



Ontario Minor Hockey Association
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Roger Neilson Joins OMHA All-Time Great Team

Peterborough, Ontario - Hometown Hockey hero and Coaching icon Roger Neilson joined the OMHA All-Time Great Team on February 20th with an official banner presentation prior to the Peterborough Petes' game at the Memorial Centre. Earlier that afternoon, the Petes and OMHA hosted a Game Day Coaches Clinic for minor hockey coaches in tribute of Roger's contribution to the coaching program.

Prior to the banner raising, the Peterborough Petes read Roger's biography and accomplishments for the sold-out crowd followed by the banner raising. Pat Larock from the Peterborough Minor Hockey Council, OMHA Past President Pat Parlette along with OMHA Director of Marketing & Events Kevin Boston dropped the ceremonial puck to start the game.

"Roger's contributions to the game are extraordinary," explained Pat Parlette. "He helped shaped today's coaching program and was a great friend of the OMHA. We are honoured to have Roger Neilson named to the OMHA All-Time Great team."

The OMHA All-Time Great Team was part of the OMHA 75th Anniversary season. The search for the All-Time Great Team was conducted through a poll on the OMHA website during the 2008-2009 season.

Leading vote-getters were:

Forward

Wayne Gretzky, Brantford
Doug Gilmour, Kingston
Syl Apps, Paris

Defense

Bobby Orr, Parry Sound
Rob Blake, Simcoe

Goalie

Curtis Joseph, East Gwillimbury

Coach

Roger Neilson, Peterborough

Officials

Ray Scapinello, Guelph
Kerry Fraser, Sarnia
Bill McCreary, Guelph

Executive

Jim Rutherford, Beeton

Each person named in the All-Time Great Poll was chosen based on at least two of the following criteria:

- Played in the OMHA at one point during their minor hockey
- Was part of a Committee or Advisory Role with the OMHA in some fashion
- Was a part of the National Hockey League
- Their Hometown is a current OMHA Member Association

The OMHA partnered with the NHL, NHLPA, and NHL Alumni in this project and a beautiful banner depicting Roger Neilson will proudly hang at the Evinrude Arena. Photographs of the presentation are the hometownhockey Facebook page.

To learn more please contact:

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About the Ontario Minor Hockey Association

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association, founded in 1935, is the largest minor hockey association in the world and oversees a participant base of 300,000 consisting of players, coaches, trainers, officials, hockey volunteers and parents across the province. The OMHA has 260 active member minor hockey associations and annually coordinates 31 leagues and approximately 600 development clinics throughout Ontario. For more information, visit www.omha.net.

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