



News Release

2010 Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week Kick Off

Edmonton (January 14, 2010) – The 47th Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week began today when sponsors and volunteers gathered at Rexall Place to kick-off the annual tournament.

The start of this year's tournament included a special feature when long-time Edmonton Minor Hockey supporter Vern Davis was recognized by the City of Edmonton which has named an arena after him in honour of all the time and effort he has given the Minor Hockey in the city.

Edmonton Minor Hockey Chair Rod McMahon, Honorary Chair Jim Glaister, Edmonton Oilers General Manager Steve Tambellini, and title sponsor and Quikcard Senior Vice President Marketing set the tone for the tournament, addressing the importance of sportsmanship and dedication before wishing the 526 participating teams luck during the coming week of competition.

In keeping with past years, three Minor Hockey players were presented with annual Wayne Gretzky Recreational Hockey Award and scholarships from BMO Bank of Montreal. Wayne Gretzky Awards are presented to players who best exemplify good sportsmanship and dedication to the game as well as scholastic achievement and community involvement. For the past 20 years, three outstanding young athletes from the Junior, BB and AA programs have been selected to receive this prestigious award. This year the awards were presented to:

- **Josh McDonald** of the Wild Junior B,
- **Matthew Encarnacao** of the Bantam AA, and
- **Darrin Craig** of the Bantam Brave Raiders.

Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week continues to be one of the largest ice hockey tournaments in the world. This year's tournament promises to be fast-paced and exciting with over 8,500 participants on 526 teams taking part in 752 games in 23 arenas and on 31 sheets of ice over ten days. Teams from surrounding areas including Fort Saskatchewan, Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Sherwood Park, St. Albert and Edmonton are participating.

Please visit our website at www.quikcardminorhockey.com for more information.

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City Honours Vern Davis with Renaming of Ice Rink

The City of Edmonton is renaming an ice rink at Callingwood Arena for one of Edmonton's "grandfathers of hockey." Vern Davis received the honour at an event to preview Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week. Mr. Davis co-founded the annual tournament with three friends in 1963.

"Vern has been a devoted community volunteer and selfless promoter of Edmonton minor hockey for over 50 years," said Rob Smyth, Community and Facility Services branch manager with the City of Edmonton. "His dedication to our community, the sport of hockey and to helping children develop a love for the game is exemplary. He thoroughly deserves this honour."

Since co-founding Edmonton Minor Hockey Week 47 years ago, Vern has volunteered for the tournament each year, helping it gain recognition from Guinness World Records as the biggest hockey tournament in the world.

"Vern is an inspiration to our volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure that the great sport of hockey continues to be enjoyed by all youth in this city," said Chris Hurley, Edmonton Minor Hockey Association president.

In addition to the time and energy he has given to Edmonton Minor Hockey Week, Mr. Davis also spent countless hours volunteering as the bantam sports director for the Westmount Community League and secretary for the Northwest Community Athletic Association in the 1960s. He has been secretary of the Federation Hockey Council since 1973.

To help children learn the game, Mr. Davis founded "initiation hockey" which allows first-time hockey players, or kids between four and six, to learn basic hockey skills. As a member of the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association Alumni, he also raises funds for children who are unable to play hockey for financial reasons.

"This is just an honour," said Mr. Davis. "I grew up playing hockey on frozen ponds and never thought about having a rink named after me. I'd like to thank all the people who put me here—the good friends that I've made through hockey, the dedicated volunteers and, of course, my family. I appreciate this very much."

In 2007, Mr. Davis received an Alberta Centennial Award through a nomination from Hockey Alberta and was named Edmonton Hockey Volunteer of the Year by the Edmonton Oilers. The City of Edmonton inducted him into the Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

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2010 WAYNE GRETZKY RECREATION HOCKEY AWARDS

JOSH MCDONALD – JUNIOR PLAYER

Josh McDonald is in his second year of Junior B with the Edmonton Wild and is this year's Assistant Captain. A solid, steady defenseman, Josh is a key member of the blue line corp and is quickly becoming a leader on the Wild. Studying Accounting and Strategic Management in his first year at Grant MacEwan University, Josh also works as a hockey referee and linesman, volunteering for as many games as he can fit into his busy winter schedule, and is a volunteer coach for the Thunder inline high performance teams during the ice hockey off season.

MATTHEW ENCARNACAO – BANTAM AA

Thirteen year old Matthew Encarnacao is playing with the South Side Athletic Club team Sportswear in his first year of Bantam AA. Skating since the age of two, Matthew has played hockey for the past nine years and was named Captain of his spring hockey team for the two years he has played with them. During this time he also received five MVP awards.

In addition to hockey, Matthew enjoys various other sports including skiing, volleyball and swimming. He also excels academically, achieving honours every term throughout Grade 7 last year and remaining on the honour roll with a 92% average this year. He also volunteers as a shooter at goalie camps and is a mentor to children like himself who suffer from severe peanut allergies and have asthma, dedicating one or two hours a week to mentor these youth from across the country online.

DARRIN CRAIG – BANTAM PLAYER

Grade 9 student, Darrin Craig attends Mary Butterworth School and has the highest academic average in his grade, something he has maintains since Grade 8. In addition to playing hockey, Darrin curls and plays slow pitch, volleyball and soccer. He is also highly involved in his community, shovelling sidewalks, doing readings at his local church, and being the Assistant Coach of the Northstar Jr 'C' hockey team.

Darrin is also very active in his school where he is a member of the Student Council and helps coach the junior volleyball team. He is a member of the MBS Science Club and has participated on the Science Olympic team and in Skills Canada Challenges.

Important Dates

Opening Ceremonies:

Saturday, January 16th, 2010

Kinsmen Arena

12:30 pm - Media Game (a game between local media and EMHA and NHL alumni),

1:30 pm - Opening Ceremonies

Finals:

Begin Friday, January 22nd, 2010

Please refer to www.quikcardminorhockey.com for times and locations.

For More Information

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Fast Facts

The Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week involves:

- Over 526 teams from Edmonton and surrounding communities
- Over 8,500 participants ranging in age from 7 to 17
- 752 games scheduled
- 68 divisions
- 23 arenas
- 31 sheets of ice
- Over 3,000 volunteers
- Over \$35,000 of donated time on behalf of referees



THE WAYNE GRETZKY RECREATION HOCKEY AWARD

The Wayne Gretzky Awards are presented annually to hockey players who exemplify good sportsmanship and dedication to the game. Each year since the 1989/90 season, three outstanding young athletes from the BB, AA, and Junior programs have been the recipients of this prestigious award.

Players are nominated and chosen for sportsmanship, scholastic achievement, and community involvement – and let me tell you, each year we are impressed with the achievements of these fine players. The trophies were donated by The City of Edmonton to George Dermott, President of the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association in 1989 and are miniature replicas of the Wayne Gretzky Statue in front of Rexall Place. Designed by Mr. John Weaver, master artist, the awards are limited edition bronzes. Edmonton Minor Hockey Association has three of the five statues while Mr. Weaver and Mr. Gretzky each have one. Once the five statues were created, the mold was broken – no more will ever be made.

The following are the Wayne Gretzky Award recipients since 1989.

	JUNIOR	AA	
1989/90	NADOR TAKATS	GORDON MCCANN	DARREN DANSEREAU
1990/91	DAN SLUPEK	RICK GIRARD	TEPPEI KAMEI
1991/92	ROBIN SCHROH	KENDALL MACDONALD	KEVIN HAAPT
1992/93	KEITH REITER	SHELDON PIETRZYKOWSKI	CRAIG DOCKRILL
1993/94	TROY DZENKEW	SEAN DAY	CHRIS CHIU
1994/95	JAMIE MAHOOD	MATTHEW MITCHELL	KEVIN PAYE
1995/96	JESS PRESISNIUK	JOEY BASTIEN	POETER BLASETTI
1996/97	JASON SWANSON	DALE SKOREYKO	JON SHARUN
1997/98	BRYAN LEWIS	DANIEL SZASZKIEWICZ	B.J. LOUGHEEN
1998/99	CHRIS BELCOURT	SEBASTIAN POLIKAR	TERRILL LOBO
1999/00	TOM YONGE	ADAM KINNAIRD	BRADEN NEHRING
2000/01	JASON LIBER	CODY HRYNIW	VICTOR TSO
2001/02	JON FULLER	MICHAEL SADLER	MARGARET HINKLEY
2002/03	DAVE MCINNIS	REID NICHOL	SEAN BRADLEY
2003/04	GREG HAMILTON	STEPHEN NISSAN	DAVID FEDECHKO
2004/05	DAN REIMER	MATTHEW COOK	LANDON MICIAK
2005/06	IAN WILSON	BLAIR COWLEY	ALLISON LITTLE BRET LITKE
2006/07	TYLER THOMLISON	KYLE CRAIG	STEPHAN KRUHLAK
2007/08	BRADEN PAQUETTE	JOEL CAMPBELL	BRADLEY MATSUBA
2008/2009	AUSTIN PORTER	JACOB BENNETT	DYLAN VIEIRA
2009/2010	JOSH MCDONALD	MATTHEW ENCARNACAO	DARRIN CRAIG