



## **Impressive History, Bright Future**

The Lake County Youth Ice Hockey Association (known as the Atoms) was formed in 1984 with the idea of providing youth hockey close to home for the northern most communities in Illinois. The club originally played out of the Zion Park District Ice Arena. The guiding principles of the organization have always been fun, development and providing a cost effective playing opportunity for its hockey players.

From 1998 until 2003, the Lake County Sports and Fitness Center in Waukegan served as it's home.

In 2003, Rink Side Ice Arena became the new and most recent home to the Lake County Youth Ice Hockey Association. During this time the organization has continued to have success while fielding championship teams in both the CSDHL and NIHL.

The Lake County Youth Ice Hockey Association has always looked for the best ways to successfully grow while maintaining the history of the organization and celebrating where we came from. Given the current competitive environment, a closer, more seamless alignment of the youth hockey organizations skating out of Rink Side has become crucial to future success. It is also necessary to maintain the original concept of providing a youth hockey experience close to home.

Effective July 1, 2009, the Lake County Youth Ice Hockey Association will compete under the new name the Maulers. In addition, Keith Rutkowski current President, will be moving on to become an advisory member of the club. Jim Meyer will become the new President of the program. More executive board changes will be announced as they come.

A great deal of thanks and appreciation goes out to the many board members, parents, players, coaches and managers past and present that have played a part in the history of the organization. This history will not be forgotten as it has laid the foundation for the future. The guiding principles of the new Lake County Youth Ice Hockey Association will continue to be fun, development and providing a cost effective playing opportunity for its hockey players.

Keith Rutkowski, President, Lake County Youth Ice Hockey Association

Michael Hernbrott, General Manager, Rink Side Sports Ice Arena