



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPORTS CELEBRITY BROADCASTER ERIK TOMAS TO MC "HOCKEY DAY IN CAYUGA" OPENING CEREMONIES

***"There's a very rich hockey history and heritage in the Cayuga/Haldimand area, and enthusiasm for the game has always been very impressive.
I'm looking forward to this!"***

CAYUGA, ON (August 18, 2025)— Hockey Day In Cayuga is pleased to announce sports celebrity broadcaster Erik Tomas as Master of Ceremonies for the Pre-Game Opening Ceremonies.

"I was honoured that my good friend Bruce Mehlenbacher asked me to MC Hockey Day in Cayuga festivities! Hockey was a huge part of my broadcasting history, calling Niagara Falls Flyers on the Radio, and a brief TV stint on CHCH and Global with the Toronto Maple Leafs," explained Erik Tomas. "There's a very rich hockey history and heritage in the Cayuga/Haldimand area, and enthusiasm for the game has always been very impressive. I'm looking forward to this!"

Tomas caught the auto racing bug when his father John took him to dirt tracks in the Niagara Peninsula area of Ontario at seven years old, and the sport has been a big part of his life since.



Erik Tomas

While broadcasting news, sports and play-by-play hockey on Niagara radio stations CHSC, CKTB and CJRN in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, "ET" started announcing the racing action at Merrittville Speedway, Ransomville Speedway and Cayuga Speedway through the 1970s.

A few years later, Erik brought his broadcasting talents to the Toronto market, broadcasting news and sports for 680 CFTR (now 680 News) and CKFM/Mix 99.9 (now Virgin Radio 99.9). He also had a stint as a play-by-play TV announcer for the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs on CHCH-TV and Global Television in the mid-1980s.

Returning to his auto racing roots while still working radio in Toronto, Tomas took on the role of anchor, writer and co-producer for the Raceline Motorsport Television series on TSN, owned and produced by Bruce Mehlenbacher and the late John Massingberd's Promark Motorsport International.

When the CART IndyCar Series came to the streets of Toronto, ET brought his motorsport media experience to The Molson Indy from the first race in 1986, as track announcer.

Erik's passion for motorsports turned into a full-time position as anchor, producer, writer, and affiliate broadcasting relations for the Raceline Radio Network, starting in 1992. Erik was Canada's lone full-time auto racing broadcast journalist, and Raceline Radio remained Canada's only nationally syndicated motorsport radio program until he retired from professional broadcasting in December 2023. He dedicated 48 years to sports broadcasting and 31 years to the Raceline Radio Network.

The Raceline Radio network comprised affiliates in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Halifax, Hamilton, and Niagara/Western New York State. Many affiliates aired Raceline Radio twice weekly, with an additional audience obtained through podcasts. Total weekly audiences exceeded 175,000 listeners

During his career, Erik has interviewed some of the biggest and most influential stars in racing. This includes Mario Andretti, Shirley Muldowney, John Force, Don Garlits, Rick Mears, Bobby Rahal, Tom Carnegie, Nigel Mansell, Al Unser Jr., Dale Earnhardt, Kenny Bernstein and Bob Jenkins.

With Erik at the helm, Raceline Radio has won numerous international motorsport journalism awards. Erik was also a regular contributor to Inside Track Motorsport News.

ET was inducted into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame in 2018 and the Canadian Drag Racing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the sport 2023. He also received the John Massingberd Memorial Award in 2024.

Hockey Day In Cayuga is a fundraising event held at the Cayuga Memorial Arena on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Nearly 1,000 young people between the ages of 3 and 22 will represent Haldimand County-based organizations.

Hockey Day In Cayuga will feature an Equipment Swap presented by Stay Sharp Sporting Goods, a Free Pancake & Sausage Breakfast presented by Smelser Meats, Lion Floyd's Fisherville District Lions Club Bottle & Can Drive, and Community Living Haldimand will be onsite all day, preparing \$1 Hot Dogs for Loonie Dogs Day presented by Cayuga Foodland.

Cayuga Minor Hockey, the Haldimand River Kings, and the Haldimand Rivercats will be on hand all day, selling event programs, pucks for a Chuck the Puck Toss, and 50/50 tickets.

On game day morning, all Cayuga Minor Hockey players will show off their abilities, and in the afternoon, there will be exhibition games. This includes the Haldimand River Kings U8MD and U9MD Intersquad games, a Haldimand Rivercats vs. Norfolk HERicanes - U15B exhibition game,



Erik interviewed the late, great Dale Earnhardt Sr. before the American Speed Association (ASA) race at Cayuga Speedway in 1990



Motorsport legend Mario Andretti congratulated Erik Tomas on his induction to the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame

and the Haldimand River Kings hosting the Norfolk Knights U15A. The St. Catharines Brock Jr. Badgers will take on the Stoney Creek Sabres U13AA Girls in an exhibition match, and a public skating session will take place.

The evening will feature an OHA Junior C season opener home game between the Hagersville Hawks and the Dunnville Jr Mudcats at 7:30 p.m. Special guests will be introduced by master of ceremonies Erik Tomas, then an Official Ceremonial Puck Drop by Grace McKeen, a live rendition of our National Anthem—O Canada—along with the Legion Honour Guard. Other special features include a sponsor hospitality area and the Hagersville Hawks Blueline Club in McSorley Hall.

Events will start at 8:00 a.m. and run throughout the day and into the evening. The day will be capped off as one lucky spectator can win a Honda ATV in the “Rapid Fire Shoot the Puck Contest” presented by Premier Equipment.

Admission will be free, and proceeds will support our Cayuga Minor Hockey, the Haldimand River Kings, and the Haldimand Rivercats organizations.

This event is made possible by the following in support of our community:

Bassindale Bros Roofing • Battlefield International • Breakaway Auto Glass • Cayuga Foodland • Cayuga Home Hardware • Chuck & Peter Hogeterp • Community Living Haldimand • Cooper Funeral and Bereavement Services • Day & Campbell • Dentistry On Main • Erie Mutual Insurance • Ever-Well Health Cayuga • Fisherville District Lions Club • FirstOntario Credit Union • Haldimand County • Haldimand Hands on Health • Haldimand Motors • Hearthstone House Of Fire • Heaslip Ford • I.D.A. - Cayuga Pharmacy • Inter County Concrete Products • Keesmaat Homes • Kreekside Construction Group • KRTS Transportation Specialists • Law's Country Lane • MPP Haldimand-Norfolk Bobbi Ann Brady • Nigh's Concrete Forming • Northern Foam Tech • Norton Construction • Premier Equipment • Pressmens Print & Copy Centre • Reeves Richarz LLP • RS Accounting & Tax Services • Rustic and Reclaimed • Scattered Blessings • Schilthuis Construction • Shelly's Family Dining & Catering Service • Simington Automotive • Smelser Meats • Special Touch Flowers • Stark Design • Stay Sharp Sporting Goods • Steel City Millwork • The Burp Bros. • The Clark Companies • Timber Marts - Jarvis & Caledonia • Tim's Tirecraft Hagersville • Toppline Design Photography • Toronto Maple Leafs • Toronto Motorsports Park • Transport Sales & Service • Zen Construction

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit: cayugaminorhockey.ca and/or facebook.com/YouthHockeySkillsCompetition

Please contact:

Event Details, Media and Sponsorship Support

Bruce Mehlenbacher - Bruce@JAJentertainment.com - (905) 517-5345

Game Day / Event Details

Cayuga Minor Hockey - Registrar - Katherine Hedley - katherinehedley68@gmail.com

