

## Council Delegations



### Background

Council for the City of Grand Forks welcomes public input and encourages individuals and groups to make their views known to Council at an open public meeting.

Council needs to know all sides of an issue, and the possible impacts of any action they make take, prior to making a decision that will affect the community. The following outline has been devised to assist you in preparing for your presentation, so that you will understand the kind of information that Council will require, and the expected time frame in which a decision will be forthcoming. Council may not make a decision at this meeting.

### Presentation Outline

*Please see attached.*

Presentations may be a maximum of 10 minutes.

Your Worship, Mayor Konrad, and Members of Council, I/We are here on behalf of

to request that you consider *Please refer to attached documents.*

The reason(s) that I/We are requesting this action are:

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I/We believe that in approving our request the community will benefit by:

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**FILE CODE**

*WEB 2 D2 - Gerry Foster*

## **Council Delegations (cont.)**

I/We believe that by not approving our request the result will be:

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In conclusion, I/we request that Council for the City of Grand Forks adopt a resolution stating: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Gerry Foster

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Including Postal Code)

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The information provided on this form is collected under the authority of the Community Charter and is a matter of public record, which will form a part of the Agenda for a Regular Meeting of Council. The information collected will be used to process your request to be a delegation before Council. If you have questions about the collection, use and disclosure of this information contact the "Coordinator" City of Grand Forks.

N:Forms/Delegation Form

### Council Delegation – Presentation Outline

Your Worship, Mayor Konrad, and Members of Council, I am here on behalf of the residents of Grand Forks with respect to an important and fascinating part of Grand Forks history, however this is my own initiative.

\*[Note the handout of the article entitled The Wee Scot, Hall of Fame hockey player whose career and life were very much a part of Grand Forks.]

My purpose is to request a long overdue honour in memory of Duncan McMillan "Mickey" MacKay.

I believe that recognizing this remarkable athlete is not only long overdue but will serve to establish, for all time, an important part of our local history, specifically one of our city's finest athletes.

The day after his death, leading newspapers across Canada, from Calgary to Montreal, displayed headlines announcing his death. The Calgary Herald contained these words, "MacKay's death wrote finis to the career of one of hockey's immortals."

\*My suggestion would be to consider something near or around the arena. One suggestion is to name the "Lane" which runs through the Rec Centre from 19<sup>th</sup> Street to 21<sup>st</sup> Street – **Mickey MacKay Lane** or another option to name the Recreation Centre area **Mickey MacKay Place**.

\*The cost would not be too great, consisting mainly of one or two signs, one at each end of the Lane. Also a plaque for inside the Arena.

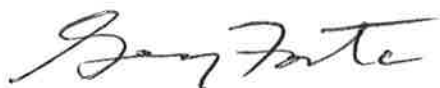
\*Not only would this pay tribute to one of our outstanding athletes but would also serve to inform others of a special part of this community's history. In addition this story would resonate with many tourists who visit us each year. Visitors would remember Grand Forks as the place where "one of the finest centremen the game ever produced" called home.

\*In addition we have many young hockey players in the Grand Forks Minor Hockey Association. This would serve as an inspiration to them for years to come. And obviously this would be very meaningful to players and coaches of our Grand Forks Border Bruins Junior hockey team. This team was established in 1969 and plays in the KIJHL, considered to be one of the best and most historic Junior B hockey leagues in Canada.

In conclusion I would ask that the Council for the City of Grand Forks adopt a resolution to proceed with this request. It would be prudent and appropriate to make this decision soon. My suggestion would be to hold an appropriate ceremony in September of this year (2018).

I would be pleased to do the necessary planning and publicity for a simple but meaningful ceremony once a date is set. I have already met with the Recreation Commission Board and they are very supportive of this plan/project.

Thank You,  
Gerry Foster



## The Wee Scot – by Gerry Foster

Driving into Chesley, Ontario from the north you are greeted by a giant bull named Big Bruce. However the story you are about to read, although it may seem astonishing, encompasses no bull.

Chesley is the birthplace of Duncan McMillan 'Mickey' MacKay whose connection with Grand Forks and hockey in British Columbia is one for the ages. To get right to the point, Mickey MacKay is one of the finest hockey players to ever don a pair of skates in BC. His stature of 5 feet 9 inches and about 163 lbs. would raise some doubts to be sure. And one source said he never really began skating till he was fifteen.

Mickey left Ontario for Alberta in 1912 and played his first season of organized hockey for the Edmonton Dominions, members of the Alberta Senior League. From there he travelled to Grand Forks where he signed as a free agent in November of 1913. He wasn't in this bustling mining town for long. After scoring 15 goals and displaying a ton of talent a larger stage awaited. The Vancouver Millionaires of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association signed him the following November.

Centering a line with the legendary Fred Cyclone Taylor, the rookie scored a hat trick in his first game of that 1914-15 season. This was merely the beginning of a fairy-tale year in hockey for Vancouver. They had an outstanding lineup. Taylor scored 23 goals during the 17 game regular season; the wee Scot recently arrived from Grand Forks and the Boundary Hockey League netted 33!

Cyclone Taylor was not bothered by this. He told his biographer Eric Whitehead years later that Mickey MacKay was one of the greatest players he ever saw. Comments on the Hockey Hall of Fame Legends of Hockey website concur, "His offensive heroics made him one of the Vancouver Millionaires' most popular stars." In *The Life and Times of Grand Forks*, written and compiled by Jim and Alice Glanville they share the following story on the exploits of Mickey MacKay. It describes a play in the final game of the 1914 season between Grand Forks and Greenwood.

*"The first period saw Mickey MacKay pull off what is perhaps a record in hockey. After facing off the puck at the very start, he started straight for the opponent's goal, beating four men enroute and tallying the first goal for the Forks in about five seconds with no one but himself having been able to touch the rubber."* Not surprisingly he was named the Cyclone of the Boundary Hockey League.

The Millionaires' won the league title and next up were the Ottawa Senators. At stake the coveted Stanley Cup. The Eastern team sported five future Hall of Famers. Yet it was the Pacific Coast squad who dominated in winning the series three straight. They blitzed the Senators 12-3 in the final game with MacKay scoring three goals. His first marker was described by the Vancouver Sun as "one of the finest bits of individual work of the night."

Vancouver's first Stanley Cup win was obvious cause for celebration. There was one damper on the party as Ottawa forgot to bring the Cup with them. Were they over confident or was it simply an inexplicable error? Perhaps in a bizarre way it was some kind of anathema as Vancouver has never again won Stanley's mug.

Three of the players on the winning team's roster – MacKay, Taylor and Barney Stanley were all from the same rural area of Ontario, living only a few miles apart. This was in itself quite remarkable but when you consider that there were only 10 players on that team with seven of them getting most of the ice time, and the stars being the aforementioned trio from Bruce County it borders on the implausible.

Gracious in defeat, the Senators Manager, Frank Shaughnessy praised the Millionaires as "the greatest combination that we have ever met." The great hockey man Lester Patrick who would later coach and/or manage the New York Rangers to three Stanley Cups, always believed that his brother Frank's 1915 team "were the best team that ever stepped on the ice." [The information in this last paragraph came from an article by Jonathon Jackson in the Owen Sound Sun Times.]

After his dream season Mickey MacKay returned to Grand Forks and evidently opened up an ice-cream and confectionery business. The following year upon completing his second season in the pros he married Anne May Reaburn, the Grand Forks postmistress, on June 12, 1916. His hockey career continued at the coast for several years, and before he moved on to the play for the Chicago Black Hawks, Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Bruins of the National Hockey League the Wee Scot would become the all-time leading scorer in the PCHA.

During his two seasons in Chicago he scored 31 goals in 70 games. In Boston he would win his second Stanley Cup, leading the Bruins to their first. It was the seventh Stanley Cup final in which Mickey participated. In his last season with the Bruins he was also in a managerial role, an assistant to Art Ross, whose name should sound familiar; the Art Ross trophy is presented to the NHL's top scorer each year.

MacKay's stellar career has been recognized several times, notably being inducted into the Hockey Hall Of Fame in 1952 with the following accolade, "A marvelous skater and goal scorer, Duncan "Mickey" MacKay was blessed with instinct and timing on the ice that was matched by few contemporaries." In 2001 he was received into the BC Hockey Hall of Fame with the following comments, "A gentleman on and off the ice, MacKay was a terror to opposing players and goaltenders with his speed, stick-handling abilities and his quick accurate shot."

In 1989 he was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame and is also a member of the Boston Bruins Hall of Fame. MacKay scored 260 regular season and playoff goals in three top-flight leagues between 1914 and 1929 when the number of games played were far fewer than today.

Mickey MacKay and Fred Cyclone Taylor were superstars. There were arguments as to which of them was the better player. Joe Pelletier, writing in his Hockey History Blog on the subject of Chicago Black Hawks Legends, referred to a Canadian Press article written by the father of west coast hockey, Lester Patrick: "(MacKay) was perhaps the greatest centre we ever had on the coast; an equal favourite with Fred (Cyclone) Taylor in the mind of the masses. I always held to the theory that Taylor was the best all-rounder, but many differed."

After his professional hockey career concluded in 1930 MacKay and his wife retired to Grand Forks. In the aforementioned Blog by Joe Pelletier he comments, "He returned to beautiful British Columbia where his heart had never left." He entered the mining business and coached local hockey teams as well

as doing some refereeing. Pelletier summed up MacKay's relationship with Grand Forks when he called it, "his new home town."

Sadly he died on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1940 while driving near Nelson. His car crashed into a pole; however a medical examiner determined that he actually died of a heart attack.

The news spread quickly right across Canada. A large headline in the Saskatoon Star Phoenix announced, "Mickey MacKay's Funeral to Take Place Tomorrow." The story opened this way, "The body of Mickey MacKay, idol of Vancouver hockey fans two decades ago and one of the finest centremen the game ever produced, was sent Friday to Grand Forks, B.C."

Frank Patrick, in a management role with the Montreal Canadiens at the time, commented, "I have lost a great friend," and added, "MacKay was one of those who helped make pro hockey a great game. He was outstanding in every way."

Earlier this year, about the time I commenced the research for this story, I wandered over to Evergreen Cemetery here in Grand Forks; it took me about 25 minutes to find Mickey. His wife Anne who died in 1986 was there beside him. I lingered in that serene setting for several minutes and thought of how fortunate thousands of hockey fans were to see him play. The Wee Scot is a prized part of Grand Forks and Boundary Country history.

The Calgary Herald reacted to his death with these words, "MacKay's death wrote finis to the career of one of hockey's immortals." I have personally been moved by the story of this hockey star. It's an awesome and special feeling to know that someone who accomplished what he did in the sport of hockey lived in our community - and skated on our ice.

You can be sure that if he had not died at a relatively young age we would be reading biographical books about the talented Wee Scot, written by gifted writers and read and enjoyed by thousands of Canadian hockey fans. This brief article in no way makes up for what might have been; hopefully in some small way it serves to highlight a substantial piece of this community's narrative.

And perhaps if more had been known and recorded earlier, Grand Forks may have named a street or park after him. Come to think of it, it's not too late is it, particularly when Grand Forks and the Boundary can rightfully lay claim to being the birth place of hockey in British Columbia.