



**GRIFFINS**  
LACROSSE



## **A Fond Farewell from Stephanie Pagan, President of the Gloucester Lacrosse Association**

Dear Griffins Families,

My name is Stephanie Pagan and I have been the proud President of the GLA for the last three years. I am writing to you all today to share that 2024 will be my last season with the GLA as my family is moving from the region.

This has been a difficult decision as I am leaving a position that has given me great joy and reignited a passion to grow the game of Lacrosse. I have been fortunate to be inspired by a number of individuals who also share in this passion and have learned so much from countless others who believe in making GLA an amazing club for children and youth to play Lacrosse.

I give thanks to our sponsors, community partners, families, players, coaches, volunteers, Board members, officials, fellow Zone 5 clubs and Ontario competitors, the Junior B Griffins, friends in the OLA, and my family for supporting and understanding how important the GLA is to our Lacrosse community and my direct involvement in that.

During my tenure, I was thrilled to be a part of some amazing initiatives and successes with the GLA and I would like to share some of them here, in no particular order:

1. Creating the IDEA Committee reaffirming GLA's commitment to anti-racism, equity and inclusion.
2. Working with Jay Odjick, Algonquin Artist, Writer, TV Producer from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation to develop the GLA Indigenous logo that recognizes the role Lacrosse plays in fostering our awareness and growth towards understanding and reconciliation.
3. Securing nearly \$200,000 in grants to put towards programming and operating costs.
4. Increasing GLA's visibility through numerous marketing and promotional strategies.
5. Creation of two new Board positions in response to member feedback regarding communications and risk and safety

6. Fostering multiple community partnerships over the years: Lacroix Source for Sports, Ottawa Physiotherapy & Sport Clinics, Ottawa Sports Pages, Dymon Storage to name but a few...
7. Developing a new soft Lacrosse program \*free\* for GLA Griffings (3 & 4 year olds)
8. Creating an award winning Elementary School Lacrosse Program and partnering with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to deliver culturally relevant and curriculum based learning for students in Grades 3-6.
9. Winning multiple organizational awards including the: OLA's Ken Murray Award for those who demonstrate continuing effort and support for the sole purpose of "helping the kids" (2021); the OLA's Arthur Poitras' Award for the association who has done the most to promote and develop Lacrosse in its area and throughout Ontario (2022); The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Community Partnership Award for an organization that supports the alignment and integration of equity and inclusive educational principles and practice over an extended period of years or through a significant initiative that has directly benefited OCDSB students (2023).

I am excited for the future as Lacrosse takes centre stage – the announcement of the Ottawa Black Bears NLL team coming to Ottawa in 2025 and Lacrosse returning to the Olympics in 2028 are worth celebrating!

I am truly honoured and humbled to have been on this journey with the Gloucester Lacrosse Association and to have been able to meet so many wonderful families and watch our players capture tournament wins, personal wins, and Provincial accolades. This time has taught me so much about relationships, leadership, and communication. I will choose to remember only the positive experiences and will carry with me always the friendships and shared love for this sport. I urge you to be kind to one another, to respect and support each other in continuing to make GLA a wonderful place for children and their families to love Lacrosse.

Yours in Lacrosse,



Stephanie Pagan

*President, GLA*

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