



[Hockey Helps the Homeless](#)
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This past Friday, the 4 Glaces Arena in Pierrefonds hosted Montreal's 8th annual Hockey Helps the Homeless tournament. The tournament is a great way for the city to use its love of hockey to help the many people and families in Montreal who make up the homeless population.

The event raised over \$150,000 with 10 teams raising money through sponsors and a silent auction was held with some impressive memorabilia. Among the items available to bid on were a pair of Edmonton Oilers hockey gloves signed by Wayne Gretzky, several framed and autographed photos including Bobby Orr, P.K. Subban, Carey Price and Patrick Roy, jerseys signed by Guy Lafleur, Maurice Richard and Jean Béliveau, hockey sticks signed by Andrei Markov and more.

I first heard about the tournament two years ago and have always been interested in it. I find it great that the organization found a way to bring awareness to a growing problem by using the game of hockey, something this city is so passionate about. With my own love of the game and my interest in the event I headed down to Pierrefonds to check it out.

The atmosphere was amazing, the arena was filled with players eager to help the cause and play alongside former NHLers. On top of everyone participating in the tournament there were also many locals at the arena to take in the games making for a pretty packed house.

There were 10 teams taking part in the tournament, each one had at least two former pros. Team TSN had Segio Momesso, Bobby Dollas and TSN's new voice of the Canadiens, Jon Bartlett. Other recognizable names were Stéphane Matteau, Wally Weir, Réal Cloutier, Steve Penney, Karl Dykhuis, Pierre Lacroix and Habs owner Geoff Molson.

I was able to catch five matches and was impressed with the speed and talent on display. The games had a fun feel to them and weren't overly competitive, it was after all a charity event, but it was clear that each team still wanted to win. This was clear in the final game. PepsiCo faced off against National Bank Financial in the final. NBF was in control for the first half of the game building a 4-2 lead, but it was then that Olympic gold medallists Catherine Ward and Caroline Ouelette took control of the game leading their team to a 7-5 victory. Ward and Ouelette were the most impressive players on any of the teams, it was amazing to see them just switch gears and just dominate the game.

In the end the event was a huge success, adding another 150,000\$ to the 1,000,000\$ that has been accumulated over the past 8 years. After attending the event and witnessing its success I will likely be registering myself in next year's tournament to play the game I love for an amazing cause.

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