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The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award

Media Release

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FOR NOON RELEASE

OTTAWA'S DR. AUBRY TO RECEIVE DR. TOM PASHBY SPORTS SAFETY AWARD Presentation at Scotiabank Place on Tuesday, June 27 at 11 a.m.

TORONTO – The **Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award** selection committee announced today that Ottawa physician **Mark Aubry** is the 2006 recipient of this coveted award. The official presentation of the third annual Pashby Award trophy, along with the \$10,000 cash prize, will be made to Dr. Aubry on **Tuesday, June 27 at 11 a.m. at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.**

The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award recognizes outstanding contributions towards the prevention of catastrophic injuries in sport and recreational activities. 'Doc' Pashby died in August 2005 at the age of 90. The first award was presented in 2004 to Dr. Patrick Bishop, professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo and impact biomechanics expert. In 2005, the recipient was neurosurgeon Dr. Karen Johnston, the director of the concussion program at the McGill Sports Medicine Clinic in Montreal.

Dr. Aubry, a sports medicine specialist based in Ottawa and Gatineau, has contributed to the research of spinal cord injuries and concussions not only in Canada, but internationally. He has been the chief medical officer for the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) since 1998 and Hockey Canada since 2004. Dr. Aubry is also a member of International Olympic Medical Commission. In addition to having served on medical staffs for Canadian national and Olympic teams, he is currently a team physician for the National Hockey League's Ottawa Senators, the Ontario Hockey League's Ottawa 67's and the Ottawa Lynx triple-A baseball club.

WHAT:	Presentation of the 2006 Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award
WHEN:	Tuesday, June 27 at 11 a.m.
WHO:	2006 Recipient: Dr. Mark Aubry of Ottawa Presenters: Bill Pashby , Dr. Pashby's son; Jane Pashby , Dr. Pashby's daughter Speakers: Senator J. Trevor Eyton , chairman of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame; Murray Costello , former president of Hockey Canada (then CAHA), member of the IIHF Council and is chairman of both the IIHF's medical and technical/arena committees; Todd Jackson , senior manager of safety and insurance at Hockey Canada
WHERE:	Club 101 room, Scotiabank Place, Ottawa - located at the lower level: enter by Gate 1 (main entrance) and park in Lot 3 next to Marshy's restaurant
Info:	Award criteria and guidelines are available at www.drpushby.ca

BACKGROUNDER - "Injury prevention takes many forms," says Bill Pashby, chairman of the Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund. "One of the first ways is through compiling injury statistics to determine the extent of problems and, where possible, the causes.

"In fact this is how father got started many years ago on eye injuries, gathering statistics. Eventually his research made hockey people aware that steps needed to be taken to prevent the alarming number of blind eyes that were happening."

As the Chief Medical Officer for Hockey Canada and the International Ice Hockey Federation, Dr. Aubry has been involved in setting up injury research where the findings are circulated to people in every aspect of the game. This creates wider awareness of the risks of catastrophic injuries. Plus, it shows how these injuries can happen so that players, coaches and even referees can take steps to prevent them.

In fact the IIHF instituted a "no head checking" rule largely as a result of this research. Since then other hockey bodies have followed and this has been a major step to reduce concussions.

Dr. Aubry's association with Canadian hockey in international play dates back to the 1987 World Junior Tournament in Czechoslovakia. He was a part of the 1988 Calgary Olympics medical team and served as the "safety person" on his sons' hockey teams for years.

With Hockey Canada, and its forerunner the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, Dr. Aubry consulted on the Safety Manuals, the Risk Management Program and the "Train the Trainers" program.

The Chief Medical Officer for the IIHF since 1998, he set up a 5-year plan with player safety the key issue. He is also a member of the International Olympic Medical Commission.

Through his IIHF work Dr. Aubry has been involved in organizing two International Symposia on Concussions in Sport. At these gatherings, where many diverse ideas were presented, a consensus was reached on "return-to-play guidelines" which are so important after concussions to prevent long-term consequences.

Furthermore the IIHF established an “injury reporting system” which has been in effect now for eight years. All tournament teams must report every injury in games and practices.

“With 24 different championships a year plus Olympic qualifying games, we have been able to accumulate a lot of very helpful data which we share with everybody else in the game,” explains Dr. Aubry.

“We are working closely with the referees so that they are more aware of the real dangerous situations on the ice. Plus I think we have had an effect on the level of respect players have for each others physical safety.”

‘Respect’ has always been a key word in injury prevention, and it is now on the back of every IIHF practice jersey as an on-ice reminder about the dangers of checking from behind and checking to the head.

Mark Aubry is a team physician for the National Hockey League’s Ottawa Senators, and also works with the Canadian Major Hockey League’s Ottawa 67s and the Ottawa Lynx baseball club.

For all of the above reasons he is now also a very worthy winner of the Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award for the Prevention of Catastrophic Injuries in Sports and Recreational Activities.

For more information on the Award Criteria and Guidelines see the Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund website at www.drpushby.ca/

PASHBY AWARD CONTACTS:

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ABOUT THE PASHBY SAFETY AWARD

The **PASHBY SAFETY AWARD** honours a Canadian for his/her significant contribution towards the prevention of catastrophic injuries in sport or recreational activities. This annual award includes a **\$10,000 prize**.

Catastrophic injuries leave a person with a permanent physical, mental or psychological deficit. Typically such injuries involve the eyes, brain or spinal cord.

Pashby Award recipients could be: Researchers, Equipment or Facility Designers, Doctors, Trainers, Educators, Entrepreneurs, Rule Makers, Organizers, Innovative Athletes, Coaches, Referees, Parents or simply any Concerned Canadian Citizen. Even Broadcasters or Writers, who have significantly raised awareness of the catastrophic risks thereby contributing to prevention of these devastating injuries, would be eligible for this Award.

"By recognizing Canadians whose efforts have succeeded in reducing these serious injuries in sports and recreational activities, we hope to inspire others to work towards even greater successes in this field," stated Dr. Tom Pashby in 2004 when the Award was inaugurated. "Sport provides participants so many benefits that we know the rewards far outweigh the risks. But the risks of catastrophic injuries cannot be ignored and must be minimized."

The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund is pleased to have the support of **Canada's Sports Hall of Fame**. The Pashby Safety Award trophy and its winners are becoming part of a Hall Sport Safety display being designed with input from Canada's great sport heroes.

Nominations for the 2006 Award were evaluated by the **Pashby Award Advisory Committee – Therese Brisson, Murray Costello, Ken Dryden, Richard Garneau, Russ Jackson, Kerrin Lee-Gartner and Brian Williams**. They made recommendations to the Selection Committee composed of Pashby Fund and Sport Hall representatives who made the final decision.

3 Reasons Why this Award was established: - To recognize and reward significant contributions towards the prevention of catastrophic injuries in sport and recreation - To raise awareness of the need to prevent such catastrophic injuries - To inspire others to work towards this noble goal.



Pashby Award Criteria and Guidelines

- Recipient must be a Canadian citizen.
- Recipient must have taken an initiative which has significantly contributed towards the prevention of catastrophic injuries in sports or recreational activities.
- Recipient cannot be a member of The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund. However the recipient's initiative could have received support from the Fund.
- The Pashby Award is an annual award. However, if in the opinion of the Selection Committee no nomination for the Award is considered worthy, no Award presentation will be made that year.
- Advisory Committee members make their recommendations to the Selection Committee after evaluating Nominees who qualify under the above guidelines.
- The Selection Committee reviews Advisory Committee member recommendations and decides which nominee has made the most significant contribution to the prevention of catastrophic injuries in sports and recreational activities.
- Decision of the Pashby Award Selection Committee is final.



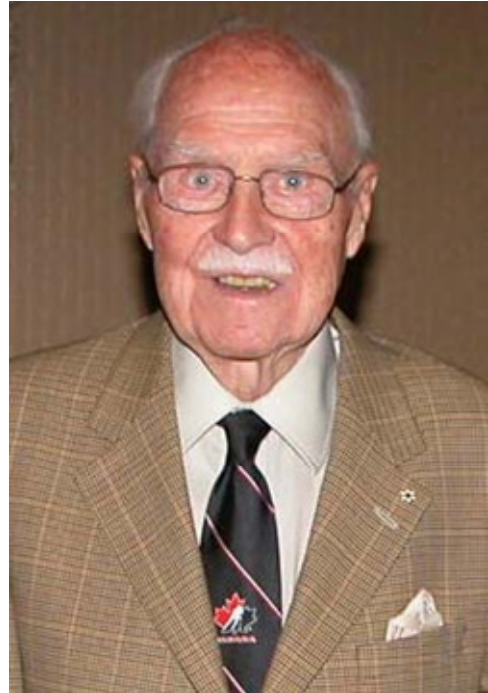
CLARIFICATIONS

- The initiative can be a single preventive act or a series of preventive acts.
- The initiative does not have to have been made in the previous year. There are no time limits on when the initiative or series of initiatives are made.
- Prevention initiatives can involve:
 - Creating greater awareness of the risks of catastrophic injuries in sports and recreation activities;
 - Creating greater awareness of how to avoid the risks of receiving or causing catastrophic injuries in sports and recreation activities;
 - Taking actions that eliminate, or reduce, catastrophic injuries in sports and recreation activities.
- The prevention initiative must relate to catastrophic injuries – those which leave victims with a permanent physical, mental or psychological deficit. These injuries typically involve the eyes, spinal cord or brain.

THE DR. TOM PASHBY SPORTS SAFETY FUND

It really started January 19, 1989, the day after Dr. Tom Pashby received the first Canadian Sports Safety Award from the Canadian Sports Spine and Head Injury Association. It was his eleventh award for his work on safety in sports, including the Order of Canada in 1981.

That day the Toronto ophthalmologist was featured in a Toronto Star article. "My father has always been a behind-the-scenes man and never wanted publicity," said Dr. Pashby's son Bob. "He casts a big shadow but always steps aside to let the sun shine on someone else." Those words brought tears to his father's eyes and he joked, "He must owe me money.'



That was the moment Virginia Edmonds, Lois Kalchman and Bev Woods realized Tom Pashby's work was really important and must be continued. These three ladies had worked with 'Doc' and neurosurgeon Dr. Charles Tator on the Committee for the Prevention of Spinal Cord Injuries Due to Hockey. They knew how respected 'Doc' was. He had persevered in injury prevention for 20 years, first eliminating blinding eye injuries in amateur hockey and then focusing on spinal injuries. He had always used his own money and feared others may not be so generous.

The idea of establishing a Pashby Fund emerged. 'Doc' was passionate about neck injuries. He hated seeing young athletes cut down in their prime, unnecessarily sentenced to life in a wheelchair. There had to be a way to educate and perhaps prevent, or at least minimize, these paralyzing injuries that had crept into the sport he loved so much.

The ladies approached Dr. Tator with the Fund concept. "Do it!" he said. And so it began. Nine months later, 'Doc', Charles Tator, Virginia Edmonds, Lois Kalchman, and Toronto Maple Leaf Ed Olczyk all met for dinner in north Toronto. Olczyk knew of someone who had a spinal cord injury and was supportive. The stage was set.

The first meeting of the Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund was December 16, 1989 in his home hosted by his beloved wife Helen. 'Doc' was the Chair. Sons Bill and Bob Pashby along with daughter Jane, plus Edmonds, Kalchman and Woods, as well as Bob Secord, John Cooper, and Jim Dixon were all there.

Just as the mission was identified - **to prevent catastrophic injuries in sports** -suddenly everybody noticed out the window that a group of young people in wheel chairs were rolling by. Surely this was a sign that there was work to be done.

The first fundraising dinner celebrated Doc's 75th birthday in March 1990 followed by another on November 12, 1991 on the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of Maple Leaf Gardens. Four more dinners have been held, raising more than half a million dollars.

The Fund has given grants to: Smart Hockey, More Safety, More Fun Video – Researching Hockey Helmets and Goalie Head and Face Protection – Safe Diving Video – Metro Toronto Injury Prevention Coalition Kids Safety Education Program – Get-A-Head Injury Prevention Program – ThinkFirst School Safety Program – Hockey Development Centre for Ontario Trainers' Program – Dartmouth Whalers Minor Hockey Fair Play Education Program – Providing CSA approved hockey helmets & full face protectors to players who need them – Concussion in Skiing and Snowboarding Study – ThinkFirst Canada Concussion Video and Diving Video – Canadian Hockey Association Concussion Awareness, Prevention Program – Bicycle Helmet Safety Promotion – Hockey Spinal Cord Injury Surveys – Heroes Program aimed at the promotion of injury prevention among teens – Sportsmart Canada Hockey Injury Survey – Safety Equipment Signs in Ontario Recreational Facilities – Ontario Medical Association & Canadian Academy of Sports Medicine Annual Speakers Award.

Another project of the Pashby Fund was staging a Concussion Management Seminar at the Air Canada Centre especially for doctors and trainers, and many coaches attended too. It came about after the Greater Toronto Hockey League made a regulation that any player who received a head injury could not return to play until cleared by a doctor.

This December 6, 2003 seminar provided over 500 attendees with the latest medical information on recognition of **possible** concussion symptoms, and **post** concussion symptoms which must completely clear up before a player can safely return to play.

It was so successful that it is sponsoring another seminar to be held in November 2006 at the Air Canada Centre and will again feature the 2005 Pashby Award winner neurosurgeon Dr. Karen Johnston.

The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award was established in 2004. The goal is to focus more attention on this critical area of catastrophic injuries in sports and to find new ways to minimize their risks.

Doc, along with his Fund associates, hoped that this award which recognizes and rewards Canadians for significant contributions in this critical field will inspire others to take up the challenge to make sports and recreational activities safer from these devastating injuries.