

# Team Canada Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2012



## The Team Canada Alumni Association

**Where We Want To Be – Our Vision:** Team Canada Alumni – Coming Together, Reaching Out

**Why We Want To Go There – Our Mission:** To engage, encourage, and enable Team Canada alumni to maintain a lifelong relationship with Hockey Canada and our game.

**Who We Will Be Along the Way – Our Values:** We are committed to honouring Canada's international hockey heritage, assisting with the growth of Canadian hockey and the pursuit of international hockey excellence for Canada, while providing an opportunity for our alumni to reconnect and celebrate the game and their experiences. These objectives will be within a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, integrity, and service. ■

### Message from Gord Sherven

#### CHAIR OF THE TEAM CANADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Welcome to your Team Canada Alumni Association (TCAA) winter newsletter. As always, you will find many great stories and updates, but the focus of this issue will be the recent 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship and the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Program of Excellence (POE). Over 80 former players, coaches and builders of the program were back in Calgary from Dec. 31 to Jan. 4 to celebrate the program's rich history through different events and activities. It was a great time for them to reconnect with their teams and Hockey Canada.

Alumni highlights included a dinner with Canada's National Junior Team, watching the red and white play, and a hot stove lounge hosted by TSN's Gord Miller at a brunch in downtown Calgary. Gord was excellent as he hosted a panel featuring Hockey Canada president and CEO Bob Nicholson, former president and CEO of the Canadian Hockey Association Murray Costello and president of the

Canadian Hockey League and commissioner of the Ontario Hockey League David Branch, who discussed how the Program of Excellence got started, and its storied history. Gord then interviewed former players Dave Chyzowski (1990), Todd Harvey (1994, 1995), Mike Moller (1982) and Steve Rice (1990, 1991) about their experiences winning gold at the IIHF World Junior Championship.

Thank you to Bob Nicholson and the rest of Hockey Canada, as well as to Hockey Canada Foundation executive director and Team Canada alumnus Chris Bright, and Hockey Canada Foundation coordinator Kristine Trudel, for their tremendous efforts in organizing four days of events for our alumni.

We hope you enjoy your Team Canada Alumni Association newsletter!

Thank you,  
Gord Sherven  
Chair, TCAA Advisory Committee ■

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from TCAA Chair . . . . .	1
Celebrating Excellence: Looking back on three decades of development, looking forward to Canada's future on-ice success. . . . .	2
Like Father, Like Son: Sledge hockey a family affair for Dorions . . . . .	4
HCF & TCAA Recent Events Summary . . . . .	6
If You Build It, They Will Skate: Hockey Canada Foundation plays pivotal role in Ottawa's Rink of Dreams . . . . .	10
From phone call home to punch-up in Piastany, the 1987 World Juniors were memorable for Greg Hawgood . . . . .	11
From The Very Beginning, Sherry Bassin Believed in Canada's National Junior Team . . . . .	12
Team Canada takes its seat in the IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship throne . . . . .	14

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## Celebrating Excellence: Looking back on three decades of development, looking forward to Canada's future on-ice success

by Kristen Lipscombe



It seems good things come in three for Hockey Canada.

There are three important steps in our Program of Excellence, three maple leaves on the retro jerseys worn by our players at the 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship, as well as 300 alumni and friends who attended a hot stove session over brunch as part of the POE's 30th anniversary celebrations.

The Jan. 2 event, one of several special alumni activities held in conjunction with the 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship in Calgary and Edmonton, Alta., featured a players' panel made up of World Junior Championship gold medallists Dave Chyzowski (1990), Todd Harvey (1994 and 1995), Mike Moller (1982), and Steven Rice (1990 and 1991), along with a builders' panel consisting of Canadian Hockey League president David Branch, former Hockey Canada president Murray Costello and current Hockey Canada president Bob Nicholson.

"You could hear a pin drop, people were so tuned in, just hanging on every word," Chris Bright, executive director of the Hockey Canada Foundation, said of the mid-day meal held at the Westin Calgary. "It was just a wonderful hot stove lounge."

The panel discussed how the Program of Excellence "came to life" back in 1982, and how it has since grown into a hockey development system well-respected around the world for refining the country's best players and turning them into gold medal-winning teams.

"Murray Costello really talked about how government dollars were crucial," Bright said. "David Branch talked a lot about how it was really tough, in the beginning, to get CHL teams to release their players for that long of a period."

The hot stove was followed by a tour of Hockey Canada's new home at WinSport Canada, including the organization's state-of-the-art office, Team Canada dressing room facilities and impressive trophy room known as the Hall of Champions.

"We were in the Hall of Champions, where all the World Junior plates are, and at first everyone was just appreciative of being in the facility," Bright recalled. "As we got more comfortable being there, five to ten minutes later, the plates were coming off the trophy shelves and guys were taking pictures like they were 18, 19 years old."

*"I just wanted to send you a quick thank you for my time in Calgary ... We were all treated first class, by a first class organization! It was a fabulous experience and was incredible not only to catch up with former teammates and coaches, but to also meet some of the great people that have made this program a success from its inception. Thank you again."*

*– Brent Tully, captain of Canada's National Junior Team, 1994*



Todd Harvey, 1995 IIHF World Junior Championship



Where it all began... 1982 National Junior Team members, from left to right, Sherry Bassin (assistant coach), Mike Moller, Todd Streuby, Garth Butcher, Moe Lemay, Carey Wilson and Bob Strumm (special advisor)

Highlights of the Program of Excellence's 30th anniversary celebrations also included the welcoming dinner Dec. 31, which featured watching Canada edge the United States 3-2 on the big screen, followed by seeing Sweden beat Russia 4-3 in overtime live at the Saddledome, during 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship preliminary action.

Upwards of 70 National Junior Team alumni also had the opportunity to mix and mingle with the 2012 Canadian contingent Jan. 1 at a private event in Calgary, which Bright said gave the former and current players alike the feeling that "something special is really happening for them."

The National Junior Team alumni and about 10 influential hockey builders also gathered on the team benches for the first intermission of Canada's semi-final against Russia, where they were treated to a video produced by Hockey Canada and the Canadian Hockey League (CHL) to recognize their contributions to the Program of Excellence over the past three decades.

The celebration also spilled over into the community, with alumni taking part in Hockey Day in Calgary by playing road hockey, flipping pancakes and signing autographs down at Olympic Plaza, to kick off the New Year and mark the 100th anniversary of the city's recreation department.

"It's a celebration of the game," Bright said of why it was important for Hockey Canada to recognize the Program of Excellence's 30th anniversary, and those who helped make it happen. "These people built the program on their own backs ... that's why it's so popular now."

While the celebration itself was in recognition of the Program of Excellence's past growth, "from Rochester in 1982, when the team stood on the blue line and had to sing their own anthem, to what it is today, when a massive flag is being passed around the Saddledome," Bright said the connections made among players and alumni at this year's reunion will help the POE continue to prosper in the future.

"Just that network alone is positive, and it can help influence the game in new ways," he said. "If Hockey Canada's development department can tap into the alumni's experience, that is a terrific resource."

For the alumni themselves, it was a true reminder of an unbreakable bond, as thick as ice.

"They all have a respect for one another that carries over year-to-year, medal-to-medal; it didn't matter, they were all part of something very special," Bright said. "It's a brotherhood that very few people can share." ■

*"Thank you for all you did to make the WJT 30th reunion something really special, and something I will treasure for the rest of my life ... People do not realize the hours the staff at Hockey Canada put in not only day-to-day, but at special events. I know because of the six years I worked as director of scouting for Hockey Canada. I would leave home on Dec. 12 and return on Jan. 6. We would celebrate Christmas in November ... But I enjoyed every moment of it, have so many great memories and it opened up so many doors for me."  
– Barry Trapp, director of player personnel for Hockey Canada, 1997-2003*

*"I just wanted to take a moment to send along my sincere and most heartfelt thank you ... for all your time, efforts and work ... It was an honour to be remembered for my part in the '82 World Junior hockey team gold medal performance. It was so different back then, but having the ability to be part of such a fantastic event 30 years later, and to be able to share it with former team members and current team members, is something that cannot be explained in words. To be part of these events as an alumnus brings back the fondest of memories ... Being part of these events not only brings back a certain pride and joy of what we accomplished, but also brings comfort in knowing that what we accomplished has not been forgotten."  
– Frank Caprice, goaltender, Canada's National Junior Team, 1982*



## Like Father, Like Son: Sledge hockey a family affair for Dorions

by Kristen Lipscombe



2011 World Sledge Hockey Challenge - Canada vs. Norway

Canada's National Sledge Team forward Marc Dorion's focus has always been on breaking boundaries, not on being wheelchair-bound.

It's an attitude instilled in him by his Bourget, Ont., family, including father Roch, who is still never far away to remind Marc that the word "can't" shouldn't be in his vocabulary.

Roch has been the National Sledge Team's equipment manager since 2006-07, joining the staff a couple of seasons after Marc, who was born with spina bifida, first strapped himself into a sled wearing a red and white jersey.

"Don't limit yourself," Roch said following a 2011 World Sledge Hockey Challenge practice this past November in Calgary, Alta. "I think a lot of people do, especially people with disabilities, and not just the person with the disability, but the parents and family of that person."

Marc is living proof of his father's sage advice. Like many Canadian kids, he first took to the ice at the tender age of four, joining the Ottawa Lasers sledge hockey program. He hasn't looked back since, moving up the ranks to become a reliable Team Canada forward. Still just 24 years old, he has already garnered gold medals at both the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games and 2008 IPC Sledge Hockey World Championship, to name just a couple of his accomplishments.

"We all remember ... parents dressing us, and having to put a toque under our helmet," Marc said. "It started off as a 'for fun' thing."

But like his father, who was once a Junior B goaltender, hockey quickly became Marc's "passion."

He credits Roch and his mother Connie with encouraging him to follow his dreams, despite any obstacles along the way.

Before becoming an equipment manager, Roch said he was always around the rinks in the Ottawa area, "to do whatever needed to be done (for) the house league," from logistics to coaching, and even refereeing.

"That was fun, wasn't it?" Marc said at the memory of his father officiating sledge. "Sometimes you can pull limbs off..."

"I lifted a young lad one day, and his artificial arm ended up coming off," Roch continued. "They had a good laugh."

As much as Marc teases his father, he gets it back from his teammates. After all, who else at the national level still has their dad in the dressing room to help with equipment?

"I don't get preferential treatment," Marc said. "If I'm not in line to get my sled fixed in time ... I fall to the back of the line."



Canada's National Sledge Team: 2011 World Sledge Hockey Challenge gold medallist



Team Canada forward Marc Dorion

But while their professional relationship is unique, and Marc's developmental condition has posed its unique challenges, at the end of the day their bond is similar to that of any other Canadian father and son, who have spent countless hours in the rink.

"I always knew that I wanted to play hockey," said Marc, who echoes his father's hockey skills – and wisdom. "It's coming to realize that it's not going to happen like you see everyone else do it, it's just a matter of finding a different way."

For Marc, "there's no greater feeling, than knowing that I'm representing my country."

For Roch, there's no greater feeling than seeing his son succeed.

"Hockey is no different from regular life – you teach them, you raise them, you show them the ropes and make them independent," he said. "I've got to be one of the luckiest dad's on earth." ■



## Hockey Canada and Team Canada Alumni Association Recent Events Summary



### 2012 WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES JANUARY 13-22, 2012 – INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

Canada earned the bronze medal in men's hockey at the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games, defeating the United States 7-5 on Sunday, Jan. 22 in Innsbruck, Austria.

Canada finished second in the preliminary round with a 3-1 record, beating the United States 5-1, Austria 9-0 and Finland 3-2 in a shootout. The team's only preliminary round loss was 4-3 to Russia, but the Canadians were also defeated 2-1 by the Finns in semifinal action.

The 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games were the first of their kind, bringing together young athletes from around the world to participate in a unique cultural experience and international sporting competition. ■

### 2012 MECO CUP JANUARY 3-8, 2012 – FÜSSEN AND SONTHOFEN, GERMANY

Canada's National Women's Under-22 Team claimed the bronze medal at the 2012 Meco Cup, formerly the MLP Cup, finishing third in the round-robin tournament with three wins and two overtime losses.

Canada capped off the Meco Cup with a 3-2 shootout loss to Finland on Tuesday, Jan. 3 in Füssen, Germany. Sarah Davis (Paradise, N.L./University of Minnesota, WCHA) opened the scoring for the Canadians just 74 seconds into the game, but a pair of Finnish goals in the first period gave them the lead, until Saige Pacholok (Edmonton, Alta./University of Wisconsin, WCHA) tied it for Canada seven minutes into the third. Amanda Mazzotta (London, Ont./Cornell University, ECAC) made 20 saves.

Earlier in the tournament, the Canadians topped the Germans 4-1 and blanked both Russia and Switzerland with the same score of 6-0, but a heartbreaking 3-2 overtime loss to Sweden eliminated Canada from gold medal contention.

Jamie Lee Rattray (Kanata, Ont./Clarkson University, ECAC) finished as Canada's top scorer in the tournament, with six points (three goals, three assists) in five games, leaving her second in tournament scoring. Mazzotta finished with the top goals against average at 0.97 in three games and was named top goaltender. ■

### 2012 IIHF ICE HOCKEY U18 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

#### DECEMBER 31, 2011-JANUARY 7, 2012 – PREROV AND ZLIN, CZECH REPUBLIC

GOld, CANada, GOld!

Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team won the gold medal at the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship, shutting out the United States 3-0 in front of a packed PSG Arena in Zlin, Czech Republic on Saturday, Jan. 7. ■

See complete story on page 14





# Hockey Canada and Team Canada Alumni Association Recent Events Summary

## 2012 IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP DECEMBER 26, 2011-JANUARY 5, 2012 CALGARY AND EDMONTON, ALTA.

Canada's National Junior Team claimed bronze at the 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship in Calgary and Edmonton, Alta.

The red and white fell to Russia 6-5 in semifinal action on Tuesday, Jan. 3, coming back from a 6-1 deficit by scoring four goals in the third, but running out of time on the clock before the gap could be closed completely.

The National Junior Team went on to defeat Finland 4-0 for the bronze on Thursday, Jan. 5, with alternate captain Quinton Howden (Oak Bank, Man./Moose Jaw, WHL) contributing two to the scoreboard, while both Mark Scheifele (Kitchener, Ont./Barrie, OHL) and Tanner Pearson (Kitchener, Ont./Barrie, OHL) had one apiece. Mark Visentin (Waterdown, Ont./Niagara, OHL) made 27 saves for the shutout.

Canada also faced Finland in its opening preliminary game, winning 8-1, then defeated the Czech Republic 5-0, Denmark 10-2 and the United States 3-2 before advancing to semifinals.

The 2012 IIHF World Junior Championship set a new event attendance record, attracting 571,539 fans from across the country and around the world to the Saddledome in Calgary and Rexall Place in Edmonton over 11 days, with an average of 18,437 fans per game. Pre-competition games also kept hockey fans entertained in nine different communities across Alberta. ■



## 2011 SPENGLER CUP DECEMBER 27-31, 2011 - DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

Canada's National Men's Team was knocked out of the 2011 Spengler Cup in the quarter-finals, falling 3-2 in a shootout to German side EHC Wolfsburg Grizzly Adams on Thursday, Dec. 29 in Davos, Switzerland.

Domenic Pittis (Calgary, Alta./ZSC Lions, SUI) opened the scoring for Canada just past the midway mark of the first period, while Kurtis McLean (Kirkland Lake, Ont./SCL Tigers, SUI) gave the Canadians their second lead late in the second on a power play. But Canada could only convert one of its four attempts in the shootout, with Joel Perrault (St-Hubert, Que./Ambri-Piotta, SUI) scoring the lone goal. Canadian goaltender Marty Turco (Sault Ste. Marie, Ont./Salzburg EC, AUT) made 28 saves in regulation time and overtime.

In the preliminary round, Canada downed HC Vitkovice Steel 7-1 and lost to HC Davos 8-1.

Canada's roster was comprised of Canadian players currently playing in Europe, as well as players currently playing in the American Hockey League loaned to Hockey Canada by NHL teams. Canada has appeared in nine of the last 12 championship games, winning the Spengler Cup in 2002, 2003 and 2007. Overall, Canada's National Men's Team has won the Spengler Cup 11 times (1984, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2007).

The Spengler Cup, held annually since 1923, is the oldest professional international hockey tournament in the world. ■





## Hockey Canada and Team Canada Alumni Association Recent Events Summary



### **2012 WORLD UNDER-17 HOCKEY CHALLENGE DECEMBER 29, 2011-JANUARY 4, 2012 - WINDSOR, ONT.**

For the first time since 2000, Russia won the gold medal at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, defeating the United States 7-4 in the gold medal game Wednesday, Jan. 4 at the WFCU Centre in Windsor, Ont. Russia last won the U17 gold medal in Timmins, Ont.

Ontario won the bronze medal with a 5-2 win over Sweden.

The tournament all-star team included goaltender Nikita Serebryakov (Russia), defencemen Gage Ausmus (United States) and Darnell Nurse (Ontario), as well as forwards J.T. Compher (United States), Victor Öhman (Sweden) and Sergei Tolchinski (Russia). The under-17 program is the first step in Hockey Canada's Program of Excellence. ■

### **2011 WORLD SLEDGE HOCKEY CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 3, 2011 - CALGARY, ALTA.**

For the fourth time in tournament history, Canada claimed the gold medal at the World Sledge Hockey Challenge, becoming not only the first national team to play on Hockey Canada's new home ice, but the first team to win at the WinSport Canada Athletic & Ice Complex, in the heart of Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alta.

Greg Westlake (Oakville, Ont.) led the way for Canada on Saturday, Dec. 3 with a natural hat trick, scoring once in the first period, once in the second and once in the third to turn a 1-0 U.S. lead into a 3-1 Canadian advantage. Brad Bowden (Orton, Ont.) assisted on all three of Westlake's goals and scored one of his own for a four-point night. Bowden finished as the tournament's top scorer with 15 points (six goals, nine assists), one more than Westlake. Canadian netminder Benoit St-Amant (St-Hubert, Que.) made 13 saves to record the win.

Canada also won the gold medal in 2007 in Kelowna, B.C., 2008 in Charlottetown, P.E.I., and last April in London, Ont., defeating Norway in all three gold medal games. It lost the gold medal game to the U.S. in overtime in 2009 in Charlottetown. ■

### **2011 WORLD SPORT SCHOOL CHALLENGE DECEMBER 26-31 - CALGARY, ALTA.**

Shattuck-St. Mary's School (Faribault, Minn.) won the first-ever gold medal at the 2011 World Sport School Challenge, beating Finland 5-3 in the final game Saturday, Dec. 31 at the WinSport Canada Athletic & Ice Complex, the new home of Hockey Canada in Calgary, Alta. Slovakia won the bronze medal with a 5-2 victory over the Edge School for Athletes (Calgary, Alta.).

The World Sport School Challenge was developed in line with a commitment made by Hockey Canada, "to service sport schools and create a positive and flexible infrastructure that meets the needs of this Hockey Canada customer." This is one of six priorities of focus the organization committed in 2011. ■







## Hockey Canada and Team Canada Alumni Association Recent Events Summary



### 2011 WORLD JUNIOR A CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 7-13, 2011 – LANGLEY, B.C.

For the third time in the six-year history of the tournament, Canada West won the gold medal at the World Junior A Challenge, defeating Canada East 4-2 in the gold medal game Sunday, Nov. 13 at the Langley Events Centre in Langley, B.C. The win was the third for Canada West over Canada East in the gold medal game.

Devin Shore (Canada East) was named tournament MVP, while the tournament all-star team included goaltender Sean Maguire (Canada West), defencemen Ludwig Bystrom (Sweden) and Kevin Lough (Canada East), along with forwards Alex Kerfoot (Canada West), Mario Lucia (United States) and Shore. ■

### 2011 - 4 NATIONS CUP NOVEMBER 9-13, 2011 – NYKÖPING, SWEDEN

Canada's National Women's Team claimed the silver medal at the 2011 4 Nations Cup, falling to the United States 4-3 in a nail-biter of a shootout Sunday, Nov. 13 inside Stora Hallen arena in Nyköping, Sweden.

Caroline Ouellette (Montreal, Que./Montreal, CWHL) tied the game at 1-1 in the last 30 seconds of the second period, while Natalie Spooner (Scarborough, Ont./Ohio State University, WCHA) scored twice in the third to make it 3-3 and send the game into overtime.

After a fruitless ten minutes of four-on-four overtime, the gold medal game went to a shootout, with Jayna Hefford (Kingston, Ont./Brampton, CWHL) netting the only goal for Canada. Shannon Szabados (Edmonton, Alta./Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, ACAC) made 52 saves in the game.

Canada went undefeated in the preliminary round, defeating Sweden 3-1,

Finland 5-0 and the United States 3-1, finishing in first place going into the gold medal game. Canada's win over the United States marked the 100th time that the top two women's hockey teams in the world have faced off since 1990.

Canada has won 12 gold and four silver medals at the 3 Nations/4 Nations Cup since the tournament's 1996 inception. In November 2010, Canada edged the United States 3-2 in overtime of the gold medal game at the 2010 4 Nations Cup in St. John's, N.L.

Head coach Dan Church (North York, Ont./York University, CIS) was joined behind the bench at the 2011 4 Nations Cup by assistant coaches Doug Derrrough (Arnprior, Ont./Cornell University, ECAC) and Danielle Goyette (St-Nazaire, Que./University of Calgary, CIS). ■

### 2011 NATIONAL WOMEN'S UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP NOVEMBER 2-6, 2011 – SAGUENAY, QUE.

Ontario Red won the gold medal at the National Women's Under-18 Championship for the seventh consecutive time, beating Quebec 3-0 in the final game Sunday, Nov. 6, with more than 2,000 fans watching the excitement on the ice at the Centre Georges-Vézina in Saguenay, Que.

The 2011 tournament marked the sixth time in seven tournaments that Ontario Red and Quebec have met with the gold medal on the line, with Ontario Red winning all six games (2001, January 2005, November 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011).

Manitoba beat Team Atlantic 3-1 to win the bronze medal for the third time in four tournaments. ■





## Hockey Canada and Team Canada Alumni Association Upcoming and Past Events



Rink of Dreams - Ottawa, Ont.

- JAN. 25** - Rink Of Dreams Opening, Ottawa, Ont.
- JAN. 27** - Dreams Come True, NHL All-Star Celebration, Ottawa, Ont.
- MARCH 12** - KPMG-TCAA Fantasy Hockey Game, Calgary, Alta.
- APRIL 29** - Dreams Come True, Esso Cup, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
- MAY 5-13** - Dreams Come True, RBC Cup, Humboldt, Sask.
- JUNE 25-26** - HCF Celebrity Classic Gala and Golf Tournament, Toronto, Ont.
- JULY 23** - Going Fore Gold Golf Tournament, Predator Ridge, Vernon, B.C. (TBD)
- AUG. 20** - Going Fore Gold Golf Tournament, Redtail, London, Ont.
- AUG. 27** - Going Fore Gold Golf Tournament, Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alta. (TBD)
- SEPT. 11** - TCAA Charity Golf Tournament, Lakeside Greens, Chestermere, Alta.

### IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL SKATE: HOCKEY CANADA FOUNDATION PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE IN OTTAWA'S RINK OF DREAMS

by Kristen Lipscombe

The Hockey Canada Foundation, in partnership with the host committee for the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship and Sens Foundation, is making dreams come true for hockey players of all ages in Canada's capital city.

That includes 20 female minor hockey players, who were among the first to step onto the brand new Rink of Dreams just outside of Ottawa's city hall, as part of the 2012 NHL All-Star Celebration, held Jan. 26-29.

The starry-eyed young girls took to the ice with 2010 Olympic gold medalists Meaghan Mikkelson (St. Albert, Alta./Alberta, CWHL) and Caroline Ouellette (Montreal, Que./Montreal, CWHL), as well as 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship gold medalists Morgan Richardson (Ottawa, Ont./Ottawa, PWHL) and Cydney Roesler (Stittsville, Ont./Ottawa, PWHL), who provided all-star coaching.

The City of Ottawa selected these players from its I Love to Skate program, which provides new helmets and skates, as well as on-ice lessons, for children between ages six and 12, "who might not otherwise have the chance to skate," with financial assistance from Canadian Tire JumpStart and the Sens Foundation.

The Hockey Canada Foundation, which funds projects across the country aimed at growing the game, supplemented the I Love to Skate initiative by

providing full equipment and next season's minor hockey fees for the 20 participating players, as part of Hockey Canada's Dreams Come True program. This program works with minor hockey associations and NHL teams to give underprivileged youth the chance to play.

The 20 chosen female players have also received tickets to the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey World Women's Championship, taking place in Ottawa next April. The Rink of Dreams is a brand new \$2.1-million, 12,500-square-foot refrigerated ice surface located in the heart of downtown Ottawa. The Hockey Canada Foundation provided the lead financial gift of \$420,000 to the Sens Foundation for its first of 20 rink projects.

"We're thrilled to see fundraising efforts from last June's gala and golf tournament come to fruition on our capital city's newly built Rink of Dreams," said Chris Bright, executive director of the Hockey Canada Foundation. "A sincere thank you to the Ottawa Senators and Sens Foundation for their help in making hockey Dreams Come True for local kids."

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association, in partnership with Senators Sports and Entertainment, will host the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship at SBP Arena and the Nepean Sportsplex next April. ■



# From phone call home to punch-up in Piestany, the 1987 World Juniors were memorable for Greg Hawgood

by Debbie Elicksen

Accompanying Greg Hawgood (Edmonton, Alta.) to Team Canada's training camp in Ottawa, Ont., was the mindset that he was going to be really excited when they picked him for the team. He was going to play so well that they would have to keep him.

Even so, there was a knot in his stomach from wanting to be on the team so badly. It was all he could do to show composure in front of the coaching staff when the answer was, "Yes."

The day he was told he'd be on the team, it was a scramble to get packed and ready to go to Switzerland.

"It's such a whirlwind that first day. You're so excited to get picked. Everyone lines up by the pay phone to call home (to tell them) that you've made it and you won't be there for Christmas," Hawgood remembers.

"We probably weren't together as a group until we were sitting in the airport. Then you're looking around and realize who else is on the team."

On Christmas Day, there was a dinner and each player was given a stocking. It's usually the first time they've been away from their families during the holiday, but there were many other players who would trade mom's turkey to be there in a second.

Staying in a small ski village in Switzerland, after practice, players had the opportunity to enjoy the sites and stores.

"I quickly learned I was a fan of the European breakfast buffet. They have the most terrific breads and you can make some of the best sandwiches."

This was the year of the punch-up in Piestany. Canada was a medal contender leading 4-2 against the Soviets, who were already out of contention. Things got so out of hand that the organizers turned off the lights to try and calm the situation down.

"We were sitting in the dressing room wondering who was going to get kicked out of the game, and what penalties were going to happen. We were guaranteed a bronze, so we knew we were going to be at the banquet after and we're going to be standing on the podium, regardless of the outcome of the game. Then, all of a sudden, to get army-escorted right out of the country to the border was a big shock. At the time I was 18."

In those days, there was a lot more fighting in the North American game, but it was something the international game frowned upon.

"I was on the bench and you see two Russian players come on the ice. It's a natural reaction for us, thinking, 'Okay, do we all stand on the bench and have seven of them attacking five of our guys?' Nobody could have ever lived with themselves for that to happen.

"I remember saying to one lady in a phone interview, 'This is the first year I didn't go home for Christmas and I'm an only child. I'm sure my mom missed me. If she saw me getting injured by some Russian people and my teammates were sitting on the bench — that's why you go out there, to protect one another.' She said, 'I never really thought of it that way. I just saw it as a violent act.'"

"The result is we didn't get a medal. It's crushing. If people ever got the opportunity to talk to someone who was involved in it, I think you'd see a different perspective," he said.

Hawgood and Yvon Corriveau were roommates, as were Mike Keane and Theoren Fleury. They were playing cards when Fleury and Keane grabbed their mattresses and brought them into Hawgood and Corriveau's room. The following night, Scott Metcalfe brought his mattress in, and soon six were sleeping in one room.



Greg Hawgood

"We were laughing, playing cards or board games — guys from the Quebec, Ontario, and Western leagues — we were all jammed into this hotel room. Guys are sleeping on the mats on the floor, just because we were having so much fun."

After the tournament, when the players all headed back to their club teams, there was an adjustment to fit back into the lineup.

"You go from almost a league-final intense atmosphere to just a regular season—I've-got-45-more-of-these-for-the-rest-of-the-year. Because my nose got broken in the brawl — I got head-butted — and had to be operated on, I actually missed a few games. I got to practise a little bit and watch the games before I got thrown in. Once a few days go by and a few practices, you're quickly back in the fold."

Hawgood took part in two Memorial Cups and was named Canadian Major Junior Defenseman of the Year in 1988. He has been a corrections officer for the past three years, "trying to keep the streets safe in Kamloops." ■



## From the very beginning, Sherry Bassin believed in Canada's National Junior Team

by Debbie Elicksen



1982 IIHF World Junior Championship

As Canada's National Junior Team is embraced by more Canadians each year, it's hard to believe there was so much pushback in 1981, when the concept was first pitched to the junior league brain trust.

Sherry (Sherwood) Bassin was the one launching the throw.

"There was an extreme amount of resistance because they were going to lose their best players for a month," he said.

The presentation was emotional for Bassin (Seamans, Sask.), who was general manager of the Oshawa Generals. He told the panel he was sending his players to the tournament.

"Then I stood up and asked one of the owners, 'If they phoned and asked one of your sons to come play for Team Canada, would you let him go?' Dead silence. I said some non-publishable words and left."

An owner called him three weeks prior to camp to see if he was really sending his players. Bassin emphatically confirmed, "Then ours are going." The rest of the teams followed suit.

You certainly couldn't tell the team by its attire: a blazer with a glued-on crest. There was no budget for clothing, but that didn't stop Bassin. He insisted the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association find the \$1,500 they needed for the team jackets.

He carted the players into a school bus and to the wholesale manufacturing area of Winnipeg, Man., to meet up with a friend.

Inside a warehouse, he told the players to pick their jackets. "But they didn't have 30 jackets of the same colours or type or insignias. We just had all these winter coats — but they were team coats.

The team was scheduled to bus 10 hours to Minneapolis, Minn., after playing the Russians in Winnipeg, but Bassin would have none of it.

"I went to the CAHA and said, we're not bussing, we're flying."

They managed to negotiate a cheap charter, and when the team arrived in Minneapolis, they weren't even scheduled. Russia and Sweden were set to play at the Metropolitan Sports Center, because they were favoured for the gold medal. Team Canada had to travel another hour and a half to two hours to Rochester, Minn., to a rink that "wasn't any bigger than a lobby; one of the kids' rinks" and they were playing for the gold against Czechoslovakia.

Pushing the CAHA's patience again, Bassin declared before the final game, they were going to take the players to a nice steak restaurant.

"Poor old Ron Robison (who was the communications director), every time I wanted something, I'd yell at him to do it. He'd say, 'I'll try and do it.' I'd say, 'No, no, don't try, do it. He'd ask, 'Have you cleared it with the CAHA?' I'd tell him 'Yes,' even though I hadn't."

Canada only needed the 3-3 tie to win the gold medal, but there was no national anthem available. The players stood on the blue line, shoulder to shoulder, and sang O Canada. A tradition was born.



Sherry Bassin



Troy Murray, Captain of the 1982 World Junior Team

“As we’re leaving, one of the (arena attendants) came up to me. There was one phone in the rink in the room where they kept the Zamboni. The attendant brought his lunch in a brown paper bag. He had ripped a piece off and in kind of a crayon - it was a thick print - he hands over this piece of paper off his lunch bag. ‘Some guy by the name of Trudeau called.’ He had no idea who he was. Our prime minister calls and he has no idea.”

The following tournament was in Leningrad, Russia. En route from Helsinki by train, the team was delayed at the border.

“They’d come out with guns pointing at you. I told the players ‘We’re not to use that as an excuse.’ If they delayed us for two hours, we’d tell them, ‘No big deal, we thought we’d be here at six.’ Then we get (to the hotel). We have 33 in our party. They only have reservations for 27. We’ve got to wait and wait in the lobby.”

Prior to arriving in Russia, they had practised in Finland. Their equipment had been confiscated when it arrived.

“We had to go downtown to this warehouse – just like an Elliot Ness movie – one light bulb, a gravel dirt floor, nobody around. There’s all our equipment. We didn’t get that until one in the morning. I wouldn’t give them a lineup until they gave us our equipment. And they had to print programs in those days.”

Today, Bassin owns an Ontario Hockey League team, and sits on the executive of both the Canadian Hockey League and OHL. He also has a 1993 Memorial Cup with Sault Ste. Marie, and has twice won the CHL and OHL Executive of the Year award.

Its humble beginnings of the first few years set a strong emotional path for the almost cult-like following Canada’s National Junior Team has today.

“If you have played, or in any way have participated with Team Canada, until you’ve had that experience, you can’t describe it,” Bassin said. “When you understand and you see it, you feel it.” ■



## Canada takes its seat in the IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship throne

by Kristen Lipscombe



Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team members, from left to right, Meghan Dufault, Laura Stacey, Nicole Connery and Cayley Mercer

GOld, CANada, GOld!

Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team won the gold medal at the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship, shutting out the United States 3-0 in front of a packed PSG Arena in Zlin, Czech Republic on Saturday, Jan. 7.

The victory represented a sense of on-ice vengeance for the young women in red and white, including six returning players who were part of last season's Canadian contingent, which fell 5-2 to the U.S. in the final game of the 2011 IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship, settling for the bittersweet taste of silver.

In this season's gold medal rematch, Alexis Crossley (Cole Harbour, N.S./Shattuck-St. Mary's/U.S. Prep) cracked the scoreboard midway through the first, while Sarah Lefort (Ormsdown, Que./Stanstead College/NAPHA) notched another on a power play to put Canada up 2-0 by the end of the frame. Following an exciting but scoreless second period, alternate captain Cydney Roesler (Stittsville, Ont./Ottawa, PWHL) scored the insurance marker to give Canada the 3-0 final, and the pure taste of gold. Emerance Maschmeyer (Bruderheim, Alta./Lloydminster, AJHL) stopped 28 shots to earn the shutout.

In the preliminary round, Canada defeated Switzerland 13-1, Germany 6-0 and Finland 7-0 to earn a bye straight to semifinals, where the red and white blanketed Sweden 7-0 on Friday, Jan. 6. Prior to the world championship, Canada also beat a local boys' team 5-1 in exhibition action at Zimni Stadion in Prerov.

Canada's Erin Ambrose (Keswick, Ont./Toronto, PWHL) was named Best Defenceman, as selected by the IIHF directorate, while Germany's Franziska Albi was named Best Goaltender and Alex Carpenter of the U.S. was named

Best Forward. The top three Canadian players, as selected by the IIHF directorate, were Ambrose, Cayley Mercer (Exeter, Ont./Bluelwater, PWHL) and Roesler.

The last and only other time Canada won gold since the tournament's inception five years ago was at the 2010 IIHF World Women's Under-18 Championship in Chicago, Ill., where the Canadians beat the United States 5-4 in overtime. Canada claimed silver in 2008 in Calgary, Alta., 2009 in Füssen, Germany, and 2011 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Canadians have faced their American rivals in all five gold medal games.

"Each and every player and staff member on this team is truly golden," head coach Pierre Alain said of winning the world championship. "They have all represented Canada with class, both on and off the ice, and are truly deserving of this year's world championship."

The 22-player roster chosen to represent Canada at the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women's World Championship included two goaltenders, seven defencemen and 13 forwards, led by Alain (Mirabel, Que./St-Jérôme, Collégial AA), as well as assistant coaches Jim Fetter (Waterloo, Ont./St. Cloud State University, WCHA) and Carla MacLeod (Calgary, Alta./Mount Royal University, ACAC).

Kristyn Capizzano (Oakville, Ont./Mississauga, PWHL), Catherine Dubois (Quebec City, Que./Ontario Hockey Academy, U19), Abbey Frazer (Hudson, Que./John Abbott College, Collégial AA) and Sarah Lefort (Ormsdown, Que./Stanstead College, NAPHA) made their debuts in a Team Canada jersey at the event.

The team motto for the tournament was "Be The Wave." Following the gold medal shutout win over Canada's stiffest competition, Alain said Canada's National Women's Under-18 Team had turned into a true "tsunami." ■



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