



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Mike Humphreys has spent a lot of time at the Stouffville Arena in recent years as a hockey administrator, coach and parent.

Award winner worked in several hockey leagues

From page 1.

number of teams that have done well. It's an honour to be mentioned at that level. It's nice," he said.

Completing his fourth term as Whitchurch Stouffville Minor Hockey Association president before resigning this spring, Humphreys witnessed plenty of highs this year.

An unprecedented six Stouffville Clippers teams won titles (three Ontario Minor Hockey Association and three York Simcoe championships). Two other teams also reached the OMHA and York-Simcoe finals.

GOOD FOUNDATION

While Humphreys was glad to be associated with the success experienced by those teams, he's more proud of the situation he's left the association in from a business perspective for his successor, Don Easter.

"There's a system in place. They have a good foundation. I've been fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. It's a lot like a river. It won't stop. I was able to be there when there was lots of water and a lot of success came about," he said.

Coaching the Clippers minor midjets to the OMHA title this past season before accepting the role as association president, Easter acknowledged his job has been made easier through what Humphreys had accomplished.

"During his tenure as president, the association had enjoyed an unprece-

ded period of success both on and off the ice — in no small part the direct result of Mike's leadership," Easter said.

"Mike's contribution to amateur sport in this community goes well beyond his role as a hockey administrator. This award would also serve to recognize his many contributions to sport of this community over the years," Easter said in his letter of nomination.

Raised in North York before moving to Stouffville in 1989, Humphreys became involved with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association in 1995-96 when close friend Marty Deveny asked if he would assist him in coaching a mite house league team.

After working with Deveny for three seasons, Humphreys took on his own mite team for three years.

"I enjoyed working with kids at that level because there was little influence with parents, less hassle," he said.

Humphreys' indoctrination into the world of sports administration came after he helped coach a novice select team in 1997-98. He became house league convenor and served in that position for two years. He was encouraged by fellow board members to run for president.

"It wasn't something I originally strived for," Humphreys said. "But if I did it, I vowed I would do it to the best that I can."

While serving as president, Humphreys also found the time to coach a couple of Clippers' teams that endured tough times on the ice. Among them

was a peewee AE team in 2007-08.

"Originally they wanted me to coach a couple of other teams that were already strong. But I wanted a challenge. I wanted to take the kids to a higher level," he said.

This past season, Humphreys coached a minor bantam AE team that exhibited a vast improvement from the prior campaign.

With the Stouffville Spirit junior A club, he was a director and billet coordinator from 2002 to 2005. During the 2004-05 campaign, he served as assistant general manager.

JR. A, GIRLS HOCKEY

Humphreys also found time to be involved in the Stouffville Markham Girls Hockey Association where he helped coach his daughter Courtney's teams from 2003-07.

If that wasn't enough, Humphreys also coached a women's team in the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League.

Humphreys said his volunteerism wouldn't be possible without the support from his wife, Lorraine, along with his other daughter, Jacklyn. Both volunteered with the Spirit when he was involved with them.

His philosophy on life came from his late father, Richard, and mother, Mary.

"They've always been a positive influence," he said. "I've always wanted to help and see others succeed. It's rewarding to watch and see those succeed at the next level."

17, Stouffville Sun-Tribune ■ Thursday, June 25, 2009

Bizarre questions part of interviews with 28 NHL teams

From page 1.

Markham, Richmond Hill, Wexford and the Toronto Marlies.

One of his teammates from that Stouffville Clippers team of five-year-olds was Pat McEachen. Good friends still, they were teammates on the Spirit two years ago. McEachen, who will play at Clarkson University in New York this fall, is a dark horse candidate for the draft. Another Spirit teammate, Darren Archibald, is also ranked. He's now a Barrie Colt.

"It should be pretty exciting," Werek said from his Goodwood-area home Monday. "But I'm trying to put (the draft) in the back of my mind and not think of the draft and just look ahead towards next season."

He was a guest of his agent at last year's draft in Ottawa, watching friends Steve Stamkos of Markham and Stouffville's Michael Del Zotto get selected in the opening round.

Werek, who left for Montreal earlier this week, is in a positive frame of mind after what he went through during the league's annual combine for draft eligible candidates

► Watch the NHL draft on TSN Friday from 7 to 10 p.m.

near Pearson International in late May.

Spending five days at the combine, Werek has been interviewed by 28 of the league's 30 teams. In addition, he underwent a thorough medical examination and participated in various physical testing drills including sit ups, push ups, jump and upper body tests.

"It was exciting and I think I did well," he said.

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ

In spite of some truly bizarre questions.

"What would you rather have, a loaded gun or a nicely written poem?" the New York Rangers reps asked.

"I told them the poem. I don't want them to think I was crazy," he said.

The San Jose Sharks asked what the longest river in Canada was.

It's the MacKenzie.

He nailed it.

He's been busy.

During a video interview and photo session with The Sun-Tribune at the Stouffville

Arena last Thursday, arena manager and long-time Spirit volunteer Bob Heickert wished him good luck at the draft. Earlier in the day, there was a luncheon interview with Colorado Avalanche scouts plus a skating session.

He's working out at York University, skating in a league with several NHLers in Brampton and taking a correspondence course from Queen's University.

As for which NHL team might select Werek, he has no idea as to where he will end up. Nor does he have any preferences.

A New England hockey publication says the Boston Bruins, who pick 25th, like Werek a lot. The prospect met another power forward in Bruin legend Cam Neely, now the team's vice-president, at the combine.

"I have no idea where I will be going," Werek said. "A million different people tell you something different. I'll just wait for the draft and we'll see what happens."

"I know it will be hard to make an NHL team's roster at a young age. But I'll go to whatever NHL team's camp and try to work hard."



METROLAND PHOTO

Stouffville product Ethan Werek, left, and Calvin de Haan race in the CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game skills competition at the GM Centre in Oshawa in January.