

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 JIM BURKE**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

Jim Burke's ability to serve the Lacrosse community as a builder and a leader came naturally as his father was prominent in the establishment of the British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League.

Jim's involvement with the sport of lacrosse in Alberta has spanned a total of 25 years and began with a playing career in 1968, when he first learned to play the box game at the Junior level and, with the exception of a 4 year absence when his job took him to locations that did not have lacrosse programs, continues today in an influential role as President of the Canadian Lacrosse Association.

##### **LOCAL**

- Began playing the game at the Junior "B" level at the age of 18. Played for the North Glenora Blues (Edmonton) in 1968 and 1969, helping the team to win the Provincial Championship. Was a member of the Alberta Lacrosse team that participated in the first Canada Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Served as Coach for the North Glenora Junior "B" team – 1971.
- 1972 – 1975 – Played Senior "B" in British Columbia.
- 1976 – 1980 – Lived in various centres with no lacrosse.
- Coached at all age levels, some years coaching as many as three teams, St. Albert, 1980 – 1985.
- Served as President, St. Albert Lacrosse Club, 1983 – 1985.
- Served as a Director for the Greater Edmonton Lacrosse Council, 1983 – 1985.
- Founding member of the Edmonton Men's Senior Field Lacrosse Team.
- Coached Intermediate Lacrosse in Crowchild Lacrosse Association (Calgary), 1986 – 1991.
- Active member in the Crowchild Lacrosse Association, 2 years.
- Founded the Calgary Field Lacrosse Club for Senior and Junior Men, 1986.
- Coached the Under 19 Calgary Field Lacrosse Team to a National Championship, 1989.
- Coach of the Edmonton Warriors Intermediate team for two years.
- Became a NCCP Certified Coach Clinician for the Alberta Lacrosse Association, for both Field and Box Lacrosse.
- Founding member of the Edmonton Field Lacrosse Club, 1991.
- Coached U16, U19 and Senior Field Lacrosse, Edmonton, 1991 – 1995.

- Re-established the Calgary Field Lacrosse Club, 1996.
- Coached a Bantam team with Calgary Sabrecats, 1999.
- Secretary/Treasurer for the Calgary Field Lacrosse Club, 1996 – present.
- Coach in the Calgary Field Lacrosse Club, U16 and U19, 1996 - present.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Founded Field Lacrosse Clubs in Edmonton (1991) and Calgary (1986).
- Conducted many coaching clinics in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

## **PROVINCIAL**

- President – Alberta Lacrosse Association, 1990 – 1994.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Implemented the position of ALA Coaching Director to improve the level of Coaching in Alberta.
- First Commissioner for the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse League, 1994.

## **NATIONAL**

- Served as Alberta's representative on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Lacrosse Association (for 5 years).
- Men's Field Lacrosse Sector Chair for the Canadian Lacrosse Association.
- Prairie Director of the Canadian Senior Men's National Team – 2 years.
- President – Canadian Lacrosse Association – 1998 to present.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Founding member of the Canadian Lacrosse Foundation. The Foundation's prime directive is to ensure that resources will be available for the CLA to continue to develop and assist in the development of programs for athletes, coaches, and officials, and to create innovative programs for the development of the sport in communities and schools across the country. The Foundation's mandate also includes assisting in the celebration and preservation of the history of Lacrosse.
- Convenor for National Field Championships during his role as Men's Field Sector Chair.
- Improved the financial position of the CLA by obtaining sponsorship revenue and improving the business operations.
- Raised the awareness of the game of Lacrosse in Canada.

## **AWARDS**

- North Glenora Lacrosse Club Sportsmanship Award – awarded in 1971 for outstanding leadership and direction.

- Alberta Lacrosse Association's "James McFall Award" for dedication and leadership to the game of lacrosse in Alberta – 1985.
- Calgary District Lacrosse Association's "Joe Nieuwendyk Award" for outstanding dedication to the growth and development to the sport of lacrosse in Calgary – 1991.

Re: Nomination of Harris Jim Burke

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

Jim continues to be involved in the sport of lacrosse today through coaching and being a Director of the Calgary Field Lacrosse Club.

In addition to the coaching and executives duties, Jim is heavily involved in helping Calgary host successful Canadian Championship Tournaments in 2003, U16 and U19, and the Senior Men's in 2004.

Jim is also serving as Past President of the Canadian Lacrosse Association and is a Director of the Canadian Lacrosse Foundation, a charitable organization established as an initiative of the Canadian Lacrosse Association to address the long term health and growth of Lacrosse as Canada's National Summer Sport.

The game of lacrosse participated successfully in the most recent Alberta Summer Games and this past year saw the Calgary Roughnecks claim the National Lacrosse League Championship. This year Edmonton will host the Minto Cup, Championship of Junior "A" lacrosse in Canada.

### **Axmen Lacrosse Club**

#### **President**

- 1987 to 1994, (Founder) (1986 - 1st year called Raiders
- Formulated By-laws, and incorporated as a non-profit amateur sports association.
- Formulated Board of Directors, with duties and responsibilities for each.
- Formulated policy and procedures for operations of a quadrant lacrosse club.
- Direct the operations of quadrant lacrosse program covering southeast Calgary.
- Formulated policy for tryouts, team selection, and coach's selection.
- Created skills training camps held prior to lacrosse season.
- Hosted "Canada Day Tournament", largest Box Lacrosse Tournament in North America

### **CALGARY DISTRICT LACROSSE ASSOCIATION**

#### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

- 1987 to 1994
- Assisted in the formulation of Policies and Procedures governing quadrant Lacrosse Clubs.
- Sit on the Discipline Committee.
- Assisted in implementing Coaches Training Program.
- Worked on the organization of Provincial Playoffs (all age categories).
- Attend Canada Lacrosse Association Meetings as Alberta representative.
- Assisted in the re-implementation of Field Lacrosse in the city of Calgary.

#### **PRESIDENT:**

- 1994 to 1998
- Oversee all operations of lacrosse in the City of Calgary
- Attend the Alberta Lacrosse Association meetings of operation for lacrosse in the province
- Attend Canada Lacrosse Association meetings as Alberta representative

- Scheduler of regular and play-off games for lacrosse association in the city of Calgary (1994-2001)

## **ALBERTA LACROSSE ASSOCIATION**

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

- 1994 to 1998

### **PRESIDENT:**

- 1998 - 2002

## **CANADIAN LACROSSE ASSOCIATION**

### **BOX SECTOR CHAIR:**

- 1998 - 2002
- Responsible for Box Lacrosse in Canada
- Administer Transfer Policy between Provinces

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN LACROSSE LEAGUE**

### **FOUNDER:**

- 1994 to 2001
- Organized association to provide vehicle for junior and senior lacrosse players
- Scheduler of regular and play-off games
- Organized and ran the "Rocky Mountain Lacrosse Challenge" (for players 15 yrs & older)  
- Sister tournament to Canada Day Lacrosse Tournament
- Formulated policies and procedures of operations
- Assist in all aspects of fund raising
- Organized inter provincial league which is hoping to expand into B.C.

## **WILLOWRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**

- 4 years, 1986 to 1990
- Formalization and Implementation of Mandatory Service Policy, Sports Subsidy Policy, as well as General Community Volunteer Policy.
- General community volunteer worker: Bingos, casino, ice maintenance, sports registrations, and volunteer labour for community construction projects.
- Spearheaded the rebuilding of the outdoor lacrosse/ice arena, from the planning stage through government grants, construction quotes, to the actual building and completion.

### **SPORTS DIRECTOR:**

- May 1990 - May 1992
- In charge of the Willowridge Sports Programs, and facilitate it: Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Soccer, and Lacrosse.
- Ensure fiscal responsibility for all components of sports programs.
- Attended to the organization of our softball program into "South Diamond Softball Club", with other adjoining member communities.
- Worked with the basketball association to obtain additional grant monies from the city to keep the costs of gym rentals at a minimum.

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**

- May 1992 - May 1994
- Helped organize the rebuilding of the outdoor arena boards. Actively worked on the construction of it.
- Working on the improvement of the community facility.
- Active with ice maintenance crew, bingo, casino.

## **MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION OF CALGARY**

### **DIRECTOR:**

- 1.5 years, 1989 to 1990
- Participated in Policy regulating and implementation concerning M.H.A.C. operations.
- Direct Duties included:
  - ~ Junior Director, 1989/90 season
  - ~ Minor Hockey Week - did complete schedules
  - ~ Attended A.A.H.A. Annual Meeting
  - ~ Discipline hearings
- Resigned October 1990 due to personal conflicts

## **BLACKFOOT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

### **TREASURER:**

- Maiden Year, 1985 to 1986
- Established "User Pay Policy"
- Created controls for fiscal responsibility
- Formulated budget

### **PRESIDENT:**

- 3 years, 1986 to 1989
- Formulated and instituted By-laws, mission statement, and policies & procedures of Blackfoot Hockey Association.
- Directed amalgamation of B.H.A. (both the original plus the addition of Milligan/Ogden & Fairview/Heritage).
- Oversaw operations of Minor Hockey Program of approximately 30 teams; instituting a conditioning camp prior to hockey season, coordinating tryouts to ensure children of like caliber played together, seeding teams into competitive leagues to ensure development at all levels; handling discipline with an unbiased tack.
- Formulated policy for tryouts, team selection, and coach's selection.
- Oversaw Fundraising operations: obtained city and provincial licensing to conduct bingo, casino, skate-a-thon, and raffles.
- Did complete ice scheduling for 30 teams in 4 arenas.
- Worked as the liaison between M.H.A.C. and B.H.A.
- Managed relations between member communities, arenas, and B.H.A.
- Assisted in budget analysis
- Instituted annual Referee and Coaches Clinics - Beginners and Intermediate.

### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE:**

- 3 years, 1989 to 1992
- In conjunction as Sports Director of WillowRidge Community Association.
- Participated in operation on an as is needed basis, with the first year being an advisory position (Past President) to the President

## **REGISTERED FASTBALL UMPIRE**

### **UMPIRE:**

- 6 years, 1978 through 1984
- Umpire for men's, women's, and youth fastball in various city leagues
- Donated minimum of one night weekly to Minor Fastball
- Donated time for Minor Fastball City and Provincial Playoffs.
- As an un-registered umpire, continue to donate umpire services to minor fastball to 1995

**BANTAM FOOTBALL****COACH:**

- 2 seasons, 1978 & 1979
- Quadrant team for the Calgary Colts
- Developed 1st year players for continued football career in the high school system.

**BASEBALL****COACH:**

- 3 years, 1977 through 1979
- Coached bantam level for Milligan/Ogden Community
- Played within Alberta Amateur Baseball Association to Provincials.

**SOFTBALL****COACH:**

- 3 years, 1974 through 1976
- Coached girls softball team in the Squirt level for Hounsfeld Heights/Briar Hill Community Association.
- Played within Calgary Softball Association through City Championships.

**HOUNSFELD HEIGHTS/BRIAR HILL COMMUNITY****SPORTS DIRECTOR:**

- 2 years, 1974 to 1976
- Responsible for organization and implementation of all community sports programs.
- Rented school gym and implemented a drop in program for all youth ages to participate in basketball, volleyball, and floor hockey.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Foster Parent, 1980 through 1986
- Canvasser, Alzheimer Association of Alberta