

Derek has a very supportive family. His wife Brenda is a registered Dental Hygienist who owns her own business by helping clients in long term care facilities. Brenda and Derek have 2 daughters (Alex and Bella) that grew up playing competitive hockey and soccer.

Derek has a life long passion for teaching and coaching hockey for over 30 years. He is currently part of the Lambton Kent District School Board and teaching at Hanna Memorial Public School as a Special Education teacher.

Derek has coached hockey at many different levels and in many different leagues & roles for over 30 years alongside coaches such as Trevor Letowski, Chris Lazary, Greg Walters, Mark Hunter, Tom Renney, Dave McQueen and James Richmond. His coach mentor is currently Trevor Letowski (Assistant Coach with the Montreal Canadiens of the NHL) and he remains in touch with most all the coaches he's had the pleasure to learn from over the years.

As a result, Derek has many connections in the OHL, NCAA and professional levels (NHL, AHL, Europe).

His coaching experiences include:



5 years in the Ontario Hockey League where he played a number of roles such as:

- Supporting special teams
- Supporting both forwards and Defensemen
- Supporting pre-scout analysis
- Supporting player development, including a number of players who played in the NHL of which 6 were

drafted in the 1st or 2nd rounds:

Jacob Chychrun - Arizona Coyotes

Pavel Zacha - New Jersey Devils

Anthony DeAngelo - Arizona Coyotes, New York Rangers & Carolina Hurricanes

Alex Galchenyuk - Montréal Canadiens, Arizona Coyotes,
Pittsburgh Penguins, Minnesota Wild, Ottawa Senators & Toronto Maple Leafs

Nail Yakupov - Edmonton Oilers, St Louis Blues & Colorado Avalanche

Nikolay Goldobin - San Jose Sharks & Vancouver Canucks



15 years as either Head Coach or Assistant Coach in the PJCHL or GOJHL (Legionnaires 1st in Western Division In 2008) where at least 20 players went on to get NCAA (D1/D3), most notably Chris & Cam Abbott (Cornell) along with Nash Nienhuis (Michigan State).



4 years as a Head Coach in Minor Hockey at the AAA level where 19 players were drafted into the OHL, including 8 in one season. Won Alliance Major Midget AAA Championship with Lambton In 1999-2000 season.



Derek was selected to coach at the U17 Ontario program and the U15 regional camp for Ontario multiple times.



Derek was selected to be a guest coach for the Canadian Men's National Team for a week and helped prepare

for a game vs. the Czech Republic prior to an International competition.



Derek was part of a coaching staff that won coaching staff of the year awards in 2008 GOJHL and at the AAA level.



OWHA champions and coached teams to 2 provincial silver medals and and bronze medal.

Throughout his coaching years, Derek has coached many other players that eventually played in the NHL, including TJ Brodie, Brett Ritchie, Cal Clutterbuck, Matt Martin, Steve Downie and others.

Derek is a life long learner of sports and part of the NHL coaches mentorship program.