

January 31, 2003

Managing Director  
Alberta Sports Hall of Fame  
#30 Riverview Park  
Red Deer, Alberta  
T4N 1E3

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept the nomination papers for Mr. Jim Burke and Mr. Harris Toth for election to the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, Builder Category, Lacrosse.

I believe these two gentlemen are excellent candidates for a place among Alberta's Sports Leaders. They have been involved in many capacities in the sport of lacrosse for over 20 years and have demonstrated perseverance and dedication to the game of lacrosse. As a result of their efforts and their long-term vision, the sport of lacrosse is now represented in every zone of the province.

I have included letters of support from players, referees and colleagues who have reached their levels of achievement, in part, due to the efforts of Mr. Burke and Mr. Toth.

I look forward to hearing some good news from the nominating committee.

On behalf of the Alberta Lacrosse Association

Jim Griffith  
Treasurer, ALA  
January 29, 2005

**Alberta Sports Hall of Fame  
& Museum  
#30 Riverview Park  
Red Deer, Alberta  
T4N 1E3**

# **ALBERTA SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

## **CATEGORY – BUILDER**

### **SPORT – LACROSSE**

#### **NOMINATION FOR HARRIS CHARLES TOTH**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

Harris Toth's association with minor sport in the Province of Alberta began in 1974.

Prior to Harris beginning his outstanding service to the sport of lacrosse in Alberta, he honed his volunteering skills in sports such as softball, baseball, bantam football and hockey. His duties were varied and included that of coach, manager, umpire, treasurer, president and director.

Harris' career in lacrosse began in 1982 when his two sons, Joseph and Kaleb, began playing the sport in the community of Willowridge. Harris' involvement continues today, 22 years after he first fell in love with the game of lacrosse. It is this long-standing service for which I am nominating him for election to the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in the Builder Category for the Sport of Lacrosse.

##### **LOCAL – City of Calgary**

- Assistant coach - 1982 to 1986 – Willowridge Community
- Head Coach - 1986 to 2000 – Willowridge; Axemen Lacrosse Club
- Founded the Axemen Lacrosse Club - 1987
- President – Axemen Lacrosse Club; 1987 to 1994
- Vice-President – Calgary District Lacrosse Association; 1987 – 1994
- President – Calgary District Lacrosse Association; 1994 – 1998

##### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Responsible for bringing in well-known lacrosse coaches, Jim Hinkson and Jim Bishop, from British Columbia and Ontario to run coaching clinics to help local coaches improve their knowledge of the game.
- One of the first Calgary area coaches to take teams into British Columbia. Main purpose was to introduce Alberta players to a higher level of competition, making them better players. As a result of this initiative, it provided Alberta players the opportunity to go play in leagues that would help to increase their level of play and skills.
- 10 time City Champions - Novice, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, Juvenile, Junior
- 5 time Canada Day Tournament Champions, Pee Wee, Bantam A Level (twice), Midget, (twice)
- 1 time Rocky Mountain Challenge Champion, Midget
- Attended 10 Provincial Championships, PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, Juvenile, and Junior, winning, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

- Attended 6 National Championships, PeeWee, Bantam (twice), Midget, Juvenile, and Junior; winning Silver in Bantam A Division 1990.
- Assisted in the formulation and implementation of the quadrant system for the Calgary District Lacrosse Association. This measure helped promote the game by improving the access to participation by increasing the geographic size of member clubs (Axemen – South East, Sabrecats – South West, Mohawks – North East, Hornets – North West).

## **PROVINCIAL**

- Vice-President – Alberta Lacrosse Association; 1994 – 1998
- President – Alberta Lacrosse Association; 1998 – 2002

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Founder of the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League; 1994. The league which is comprised of Junior and Senior level players, was formed to further the development of lacrosse players in Alberta. The number of players was increasing and players after age 16 were being forced to give up the game due to the fact that there was no place for them to play.
- Founded the present day version of the Annual Canada Day Lacrosse Tournament. This tournament is the biggest Box Lacrosse Tournament in Canada and draws teams from British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- Founded the Rocky Mountain Challenge Tournament (1993) for post-midget lacrosse players to coincide with the Canada Day Lacrosse Tournament.

## **NATIONAL**

- Box Lacrosse Sector Chair – Canadian Lacrosse Association 1998 - 2002

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Was the first Box Sector Chair from Alberta. In this role Harris was the coordinator of rules and procedures for the game of Box Lacrosse in Canada.
- Served as a Convener for the Minto Cup and Mann Cup, the Canadian Junior “A” and Senior “A” Championships.

## **AWARDS**

- Governor General's Award for Volunteer Excellence – 1992.
- Calgary District Lacrosse Association’s “Joe Nieuwendyk Award” for outstanding dedication to the growth and development of the sport of lacrosse in Calgary - 1995.
- Calgary Booster Club's Community Leader Award - 1998
- Alberta Lacrosse Association’s “James McFall Award” for dedication and leadership to the game of lacrosse in Alberta – 1998.

Re: Nomination of Harris Charles Toth

Enclosed is additional information to consider for their nomination to the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame.

## **Harris Toth**

In addition to all of his accomplishments in the Lacrosse Community, Harris was involved in the following Community Sports Programs.

### **Willowridge Community Association**

#### **Director at Large 1986-1990; 1992-1994**

- Formalization and Implementation of Mandatory Survive Policy, Sports Subsidy Policy, as well as General Community Volunteer Policy.
- General community worker: bingos, casinos, ice maintenance, sports registrations and volunteer labour for community construction projects.
- Initiated the rebuilding of the outdoor lacrosse/ice rink, from the planning stage through to the actual building and completion.

#### **Sports Director 1990 – 1992**

- In charge of the following sports programs: Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Soccer and Lacrosse.
- Ensure fiscal responsibility for all components of sports programs.
- Assisted in the formation of the “South Diamond Softball Club”.
- Worked with the basketball association to obtain additional grant monies from the City to help reduce gym rentals Minor

### **Hockey Association of Calgary**

#### **Director 1989 - 1990**

- Participated in Policy regulating and implementation concerning M.H.A.C. operations.
- Junior Director;
- Minor Hockey Week – scheduling
- Discipline Hearings

### **Blackfoot Hockey Association**

#### **Treasurer 1985 - 1986**

- Served as Treasurer for Blackfoot’s first year of operation.
- Established “User Pay Policy”
- Prepared budgets.

### **President 1986 -1989**

- Formulated and instituted By-Laws, mission statement, and policies and procedures.
- Directed the amalgamation of other communities into the Blackfoot Hockey Association.
- Responsible for the operations of 30 teams. This included coordinating tryouts, seeding the teams for Calgary Minor Hockey league play, ice scheduling for practice times and games.
- Formulated policy for tryouts, team selection and coach's selection.
- Instituted annual referee and coach clinics.
- Initiated fund-raising, obtaining the necessary licensing to conduct bingos, casinos and raffles.

### **Registered Fastball Umpire 1978 -1984**

- Umpire for men, women and youth fastball in the City of Calgary.
- Donated minimum of one night weekly to Minor Fastball.
- Donated time for City and Provincial playoffs.

### **Bantam Football 1978 -1979**

- Served as coach for the Calgary Colts, quadrant team
- Developed players for high school system.

### **Baseball 1977 -1979**

- Coached Bantam level for Milligan/Ogden community

### **Softball 1974 – 1976**

- Coached girls' softball team in community of Hounsfield Heights/Briar Hill community

