



1111 ECHOES

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY

FALL 2016

Planning for 2017 – and We Need You!

By Buster Clegg
Heritage Society President

Dear ex-Reds, other pros and all hockey fans: Next year we will celebrate our 17th annual reunion the weekend of Aug. 4-6, 2017.

At our 16th last year I asked all players to try to recruit players from the 1970s – a target that we have been somewhat unsuccessful in hitting the past few years.

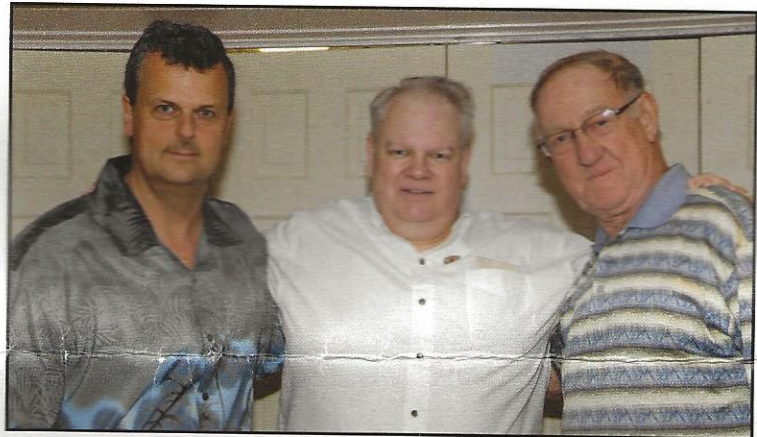
Players from that decade – Hartland Monahan and Mike Bloom – raised their hands and offered to contact their lists of former teammates. Johnny Hutton, who could not attend because of illness, later offered a couple of names via mail that we will pursue. Thanks guys!

At the same time, our Saturday night guest speaker David Belisle, assistant coach at Mt. St. Charles Academy, said he'll pursue former Mounties who live in Rhode Island or nearby, including 10 ex-NHL stars Bryan Berard, Brian Boucher, Dave Capuano, Keith Carney, Paul Guay, Jeff Jillson, Brian Lawton, Mathew Schnieder, Garth Snow and Tom Songin.

Restoration of the Bower Bus is another topic of concern. For the past three years our Society has offered to sponsor half (\$2,500) of its rental and the offer is still on the table.

Danny Lewicki has offered to solicit some of his many contacts in Toronto to help provide the rest. Danny, we know you can do it.

Here at the R. I. Reds Heritage Society our directors already have been busily working on plans for our 17th. First, we have signed a contract with the Hampton Inn & Suites, our favorite home base for so many years.



For a solid decade now, Monty Seli, Steve Flynn and John Finley have made the trek from Canada to the Reds reunion weekend.

Friday night at the hotel we'll have our casual "Meet & Greet" as usual, with a few new lively twists added (possibly to be revealed in our Winter newsletter in January or better yet remain secret until the event.)

For Saturday we're exploring a number of surprise possibilities. There are oodles of attractions here in Rhode Island worth examining. And beautiful, breezy Goddard State Park has been booked again for the 17th year and will host our Sunday's reunion day cookout with our new caterer – Panzi, whose delightful assortment of food offerings last year were given "thumbs up" by our guests.

I submit this update hoping that our volunteers will be successful and other players join. Don't forget, your help will be welcomed too. **WE NEED YOU!**

PS: Please don't forget to renew your membership. Your form is in this mailing.



REUNION 2016

Meet, Greet & Eat

By Vin Cimini

Heritage Society Board of Directors

They came from as far away as Los Angeles and San Jose...and from Atlanta, Quebec and Long Island. They came by plane and train and from not so very far by car...from nearby Peabody and New Haven and from our own backyard here in Rhode Island.

But, no matter what got them here, they all arrived with their smiles, their stories, and, most of all, their fondness for one another and memories of some of the best days of their lives and hockey careers with the Reds.

The occasion was the "Meet & Greet," the traditional first gathering of the R.I.Red's Heritage Society's 16th annual Reunion Weekend. It was held on Friday, Aug. 5, at the Hampton Inn in Warwick and, as usual, it was filled with players, spouses and family members, as well as Society board members and fans and friends who also made the trip. No surprise that hugs, laughter, and reminiscences from younger days dominated the evening and the conversation.

Addressing the group in his casual, affable way, society President Buster Clegg began his introductions with congratulations to Bruce Cline on his long overdue induction into the American Hockey League's Hall of Fame.

Bruce, a regular at Reds' reunions, expressed his appreciation for all of the recognition and support the Society has given him over the years. Bruce also delivered best wishes from his lovely daughter, a longtime friend and contributor to our annual reunion, who is battling a serious health issue and for whom we are all saying a prayer for her recovery.

Buster took special pleasure in introducing Don McKenney, another alum who has attended every

Reds reunion, on being voted recipient of the Heritage Society's 2016 "Tops Award" in recognition of his incredible talents and the example he set as one of the game's true gentlemen.

In his remarks, Don, one of Buster's most fruitful acquisitions during his tenure as the team's GM, took time to recognize the Society's triumph in establishing and maintaining a "hockey alumni organization other cities envy and can only try to duplicate."

Also in attendance was Jack Ferreira, recipient of this year's "Native Born Achievement Award" and his beautiful wife, Kathy. Jack, a former goaltender at LaSalle Academy and All-American at Boston University, is one of professional hockey's most accomplished front-office officials. The attendees enjoyed talking to him about his remarkable journey representing the scouting and management affairs of the Hartford Whalers, Calgary Flames, Atlanta Thrashers, Montreal Canadiens, New York Rangers, Minnesota North Stars, San Jose Sharks, Anaheim Ducks, and Los Angeles Kings, where he now serves as special assistant to the general manager.

In between sandwiches and some cold Narragansetts and soft drinks donated by alum Marty Gateman, players shared tales. Buzz Deschamps recounted many stories including his team's police escort out of Memphis during the riots that followed the hateful assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King as his coach insisted on fueling up at a last-chance liquor store for the getaway.

And the ever-entertaining and still svelt Hartland Monahan assured with his bigger-than-life personality that he, too, will be joining fellow alumni on spreading the word and encouraging more of his hockey brethren to save the date and make next year's reunion even more memorable with their attendance.

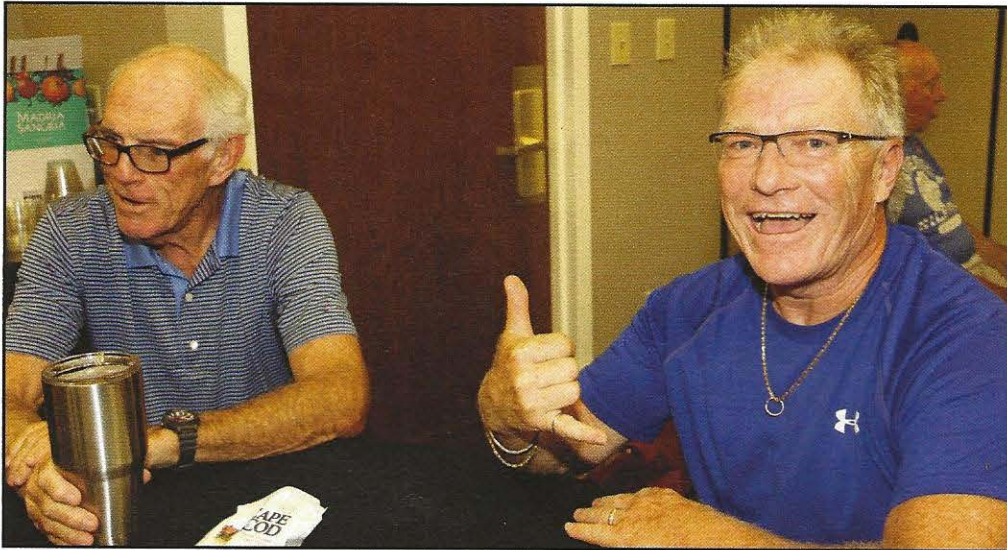


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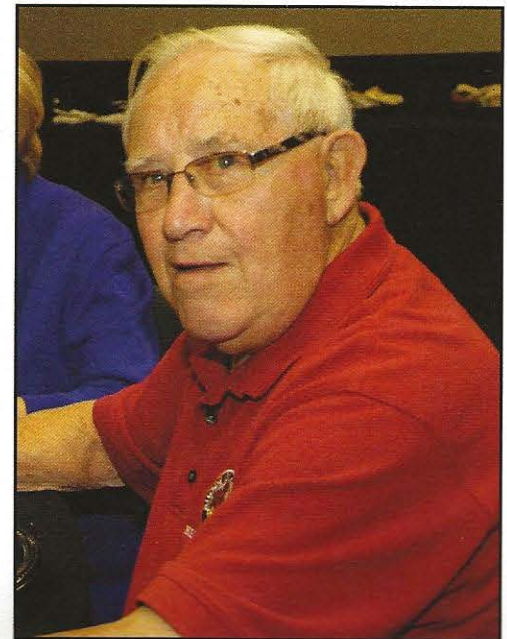
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REUNION 2016



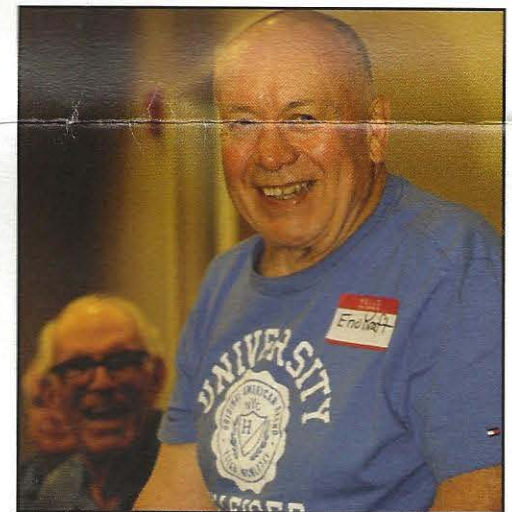
Hartland Monahan, left, and his younger brother Kim.



New AHL Hall of Famer Bruce Cline never misses a Reds reunion.



Ray and Judy Clearwater enjoy the food and hockey chat.



Eno Kraft, former New Haven Blades teammate of Ray Clearwater.



Reds directors: Front row, from left, Tom "Mike" McDonough, Bob Spaziano, Bill O'Connor, Mal Goldenberg and Dick Bartlett. Back row, Jim Clegg, Arnold "Stretch" Bailey, Buster Clegg and Vin Cimini.



Yves Locas enjoying the company of his wife Pierette, left, and Donna Buck.



REUNION 2016

A Lively Saturday Night Live

By Reba Golden
Heritage Society Member

I have an extended family, my RI Reds family. The three day RI Reds Heritage Society weekend is my favorite part of the summer. Society members and fans travel from Canada, and all over the United States for the annual weekend.

The dinner dance at Twelve Acres in Smithfield, RI, on Saturday, August 6, was a magical evening for about 95 of the nicest, kindest and generous hockey players, loyal fans and their families.

It kicked off at 6 p.m. with cocktails, conversation, pictures and autographs. The always awesome Barley Hoppers Trio welcomed everyone with their great blend of Contemporary and Country music. The excitement had just begun!

Twelve Acres is one of the best venues around, and the food was delicious! Dinner started around 7:15, with (Red, of course) chowder and yummy clam cakes. The main course was a choice of Steak, Chicken, or "Lobstah," sweet corn and potatoes. The food was cooked to perfection. We all became members of the "clean plate club" as Twelve Acres outdid themselves again!

The Sage Family Foundation



Meet the Morgans: Dad Roy and his son Dean savor father and son talk.

Award was presented to David Belisle, Mt. St. Charles Assistant Hockey Coach, for his dedication, hard work, and loyalty to the R.I. Reds Heritage Society, as well as his overall involvement in the greater R.I. community. His acceptance speech was from the heart.

He spoke about the recent loss of his beloved wife, Little League coaching, including the speech that went viral, and his involvement with hockey. It was very moving and there wasn't a dry eye in the room. He's a class act.

A second Sage Family Service Award was presented to Sean Lavoine, American Hockey League Vice President of corporate sales and licensing, for his 17 years of service as a productive and encouraging liaison between the AHL and our society. Buster Clegg, society president, said of Lavoine, "Any time we needed help or advice from the AHL, Sean has been our go-to-

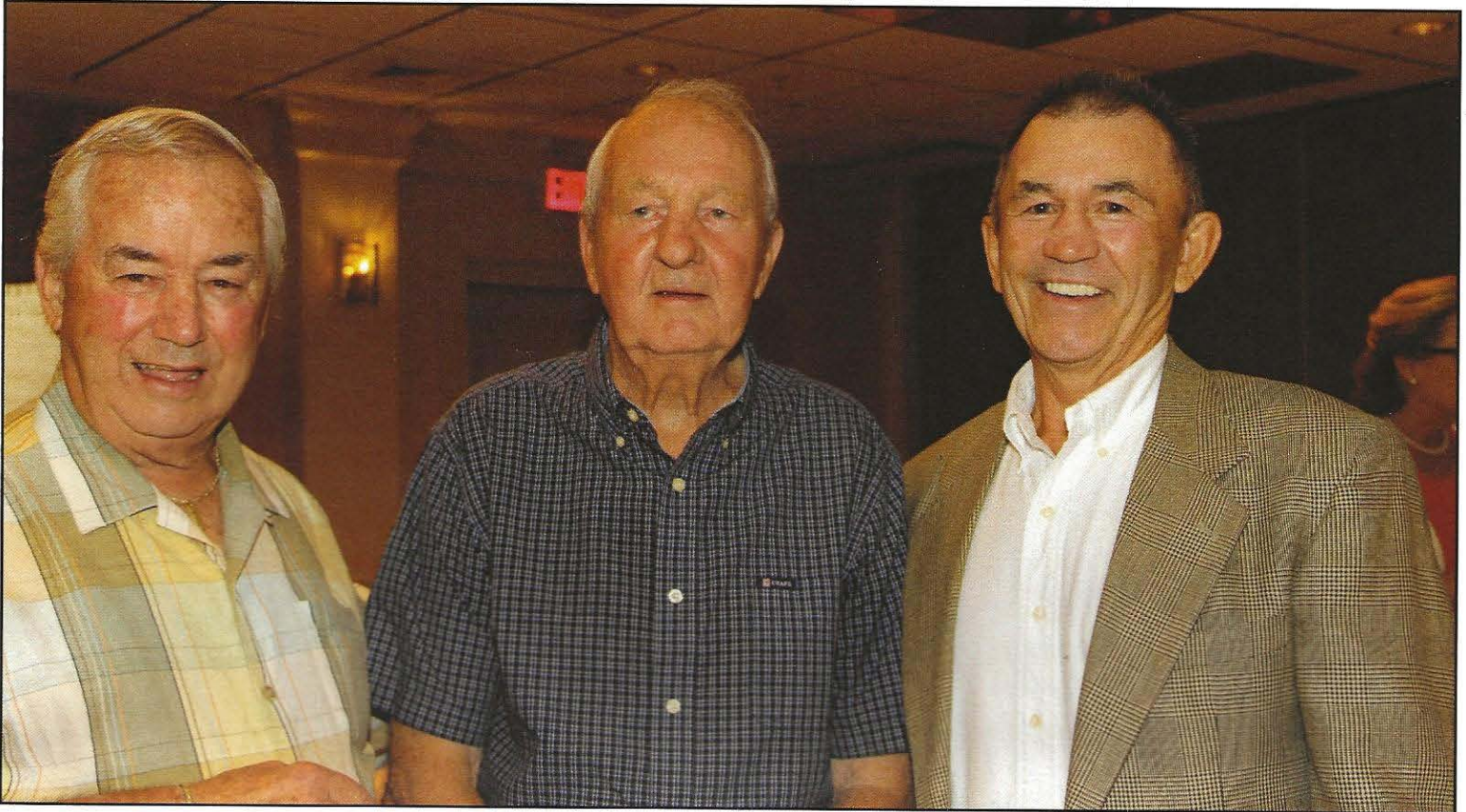
guy. Most recently he gave us permission to adapt the AHL Skills Tests to test local youth and high school hockey groups and the kids (both boys and girls) loved it."

The R.I. Reds Heritage Society's President's Award went to Vin Cimini who in his first year as a member of the Board of Directors, has brought new ideas and innovations to the Society. "Vin is an experienced marketing guy who in a short time has given to us about a dozen new ideas to keep our society top of mind, reminding people that the origin of hockey growth here began with our Reds back in 1926," said Arnie Bailey, the society's vice president.

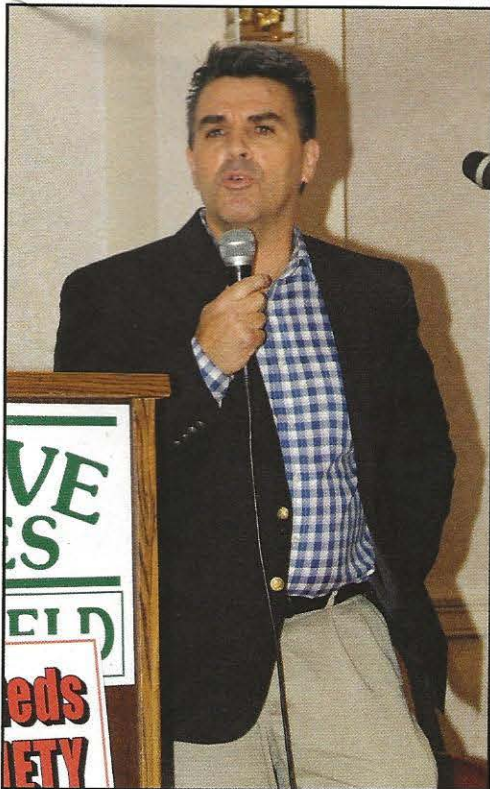
The rest of the evening was relaxing.

The Barley Hoppers Trio played on through the night, while people tripped the light fantastic and socialized until the event (sadly) ended.

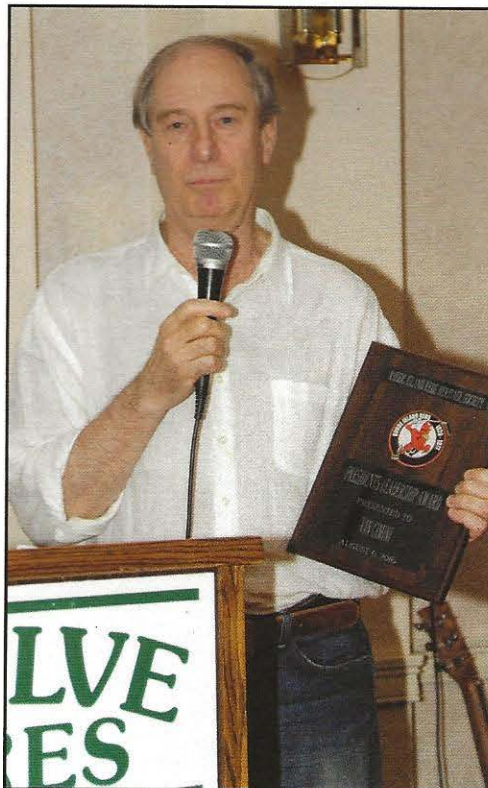
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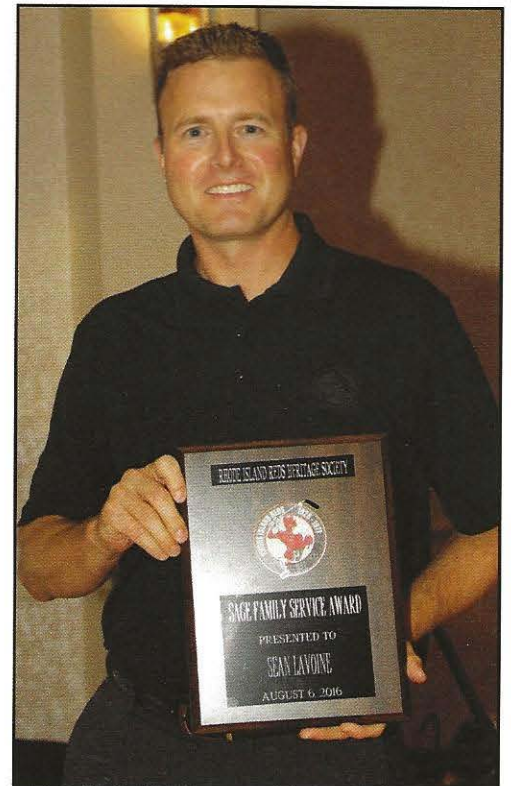
Serge Boudreault, Don Mckenney and Bobby Leduc.



David Belisle talks about what coaching, community and family have taught him.



Vin Cimini receives the President's Award for his contributions to the Heritage Society.



Sean Lavoine shows off his Sage Family Service Award.



REUNION 2016

A Very Sunny Sunday

By Arnie Bailey
Heritage Society Vice President

Hockey heroes, past and present shared the stage and the spotlight during the final day of the 16th annual reunion of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society. The weather was perfect: sunny, 80 degrees, and all enjoyed the comfortable breeze off the waters nearby.

Leading the hockey heroes of the past was Don McKenney, a former Boston Bruins star who wrapped up his playing career with the Reds. He received the Tops Award which honors the memory of Zellio Toppazzini, the Reds' "Player of the Century."

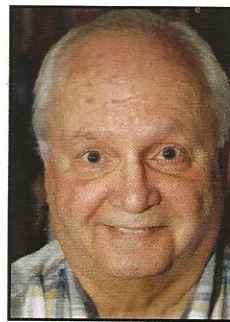
McKenney was a high scorer and Lady Bing Trophy winner during his nine seasons in Boston in the NHL. He joined the Reds in Providence for the 1968-69 season and led the team in scoring. McKenney then spent a decade coaching at Northeastern University, first as Ferny Flaman's assistant, then as head coach. He also operated youth hockey camps with former Bruins teammate Doug Mohns. He and his wife Margie have been supporters of the Heritage Society since its founding.

He spoke of the many changes

in hockey since he was an active player, and was critical of the ways that money – higher salaries, higher ticket prices – changed the game.

Another hero from hockey's past in attendance was Bruce Cline, recently inducted into the American Hockey League Hall of Fame. Like McKenney, Cline has been a supporter of the Society from the beginning, and also backs a similar organization in Springfield, Mass., where he spent part of his career. Cline was especially pleased with the new set of hockey cards created by the Society to commemorate the 1955-56 championship team. He was a member of that team and the AHL's rookie of the year.

A hero of a different type was Larry D'Alfonso, a longtime Reds fan who came to be known as "Lincoln Larry" (he lived in the town of Lincoln, R.I.). What he was best known for was heckling visiting players from his season-ticket seat behind the opposing



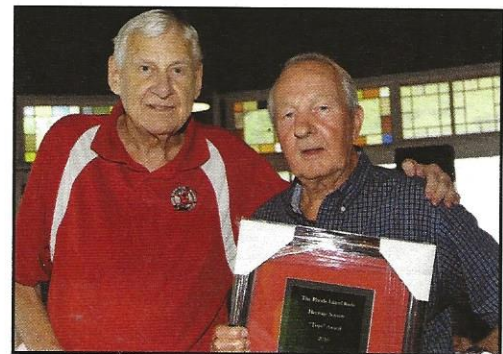
Jack Ferreira,
recipient of the
Native-Born
Hockey Achievement
Award.

team's bench. "Heckling" may be too mild a description. What he did best was get Reds' opponents angry, and focused on him rather than on the game.

The Frank E. McCaffrey Fan of the Year Award was presented posthumously (he passed away in 1994) to D'Alfonso's daughter, Patty Fox. Making the presentation was former Reds star Buzz Deschamps also had played for Baltimore. During one game between the Clippers and Reds at the old Auditorium, Lincoln Larry's taunting got Deschamps so angry that he climbed into the stands – in full uniform including skates – to deliver a physical retort to Larry's vocal barrage. Buzz and Patty exchanged some humorous comments about the incident.

Another Reds hero from the past was remembered during the program when a framed, full-color image depicting the sadness at the passing of Zellio Toppazzini was presented to his widow Shirley. The artwork was by R.I. artist Frankie Galasso.

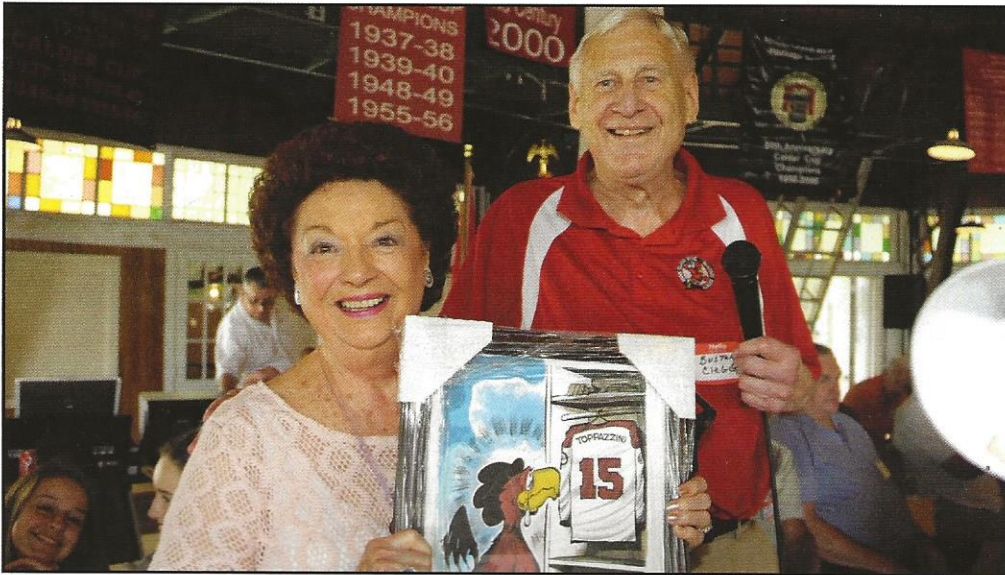
A Rhode Islander very much a part of hockey's present – Jack Ferreira – was presented the Native-Born Hockey Achievement Award. Now serving with the Los Angeles Kings in his



Don McKenney receives the Tops Award from Buster Clegg.



REUNION 2016



Shirley Toppazzini, widow of the great Zellio Toppazzini, holds an illustration of the Reds rooster crying at Topper's locker. The illustration, created by Frankie Galasso when Topper passed, was presented to Shirley by Society President Buster Clegg.

Buzz Deschamps recounts how he was the frequent target of Reds fan Linciln Larry D'Alfonso to his daughter, Patty Fox.



44th season of pro hockey, he was an All-State high school goalie in R. I., then an All-American at Boston University. His long service in professional hockey includes nine seasons as an NHL general manager. Ferreira, also a loyal supporter of the Reds Society, spoke about his Rhode Island roots and the importance of the game of hockey in his life and in his native state.

Other hockey heroes of the present – and the future – were

four of the six R.I. Interscholastic League hockey players who earned the Society's "Unsung Heroes" awards for 2016. The awards commemorate three great Reds players – goalie Gil Mayer, represented by his son Andre, a member of the Society's Board; defenseman Ferny Flaman, represented by his daughter, Laurie (Flaman) Fletcher; and forward Chuck Scherza, represented by his son Rick who also is on the Society's Board.

Presented to the audience of

over 225 at the Goddard State Park carousel were forward Brittney Bidwell of Cranston East/East Greenwich Co-Op, goalie Victoria Hartley of La-Salle Academy, forward Zachary Librizzi of St. Raphael Academy/PSW and defenseman David Gaulin of Smithfield. Unable to attend were Brynne Costa, a star on defense for East Providence, and goalie Colin Clegg of Barrington High. Each of the "Unsung Heroes" preferred to let their honors speak for them rather than address the audience.

Catering was by Panzi of Providence and featured steak and chicken plus an array of other tasty delights including pizza d'oeuvres.

Available throughout the event was Reds-related merchandise including new lines of caps, shirts and jackets (displayed hanging on R.I. Auditorium-like chicken wire) plus the first trading card set produced by the Society which was unveiled at the reunion.

As in past years, Tom McDonough was master-of-ceremonies and sang the American and Canadian national anthems. A member of the Society's Board, he also organized the raffle and silent auction. Also, as in past years, Bill O'Connor was reunion committee chair. Also a member of the Board, he has chaired the annual event for most of its 16 seasons.

And the sounds of "Roll Out The Barrel" from the Reds' "Beer Barrel Polka" team song served as a rousing background for the festivities as it had done for so long at the R.I. Auditorium.

Compassion Reaching West to Calgary

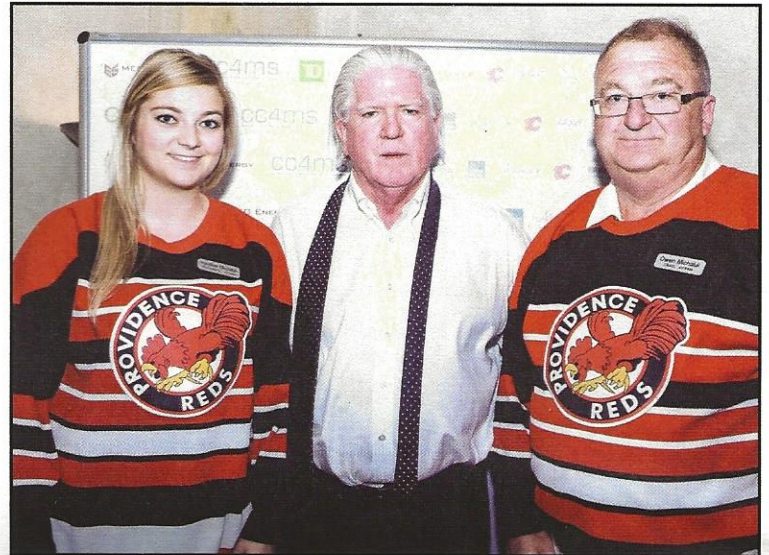
Owen Michaluk is a former police officer who established the first sexual assault desk in Calgary high schools. He is also the son of the late, great Art Michaluk, hard-hitting defenseman with our Rhode Island Reds from 1947 thru 1952. In early 2016 Owen called our society with an unusual request. But first things first.

His dad Art is remembered with the Rhode Island Reds for serving out punishing hip checks at center ice and in his own zone to opponents. With the Reds he was part of a miracle team that won the memorable 1948-49 Calder Cup championship for a club that improbably came back in the finals from a 3-game to one deficit to win three consecutive victories against Hershey to take the cup, four games to three.

After leaving the Reds, Art moved back to his hometown and played for the Calgary Stampeders, with whom he was a team hero in the Western Hockey League for six seasons from 1952 thru 1958. Despite his toughness, he was a clean player; he never served more than 58 minutes in single season during his entire pro career. In his spare time Art was a public servant and a member of the Calgary police force. Unfortunately, Art was able to attend just one of our reunions before he passed away in 2006 at age of just 82.

Owen, who now serves as chairman of the Canadian Centre for Male Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse, told us of a series of lunches to continue and raise awareness of the organization's mission. Each "Magnificent Men!" lunch features a talk by a civic or business leader.

The June 10 lunch featured Brian Burke, a former Providence College hockey star and now president of hockey operations for the Calgary Flames. For that event, Owen asked the Society to provide (at his personal expense) two replica Reds uniform jerseys from the 1940s saluting Art's number 4. We said yes and would include the name Michaluk on the back (something never worn in his playing days).



Heather Michaluk, Brian Burke and Owen Michaluk. The Society provided two jerseys with Michaluk's number 4.



Owen's story, in his own words: "The event at the Palliser, a landmark hotel in Calgary, Alberta, was sold out and the largest ever thus far. We had

approximately 320 guests and Brian Burke was pleased he set the record, beating out the previous record holder, the famous news person of the CBC network, Peter Mansbridge. Brian was great and raised the awareness of the need and availability for treatment for male survivors of sexual abuse.

"You can visit our website at www.cc4ms.ca. Click on Magnificent Men 2016 for more details. Brian had a good chuckle when he saw the uniforms and it brought back memories when he played for Springfield.

"My daughter Heather was very moved with the uniform representing her grandfather, whom she misses dearly. (The Society's) contribution to this production of the jerseys was so wonderful."