



Fred Heslop Minor Hockey Week Awards

Cory Cross – West Kelowna Minor Hockey Association

Nominated by: Shannon Lowe



Cory Cross has been volunteering with minor hockey for five (5) years as well as spring hockey organizations. He has been an integral component to the organization on so many levels.

Firstly, and most importantly, the kids absolutely adore him. Cory has made every single practice and game so much fun for each kid on every team. Cory guides and teaches the kids on the level that they are able to perform. He never criticizes the kids and has a true knack for keeping it fun for them but all the while they are learning the game as well as life skills. He teaches them not only what offside is BUT also how important it is to respect other players, officials, and themselves.

Every year parents are scrambling to do all they can to get their child on Cory's team....a true testament to the great strides he has accomplished with each kid.

In addition to what Cory does on the ice, it's important to note what he's accomplished off the ice in relation to hockey. Cory has proven to be the glue behind a new online hockey development program called PROSMART. Cory designed the company along with the founder and partners. It's become an important tool for minor hockey coaches as well as coaches of every level to enable them to go to practice prepared with given practice plans, stations and drills. Cory has volunteered literally thousands of hours producing and managing PROSMART as well as travelling all over Canada on his own dime just to get this out to volunteer coaches that coach minor hockey teams. He does this all in the name of minor hockey and child development.

Cory's belief has always been, teach children what's important in the game and life at the level of the child. This brings me to a little boy named Connor Morcom, nine (9) years old. Connor was diagnosed one (1) year ago with a rare form of brain cancer. At the time, Connor was on Coach Cory's team. Cory noticed at practice one day that Connor kept squinting his eyes over and over. After doing this for a few days Cory questioned Connor and brought it to the attention of his parents. Long story short, Connor was soon to be diagnosed with having a tumor on his brain that was pressing on his optic nerve. I'm not saying that Cory Cross was the reason Connor was looked at by a doctor at all....his parents were very quick thinkers on this. My point is that Cory is very "in tune" with his kids. He looks at each of them and speaks with all of them every single practice and game.

Cory makes a solid effort to touch each of their lives in a positive way and bring spirit to the game for them so they want to continue to play for years to come. Cory has such a positive impact on the kids lives and it's a great pleasure to watch how the kids respond to him. He truly is COACH CORY and lives up to what a true coach is.....a mentor, a role model and a cheerleader. I have yet to witness a more committed man in hockey. Coach Cory rocks.

The Fred Heslop Minor Hockey Week Awards recognize five (5) individuals who have made significant contributions to BC Hockey, their association and community. These are people who have enhanced hockey programs, gone beyond expectations and have made remarkable achievements.

The awards are named after past BC Hockey President and long-time volunteer, Fred Heslop. His involvement with BC Hockey spanned two (2) decades, serving the membership on the Executive Committee (now Board of Directors) from 1992 – 2006. The Trail, BC native served in many different roles including Officer at Large, Vice President,





President and was chair of numerous committees. In 2007, BC Hockey awarded him the highest honour when he was presented with the Diamond Stick Award. Fred passed away in late 2013, leaving a legacy behind him.

Nominations for the Fred Heslop Minor Hockey Week Awards were accepted during Minor Hockey Week in January, with the recipients being announced during National Volunteer Week and recognized at the BC Hockey Annual General Meeting.

National Volunteer Week pays tribute to the millions of volunteers who share their time and talents with community organizations across the country. The week of celebration is a wonderful way to shine the spotlight on volunteers who share their time to make their community a better place.

For more information about BC Hockey, please visit the BC Hockey website at www.bchockey.net or email info@bchockey.net or follow along through social media at www.facebook.com/BCHockeySource, www.twitter.com/BCHockey_Source, www.youtube.com/BCHockeySource or www.instagram.com/BCHockeySource.

