



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRACE MCKEEN TO PERFORM OFFICIAL CEREMONIAL PUCK DROP AT "HOCKEY DAY IN CAYUGA"

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CAYUGA, ON (August 7, 2025)— Hockey Day In Cayuga is honoured to have Grace McKeen as Guest of Honour to perform the ceremonial puck drop at the Hagersville Hawks vs. Dunnville Jr Mudcats OHA Junior C Season Opener at Hockey Day In Cayuga, a symbolic gesture to start a game.



For over 55 years, Grace McKeen has been a dedicated skating coach who has been the heart and soul of skating in Hagersville and surrounding communities. Her unwavering commitment to the sport and the development of skaters of all ages has created a lasting legacy that continues to shape generations. Through leadership, perseverance, and genuine passion, Grace has nurtured an environment where recreational and competitive skaters thrived.

"To be taught how to skate (in any colour of skates) by Coach Grace McKeen gives every athlete the edge they need over their competition," explained figure skater Liz Evans. "Her knowledge and passion for helping every skater reach their potential are unrivalled. Her coaching and guidance throughout my figure skating career and beyond have shaped me as an athlete and a person. She has instilled values I'll carry for life—dedication, discipline and the perseverance to overcome complex challenges."

"Grace has always been a steady and inspiring presence in my life, both on and off the ice," she added, "I'm forever grateful for her years of coaching me through the ups and downs that created opportunities and lifelong memories of travelling and competing throughout North America."

What sets Grace apart is the longevity of her service and the depth of her influence. Grace has taught up to three generations within families, Grandparents, mothers/fathers, and grandchildren have each been drawn back by the Coach's positive impact and love for the sport. Her former students have gone on to achieve remarkable milestones, including becoming Olympic judges and holding prominent roles such as the accountants for major competitions like the Canadian Nationals, not to mention a few NHL stars as well. These accomplishments are a testament to the foundation of excellence and professionalism that Grace instills in her students.

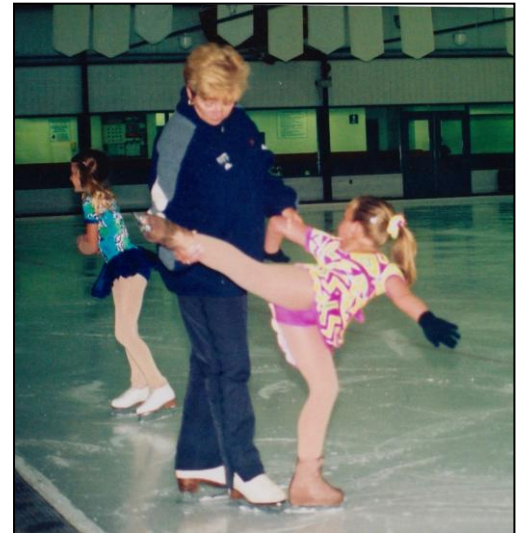
Innovation has been a constant in her coaching journey. Whether adapting training methods to suit evolving standards, incorporating new techniques to keep young skaters engaged, or creating inclusive programming to ensure everyone in the community could access the joys of skating, and this coach has consistently demonstrated initiative and creativity.

Beyond the ice, Grace has been a role model demonstrating integrity, patience, and passion. Her leadership has sustained a successful skating program and inspired countless volunteers, parents, and young leaders to stay involved in the sport.

In every sense, this Coach has built more than skaters; she has built a community centred on joy, discipline, and the shared love of skating. Her legacy is visible in every skater who steps on the ice and in every Parent or a grandparent who shares a story of how this coach once taught them, or their child. Through decades of service, Grace has not only contributed to the sport, but she has transformed it into a lasting source of connection, growth, and pride for the entire community.

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 and Sausage Breakfast presented by Smelser Meats, and Community Living Haldimand will be onsite all day, preparing \$1 Hot Dogs for Loonie Dog Days presented by Cayuga Foodland.



Cayuga Minor Hockey, the Haldimand River Kings and the Haldimand Rivercats will be on hand all day, selling event programs and pucks for a 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 Hockey Games. The Haldimand River Kings U15A will host the Norfolk Knights, the Haldimand River Kings U8MD and U9MD Intersquad games, the Haldimand Rivercats vs. Norfolk HERicanes - U15B Exhibition Game, a St. Catharines Brock Jr. Badgers vs. Stoney Creek Sabres U13AA Girls Exhibition Game, and a Public Skate.

The evening will feature an OHA Junior C home game between the Hagersville Hawks and the Dunnville Jr Mudcats at 7:30 p.m., preceded by Special Guests, a live rendition of our National Anthem—O Canada—along with the Legion Honour Guard, an Official Ceremonial Puck Drop by Grace McKeen, 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.

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 • 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 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

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Game Day / Event Details

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