

The Story of Deaf Hockey in Canada

A Marathon Road To Success



1999 Deaf Team Canada Gold Medallists



- Deaf Heritage Canada

MacKay Deaf Hockey Club
Montreal, Quebec (1905)



- Deaf Heritage Canada

Manitoba School for the Deaf
Central Juvenile League Champs (1907)

The Legendary Gerald Griffore

A Genuine Organizer for Deaf Hockey

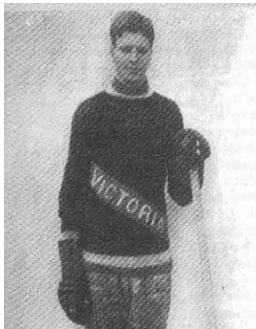


The high courage and fidelity but determined will of Gerald Griffore brought endurance and purpose to the glorious cause of ice hockey towards Deaf Clubs in Ontario, Quebec, and the USA. He engaged in many events with audacity in the steadfast 1963-1983 periods. Skilled in scheduling and etiquette, he had a genius for using these varied abilities to strengthen his own leadership to deliver duty and to amass the participation which brought hundreds of Deaf enthusiasts of any level to join and play. In his adult life, he was devoted in establishing sports clubs and organizations plus many tournaments he longed for hockey, softball, volleyball, and basketball for men and women. He was larger than life in engineering events with a big heart. His long-time friends, the late Paul Arcand of Montreal, QC, a great hockey motivator and the late James Oldham of Toledo, Ohio, USA, an unheralded hockey player. (See Gerald's biography on page 10)

Courtesy of ye Editor

Only Two Professional Deaf Ice Hockey Players

During the past two centuries, Deaf Canadians have participated in athletic activities in increasing numbers. Most began their involvement in sports while attending residential schools for the deaf where they competed against other deaf students. After the following years, they competed in city district leagues and regional divisions. Out of necessity, there were several skillful deaf hockey players who were acquired to play in the hearing teams during the intermediate and junior amateur divisions in several provinces after early 1900s. More details are found in Deaf Heritage Canada in Chapter 15, pg. 357-365 including Jeffrey Lillie of Oshawa, ON (1993-1996). The recent hockey star, Michael Merriman of Wilcox, SK who captured two Gold medals for Team Canada at 1999 and 2003 Deaflympic Winter Games. All of the deaf hockey players who had taken part at the higher calibre events during the 20th century were remarkable. Only two players, John (Jack) Ulrich and James (Jim) Kyte as shown below played in NHL. (Excerpts from Deaf Heritage Canada)



Jack Ulrich (1890-1927)

Born in Russia and emigrated to Winnipeg MB in 1901; attended Detroit Deaf School in Michigan in 1902-03; back to Wpg Deaf School in 1903-09. He played in different top-class leagues in MB and BC during 1910-13 until he entered NHL; played in Stanley Cup 3 times in the final (1913-16) and won one Stanley Cup title.

James Kyte (b. 1963)

High-flying Jets defenceman, #6, 6'5" tall, played with Wpg Jets(1983-89), Pittsburgh Penguins (1989-91), and Calgary Flames (1991-92). As a native of Ottawa, he began to play hockey at age 5 and grew up to play in many winding roads until he entered NHL.



THE STORY OF DEAF HOCKEY IN CANADA

NARRATED/COMPILED BY GERALD GRIFFORE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

**RE-CIRCULATED, AMENDED, AND EDITED BY WAYNE L.A. GOULET
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*A Flashback: In mid-1800's when some schools for the deaf pupils originated in Quebec and Ontario, these Deaf Student Graduates, as adults became fiercely enthused in the hockey activities, both in intramural and competitive meets for recreation and fun. During those cold winters, Québec's serenade-skating enjoyment and fun activities roamed the icy St. Lawrence River. When the NHA's first started in 1909 and later the NHL in 1917 as a professional sport, everyone including neighbours and farmers anxiously built rinks in their own backyards all over Canada. They were uncertified zealots. All public schools commenced playing hockey on the nearby frozen fields, all of which were without the structured walls around the self-made rinks. As yet, there were no padded uniforms and gloves to wear, but only skates, sticks, and pucks. As the great blue sky and cold air endured still, their spirit and zeal rose higher. In the end, hockey became a stardom for all. It never died. **It's now a** hockey country so it speaks:*

“Canada Hockey shone, shines, and will shine forever”

- Wayne Goulet -

An Aura of Fervor Upon Dwellers After the Post-Frontiers – ‘Hockey Maniac’

After the forefathers in their early settlements shaped a vast continent under severe hardship of labour, this resulted in an improved navigational method on lands and waters until Canada's becoming first statehood. Their grandchildren entered schools to learn policies and expansions which laid the future greatness of Canada and helped pave the way for economics, trades, farming, and institutions aided by transportation through railroads, roads, and waterways built before them.

Then a recreation developed to pursue incentives within all public-school systems when the 20th century arrived. By then and beyond it, new developments flourished to the greater extent that offered opportunities for jobs and families. Then, it came to sport openings for anyone on sight – to compete on lands and in waters. When early Scotsmen came to Canada, they introduced curling on the river ice. While the Indians played a lacrosse as part of their traditional sport during summer, the white dwellers thought of sticks and pucks to play on the winter ice. As the 20th century progressed, **hockey** boomed; the kids and adults of yesteryears were overdramatized by such an outburst. A wolf-crying maniac aroused them more. Yet, it was impossible to let bygones be bygones. Hockey diffused a spice in their bloodstream.

The Backgrounds of Deaf Hockey Schools at the Turn of the Late Victorian Era

At the provincial schools for the Deaf across Canada which were built during the mid 19th and early 20th centuries, many boy and girl students and faculty staff helped create outdoor rinks for pleasurable activities like skating and hockey. Double-blade skates in their early times were worn. Henceforth, those educational institutions for the Deaf began to participate in the hockey house leagues until the next stage they played interschool district leagues against the hearing.

After the decades of minor events within many Deaf schools, Belleville's OSD Pee Wee and Junior teams captured Ki-Y League Championships in 1935 and 1938 respectively. Some OSD skillful players were loaned to the Junior 'B' Belleville team in order to keep that team there from folding during the wartime. In the 1965-66 regulated school district league, the last-place OSD "Wolves", once perceived as "Cinderella" (well, it was not; they were naughty), surged to a surprising victory in 1966 Juvenile City League Championship as being called the "unimaginable underdog heroes".

In Montréal during the Victorian era, the Quebec French-speaking educational institution for the Deaf-Mutes originally known for Catholic Institution for Deaf and Dumb Mutes (built in 1850) had long been involved in the intramural houseleagues. Many adult students constantly played on their school rink after they flooded the ice early in the morning. At MacKay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (English speaking), they formed a Deaf Hockey Club in 1895, better known as "The MacKays" and were involved in the intermediate league to compete with hearing teams around the south-west Montreal area. The "Beaver" of the all-deaf Francophone amateur team, who took feverish workouts almost daily at their school rink in early 1900s, won the Spalding League Championship in 1913, an abuzz for their remarkable endeavours.

In other parts of regions, numerous schools for the Deaf-Mutes were involved in hockey competitions against hearing teams, youth and adult alike. They included Metro Toronto School for the Deaf, Quebec and Ontario Schools for the Deaf, Maritime Provincial Schools for the Deaf, and Western Canada Provincial Schools for the Deaf (Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Vancouver). All of those determined pupils in their schooling lives {except rainy-climate Vancouverites} bravely played in the icy outdoor rinks or ponds under sub-zero or deep-freeze conditions.

Pre-Historic Times of Untold Stories Through Words of Mouth – Deaf Heritage Canada

It would take a separate story just to describe most of the clubs of and for deaf people that had existed in Canada since the late 1800s. Further, somehow, a complete history of these clubs would be impossible to be found or recognized because the original papers such as minutes and membership rosters have been lost or destroyed. Very often, they kept those files in the officers' homes and subsequently passed from an elected officer to the next. In some cases, defunct clubs lost their valuable files when that officer died, the papers were thrown away by family members not realizing their historic significance. However, many Deaf predecessors often passed their stories to other Deaf people through the mouths spoken of hockey and broomballs on the frozen ponds.

Notable Deaf Hockey Clubs in Quebec and Ontario After WW1-WW2 Eras

Between the 1920s and 1960s periods, there were a good number of Deaf players competing in the local/regional leagues in Quebec and Ontario under the officiating and management of the hearing. Eventually, some all-deaf local teams were granted entry into the city districts or regional divisions. They were required to meet top quality of play, but also, they wanted to espouse good feelings about themselves and play for the love of hockey. When you say, “a true north and patriot love”, we say “Let hockey be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country”. In the end, their playing skills were measured as unusually high, very astonishing to the general public.

Around the 1930 era despite an unreported limelight upon the merely Deaf population in Canada, a blue-nosed hockey team of Winnipeg Association of the Deaf, perhaps one of the earliest Deaf Community in Canada (1914), and Toronto Silent Athletic Club’s Hockey Team (f. 1929) **were** experienced by their first all-deaf confrontational meet with each other, along with other hearing opposing teams. Was it ever imagined how far a trip was for the Winnipeg team to/from Toronto on a train, not a plane?

Earliest Recollections: In Winnipeg, the Manitoba School for the Deaf captured 1907 Central Juvenile League Championship, quite a unique but stunning achievement for those students whose motivation was exceedingly high under the unimaginable cold windy days. According to the Pharnorth Library Society/McDermid Literary Society (Wpg), it was conveyed that Deaf Winnipeggers including two deaf natives founded a club called “Winnipeg Silent Hockey Club in 1908, a first-ever Deaf Hockey Club in Western Canada {Mackay Deaf Hockey Club, Montréal in 1895}, after they acknowledged a clipping through Winnipeg Star which read that National Hockey Association (NHA) would inherit a new league in 1909. (NHL took over in 1917). After 6 years of its existence, that Silent Hockey Club was changed to Winnipeg Association of the Deaf until it changed again to Winnipeg Community Centre of the Deaf, Inc (WCCD) in 1939 to pursue growth of diversity and social aspiration, but remained in hockey program.

In March 1963, Montreal Deaf Hockey Team under the congregational branch of ICDA Chapter #58 (Deaf Catholic), was exceptionally achieved within Montreal Island ever witnessed when Guy LeBeouf served as General Chairman and Paul Arcand served as Game-in-Charge for arranging the first Deaf Hockey Challenge between two rivalries, All-Stars Quebec and All-Stars Ontario teams. As a result, Quebec All-Stars defeated Ontario Selects All-Stars by the score of 8-7 with 2 late scoring rallies to stun the life saving victory in front of 500+ spectators to witness such a sensational match. At the next match-up meet, Quebec poured more gravy over Ontario in a 10-2 triumph.

In Ontario, there were only a few tournaments taken place in early 1963 till 1965. These noticeably occurred in Southern Ontario. Later in 1966, an interest grew larger among local Deaf clubs, not only in Metro Toronto alone, but also other cities ranging from Niagara Peninsula - Hamilton - Burlington - Kitchener - London - Chatham - Windsor. It all started when a madly flow of enthusiasm and yearning was driven by many local Deaf teams in the western regions. They were so wildly on the raring go.

When Ontario Council of Sports Organizations of the Deaf (OCSOD) was founded in November 1966 with 3 regional organizations of the Deaf and 1 local association of the Deaf as affiliates, they were Central Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf (COAAD), Eastern Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf (EOAAD), Western Ontario Athletic

Association of the Deaf (WOAAD), and Toronto Association of the Deaf (TAD). Gerald Griffore as one of the founding members was selected to conduct 1st Annual Ontario Deaf Ice Hockey Tournament in February 15th 1969 being held at Memorial Hespeler Arena in Hespeler, ON fully endorsed and supported by OCSOD Board and their amalgamates. Thus, the legend sparkled with many successes afterward.

A Series of Leagues/Tournaments During the 1970s in Ontario

At the inception of the OCSOD, the birth of the associations and clubs of the Deaf started to heighten an interest in getting involved and focussed on hockey programs more radically, especially a sheer desire to host tournaments, invitations, and exhibitions. In the meantime, some of them steered up new leagues of their own within the urbanized areas between East Toronto and Hamilton. All of those were buzzing on the year of 1970 until 1979 after Toronto Deaf Hockey League was first enacted in October-March, 1969 -1970 in Long Branch Arena of Clarkson on Friday midnights with four (4) regional affiliates as one of the astounding attraction ever had upon anyone involved. That league was engineered by the undying and determined guy, Gordon Henshaw of Mississauga, ON in partnership with Harold Bradley for assistance. James Mallach took over Gordon's role in 1974 until TDHL died down *in 1975* due to changing scenarios driven by other Deaf clubs over which their various interests turned to blossom.

While TDHL gradually declined during 1973-75, the next emerging stage was to gear upon the hosting of annual tournaments, coupled with invitations and exhibitions with the inclusion of Montreal Team and some USA teams to compete with Ontario Local/Regional Teams. Such a move grew popularity with large attraction from spectators. It lasted until 1979 after National Capital Association of the Deaf (Ottawa) hosted the last event affecting the dissolution of Ontario Regional Athletic Associations of the Deaf with regrets.

At the subsequent 1970-73 Ontario-run annual tourneys, the Board of Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf (formerly OCSOD) granted permission to Gordon Henshaw, Host Chairman and his assistants, Alan Ogawa and Fred Barrett, along with TAD volunteers to stage 1st OAAD Grand Hockey Tournament/Trials in 1974. It was held in Flemington Park Arena in Don Mills with 6 registered teams, namely TAD 'A' and 'B', Chatham-Windsor Lakers, WOAAD, St. Francis de Sales of the Society, and Ottawa Deaf Sports Club. To wrap up the Championship series, St. Francis team won the title and the selection for best players through trial-observed assessment were named to be on the Canadian team as being represented by other provincial-selected players contending for World Winter Games for the Deaf in Lake Placid, NY in 1975.

In the event of the enduring 1973-1980 upgraded competitions, an all-Deaf French-speaking Montreal team, a staunch supporter of Le Club des Loisirs des Sourds de Montreal (CLSM), a hockey powerhouse with stalwart Deaf players, dominated most of the tournaments and championships they earned titles handily. Those two neighbouring provinces had launched several specular showdowns on an alternative and sporadic basis under which CLSM hosted 5 times in its hometown between 1972-1977. A great exchange of shared hostship between them was experienced.

Down south, many Deaf Americans all over in USA were not the fans of hockey contrary to the normal American people who knew more as fans of NHL. One of the exciting times was noted when there was 2nd Northern American Deaf Hockey Tournament being held in Dearborn, Michigan in Jan./1974 with only two opposing teams; namely, Windsor-Chatham Lakers (ICDA Chapter #52) and USA Team, despite 3 drop-out teams from CLSM, Toronto St Frances des Sales, and Toronto Blues due to financial restraint on travel. During that match, a large attendance came from members of Detroit Association of the Deaf (DAD) along with visitors who were especially impressive in watching a hard-fought, see-saw game between the Lakers and USA squad at the final. It was their first-ever experience as fans with jaw-dropping in awe. The Lakers won by a tooth, 5 to 4.

The 1973-1980 Ontario-Quebec-USA Star Fights for Title-Winning Grabs

Since the amassed number of tournaments and championships vying to capture big-time titles which began in 1973, its prevailing spirit was phenomenal among the teams from Quebec, Ontario, and USA. It grew goose bumps on them at an average participation of 5 teams, once the highest of 7 including a new entry from Gallaudet College All-Canadian Team of Washington, D.C. Grand faceoffs flared vibrantly at the start of the three-time hosting sites in Rochester, NY (1973, 1975, & 1977) under the guidance of National Technical Institute for the Deaf. At first site in 1973, the favourite Montreal team took a stunning loss to the USA team at the final in 6-5 score. At 2nd 1975 site, the hosted USA team suffered a stampede loss to the *amen-threatening* Montreal crew by 8-1 romp. At 3rd 1977 site, the powerful Montreal crew outmatched every opposing team and seized the championship title. One of the strong USA squads thought they could defeat CLSM team after weeks of physical preparation. Unfortunately, it didn't work for them.

Those championships of a magnitude stretching from 1973 through 1980 were the phenom of excitement upon spectators from within all corners whenever they were hosted. Back and forth locations between CAN and USA border at close proximity, particularly in one of much-highlighted "Big Match" Showdown called 1st National Deaf Hockey Tournament in Lake Placid, NY on January 26-27, 1973. This was surrounded by a large crowd of 2000+ fans under which It was organized by USA Deaf Skiers Association. They saw the mighty Montreal crew defeating the star-studded USA squad in the seething 2-1 score as one of the most grueling, tight-twat battles at the championship final. Three Canadian players being selected for all-stars among 4 teams were Robert Lang of Toronto, along with two Montrealers, Donald Therrien and Gerard Labrecque (Silent News 1973). Two years later, despite only 2 registered countries for Ice Hockey at the World Winter Games for the Deaf (WWGD) again in Lake Placid, NY, Team Canada swept all 3 games over Team USA to take an unofficial title with no medals awarded due to a ruling with a required entry of 5 countries to compete.

In all those big-time tournaments ever challenged by 3-way team borders of Quebec-Ontario-USA, Montreal (CLSM) captured more winning titles with 9. The other teams' winning titles were as follows: USA (2), Toronto's St. Frances de Sales Catholics Society (1), and Windsor-Chatham Lakers (1). The other untitled teams in both side of borders did their best to compete as many invitations as they could try.

* In Western Canada, curling leagues/bonspiels are still dominant in most Deaf Clubs since 1965.

In light of euphoria and all-time triumphs in the 20th century, all-powered Montreal Deaf Hockey Club was the most captivating squad of all during the 1963-80 eras.

A New Star Program – A Bright Saga for Deaf Hockey in Canada was Born

Despite those gusty winds and cold air in the long wintry 20th century times, there was only one dimension that had defined all odds over which it was about hockey when you played outdoors. Evidently, you, I, and anyone else living in a far and wide country like Canada and USA, have long embraced this model - so exceedingly and so loved. During the century-long series of numerous unreserved events, it was funny that we in Canada had yet established a national program for hockey alone. NHA/NHL and CHA were born a milestone ago; shouldn't we have ours a long ago, too?

* American Hearing-Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) was established in 1973.

Alas! -- a big grin for all of us! A new chapter, a new national program for Deaf Hockey had finally found a place here, namely **Canadian Deaf Ice Hockey Federation** created in 1983. Such a new vibrant sign brought thousands of Deaf Canadians to their feet with excitement after one man ventured a valiant effort in starting up a debut by will and with hope. That person named *Roy Hysen* of Mississauga ON, born-deaf, a former goaltender, and a hawkish pioneer who gave it all. Thus, the legend thrived.

The Epoch of Modern National/International Showdowns Beyond 1985s

When CDIHF became formulated and mandated after the 1983 inception, there was a good number of national competitions and invitations being staged in different locations and cities in Quebec, Ontario, and Western Canada up until 2000s. At the same time throughout the following years, many young Deaf hockey players in different regions across Canada joined in the hearing leagues in order to maintain resilience and physique. A few other groups were trained and competed under the voluntary coaching guidance. In the meantime, CDIHF improved its service to the great extent and thus, grants and donations poured in from many different sources and public/private agencies as well as peers, parents, neighbours, and local communities.

After the Executive Board of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf received applications from 4 different countries in 1988, they finally accepted an entry for Ice Hockey to compete at the 1991 Deaflympic Winter Games for the very first time. While a sanction was first set to take place in Banff, Alberta in March 2-9, 1991, the excitement from thousands of Canadian Deaf Hockey players and enthusiasts thundered wildly. Following the completion of that plateau, Team Soviet Union/CIS captured its first-ever Gold medal while Team USA for Silver and Team Canada for Bronze.

At the 1995 Deaflympic Winter Games being staged in Yilas, Finland, Team USA captured Gold medal; Team Canada took Silver; and Team Russia took Bronze. All of those teams were especially experienced by their first taste of *come-to-battle* firmness when confronted. Their skills augmented very well. An all-out motivation was a beginning cornerstone for these national teams, especially American Hearing-Impaired Hockey Association mainly conducted by few officers (hearing) including a legendary NHL centre and a founder of AHIHA, **Stan Mikita** of classic Chicago Black Hawks.

Canada Grabbed Gold Pots in 1999 and 2003 Deaflympic Winter Games

As the story spoke all along about the undying and unwavering passion among Canadian people in 130 years, the Deaf Canadians finally acknowledged such fabulous debuts that Canada brought home a Gold medal twice. What a marathon road they had endured!

In Davos, Switzerland at the 1999 Deaflympic Winter Games, Team Canada gleefully captured its first ever Gold medal, and another Gold medal in Yilas, Finland at 2003 Deaflympic Winter Games under the brilliant coaching staff led by Roy Hysen as General Manager/Draft Maestro and Louie Carnevale as Head Coach.

1999 Team Canada Gold Medallists

David Becker, Chad Broussard, Cory Broussard, Jesse Cline, Mark Couture, Charles Fecteau, David Fraser, John Gurestante, Eric Handfield, Jonathan Kuik, Frayne Kyte, Terry Maloney, Michael Merriman, Hugo Morris, Casey O'Brien, Brent Pinch, Mathew Plett, Garrett Savard, Scott Savard, & Scott Van Der Sluys

2003 Team Canada Gold Medallists

Ryan Armitage, Jeffrey Bignell, Jesse Cline, Mark Couture, Steven Devine, David Fraser, Bryan Grennier, Francois Guevremont, Mark Howitt, Brent Pinch, Jonathan Lobodzinski, Michael Longfield, Terry Maloney, Shawn Mayzes, Brett McLaren, Michael Merriman, Hugo Morris, Shawn Morse, Casey O'Brien, Daniel Paradis, Jeffrey Parsons, Scott Savard, and Kristopher Walley

Historic Highlights Among Unheard Names of Great Deaf Hockey Players

In the late 1800s and early-to-mid 1900s, it was unusual for the deaf athletes to be hired by hearing teams. The few who did were singled out by the media, often with phrases like “he’s deaf, but can skate” (or throw, or run, or whatever the sport). It is relatively easy to obtain information on the career highlights of these media stars; information on the lives of several appear in Deaf Heritage Canada chapter. As more and more deaf leagues were established back then, the number of deaf athletes competing on amateur levels (high calibre) increased. However, because these people are “ordinary” citizens, rather than the darlings of the media. Other documented materials on their lives and involvement in sports were difficult to find, not including few deaf Canadians participating in sports in modern media. More than anything, athletics has played a significant role in the Deaf community over the years, whether engaged in solitary pursuit of individual goals or sharing the friendship of team sports. But deaf Canadians have shown the world that they have “come to play” - Clifton Carbin, author of Deaf Heritage Canada (1996), p. 357-358.

Chester Brown (1883-1940) – he played a goalie for Saint John Mohawks to compete in New Brunswick Hockey League during 1902-03 season; originally played in a local junior amateur hockey league before he was first acquired on the residential school rink. Born in Saint John, NB, an all-round athlete, Brown was often singled out by local newspapers as a “star”.

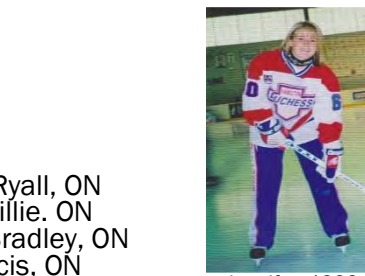
Thomas Wood (1902-1986) – the deaf goaltender was another familiar face to deaf sports enthusiasts in the early 1920s. Being educated at the Manitoba School for the Deaf, he was signed by the provincial AAA Bluebirds Ice Hockey Club while working as a printer in Vancouver. His team’s only deaf player had won the Intermediate Amateur Championship in 1921-22. For he tended goal for the undisputed champions, his opponents echoed “We could not find room enough to slip the puck past the husky goalie”.

Walter “Dummy” Molisky (1888-1972) – Once known as superstar in the amateur ice hockey in the world: as a member of Victoria Hockey Club in Regina, SK, he was believed to be the first deaf amateur ice hockey player to skate for a team of national calibre. Many hockey lovers best remember for the major role he played when his team won the Allan Cup in 1914. Born in Poland and immigrated to Regina around 1890s, was educated in Deaf Schools (SK and MB), and secured by his 2 deaf sisters, Walter had long career as hockey centre, and when first acquired in the hearing team, his teammates called him “dummy”.

Gerald Roger Griffore, estimate of his passion, zest, purpose, and appetite for hockey are indicated by the simple epitaph he asked to be inscribed for as “love and thrive for action.” Born and raised in Chatham ON, he attended Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville ON until graduation in 1958. He began to fall in love with hockey at age 9 and never looked back ever since. At young adult, he fiercely embraced classic Montreal Canadiens and always kept an eye on Rocket Richard as it is still his idol over Wayne Gretzky in modern times. At OSD, he played hockey hourly on Saturday matinées. Other varsity sports were football and basketball he joined during school district leagues.

Started in 1963 and all the way to early 1980s, he founded, hosted, organized, and assisted numerous local, regional and provincial events plus all-time big showdowns competed by Ont-Que-USA combatants which led many marvellous successes. His initial influence was perhaps an epicenter which brought greatness towards Deaf Hockey in the end.

Employed at Union Gas in Chatham for 35 years as Gas Meter Repairman (1960–1995). Gerald has two daughters, Jennifer (1973) and Julie (1975) who studied at the universities: Jennifer at McMaster University in Hamilton and Julie at University of Windsor. His 3rd son, Mathew (1977) studied at Sheridan College in Oakville ON. Both Jennifer and Julie played girls’ hockey for Hamilton Senior Duchess (1992-95) and Windsor Lancers (1995-98) respectively. They proudly obtained several awards and honours for excellence and execution of play.



Jennifer- 1992



Julie - 1995

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Arcand, QC * | Keith Dorschner, ON* | Gordon Ryall, ON |
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| Gordon Henshaw, ON | Fred Barrett, ON | Harold Bradley, ON |
| James Oldham, USA * | James Mallach, ON* | Rudy Lacic, ON |
| Gerard Labrecque, QC | Barry Strassler, USA | Roy Hysen, ON |

*deceased

In Memory of



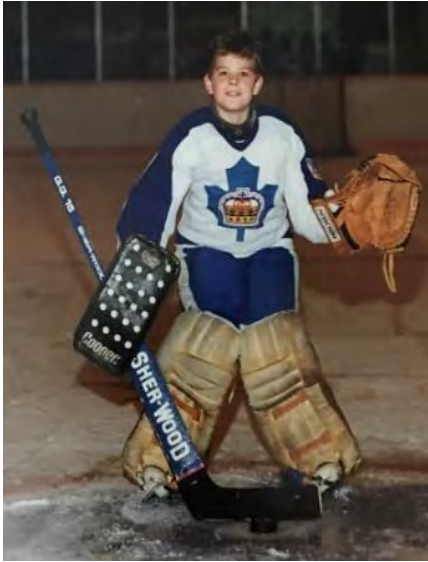
Keith George Dorschner (b. Aug. 1, 1938; d. May 7, 2014)

Born in North Bay ON: Catholic Deacon (1995); an Enduring Board Member of ICDA Chapter #61; a Founding Member/1st V-P of Ontario Council of Sports Organizations of the Deaf; and a Founder of OSD-SWJ Alumni Association in 1989 (Deaf School in Belleville); Avid Curler and Hockey Enthusiast, and a Decent Contributor Towards Deaf Community



Paul Aime Arcand (b. Mar. 26, 1932; d. Apr. 26, 2020)

A Founding Board Member of FSSC/CDSA in 1965 (National Deaf Sports), a Founding Father of Deaf Hockey Activity in Montreal (1963), Inter-Provincial Deaf Hockey Tourney Organizer (1963-1977), Born near St-Jean, QC; Employed in Vancouver, BC in 1978 till 2003; Resettled in Quebec City and Laval, QC until death; a Prodigious Motivator; and Avid Hockey Player at Adulthood.



Jeffrey Cameron Lillie

“He’s deaf, and nothing is simpler than greatness, but he plays for the love of hockey”

A Whirlwind Road To Exploit as a Goaltender

Born on January 22, 1976 and raised in Oshawa, Jeffrey Lillie was perhaps a great Canadian athlete who excelled in the goaltending career at early adulthood. He is the proud son of deaf parents, Gilbert Lillie of Toronto, Ontario and Ingrid (nee Spangenberg) Lillie of West Berlin, Germany. At the very young age, Jeffrey began enthusiasm in ice hockey and assured the practice of playing defence for a very brief time before being placed later as a circuit-riding goaltender in high calibre leagues he posed athletically. He found his place extremely well.

Jeffrey’s hockey career started at the age of 6 when his neighbours encouraged his parents to register their son to join Agincourt house hockey league to keep him busy and active during the weekends. He started to develop his true love for hockey as he showed unlimited potential to become a better goalie. In the following years, Jeffrey wanted to play games so his Dad bought him hockey equipment and kept him playing regularly to ensure he would become a better goalie with each game. Certainly enough, he climbed the ladder; alluded himself to reach successes; and for the rest of his life, he sustained members of peewee, midget, and junior teams in those leagues.

At an early age, Jeffrey who had started as a defenceman in the house league, watched Hockey Night in Canada on TV and attended Maple Leafs games at Maple Leaf Gardens with his Dad. Jeff watched many tremendous saves on shots performed by Leafs Mike Palmeter, a great acrobatic goalie who vastly inspired him. Prior to his pre-teenage years, he began to idolize Ron Hextall of the Philadelphia Flyers as one of the fiery, aggressive and fist-fighting goaltenders. Jeff thought he would follow Ron’s footsteps because of his toughness and big fists, people would assume he meant business if given the chance.

As a student, Jeffrey attended different schools, not only public schools, but because he was deaf, and had a love of ASL, he also received an education at institutions of the Deaf. Born in Oshawa, he attended Clairlea Public School in Toronto (1980-81); Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton (1981-84); Metro Toronto School for the Deaf (1984-90); Northern Secondary School in Toronto (1990-91); and E.C.D. (1991-95). By the time he was 6, he played on 7 different teams in the Agincourt and Toronto areas. He was considered “the premier goaltender” in Toronto at the peewee level and was believed to be one of the best goaltenders in all of Ontario.

In a major Peewee division of Metro Toronto Hockey League in 1990, he played defence during part of the early season. Despite his deafness and the fact that his position often required hearing and vocal communication, he accepted the challenge to play defence despite his initial desire to be a goaltender. When his team’s regular goalie in the house league became sick, the coach called on him to take over and play. From there to the rest of the season, Jeff was poised for great play around the net, he earned his team a lot of victories that prompted his coaching staff to be astonished and truly gratified. Thus, he became permanent in the net and rose to new heights – to be in the next big leagues of midget and junior.

At premier hockey level, he began to play for Toronto Marlies Major Novice AAA in 1986 after playing for Agincourt Lions in the house league for 2 years and 1 year with Hillcrest Summits Minor Atom 'AA'. He stayed in the major division 'AAA' for 9 years with different teams under 3 different organizations; Toronto Red Wings (6 years), Toronto Marlies (2 years), and Toronto Young Nets (1 year) under Toronto Metro Hockey League. He signed the contract every time he joined the new team. Lots of hearing game attendees couldn't believe how phenomenally well Jeff played even though he acted like a normal person, not deaf.

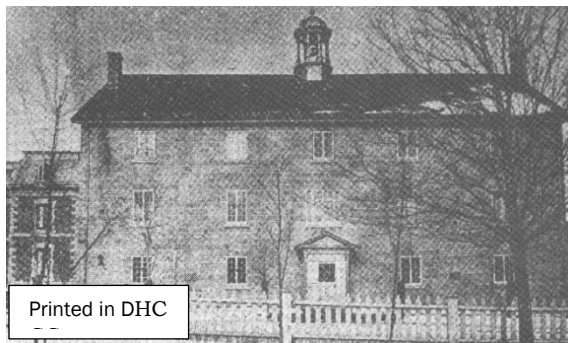


Hereafter, Jeff was preoccupied by OHL scouts close to Midget level and thus was rated No. 1 OHL goalie draft in 1992. After subsequent drafts and participation of different teams where he was being accepted, he then joined and signed with Milton Merchants Jr 'B' (2 yrs.) at his preferred close proximity to the Deaf school. Then, Jeff played with Markham Waxers Jr 'B' (1 yr.) plus only 4 games in OHL on call. In 1992 CAHA Under 17 Canada Tryout in Calgary, Jeff along with 5 other top goalies was unfortunately not selected due to the lack of interpreting services to support him.

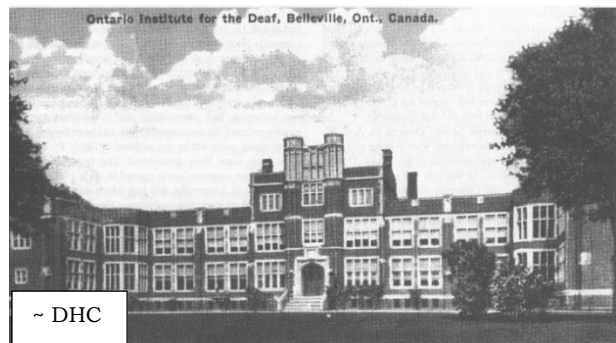
In light of Jeff's true character as a hero during his hockey career, he faced against tough combatants, sometimes brutal but worth its weight in gold for experiences, he cherished it with pride and self-worth that underlined he was a capable player albeit his hearing handicap. He accumulated many achievements including 10 MVP awards out of 24 tourneys in different cities including Quebec City. He was also a part of Team Canada for Deaf Hockey at Deaflympic Winter Games in Yilas, Finland in 1995 that brought a Silver medal home to Canada.

"I love the puck ... I am all alone there in the net, an individual facing the moment of the truth; and the puck and me and nothing else. It is flat and black and when I'm facing it, the challenge is absolute, but I am part of the team. The team values what I do as I value it."
 - Jeffrey Lillie (1993) -

Fact: The origin of the history of ice hockey represents the key beginnings of the modern-day game that we know today. As the 'Origin' section denotes, it presents evidence that serves to establish *Windsor, Nova Scotia* as the birthplace of hockey in 1844.



Printed in DHC
 Catholic School for Deaf-Mutes in Montreal -1850



~ DHC
 Ontario School for the Deaf-SJW in Belleville – 1870

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