

Lyle Gibson

Thank You. Good morning to all and thank you for coming. My name is Shirley Gibson and today, I am very proud to honour my husband Lyle Gibson in this dedication ceremony. Lyle passed May 30 of last year. This stone with his name and the word Hockey on it will be represent this love for hockey.

This honour was suggested to me by Enid Rabb, wife of the late Jack Rabb, who were both hard working members of the Rideau Environmental Action League who have arranged this dedication. Jack and Enid were not only our neighbors for 59 years but became our friends. I might add that the late Jim Bobier who is/was also being honoured today and like Jack and Enid were not only our neighbours but Jim and his wife Lena also became our friends.

Lyle was a dedicated hockey player who not only played rightwing but was an excellent penalty killer. He played hockey the same as he fought cancer-he gave it his all. Lyle was born in Smiths Falls and played minor hockey here with the excellent coaching of the late Bill Doyle.

At the age of 18, Lyle was drafted by the New York Rangers and had the opportunity to attend their training camp in Winnipeg. The National Hockey League at that time consisted of only 6 teams which made it very difficult to make one of these teams.

Lyle didn't make the team but as Lyle had one more year of junior he was sent to the Galt Rockets who were part of the Rangers organization. Lyle still had a year of junior hockey the Rangers sent Lyle to the Galt Rockets. He played there in 1947 and 1948 as an assistant captain.

It was always a family joke at our dinner table in that he could not remember our children's exact date of their births. He had the month, but when either our children Shelly or John would often ask him the years he played in Galt he always a quick answer - 47/48.

After his year in Galt he had the opportunity to play in the American Hockey League but he and his brother Ron then decided to open up a business and called it Gibson's Booth. Years later as the result of the subway change a new building erected and the business became Gibson's Drive-In. This was a successful family business for 38 years at which time because of illness was sold.

During those years Lyle also played for the Smiths Falls Rideaus and the Brockville Majedomas.

At age 70 Lyle had the opportunity to play in the Snoopy Tournament in Santa Rosa, California, along with Tony Oostrom and John Halpin. The Snoopy Tournament operated by Charles Shultz and consisted of many teams from all over North America. It has been a yearly event for many years.

Lyle and I were blessed with two children, Shelly and John and their spouses, two grandchildren Shane and Quinton and two great-grandchildren Reagan and Fox and their families. Thank you again on behalf of Lyle and our family for this honour.