

Heritage Night brings out the best in all



John Brophy, left, coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, was a surprise guest at the Heritage Dinner. Brophy is seen here with Hockey Night in Canada analyst Bob Goldham. (Herald photo)



A photo portrait, donated by The Herald was one of many special gifts presented to Del Beaumont Monday night, as he was recognized as the 1987 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award recipient. Seen making the presentation at the dinner Monday is Mike Turner, Sports Editor for The Herald. (Herald photo)



Don Knight, MPP for Halton-Burlington, presented Del Beaumont with a letter of congratulations from Ontario Premier David Peterson at the Hockey Heritage Award dinner Monday night. (Herald photo)

See coverage of the NHL Oldtimer game in the Herald Sports section



It was a time of giving at the Hockey Heritage Dinner as Jennifer Thompson, who is this year's Tammy, accepted a total of \$5,000 in cheques on behalf of the Easter Seal Society. From left, Colleen Howe, Helen Ezeard, Gordie Howe, Jennifer, and Bill McKeown. (Herald photo)

Colleen and Gordie have the know-Howe

Colleen and Gordie Howe shared the podium Monday night as guest speakers of the 10th Annual Hockey Heritage Award Dinner, held to honor this year's recipient Del Beaumont.

Gordie Howe is well known for the skills he displayed throughout an illustrious hockey career, playing both in the NHL and the defunct World Hockey Association. It was apparent Sunday during an NHL Oldtimer benefit game at the Alcott centre, that he still possesses many of those skills.

Colleen Howe can be considered not so much as "the woman behind the successful man" but as "the woman alongside the successful man".

While partners in marriage, the two are also partners in business.

"Gordie has the opportunity to make all the big decisions in the family," says Mrs. Howe, "and I make all the little decisions. The kicker is, I get to decide which are the big ones and which are the small ones."

But there can be no mistaking the Howes have found the secret to success, both matrimonially and in the business world.

Mrs. Howe proceeded to recount many stories which focused on the hockey exploits of the older Howe, as well as those of the younger Howes, namely Mark and Marty. She also related what it was like for the youngest of the Howes, Murray, when he was growing up, and after he decided on medicine instead of hockey as a way of life.

Mrs. Howe pointed out that it was largely through the efforts of the late Murray Ezeard that they were on hand for the oldtimers' game and Hockey Heritage dinner.

The Howes were to have been guests for the event last year, but due to inclement weather, they had to cancel out. King Clancy, who died recently, was another who had a hand in helping with the annual event.

"It's because of Murray's constant contact with us that we're here," Mrs. Howesaid.

Both the Howes feel benefit games, such as the one Sunday, are an excellent way of tapping a resource which is available and always willing to help out, the oldtimers.

"Everybody is in a win-win situation," Gordie Howe told the audience. "We were playing for Easter Seals, and we got to go out and have fun. Retiring from the NHL isn't that tough. The good Lord will always find something for us to do."

Howe said that in a game like Sunday's, there is a certain amount of pride involved, because the players still want to succeed. But it's the fun and the rekindling of old relationships that make the games special.

While in Georgetown Monday, Howe and his wife spoke with students at Georgetown District High School.

Of a \$5,000 donation that was made to Easter Seals as a result of the

It was a night to pay honor to those deserving, a night to give from the heart, and a night to remember those who could only be present in spirit...

It was a night when hockey admirers rubbed elbows with hockey greats, and all joined together for a night of warm enjoyment...

It was all of these things and much more, as the 1987 version of the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award Dinner was held Monday evening at Holy Cross Auditorium.

During a program packed with special highlights, there will undoubtedly be a few that people most easily remember in the years to come.

One was the homage paid to Del Beaumont as this year's Hockey Heritage Award winner, to recognize the many years of dedication and loyalty he has shown for Georgetown's hockey programs.

Another major highlight of the evening was the presentation of cheques totalling \$5,000 to the Easter Seals Society.

Accepting the cheques was Jennifer Thompson, who is the 1987 Tammy. She spoke to the capacity crowd and offered her thanks on behalf of the Society, and drew waves of applause.

The total contribution consisted of \$1,500 from the Georgetown hockey community, \$500 presented by Harry Watson, on behalf of the NHL Oldtimers, and a further \$1,000 from Gordie and Colleen Howe, who were guest speakers for the dinner.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Little NHL, which

originated in Georgetown, NHL vice-president Scotty Morrison made a special presentation of a trophy which carries the names of the players on the original Little NHL teams.

The Murray Ezeard Memorial Award was also presented to Georgetown Minor Hockey by the Toronto NHL Oldtimers, to honor the local hockey supporter, who died recently. Helen Ezeard and minor hockey president Wayne Pries were on hand to accept the award.

Don Fendley, who is well known in hockey circles was named the recipient of a Georgetown Senior A Raiders' award, and was presented with a trophy in recognition of his work. The Raiders ceased to operate after last season.

A surprise guest in the audience at the dinner was Toronto Maple Leafs' head coach John Brophy, who good naturedly took ribbing on several occasions over the status of the team.

As guest of honor, Del Beaumont took the stage and was visibly moved by the tremendous respect and warmth that was shown for him.

"It's a great night for me, and one I'll never forget," he said. "I feel humbled. I'm left speechless."

Beaumont acknowledged many of his former teammates who were in the audience, and paid special respect to several people who have passed away. "There is sadness for Murray Ezeard, and my brothers Junior and Mel. I know they would have been here."

Beaumont received letters of congratulations from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Ontario Premier David Peterson, passed along by local parliamentary members.

There were other awards and gifts from the Hockey Hall of Fame, Georgetown Minor Hockey, the Raiders' Hockey Club, the Junior B Gemini, the Georgetown Independent, Branch 129 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and several others.

Beaumont also received a photograph of himself during his playing days, which was produced by James Fishback, and donated by The Herald. The photo will be placed on display at the Gordon Alcott Arena, along with the photos of past recipients.

Dave Kentner, chairman of the Hockey Heritage Council said following the dinner that the efforts of many people came together to create a very successful evening in this, the 10th Hockey Heritage Dinner.

Kentner said a great deal of work goes on behind the scenes by more than 20 people who form the "team." "Each person has his job to do and they do it quietly," he said. "But we couldn't pull it off without them."



On hand to officiate at the Heritage Dinner Monday night (if needed) were, from left, Bruce Hood, Bryan Lewis, and Will Norris. Lewis and Norris, along with John McCauley, were the officials for the NHL Oldtimers' game Sunday. (Herald photo)



Colleen Howe takes a very active role in conducting the business interests of the Howe family. (Herald photo)



Gordie Howe will always be known for the tremendous achievements he has made as a hockey player. (Herald photo)

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events held in conjunction with Hockey Heritage, the Howes contributed \$1,000.

The Howes currently reside in Connecticut, which is where they conduct their many business interests from.

In appreciation for their efforts in assisting the Hockey Heritage effort, the Howes were presented with a sketch by Don Olson.

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