

THE **RICOH** **BREAKAWAY**

The Mac's AAA Midget 34th Hockey Invitational Newsletter

Monday, December 26, 2011

Hockey Buzz Alive In Calgary

It's hockey season in Calgary with the 34th annual Mac's AAA Midget tournament.

This yearly event brings the best players in the AAA level of hockey together to compete for one of the biggest tournaments of the year. This year is no different with teams coming from as far away as Czechoslovakia and Russia.

This year Calgary is lucky enough to have two world caliber hockey tournaments in the city with the IIHF World Juniors going on at the same time. This means that this week Calgary will be the stage for the best youth hockey in the world.

"There is a real hockey buzz in Calgary this year," says Ron Thompson, Marketing Manager of the Western Division of Mac's Convenience stores when asked about sharing time with the World Juniors.

"It's been a great thing for hockey in Calgary and it's allowed people to come together for great hockey. It's also much easier to get into a Mac's game than a World Juniors game."

The buzz is definitely alive in the city as people get ready to come cheer on their favorite young teams. There are many people who have been involved for years including Thompson.

"I've been involved for 19 years with the tournament and watched kids grow up to play," says Thompson.

Mac's has been involved in the tournament since it started and supports the tournament as an important stepping-stone to help kids continue their education. By continuing their hockey careers they have a chance to get to the post secondary education that hockey can help them reach.

There have been many amazing milestones over the past 33 years and this year is likely to be no different. With so many great businesses and people involved this is gearing up to be a great year of hockey.

By: Sarah Lamoureux and Jeff Clemens



Did you know?

Pittsburgh Penguin Captain Sidney Crosby was inducted to the 2006 Mac's AAA Midget Tournament Wall of Fame. Crosby played in the tournament twice. The first time was in 2001 with the Dartmouth Subways and in 2002 with the Shattuck St. Mary's.



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History Making Year in Calgary



This year is a big year for the city of Calgary with the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede.

The Mac's Tournament is happy to kick off this year's opening ceremonies by dedicating them to the Greatest Outdoor show on Earth. The tournament is helping to honor this year's milestone by being the first official event celebrating a century of Stampede in Calgary.

The Stampede is an annual outdoor exhibition entrenched in Calgary's culture.

This year is also exciting for the

Mac's tournament as things gear up for a celebration of the 35th year of the tournament in 2012. Starting small this tournament has been going strong and continues to showcase the best in AAA hockey.

The Mac's tournament and the Stampede have worked together for years so this opening partnership is perfect. Partnering together to celebrate their milestones the two long-standing Calgary institutions are excited for the year ahead.

The opening ceremony will be held at 7:30 pm at the Max Bell arenas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament has been online for the past decade. Now you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Go to:

www.facebook.com/macsmidgettournament.com and click "like" to write on the wall, add photos or join discussions.



Follow us on Twitter at:
www.twitter.com/macstournament



Media volunteers will be posting updates regularly throughout the tournament.

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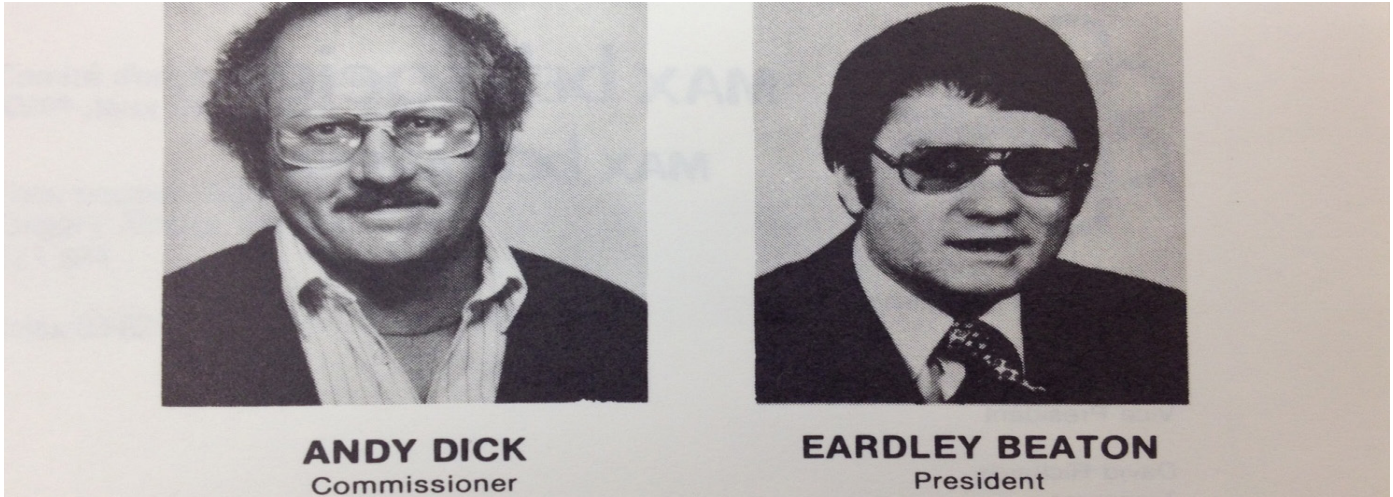


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A Blast From the Past

Below is a blast from the past with a welcome from the program of the fifth year of the tournament. With 34 years gone by it's easy to see that this has indeed become a real tradition in Calgary.

This letter welcomed the tournament in 1982 back when there were only six teams playing in the SAMM league. This was in the time when Calgary was gearing up for the 1988 Olympics. What a great 34 years it's been for both Calgary and the Tournament now that has 40 teams competing for two Championships.



WELCOME TO ALL HOCKEY ENTHUSIASTS!

THIS IS THE BEGINNING TO BE A REAL TRADITION..... GATHERING EACH CHRISTMAS SSEASON IN CALGARY TO SEE WHICH OF THE BEST MAJOR MIDGET TEAMS IN THE WORLD WILL TAKE THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF PRESTIGIOUS CALGARY TOURNAMENT.

NOW IN THE 5TH YEAR, WE ARE ALREADY SEEING MANY PLAYERS SHOW UP IN N.H.L. AND NUMEROUS CATAGORIES OF HOCKEY....ALL OF WHOM STARRED AT THIS VERY TIME OF THE YEAR. IT ALL STARTED TO ALLOW OUR BEST MIDGETS TO MEET AND COMPETE WITH THE BEST WHICH WOULD ALL LEAD TO BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PLAYERS. WE FEEL THE OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN MET AND WILL CONTINUE TO MEASURE OUR PROGRAM.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR SIX TEAM LEAGUE AND WE WISH OUR TEAMS ENCOURAGEMENT IN THEIR GAMES AND WE ARE SURE THEY WILL EXHIBIT THE CLASS THAT IS EMBLIMATIC OF OUR S.A.M.M. LEAGUE.

EARDLEY BEATON, PRESIDENT ANDY DICK, COMMISSIONER

Welcome to the first day of what is sure to be an amazing tournament!

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Today at the Mac's

The Mac's AAA Midget Hockey Invitational

Monday, December 26, 2011

			V	H
1	10:00	MB #1	Vancouver N.W. Giants	UFA Bisons
2	10:00	FDB	Calgary Flames	Greater Vancouver Canadians
3	10:00	FLAME	Calgary Royals	Saskatoon Contacts
4	12:45	MB #1	Calgary Northstars	Fort Saskatchewan BP Rangers
5	12:45	FDB	Leduc Chrysler Oil Kings	Prince Albert Mintos
6	12:45	FLAME	Cariboo Cougars	Pirati Chomutov*
7	15:30	MB #1	Red Deer Optimist Rebels	Severtal/Locomotiv
8	15:30	FDB	Sherwood Park J. Ennis Kings	Beardy's Blackhawks
9	15:30	FLAME*	Vancouver NE Chiefs	St. Albert Sports Raiders
10	20:00	MB #1	York Simcoe Express	Calgary Buffaloes

Female Division

F1	09:00	MB #2	St. Albert Kal Tire Slash	Medicine Hat Players Bench Tigers
F2	09:00	FLAME	Calgary Chaos	Edmonton Thunder
F3	11:30	MB #2	Calgary Bruins	Lloydminster PWM Steelers
F4	11:30	FLAME	Calgary Flyers	Thompson-Okanagan Rockets
F5	14:00	MB #2	Regina Rebels	Westman Wildcats
F6	16:30	MB #2	Vancouver Fusion	Red Deer Sutter Fund Chiefs

 here, when you need us.

40 TEAMS, 7 DAYS!

 here, when you need us.

THE OPENING CEREMONIES FOR THE 34TH ANNUAL MAC'S AAA MIDGET TOURNAMENT BEGIN AT 7:30 PM TODAY AT MAX BELL ARENA.

*** please note: The Pirati Chomutov are listed as the KHL Chomutov in the programs**