

# Hockey medals from heroes

*Local veterans return to Cambridge to hand out awards at the Preston International Hockey Tournament*

Playing the Maple Leaf Forever, the bagpipes and drums of Air Cadet Squadron 822 brought to centre ice at the Preston Memorial Auditorium Canadian Army brothers, Daniel and David Davis, NATO returnees from duty in Afghanistan accompanied by Airman Adam Picard.

The three military young men presented trophies to the All-Star players in the Minor Atom game as part of the Preston International Hockey Tournament.

These men are former aircaders and participated in the tournament for seven years before entering the military.

Assisting in the presentations were senior members of the NATO Vets Unit 5 of Cambridge, president Gerry Bryan, vice-president Ron McNulty and Ron Green.

Another NATO veteran, retired Lt.-Col. Ron Gowling and former Commanding Officer of 822 Squadron took part in the centre ice ceremony.

Current 822 Squadron Commanding Officer Captain Robert Gillespie and honorary tournament chairman Walter Gretzky awarded tournament medal-



ions to the NATO veterans.

Marty Young, tournament announcer, was MC for the event.

He said, "It was very emotional when I asked the near-filled arena audience to stand while Cadet Chief Warrant Officer Alex Klausnitzer played *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes."

The audience remained standing for a minute's silence in remembrance for those soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan.

John McCash, tournament president said, "This is one of the most moving events I have ever seen in hockey."

He added, "Another was at our tournament in 2009 when Trooper Greg Linton was here from the Canadian Forces despite suffering serious wounds in Afghanistan when his armoured vehicle was destroyed by a roadside bomb.

At the Galt Arena Gardens, the Cambridge Hawks won the Novice A Tournament Championship by beating the Barrie Colts in the final game with a 7-2 score.

The tournament's annual Alumni team versus the Cambridge Firefighters was a thriller, with only one second left in the game Kevin Gibbs scored for the Firefighters to give them a 3-2 victory.

John Chambers scored both goals for the Alumni squad.

There were 181 games played during the three-day tournament.

The hockey committee has already met to start planning for next year's 54th annual Preston International Hockey Tournament.



Cambridge All-Stars Cole Stannix, left, Tyson Colderley and Josh Toth received their trophies from Walter Gretzky, back row left, and returned Afghanistan NATO troops David Davis, Daniel Davis and Airman Adam Picard at the Preston International Hockey Tournament.

WALTER GOWLING, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES