

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

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O'Reilly and Middleton among former NHLers to play Miramichi Pond Hockey *NHL Alumni will be highlight of 2008 Event!*

MIRAMICHI – The Rotary Club of Newcastle has announced that former Boston Bruins **Terry O'Reilly** and **Rick Middleton** will play in the new Corporate Challenge section of the Miramichi Rotary Pond Hockey tournament. Ex-NHLers **Yvon Lambert** and **Pierre Bouchard** of the Montreal Canadiens, and former Toronto Maple Leaf **Jack Valiquette** will complete the “ringers” for the five teams.

Chairperson Geri Mahoney was quite excited speaking about the addition of the NHL alumni. “The Corporate Challenge is a new twist and should add extra excitement for spectators. This non-competitive section involves 5 teams, each with one ex-NHLer, playing four games apiece. The corporate sponsor selects the other three players for each of the games”. The cost for a sponsor is \$3500 plus supplying the team jerseys. There will be an autograph session available to the public and the celebrities will autograph the team jerseys. Currently only one sponsorship remains open, anyone looking for more information should contact Colleen at 778-5366.

A fan favourite in Boston for 13 years, **Terry O'Reilly** participated in two All-Star games and was the Bruins team captain for two years. His tenacious play helped his team reach the Stanley Cup finals three times while playing almost 900 regular season games in his career. He retired in 1985. One of very few players in the NHL who was strong on both the power-play and as a penalty killer, **Rick Middleton** arrived in Boston through a trade with New York. By 1985 he was captain of the Bruins under coach Don Cherry. Representing Canada as a member of the 1984 Canada Cup team, he skated on a line with Wayne Gretzky and Gilbert Perreault. He retired in 1989. During eight seasons with the Habs, **Yvon Lambert** attained four Stanley Cup victories. Early in his career he established himself as a power forward, known for being a hard-as-nails, rugged performer, while skating with Doug Risebrough and Mario Tremblay. Retirement in 1984 saw him move into a PR position with the Canadiens. Another eight season performer for the Habs, **Pierre Bouchard** enjoyed five Stanley Cup victories. The son of Hall-of-Famer Butch Bouchard, Pierre was well versed in Montreal Canadiens lore and tradition before he took up his spot on defense. Billed as the team's policeman, he played a rugged defensive style in the mold of his father and retired in 1982. The final NHLer, **Jack Valiquette**, was selected by the Maple Leafs in the first round of the 1974 draft and enjoyed seven NHL seasons split between Toronto and Colorado. An outstanding junior with 135 points in his final junior season, Valiquette was for a time referred to as the "next Jean Beliveau" or the "next Phil Esposito". He retired in 1981 and continues to skate with the Maple Leaf alumni in old-timer games and as a hockey instructor. More information on these players can be found at www.legendsofhockey.net.

The **4th annual Miramichi Rotary Pond Hockey tournament** will be held at French Fort Cove on **February 1st-3rd, 2008**, with the net proceeds going towards the Eco-Center. Anyone thinking about participating in the pond hockey tournament should grab a spot soon - the deadline to enter the tournament is **January 11, 2008!** Registration packages in either language are available for download at www.MiramichiRotaryPondHockey.com. See you on the pond!