



# Our Determined Journey

Written October 2003

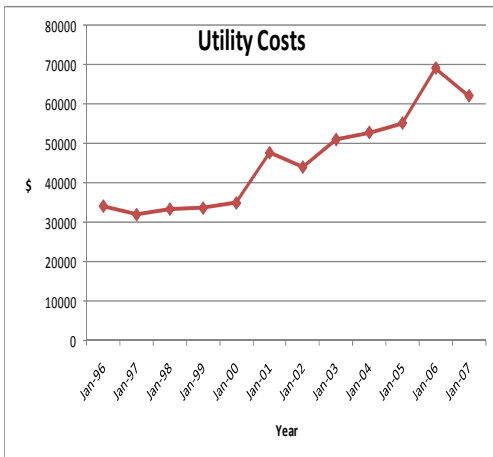
Volunteers are the driving force behind the formation and continued success of the SBLA. This is written to thank those many volunteers, describe the history of the association and explain the journey ahead for the association.

SBLA began its journey in 1982. It all started with an ad in the paper that asked for volunteers to help organize a hockey program in Sheboygan. In their first year, SBLA skaters used the pond just north of Acuity Insurance, formerly known as Heritage. The following year, volunteers constructed hockey boards and put them up at Kiwanis Park where skaters practiced and played games against area teams.

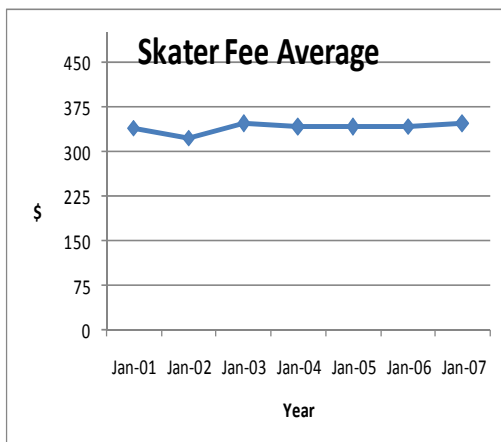
By 1986 there were 110 youth hockey players and 100 figure skaters in SBLA's various programs. In March 1985, the SBLA established a Board of Directors whose mission was to organize activities to build an indoor rink. Early fund raising activities included candy sales, brat fries, and an annual pig roast. In 1988 they had enough commitments from volunteers and donors and found a location to build an indoor rink. The City of Sheboygan provided a very favorable long-term land lease. A group of local banks pooled together to provide financing for the City of Sheboygan that was used to fund the project on a long term bonding program. In July 1988 the lease and debt of \$700,000 was signed. The balance of the initial total project cost of \$1.5 million was funded with \$500,000 of donated materials and labor and almost \$400,000 in cash donations. The initial building structure took five months to construct and the first game was played in the building on 2/10/89. Ice making equipment and the boards were installed the following season. The boards had a chain link fence above them where you see glass today. The building was a shell with a roof. Locker rooms were added in 1992 with bleachers, glass for the boards and kitchen area added the following year. Through a substantial external fund drive effort initiated in 1998, outside donations of over \$300,000 were obtained to accommodate the following building improvements: new rubber floor (1998), office and concession area (1999), community room (1999), new energy efficient ceiling and lighting (2001), new zamboni (2001) and new rink boards (2003). At the same time as the external fund drive, an "internal" fund drive campaign was launched to pay off the existing SBLA debt. Over \$145,000 was collected and the debt was paid off July 2002. All funds from this drive were donations from SBLA members. While the SBLA has reached significant milestones in its journey, there are many opportunities yet to improve our facility as well as take care of ongoing needs as the building ages and the association grows. The following major improvements are a few examples of things that have been discussed:

Roof repairs— Locker rooms dedicated to girls—Improved bleachers  
Air handling system to provide dehumidification that will improve the ice and allow for an all year ice rink—Viewing area on the 2nd floor—Improved sound system— New score board

The organization is a non-profit organization with no owners. The members are volunteers and participants in the programs. This structure is very unique in that the association is the owner and manager of its own facility. Most associations have no ownership in their facility. While this creates unique challenges and demands on the volunteers, there are many advantages. The association can establish programs and schedules without a landlord creating restrictions. The association can plan for the future. Equity in the facility will continue to grow that can be used to fund future expansion. The continued success of the SBLA will be determined by the dedication of its volunteers to maintain and improve the facility. A foundation was established in 2001 to ensure that fund raising activities for capital improvements would be separate from the regular operations of the Association. This foundation (Sheboygan Blue Line Charitable Foundation, Inc.) will continue to assist in the long-term efforts of the success in providing a professional and quality ice rink for the community of Sheboygan.



Utilities—Electric, Water & Gas



Fees—Total Cost Divided by # of Levels

## Board Members

- [Mike Langan](#)—President
- [Mike Watson](#)—Vice President
- [Mark Hicks](#)—Secretary
- [Paul Gottsacker](#)—Y.H.C. / Recruitment
- [Jill Peters](#)—Tournament Director
- [Mark Sheldon](#)—Treasurer /Communication
- [Scott Stillwell](#)—A.C.E. Coordinator
- [Kimberly Oreck Madson](#)—Fundraisers
- [Scott Neurohr](#) - Registration
- [Streve Falconer](#)—Capital Drive
- [Joe Reinhart](#)—WAHA Liason
- [Jay Seiler](#)—Buildings & Grounds

## Other Contacts

- [Tom Cagle](#)—Rink Manager
- [Allison Brown](#)—Figure Skating