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The Dr. Tom Pashby
Sports Safety Award

Media Release

Sunday, September 9, 2006

FOR NOON RELEASE

WINDSOR'S KEVIN STUBBINGTON TO RECEIVE DR. TOM PASHBY SPORTS SAFETY AWARD Presentation at Windsor Holiday Inn Select on Monday, September 10 at 11 a.m.

The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund is proud to announce Kevin Stubbington as the 2007 recipient of the Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund Award for his significant contribution to the prevention of catastrophic injuries in hockey. The Pashby Safety Award is housed in Canada Sports Hall of Fame and each winner receives a \$10,000 prize. The presentation to Kevin Stubbington takes place at the Windsor Holiday Inn Select tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock.

Stubbington, 56, a Windsor minor hockey coach and former referee-in-chief, came up with the idea of putting the familiar hexagonal STOP sign on the back of hockey sweaters. The idea was to remind players while they are on the ice not to check from behind because such checks had proven to be a primary cause of some paralyzing spinal cord injuries. He introduced his idea in Windsor in 1996 and now STOP signs can be seen on hockey sweaters across Canada and beyond. Kevin says STOP stands for "Safety Towards Other Players".

Stubbington's common sense initiative, along with hockey rule changes and other education programs, has resulted in a reduction in catastrophic spinal cord hockey injuries. Of course nobody can say exactly how many serious injuries have been avoided by any particular initiative. But Doc Pashby, whose name the Award honours, always said, "If we can prevent one person from ending up in a wheel chair, or one blind eye, all our work will be worthwhile."

"Dad would be thrilled to see Kevin win The Pashby Award," said his son Dr. Bob Pashby now president of The Pashby Fund. "Kevin is the grass roots kind of guy Doc envisioned someday winning this award. He never thought of it as being just for doctors or those engaged in health care fields. I just hope Kevin winning the Pashby Award inspires other people in other sports to put on their thinking caps and come up with other good ideas to prevent catastrophic injuries."

Murray Costello, then president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, now chairman of the International Ice Hockey Federation Medical Committee recalls Stubbington bringing the STOP sign idea to him. "I didn't know if it would work," Costello remembers, "but we definitely wanted to educate pursuing players not to hit from behind. I told him to take it to his local association and the rest is history. I congratulate him on winning the prestigious Pashby Award."

Previous Pashby Award winners include Professor Pat Bishop, neurosurgeon Dr. Karen Johnston and Hockey Canada chief medical officer Dr. Mark Aubry. Details are on Pashby Fund website.

**For further information go to www.drpushby.ca/
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