



INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: January 18, 2012	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Hamilton Bulldogs: Skate the Dream (CS12005) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community Services Department	PREPARED BY: Brian Ozorio 905-546-2424 ext. 7017
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction: Not applicable

Background:

The City of Hamilton, in partnership with the Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton, Bennetto School, North Hamilton Community Health Centre, Hamilton Minor Hockey Council, Hamilton Waterfront Trust, and the Mohawk 4 Ice Centre (Nustadia), have developed and implemented the *Skate the Dream* Program.

The development of the Program has been spearheaded by Councillor Jason Farr with logistical and program support being provided by staff in the Recreation Division, City of Hamilton. The Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation has provided the bulk of the funding for the Program.

Since the end of October, the Program partners have met on a regular basis to define the program, coordinate registrations, organize a donated equipment drive, secure funding, confirm ice-time, promote and market the Program, and organize logistics.

The *Skate to Dream* Program:

The Skate the Dream Program is a pilot program designed for kids between the ages of 6-10 years who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in hockey. The Program is a Learn to Skate / 3 on 3 hockey program that will run from January 9th – March 15th on Mondays and Thursdays from 6pm – 8pm at Eastwood Arena. The cost is \$10.00 for the 10 week program (fee will be waived for those who cannot afford to

pay). Hockey equipment for participants has been donated and will be loaned out and returned by participants on a nightly basis.

Program participants will also be invited to an outdoor skate session on January 19th at the outdoor rink being constructed at Ivor Wynne Stadium for the American Hockey League (AHL) Outdoor Classic game to be held on January 21, 2012. Participants will also attend another Hamilton Bulldogs game at Copps Coliseum in March, 2012.

Participants were registered for the Program through referrals from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hamilton, Bennetto School, North Hamilton Community Health Centre, Hamilton Minor Hockey Council, Waterfront Trust, the Dr. Davy School, and the St. Lawrence School. Registrations were also accepted from the general public. All registrations, both from referrals and from the general public, have been collected and processed through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton.

Hockey equipment for the Program has been donated by the local community at several arena and partner drop off locations across Hamilton. Equipment donations have also come from teams and groups such as the Oakville Hornets Girls Hockey Club. An additional 100 full sets of equipment (without skates) from the *Source for Sports* have also been donated through the Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation.

All of the donated skates were sharpened prior to their use, free of charge, by the Mohawk 4 Ice Centre (Nustadia).

The Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation has also donated ticket vouchers to an upcoming Hamilton Bulldogs home game to all of those individuals who have donated equipment.

The Program has attracted over 80 registrants in the first week of operation and it is anticipated that registration will continue to grow throughout the course of the Program.

Partners:

- Councillor Jason Farr: Ward 2 – City of Hamilton
- Ric Nattress: NHL Alumni and Honorary Chair
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton
- Hamilton Bulldogs Foundation – Hamilton Bulldogs
- Bennetto School
- North Hamilton Community Health Centre
- Hamilton Minor Hockey Council
- Hamilton Waterfront Trust
- Mohawk 4 Ice Centre (Nustadia)
- Source for Sports
- Recreation Division, City of Hamilton
- Community volunteers and equipment donors