

# Moon didn't take losing well

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

They spoke of kicked water bottles, purple faces and temper tantrums, but the quips from the guest speakers were overshadowed by admiration of Jack Moon's contributions to hockey in Georgetown.

The 2014 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award recipient spent 15 years as a minor hockey coach in Georgetown and then general manager of the Jr. A Raiders, leaving both organizations in much better standing than when first joining them.

"I have a simple philosophy about competing," said the 63-year-old sales executive.

"It's a hell of a lot more fun to win than it is to lose. A good loser, I was not, as many in this room can attest to."

Perhaps the greatest compliment directed at Moon on the evening came all the way from Switzerland.

Local native Mike Knoepfli, who graduated from Cornell University with a business degree and has played profession-

ally the past nine years in the Swiss Elite League, sent a letter to be read by the GHHC's John Duncan.

"I was one of the many young men who you helped guide in a critical period of not only a hockey player's career, but a young man's life," said Knoepfli of Moon.

"I credit the decisions I made in those years to a select group of persons, all of whom I love and respect, and I count you in that group."

Moon enjoyed success behind the bench with a number of boys' hockey teams in Georgetown during the 1990s, including an OMHA title with the minor atoms in 1996-97, ending a nine-year dry spell of provincial titles at the AA level for the Raiders.

"I got back involved in hockey really by an accident," said Moon.

"No one wanted to coach my son's hockey team. They were that bad. There was really no choice, either coach or there was no team at all. It was the beginning of my 15 years

involved in hockey in Georgetown."

Moon was described as being tough but fair with his players and could be loud and animated when things weren't going his team's way.

"A goal went in our net and I've never seen anyone drop kick a water bottle as good as that happened that night because it came off the bench and ended up in the centre circle," laughed longtime Raider supporter and current Halton Hills Minor Hockey co-president Carson Mininch.

"That was Jack."

A master motivator as a bench boss who had an eye for evaluating talent later as a general manager, Moon helped turn around a Georgetown Jr. A club that was considered a laughingstock prior to the turn of the century.

After hiring Jay Anderson as coach in 1998, the Raiders improved to 27 wins from six the previous season and his teams had a .634 winning percentage during the Desoronto, Ont. native's five years in charge.



Jack Moon (right) receives his framed Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award portrait from Kinsmen Club of Georgetown president and Hockey Heritage Council member John Duncan.

*Photo courtesy of Jim Fishback of Fishback Photography*

"As a person told me, Jack always seemed cranky and he swore a lot, threatened a lot, but all he wanted to do was have his team win, win win," said the GHHC's Bob Hooper.

Moon has stepped away from the rink after a bout with bladder cancer and now clear, has directed his energy towards

being the president of the Canadian association.

"All the effort that Jack has put in over the years with the Georgetown junior program and before that the junior program is really testament of what people in this community can do for hockey and kids," said OHA CEO Scott Farley.



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