

Ken Bracko Biography

Ken Bracko: August 21, 1940 - August 3, 2015



Displaying exemplary community service throughout his life, Ken Bracko left his mark in Calgary through his involvement in the city's hockey and sports communities.

Ken's lifetime of volunteerism and dedication to sport in Calgary earned him The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013. He was named "Sportsman of the Year" by the Calgary Booster Club in 2014.

Ken's contributions to hockey in the City of Calgary include initiating the purchase of the Calgary Canucks Junior A Hockey Club on behalf of the North East Athletic Association and being a founding member of hockey leagues and tournaments in the city, including the Southern Alberta Major Hockey League, the Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament and the Alberta Major Midget AAA Hockey League.

Proving Ken's enthusiasm for hockey, after the Calgary Canucks Junior A Hockey Club was purchased, he served as President of the organization for more than 20 years. He was also committed to fundraising — up to \$350,000 a year — to ensure the Club remained in the AJHL, over a 30 year period. According to his fellow volunteers, if not for Ken Bracko, there may not have been Junior A Hockey in Calgary.

With his commitment to sport in Calgary, Ken's time and energy was spent to ensure that children of all ages were able to play. Whether through baseball, softball, soccer or hockey, his involvement was wide-reaching – he was keen to coach, manage, fundraise, drive to and from practices and games, and shovel or flood the rinks. Dedicated to the public good, Ken was also a mentor in Calgary Junior Achievement and a canvasser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Evidencing the community's appreciation of his leadership, volunteerism and dedication to sport, the AJHL Calgary Jr. Alberta Canucks dedicated their 2015-2016 season to Ken Bracko's honour and memory.

Over his volunteer career, Mr. Bracko filled the following roles in sports administration:

- 1979-1980; 1985; 1987-1990: Director, Northeast Athletic Association
- 1981: President, Northeast Athletic Association
- 1982-1984: Vice-President, Northeast Athletic Association
- 1984-1985; 1987-1996: Director, Mac's Midget AAA Hockey Tournament
- 1985-1988: President, Calgary Junior 'A' Canucks
- 1989-1990; Vice- President, Calgary Junior 'A' Canucks
- 1991-2014: President, Calgary Junior 'A' Canucks