

1972-1992 Salmon River Hockey Association's 20th Year Celebration

• A Brief Look Into The Past •

Over 20 years ago, a few caring people that enjoyed the game of hockey, assembled a small group of boys and girls and began to teach them the basics of the game. At that time, the boys would travel to Canada to play most of the games. There was no organized team structure or local hockey facility for the players to use.

The interest expanded by youths in the surrounding Pulaski area. So, in 1972, the pioneers of the Salmon River Hockey Association assembled a program and succeeded at installing an outdoor ice skating rink at the Lacona Firemen's Park. The Association's first rink had snow banks on each side that acted as both perimeter boards and bleachers for spectator seating. The rink was kept clean from



Lacona's Firemen's Park

The next season (1973 - 1974), the Association moved from the Lacona Firemen's Park to the Oswego County Fair Grounds. This became the Association's home for the next 3 years. The fairground provided larger space which allowed the Association to make a larger rink than the rink made at the Lacona Firemen's Park. The pioneers of the Association worked hard at promoting the newly formed hockey organization as a community event in Pulaski and the surrounding areas. Newspaper articles would read "Anyone interested in hockey and/or figure skating, please meet at Irv's Barber Shop in Sandy Creek". Players benches were built by one of the founders of the Association but, snow banks made by shovels and snow blowers were still used as rink perimeter boards as well as bleachers for spectators. Fund raising events in addition to a few giving businesses provided the money to purchase goalie pads, jerseys, nets and other items needed by the Association. A small silo donated by Ribstone Silo, containing a wood stove donated by Sancona Lumber was used as the Association's first combined warming and dressing room.

snow by shovels on snowy days. During the Association's first year of operation it had only one hockey team. With the Association being new and the membership being small, the Association's first team consisted of roughly 20 children from the ages of 5-14 years old. Competition was difficult against other teams in our region because of the wide spread age differences between the boys. Very few games were played during this first year of organization. Nonetheless, the children enjoyed playing the game of hockey.



Oswego County Fairgrounds

The Association's membership doubled from the first year to the second year of operation. Between 7 and 10 hockey games were played each year during this 3 year period. The Association's primary competitors were the Loweville, Oswego, Fulton and The Watertown Association.



Watertown Tournament Play 1978-1979

The Association also started a figure skating program in 1975. Lessons were given to youngsters and adults to allow them to enjoy the recreational benefits of skating. A few of these skaters would participate annually at the Oswego Figure Skating Show held at the Fort Rink in Oswego.

In 1976-1977 the Association worked in parallel with a community effort, the Village of Pulaski and the John Ben Snow Foundation to build a new community facility in Pulaski. Government grants along with Snow Foundation funds were used to pay for the building construction program. The new community facility was named the Snow Belt Community Center. The Community Center was to be used by the people and organizations of the community in various ways to benefit the community. The Association assembled an agreement with the Village of Pulaski to utilize the Community Center during the hockey season for Association events. The Association found a new home! The community Center allowed the Association to have a permanent indoor ice skating arena. No more having to shovel snow on snowy days!

The Association continued to grow. The new facility added tremendously to the Association's ability to service the community. More youths, both boys and girls, wanted to participate in the game of hockey. The Association gradually became stronger and more recognized in the community as a serious youth and community activity.

Even though the Association had a new indoor facility, the facility basically was an unimproved shell

structure. It lacked a permanent floor, adequate rest rooms and seating facilities. Ice had to be held inside the building from natural weather conditions outside. If the temperature was above 32 degrees outside, the Association lost its ice. The Facility kept snow off the ice but, without additional improvements the building had limited use. The building also lacked paved parking and landscaping to enhance its access and appearance for other community activities throughout the year.

Early in 1983, a group of individuals dedicated to making the unimproved facility more functional, launched an effort to fund improvements to the building and bring it closer to completion and make it more desirable for use by the community. Encouraged by the Snow Foundation and the Mayor of Pulaski, Jack and Jeanne Tucker of Pulaski's McDonalds, funded a feasibility study on behalf of the Association. This feasibility study was used as a basis for a proposal submitted to the Snow Foundation to obtain funding to complete various improvements to the building. Based on the feasibility study and the Association's proposal to the Snow Foundation, the Snow Foundation agreed to match the funds raised by the Association for 2 consecutive years. With the Snow Foundation and the Village of Pulaski's help, the project was completed in 1984. The facility had a permanent concrete floor, bathroom facilities, small kitchen facilities, landscaping, paving and the Association's first ice maintaining equipment installed at this time.

Also in 1984, Jack and Jeanne Tucker, purchased and donated a used Zamboni that is still currently used to maintain a smooth ice surface inside the facility. The Association has rebuilt this Zamboni twice to keep it operable and suitable for keeping the ice surface clean and smooth. This machine has served the Association well although it will need to be replaced in the near future.



Learn To Skate Program

The Association has been very lucky over the past 20 years. It's work force has been a membership that is strictly volunteer. There have been a number of business sponsors that have allowed the Association to fund successfully it's various programs. The youth hockey program has grown from roughly 20 hockey players the first year of organization to roughly 125 players in 1991. The Association had 9 complete hockey teams in 1991 with ages ranging from 5 years old to 18 years old. The Association has had a team take second in the region sectional finals plus participate in the State Final competition. There were over 90 participants in the learn to skate program in 1991. There were nights during the

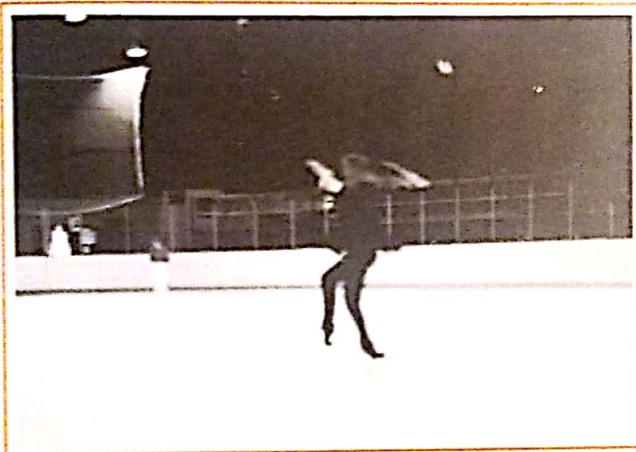


Figure Skate Program

1991 skating season where well over 350 skaters enjoyed recreational ice skating. Over 50 adult hockey players utilize the facility in the evenings for adult recreational hockey games. Most of all, the youth and the adults in the community have had the opportunity to have fun participating in programs offered by the Salmon River Hockey Association.

Contribution To The Business Community

The Association's hockey teams consist of players that live in the Pulaski, Mexico, Sandy Creek, Altmar, Parish, Williamstown, Central Square, Mannsville & Lacona communities. These teams compete against other organized associations located as far (North) as Toronto Canada, (East) Hamilton, (South) Elmira and (West) Geneva. During 2 and 3 day tournament play, competitive teams, and their families, from other associations travel to the Salmon River area to stay in the local hotels. These families also purchase items from area stores, restaurants and gas stations. During

past years, tournament play hosted by the Association was kept to a minimum due to unpredictable ice conditions caused by warm weather conditions and minimal ice maintaining equipment capabilities. Many more tournaments can be scheduled in advance each year based on improved ice making capabilities. The Association can offer the business community in the Salmon River area increased revenue based on attracting more people more often for a longer period of time each year to participate in it's various programs. By the business community continuing to help support the Association's program, the Association can continue to attract people to the Salmon River area to buy their products and services.

A Look Into The Future

The Association's primary goal is to provide a youth hockey, figure skate and public skating program for the recreational benefit and enjoyment of the youth and adults alike in the community.

As the Association enters into the 1992-1993 hockey season, it's members have some aggressive plans for the future. The members want to continue the effort of their forefathers in providing a fun filled environment on the ice for the youth as well as the adults in the community. The Association plans to extend it's program from 3.5 months per year to roughly 6 months per year.

The Association's youth hockey teams now compete against 14 other primary associations in this region. Each of the 14 competitive associations have their programs running for a six month period each year.



1991-1992 S squirt Tournament Victory

To allow our hockey players to have as much fun as possible, the Association hopes to continue to compete at the same level of competition as the other 14 associations. Our Association has the talent to compete with any of the 14 associations yet, the players lack additional ice practice time to equal that of many of the other 14 associations.

As a result, Association members have elected to proceed and take the necessary steps to begin making the improvements needed to allow the Association to operate for a 6 month period each year. To accomplish this, the Association must take various steps to improve the facility and it's equipment.

The Association's priority upgrade list is as follows:

A) Ice Making Equipment- Upgrade must allow the rink floor to be kept below 27 degrees F for

the full six month period as opposed to the 3.5 period in previous years. The estimated cost of this improvement is \$85,000.00.

B). Zamboni- Upgrade to allow for six months of operation. The estimated cost of the Zamboni upgrade is \$20,000.00

C). Perimeter Boards- Upgrade boards around the rink. The estimated cost of the board upgrade is \$20,000.00.

D). Locker Rooms and Kitchen Facilities- Enlarge and upgrade locker rooms and kitchen. The estimated cost of upgrade is \$40,000.00.

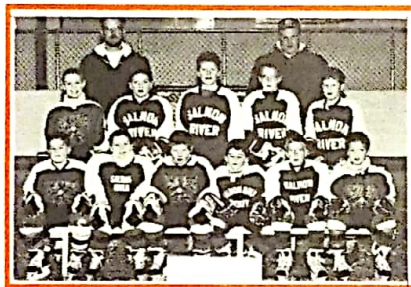
These improvements are planned to be funded and completed over a 18-24 month period assuming the Association has the support of the community.

The Association is pleased with it's accomplishments over the past years and anxiously looks forward to meeting it's future goals.

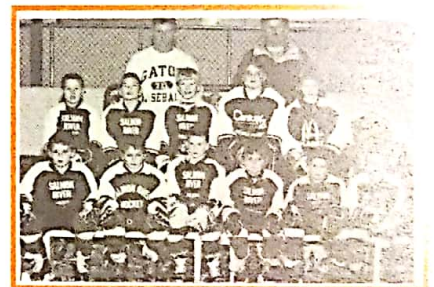
1991-1992 Salmon River Hockey Association Teams



Tyke



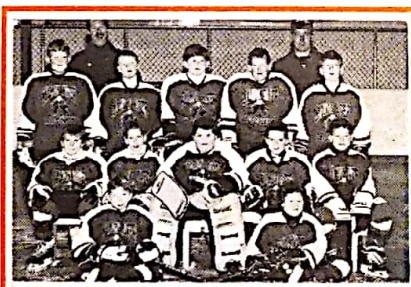
Mite-A



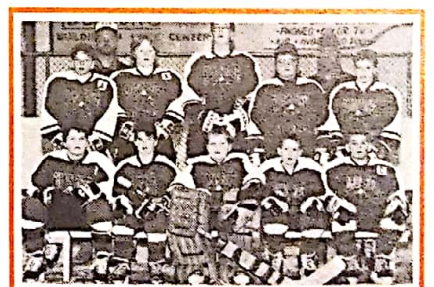
Mite-B



Squirt-A



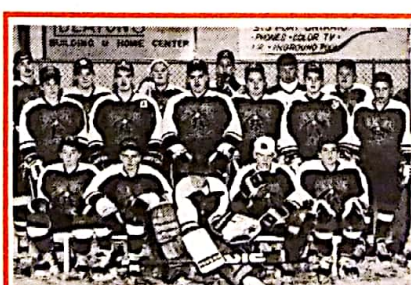
Squirt-B



Pee Wee-A



Pee Wee-B



Bantam



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Help Us Celebrate The Association's 20th Year Anniversary This Year!
Help Fund Our Growth Plan In A Way That Suits You Best!

Prepared By
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