



## NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8  
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019  
[www.noha-hockey.com](http://www.noha-hockey.com)



### **RICK F. ALBERT MEMORIAL AWARD**

This award is to be presented to a person or association which has been instrumental in the area of development within the NOHA.

The award can be given to an individual involved in Coaching, Refereeing, Training or the Initiation Programs, one who has developed a program which has been incorporated to the benefit of hockey or a person who has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to development within the NOHA.

This award could also be presented to a hockey association who through its efforts during a hockey season has furthered the advancement of development within the NOHA.

Nominations will be accepted from any member in good standing of the NOHA up to March 15th, and recipient will be selected by the development committee.

Announcement to be made at the NOHA Annual Meeting.

Rick was born December 14th, 1932 in Blind River, where he played his Minor Hockey. In the early 1950's Rick left for the Timmins Area where he would play his Junior Hockey with the "Porcupine Combines". While with the "Combines", Rick played on two Northern Ontario Championship teams. Rick then journeyed to the States where he played Pro Hockey in such places as Washington and Milwaukee. Here he met and made a long lasting friendship with the NOHA's Nick (the Rocket) Rukavina. Rick also played some minor league baseball. Rick decided in 1956 to return home to the Blind River Area and soon found himself in Elliot Lake working for Rio Algom Ltd.

Rick continued his hockey playing and was a member of Blind River Intermediate Northern Ontario Championship teams. Rick also became involved in officiating during this time and traveled the North Shore Area with people such as Albert Shamas. In 1970 Rick entered the Coaching Field when he became involved with Elliot Lake Team Legion PeeWee's and became an integral part of Elliot Lake Major Hockey.

During his journey through the NCCP Program reaching to Level V, Rick became one of Northern Ontario's biggest promoter of the National Coaches Certification Program. Rick started instructing in the Program and was always willing to share



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his knowledge of Hockey and any new drills or tips he picked up at Hockey Seminars throughout Canada.

Rick worked hard at promoting the NCCP Program and also acted as the Northern Ontario Co-ordinator. Rick continued his coaching during this period and also in the early 1980's was instrumental in the forming of the Northern International Hockey League which included Elliot Lake, Soo Canada, Soo Michigan and Marquette in the beginning.

Rick among his many other projects in hockey served as Commissioner of the NIHL and promoted the growth of this league to other centres to include bantams with the original Atom and Pee Wee's.

Rick continued his work in Hockey in Elliot Lake with his Team Legion Pee Wee's and instructing at the NCCP Level Clinics right until the end of his time.

Those who knew Rick are sure that if there are any Hockey Teams in Heaven, Rick will be behind the bench coaching one of the teams.

On October 18th, 1988, Rick F. Albert left us, and for those that came in contact with Rick we are better people for having known him.

### **PAST WINNERS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CITY</b>
1989	Rick F. Albert	Elliot Lake
1990	Jack Walkom	North Bay
1991	Don Shepherdson	New Liskeard
1992	Eric Parlowe	Sault Ste. Marie
1993	Domenic DeFelice	Schumacher
1995	Robert Allen	Naughton
1996	Kapuskasing Hockey Minor	Kapuskasing
1997	Georges Albert	Blind River
1998	Brenda Torresan	South Porcupine
1999	Ken Vail	Kapuskasing
2000	Don Michaud	Sturgeon Falls
2001	Ken Miller	North Bay
2002	Alex Mair	Kapuskasing
2003	Tim Foster	Astorville



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2004	Sudbury Minor Hockey Initiation Program	Sudbury
2005	Pam Hull	Rayside Balfour
2006	Scott Kile	North Bay
2008	Cathy Giffen	Val Caron
2009	Guy Losier	Hearst
2010	Mike (Spyke) Pintar	Schumacher
2011	Mike Mulryan	Timmins
2012	Mitchell Clark	Richard's Landing
2013	Pete Fortin	Sudbury
2014	Rick Barron	Temiskaming Shores
2015	Randy Clouthier	Sault Ste. Marie
2016	Bruce Wiggans	Mindemoya
2017	David Shaw	Timmins
2018	Pierre Labrecque	Sudbury
2018	John Zubyck	Temiskaming Shores
2019	Glen Campbell	North Bay
2020	Stephen Surcon	Schumacher
2021	Joe Longo	Sault Ste. Marie
2022	Soo Peewee Hockey League	Sault Ste. Marie
2023	Steven Polyblank	Temiskaming Shores
2024	Tim McWhirter	Parry Sound
2025	George Suszter	East Nipissing