

President's Report.

Our inaugural season. The beginning of a new association.

The creation of Eastend Storm Minor Hockey Association.

Before we reflect on our first successful hockey season, I would like to recognize the work behind the scenes which took place prior to the first puck drop last fall.

Part 1 Pre season

Over three years ago the two presidents of our founding associations Orleans and Gloucester Center Minor Hockey, Jocelyn Murray and Michel Breau got together and started the conversation about a potential merger, eventually creating a merger committee including board members from both associations. This committee got together and tried to take the best that the two associations had to offer, Community Outreach program, Coach Mentoring, Power skating, Volunteer driven Hockey Development AND our association run tournaments at U11 and U15.

Eventually the new Association took shape on paper, revamped Policies and Procedures, Rules and Regulation, a new Blues Partnership Agreement. a new constitution and the incorporation of the new association.

After the paperwork came the fun part. Making theory a reality.... Creating Eastend Storm. Choosing the name (I still think Green's Creek Gremlins was good....), choosing the colors, the logo, the jerseys, the website.

Then after the easy part...lol...the board rolled up their sleeves and did the dirty work, merged our storage areas, our equipment, our offices, cleaned house and got ready for our first year...

Part 2. Season

The arrival and organizing of our new 1600 jerseys in August was step one...

Then we had our first joint Community Outreach Gear Swap with over 250 members getting access to used gear from our lock up, prizes from Lacroix Sports and burgers and hot dogs brought to you by our local Montana's on Ogilvie Rd.

Then as our first season began, we faced some early challenges. Lois Kemp was temporarily closed due to ice issues, which caused unusual ice allocation and delayed ice schedules, however, we had our first puck drop and through teamwork and flexibility we were able to work through the early season.

We had our first "Storm Day" in October, with multiple teams representing our new Association to the GHA and our two city Councillors, Tim Tierney and Laura Dudas on the ice for the ceremonial puck drop.

We had our first U11 Community Cup Hockey Tournament in December under the new Association.

We renamed and held our inaugural U15 Michel Breau Community Cup in January.

The playoffs began in March and ending with the Championship Weekend,

-a round robin and then,

- 4 teams make at least quarter finals,

- 7 teams make at least semi finals,

- 7 teams make the finals and we came home with 3 Championship banners.

Great success on the ice for our first season.

I also believe that through the ups and downs of a hockey season, our coaches, volunteers and parents are helping to make our players BETTER people (regardless of age) and I truly believe that our players have received MORE than just hockey development, in learning about leadership, relationships, friendships and sometimes along the way having FUN...

I think that this first year has proved that our executive board, the coaches, the team staff, our parents AND our players have taken the best of what was with the Cougars and the Rush and have made something better, the more than the sum of it's parts. To all of the volunteers in the association, I thank you for your part in the development of our players in becoming who they will be...

As you know, I am stepping down from my role as President as my term is over. This was not an easy decision, but I feel like with the help of the existing executive board we were able to give the Eastend Storm the beginning it needed to be successful. I will continue to be involved as Past President and will continue to help the new President do what I can to maintain a vibrant, successful hockey community in the Eastend....

Before I finish, I wanted to thank my wife Stephanie who allowed me to volunteer my time for so many years (14) and to my kids Niam and Keenan who ALWAYS gave what they could to help me when I asked behind the scenes and on ice.

To Joce and Michel, it will work, I have faith in our community... Eastend WILL SUCCEED. Merci Les Boys.

President

Chris McArthur