



**RBC
Insurance**



RBC INSURANCE, HOCKEY CANADA & HOCKEY HALL OF FAME RECOGNIZE EATONIA VOLUNTEER

Saskatchewan's "RBC Local Hockey Leader" awarded \$10,000 for hockey in his community

TORONTO, March 6, 2008— Robert "Sam" Somerville, an Eatonia hockey volunteer who spends hundreds of hours each year as an administrator, fundraiser, coach and general arena handy-man, will be recognized in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Somerville is this year's RBC Local Hockey Leader for Saskatchewan, one of 13 volunteers (one for each Hockey Canada branch) recognized today by RBC Insurance, with support from Hockey Canada and the Hockey Hall of Fame. The winners, who will also receive a signed Team Canada jersey, were chosen from hundreds of nominations received from across the country.

"In a town of less than 500 people it takes effort to keep a rink running and it takes someone with a lot of energy to hold the arena together for us all," said Eatonia's Melanie Rudy in her nomination essay. "Sam is always there to lend a hand – whether it be fundraising, running the zamboni or replacing light bulbs in the scoreboard."

RBC Insurance will donate \$10,000 to a local hockey cause in Somerville's name. Somerville is also invited to attend a special ceremony on April 28, 2008, unveiling a display honouring the 2007-08 RBC Local Hockey Leaders at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. A banner recognizing his achievement will also be raised in the local arena.

"RBC Insurance is proud to continue the tradition of recognizing truly dedicated hockey volunteers like Robert Somerville," said Neil Skelding, President and CEO, RBC Insurance. "Hockey is a way of life in many Canadian communities, and volunteers are the engines that keep it running."

A panel including National Women's Team member Jennifer Botterill, National Men's Sledge Hockey Team Captain Jean Labonté, hockey legend Ron Ellis, Dr. Allan Morris, chair of the Hockey Canada Board of Directors and other Hockey Canada officials selected winners from the hundreds of nominations submitted through the program website. Hard work, dependability, enthusiasm and leadership were among the criteria considered during the evaluation of submissions. Over the past four years, RBC Insurance has awarded more than \$500,000 to grassroots hockey activities across Canada through the RBC Local Hockey Leaders program.

“Every Canadian community has individuals that organize, administer, fundraise, coach and do whatever it takes to keep hockey vibrant in their communities,” said Bob Nicholson, President, Hockey Canada. “We appreciate RBC’s continued leadership not only in recognizing these volunteers, but also in providing the funding to replace aging equipment, improve facilities and generally make hockey more accessible.”

For more information and biographies on all of the RBC Local Hockey Leaders, please visit www.rbcinsurance.com.

2008 Regional RBC Local Hockey Leaders:

| Region | RBC Local Hockey Leader | Community |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Hockey North | Mike Gravel | Inuvik, NT |
| British Columbia | Doug Bondue | Port Alice, BC |
| Alberta | Garry Wolosinka | Viking, AB |
| Saskatchewan | Robert “Sam” Somerville | Eatonia, SK |
| Manitoba | Laurent Kerbrat | St. Laurent, MB |
| Ontario | Angelo Giajnorio | Niagara Falls, ON |
| Northwestern Ontario | Russell Desjarlais | Kenora, ON |
| Ottawa District | Ron Baker | Brockville, ON |
| Quebec | France Bédard | Port Cartier, QC |
| New Brunswick | Jean Pelletier | Dalhousie, NB |
| Nova Scotia | Graham Parker | Middleton, NS |
| Prince Edward Island | June Sencabaugh | Murray River, PEI |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | Dave Ingram | Clareville, NFLD |

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