success.

# ***Annex 1 : Hockey Access in the Media***

***Bulletin d'Aylmer, October 8 2008***

## **Les joueurs de hockey d'Aylmer viennent en aide aux enfants**

Julie Murray

Le 27 septembre dernier, la Ligue de hockey des 30-Plus d'Aylmer a fait don de 1 000 \$ à Accès Hockey, un groupe composé de quatre (4) papas qui désiraient venir en aide aux fils d'amis qui voulaient jouer au hockey eux aussi mais ne pouvaient se le permettre financièrement. " Nous avons de l'équipement usagé qui dormait dans nos sous-sols. Nous avons donc décidé de placer un bac à l'Aréna Duschenay, dans l'espoir d'y recueillir des équipements usagés" a expliqué Steve Goodwin en ajoutant que "La réponse du public a été absolument incroyable. Nous avons reçu des centaines de patins, de pantalons et de casques. "

Messieurs Goodwin, Conrad Venne, Luc Boyer et Jean Delisle de Accès Hockey n'ont pu obtenir de renseignements concernant des revenus familiaux, on le comprendra, vu les implications concernant la protection de la vie privée. Alors, avant le début des classes, ils ont annoncé leur projet à la boutique de partage. Résultat: ils ont réussi à habiller 16 jeunes de 11 familles et ainsi leur permettre de se joindre au hockey mineur. "Nous jouons au hockey et adorons ce sport. Nous souhaitons pouvoir le rendre à la communauté et nous poursuivrons ce projet cette année", de dire M Deny Gravel de la Ligue des 30-Plus.

(Trad. : C.B.)

*Journal Le Droit, 6 octobre 2008*

## **Pour les jeunes hockeyeurs**



Photo courtoisie

[Mario Boulianne](#)

Le programme Accès Hockey, qui permet à plusieurs jeunes du secteur Aylmer de jouer au hockey à faible coût, a voulu remercier un grand donateur de son programme, soit la Ligue de hockey adulte 30 ans et plus d'Aylmer, qui a récemment remis 1000 \$ au programme.

Photo courtoisie

Sur la photo, on aperçoit Luc Boyer, trésorier de Accès Hockey, Steve Goodwin, président de Accès Hockey, Dany Gravel, président de la ligue 30 et +, et Jean Delisle, vice-président de Accès Hockey.

## ***Journal Le Droit (Cyberpresse.ca), September 24 2008***

<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/vie-communautaire/200809/24/01-23138-du-hockey-pour-tous.php>

### **Du Hockey pour tous**



Mario Boulianne

**Au fil des ans, la popularité du hockey chez les jeunes diminue. Depuis plusieurs années, le nombre de sports et de loisirs offerts aux jeunes ainsi que les coûts reliés à la pratique du hockey sont les principaux facteurs qui incitent les enfants à désertter les arénas.**

Dans le secteur Aylmer, quelques pères de joueurs de hockey, conscients de ces faits, ont pris les moyens pour aider certains enfants à pratiquer ce sport. Jean Delisle, Conrad Venne, Luc Boyer et Steve Goodwin ont donc formé l'organisme Accès Hockey Access pour parvenir à leurs fins.

«L'idée nous est venue il y a près de deux ans, de dire Jean Delisle, un des initiateurs du projet. On en discutait autour d'une table et on trouvait que les contraintes financières ne devraient pas empêcher les enfants de pratiquer leur sport favori.»

Nos quatre «papas d'arénas» avaient l'intention d'aider une demi-douzaine de jeunes à jouer au hockey en dénichant de l'équipement et en défrayant les coûts d'inscriptions. Mais, à leur grande surprise, ils ont rapidement constaté que des dizaines d'enfants de ce secteur voulaient pratiquer le sport de Sidney Crosby, mais des considérations financières les en empêchaient.

Devant l'ampleur de la demande, nos quatre mousquetaires ont pris les grands moyens. Ils ont sollicité des commanditaires, conclu des ententes avec d'autres organismes communautaires et mis sur pied une campagne d'information.

Au cours de la dernière rentrée scolaire, Accès Hockey Access s'est installé à l'un des magasins-partage de Centraide afin de distribuer des dépliants et de rencontrer des parents.

Grâce à la collaboration d'organismes communautaires, ils ont pu identifier quelques familles afin de pouvoir aider une vingtaine de jeunes hockeyeurs dont les parents ne pouvaient les équiper convenablement pour une saison dans le hockey mineur.

De plus, la Ligue de hockey adulte 30 ans " a fait un don de 1000 \$ à Accès Hockey ce qui a permis d'équiper tous ces jeunes. Aussi, l'organisme prend à sa charge les frais d'inscription et les frais d'équipe.

L'initiative de Jean, Conrad, Luc et Steve est l'exemple parfait de l'engagement communautaire. Ces quatre pères de famille et bénévoles auprès du hockey mineur ont réussi à mettre en oeuvre une idée simple, mais combien nécessaire dans une société comme la nôtre. Il y a de quoi faire rougir bien des politiciens ces temps-ci. Bravo les gars.

# ***Annex 2 : Support Letters***

## ***Support, Association du Hockey Mineur d'Aylmer (AHMA)***



***Association du Hockey Mineur d'Aylmer***

C.P. 501, Bureau chef, Gatineau (Québec) J9H 5E7

Tuesday February 24 2009,

Re: Access Hockey  
NHLPA Goals & Dreams

To whom it may concern,

The AHMA has assisted the Access Hockey program since its public unveiling.

The AHMA supports Access Hockey in its common goal and provides a positive reference in their application to your program.

If your organization requires additional information, I can be contacted either by email at [registraire.ahma@gmail.com](mailto:registraire.ahma@gmail.com) or on my cell at 613-295-3517.

Sincerely,

Mark Martin  
Secretary/Registrar AHMA  
(819) 685-1810  
[registraire.ahma@gmail.com](mailto:registraire.ahma@gmail.com)

## ***Support, Ville de Gatineau***



February 25, 2009

National Hockey League Players Association  
20, Bay Street  
Suite 1700  
Toronto, ON  
M5J 2N8

### **SUBJECT: Support - Access Hockey Program**

The City of Gatineau is proud to support the Access Hockey Program.

Since last year, the Aylmer Youth Center has been involved by helping the volunteers make this program a success story.

We believe that the Access Hockey Program answers all the selection criteria of The National Hockey League Players Association.

If additional information is needed, do not hesitate to contact me.

Luc Gélinas

Aylmer Community Services for Sports & Leisure  
City of Gatineau  
[gelinas.luc@gatineau.camn](mailto:gelinas.luc@gatineau.camn)