

# HOCKEY HERITAGE 2008

Valiquette entertains as guest speaker

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## Hal Pells Award honouree wants to return as GMHA president

EAMONN MAHER Staff Writer

Longtime Georgetown Minor Hockey Association president Hal Pells was his usual selfless self upon receiving the 2008 Hockey Heritage Award on Monday evening, preferring to talk about others rather than the man who's helped run the 1,800-player organization for the past 16 years.

The 62-year-old Scarborough native did, however, take time to clear up the uncertainty over his future with the GMHA, as it's been recently rumoured that he had considered stepping down from the president's post.

"I will be back," said Pells, referring to his intentions after the next segment of his current two-year term expires.

"It sounds like a cliché when people give out accolades or appreciation in our organization, but with us, it does come from the heart. A lot of the people within the Georgetown Minor Hockey executive are like me. They love their work and they don't want to leave. They like the status quo and what we've been able to achieve."

Approximately 300 people were in attendance for the 31st-annual ceremonies at the Holy Cross Auditorium and special guests included retired NHL enforcer Bob Probert, recent International Ice Hockey Federation hall-of-fame inductee Angela James from Canada's national women's team and keynote speaker Jack Valiquette.

Pells received gifts from the various levels of government and from other local organizations in recognition for his involvement with the GMHA and the Jr. A Raider hockey club, totaling some 35 years.

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Hal Pells, the 2008 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award recipient, was joined by grandsons Zack Henderson (left) and Gauge Pells Monday night at the 31st annual Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council dinner sponsored by the Georgetown Kinsmen Club at Holy Cross Church. Pells, the longtime president of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association was given a unique chair— among other gifts— by GMHA representatives.

Photo by Ted Brown



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