



Thunderbirds, Mohawk College honour Bill Sturru

Drew Brady owner of the Hamilton Thunderbirds and Ken A. Wallis, Associate Dean, Music and Communications Media for Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology announced today the creation of the Bill Sturru Golden Mike Bursary Awards program.

The awards are as follows:

Radio Broadcasting Award – one \$500.00 award presented to a 1st year student who demonstrates a positive attitude & strives to excel in Sports Broadcasting.

The recipient is:

Jeff Mcalister (a 1st year Broadcasting Radio & Communications Media student).

Journalism Award – one \$500.00 award presented to a 2nd year student who demonstrates a passion for journalism & outstanding involvement in the community.

The recipient is:

Deshane Bartley (a 2nd year Journalism - Print & Broadcast student).

Co-op summer placement with the Hamilton Thunderbirds.

The recipient has yet to be named.

Bill Sturru was regarded by many, as the “Voice of Hamilton” long after he retired from CHML Radio. He was a Hamilton native and a grad of Delta High School, and his career in broadcasting 45 years...all but one with CHML (one year at CHCH-TV).

He once joked the “P.A. ANNOUNCER FOR ANYTHING THAT MOVES ON THE SPORTS FIELD.” He worked with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats for more than 25 years...was on the PA for the Toronto Argonauts for two years. In addition, Bill was the PA announcer for the only CFL preseason game played in the Orange Bowl at Miami, Florida.

Bill was the long-time Hamilton Forum and Copps Coliseum Announcer... for everything from the old Hamilton Red Wings (Eddie Bush, Paul Henderson etc), through all the OHA and OHL clubs...Hamilton Kilty B's, and Provincial Junior A Hamilton Red Wings for more than 20 years. He did the Canada Cup, at both Copps and Maple Leaf Gardens, World Junior games, and the Toronto Toros of the World Hockey Association at the Gardens.

Then there were the Hamilton Skyhawks basketball games, and National Basketball Association pre-season games in Copps and at SkyDome. Now throw in National Football League pre-season games, and those Vanier Cup Games for Canadian university football supremacy at the Dome, as well as McMaster University football, and basketball matches for good measure.

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However, baseball was where it all started at the age of 15 for the Hamilton Cardinals PONY (Pennsylvania-Ont-New York) League team, a St. Louis Cardinals farm team. From there it was on to the Hamilton Cardinals and later the Hamilton Thunderbirds of the Intercounty Baseball League. He was also the PA announcer at the major league stadium in Matanzas, Cuba, not far from Havana, for an exhibition game between young Cuban and Ontario baseball players.

And, just when you thought you heard it all from Bill, there he was calling to your seats for another performance in Hamilton Place. Bill is survived by his wife, Kathy and daughter Debbie of Hamilton and son, Mike of Dundas.

For more information, contact:

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(905) 741-7738**