

Hockey Féminin Report 2014-15

This year was a tremendous year for the program. We had hosted 7 teams this year. We had an Atom AF that played against the boys in the EHL. 1 PW A that played in a girls league run by LSL. 1 PW AA team playing in LHFDQ run by Hockey Quebec and a Bantam A, Bantam B, Midget A, and Junior A, all played in the LIFSL also run by Hockey Quebec.

We had over 130 girls registered, and established partnerships with many associations, and have become the place for girls to play that want to be on girls teams. We have players from Mont-Royal, Outremont, Ville St.Laurent, Westmount, DDO, Pierrefonds, Dorval, Point Claire, Lachine, Lasalle, Verdun, Cote St.Luc, Chateaguay, Montreal West and some transfers in from Montreal and Laval.

MRO hockey is extremely welcoming to all girls that share our love and desire for girls' hockey and we will continue this tradition in the coming years. Our hockey community is very diverse, however when the girls lace up the skates our teams gel and new life lasting friendships are made year after year. I am very proud of how open our players are to welcoming new players to our teams each and every year.

This year our Atom AF team played against the boys in the EHL in the Atom B division and it was extremely successful. They were LSL regional Champions and they lost in overtime, just missing winning a medal at the Dodge Cup. We will be continuing with the EHL for the coming years and have reached out to our partners to have all of their girls register on our teams, so we can form teams at the Atom and Novice levels. Our target for next year is 4 teams. i.e. Atom A ,B and Novice A, B Having the girls play on EHL girls teams from a young age is the best promotion to growing girls hockey at the grass roots.. We will be putting posters throughout all of the arenas with our contact registration info.

Many of our partners contribute to our ice allocations. This year MRO provided 4.5 hours, HSL 2.5 hours, Westmount 2.5 hours Verdun 1 hour, and Lachine 1.5 hours. As our membership continues to grow with our partners we will continue to distribute practices and games through out all the arenas, which serves as the best promotion for girls hockey in our associations.

This was the second year we hosted the PW AAF Elites and this team finished 3rd in the province and won a bronze medal at the Dodge Cup provincial championship. To host this level of hockey in our arenas shows the speed and the skill of girls hockey at the highest level, and leaves no doubt in anyone's mind on the level of development and competition, when deciding between boys and girls hockey.

Our Bantam A and B teams were spoiled this year with Shauna Denis and Gillian Merrifield both Montreal Star Clarkson Cup Champions and McGill Marlet CIS Champions aswell as Caitlin Dore one of our MRO eagles. Our Midget and Junior Teams also had terrific years. With tournament wins and strong showings in the playoffs. We continue to encourage all retiring Junior players to come back and help out with the teams. Our goal is to have women on every staff of every team. We certainly have the talent, and the rewards of coaching are measured in the smiles on the girls faces.

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A hockey program can only be measured by the strength of the volunteers, and I need to thank all of the coaches and assistant coaches, as well as all the managers, with a special thanks to two individuals that help me tremendously namely, Karen Brown, and Spyros Zahakos. Also, I would like thank all of the MRO board of directors for all of the support in helping to make MRO one of the model girls hockey program in all of Hockey Quebec.

We established a separate girls hockey committee a couple of years ago and I would also like to thank all of the directors. This girl's hockey committees mandate and focus has been on promotion, marketing, recruitment as well as running the teams. This committee is a large part of the reason of why the girls program is so strong. Although I will not be renewing my mandate as the MRO director of Hockey Féminin, I will remain on the Girls hockey committee.

When I took over as Director four years ago, I inherited a program that is rich in tradition, and we always looked to the past to help making our decisions for the future. We instilled into the program many of the core values that have always been a part of it and added to them the new realities that exist in girls' hockey today and created some new traditions that hopefully will be continued for many years to come.

I believe that for this program to be successful the following should be continued:

- 1) Fundays (Geared to getting girls to try hockey for the first time)
- 2) Girls Hockey committee -
- 3) Atom and Novice teams in the EHL
- 4) Continued Icetime from our partners being given to the girls
- 5) Strong representation at the LSL board level
- 6) Outreach programs with the Montreal Stars
- 7) Support of the Hockey Quebec Caroline Ouellette Celebration
- 8) Building more and more teams with our partners by promoting and recruiting girls to play on girls teams.
- 9) Continued recruitment of alumni to get back involved in the program at whatever capacity they can give.

It has been a tremendous honor to lead this program. While the commitment is great, it has been extremely personally fulfilling seeing all of our girls enjoyment in playing a game, as well as their personal development, not only as hockey players but providing them with life lessons, as part of a hockey team , for their journey into adulthood.

Of course none of it would have been possible without the support of my family, however while my two daughters were often benefactors of my involvement a special thanks must go out to my wife Cathy Piscopos for all her sacrifice and support over these years, I couldn't have done it without you.

Andrew Boosamra
Director Hockey Féminin