



"REMEMBERING TOM FAIRBAIRN" TOM FAIRBAIRN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tom Fairbairn's contribution to Minor Hockey in Stratford cannot be measured in hours, days or even years. He was considered our "Grandfather of Hockey". His name has a place in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto for his unending volunteerism. He was a coach, a director, a president, a mentor and a friend to anyone who needed one. Everybody at the rink knew him and he was respected by young and old.

He was the "go to guy" for several decades or more. He knew all the rules. His memory was impeccable. He spent time every day at the rink, knew all the kids by number, if not by name. Because he saw the bigger picture, all the coaches would seek him out in the minor hockey room after a game and ask his opinion on how they, as coaches, could improve a play or player or entire team. He always made time to mentor coaches when asked.

He was there for only two reasons. He loved the game itself and he was there for the kids – *all the kids!* He made sure all players had safe equipment and started a program where all players were supplied with the best hockey pants available. He spent his off time in the summer cataloguing the pant program, inspecting every pair for a needed wash or repair.

He championed the ideal that all players respect the game and each other.

For these reasons and others too many to count, Stratford Minor Hockey created an annual scholarship in Tom's name: The Tom Fairbairn Memorial Scholarship.

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Candidates need to apply for the scholarship.

Applications are available in January and are due February 28 to be eligible for that year's award.

An SMHA subcommittee ("The Tom Fairbairn Committee") will select the recipient and the recipient will be notified in April. The recipient will be recognized at the SMHA Annual Banquet in April.

The scholarship, a one-time payment of \$500 will be given to its recipient to help cover the cost of post secondary education — college, university, trade school or any other recognized education centre. Recipient must provide proof of attendance in aforementioned secondary education (student card or similar) in order to receive payment.

Applicants must have:

1. Played for SMHA for a minimum of 5 hockey seasons.
2. Played for no other minor hockey association with the exception of Stratford Rotary Hockey unless player previously resided in another community. If a player has resided in another community and played for another association they may still apply, however, they still need to meet the first criteria of having played for SMHA for a minimum of 5 hockey seasons.