

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Jim Martin – Builder – Modern**

- Born in Tobermory, July 11, 1942
- Played hockey in Wiarton, Tobermory and Owen Sound
- Moved to London in 1962, married Charlaine Ball 1967 and began family of 3 daughters and one son
- Was no girl's hockey organization in London at the time for their daughters to play in so the Maritn's looked to start their own
- Began with a girl's hockey programme with the South London Minor Hockey where they were able to secure limited ice time
- Key to the growth of women's hockey in London was the availability of ice time. Jim worked closely with Bob Graham of London's PUC department to find ice time for girl's hockey
- South London program started with two teams of 20-30 girls 12-18 years of age
- He went to every arena in London speaking to parents with daughters who might be interested in playing girls hockey
- He believed that females deserved their own hockey organization so in 1986 along with the assistance of a number of like-minded individuals he laid the groundwork for the London Devilettes Girl's Hockey Association
- Jim and Charlaine wanted a unique look for the group so they adopted the colour scheme of the New Jersey Devils of the NHL – red/green/white and named the organization the Devilettes
- The goal of the organization was to provide girls with the opportunity of playing hockey at all levels of competitiveness from house leagues to travelling teams
- Another goal was to level the playing field, regardless of ability, finances, or access to equipment. If the girls could not skate – they were taught to skate and provided with equipment
- In 1992-93, the 6<sup>th</sup> year of operation, over 400 girls were registered – from tyke teams through senior. 2 tyke teams and house league teams playing in structured divisions within the city
- 11 select travel teams competing in sanctioned tournaments throughout the province with one team winning silver medal and one a gold medal at the Ontario Provincial Championships.
- On the tenth anniversary in 1995-96 over 560 girls and young women were playing Devilettes hockey – that number grew to 800 for the 2017-18 season
- Was instrumental in the development of women's hockey in Ontario, taking on many roles with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association
- Over 100 former Devilettes have gone on to play university hockey in Canada and United States
- This past March, 6 former Devilettes were on teams who competed for the United States Women's Collegiate hockey title while 2 former Devilettes were on the Toronto Varsity Blues team which played in the U Sports women's final
- Katelyn Gosling and Brittany Howard have played for Team Canada

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- Professionally, 3 former Devilettes were selected in the first-ever Professional Women's Hockey League draft in 2023 while Julia Gosling was the 6<sup>th</sup> overall pick by Toronto in this year's draft
- The first goal in the Professional Women's Hockey League was scored by a former Devilette, Ella Shelton