

**Original Submission – Blakley**

Contact Information

Name: Dr. Barry Blakley

Company:

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Address:

City/Town: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

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Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Naming

Requested name: Edwin Blakley

Requested use of name: All

Background Information (Reason for name request):

Outstanding Citizen of Saskatoon, category: historical amateur sport. One of the original founders of Saskatoon Playground Softball League, granted lifetime membership in BOTH the Saskatoon Playgrounds Hockey League (1962) and the Saskatoon Playground Softball League (1987). A tireless volunteer who helped forge the future of several amateur sports organizations in Saskatoon for over 20 years. An example of one of his contributions was his leadership role in the establishment of the "Novice" hockey division and for serving as its first commissioner.

A veteran of the second world war, Dr. Edwin Blakley's enthusiasm for sports influenced the participation of children in sports in the community, provincially and internationally beginning in 1959. His involvement included softball, hockey, swimming, football, and basketball. His philosophy in sports emphasized participation, sportsmanship, teamwork, strategy, and fair play, and many of the teams he coached or managed were recognized as champions at the community level. In his later years, his involvement was directed almost exclusively to female coaching and management.

If you have submitted a person's name, please provide a short biography (Given name, date of birth, place of birth, contributions, awards, achievements or other related information):

Dr. Edwin Raymond Blakley (1919-1999) was born to farmers and raised in Sintaluta, Saskatchewan. During his teenage years in the midst of the great depression, he was an active and an enthusiastic participant in a variety of sports. This experience influenced his involvement and participation in the Saskatoon community later in life. Edwin served in the second world war and participated in D-Day as a navigator and radio operator in the RCAF (picture available upon request - Edwin receiving navigator wings taken Sept 5, 1942). Following the war, Edwin entered the University of Saskatchewan in 1946. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Master's Degree in Chemistry. After completion of his PhD at the University of Minnesota in Biochemistry, he accepted a research position at the National Research Council on the University of Saskatchewan Campus in 1954. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1984. Edwin was recognized by the City of Saskatoon with Life Memberships in the in both hockey and softball.

In 1959, Edwin's involvement in youth sports began. The Saskatoon Playgrounds Softball Association became the champion of youth softball. He coached, organized, and managed teams in the Holliston community and also provided leadership at the organizational level in Saskatoon. He participated in squirt, pee wee, and bantam age groups for both male and female teams. The impact of his involvement along with others established the grassroots for softball (fastball) for many years. About 1970 and beyond, these dedicated youth participants clearly led to the establishment and recognition of Saskatoon as a competitive force nationally and internationally in softball. The quality of our ball parks established in the late 1960's and our reputation to host national and international events is the legacy of many dedicated individuals including Edwin Blakley.

The current websites for the Saskatoon Minor Softball League and the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association, only have the historical information from about 1969. The involvement of Edwin Blakley predates these dates by about 10 years. This historical period appears to have been lost to the sport.

In 1987, Edwin was recognized as a Lifetime Member of the Saskatoon Minor Softball League (picture available upon request). The plaque reads: "In Recognition of your work as a founder of the Original Saskatoon Playground Softball League"

In 1960, Edwin became active in the Saskatoon Playgrounds Hockey League. Initially, he was a coach, manager, and organizer in the Holliston community. His involvement included A, B, C, and D levels in the community. He soon realized that younger children needed to become active in hockey. He was instrumental in the establishment of a new hockey level known as Novice or "N" division. This "N" division became a reality under Edwin's leadership and dedication. He served as the first commissioner for the division. Many young hockey players began in this league before excelling in elite hockey at higher levels.

Another important aspect of sports must include umpires and referees. Edwin served the entire minor hockey association for several years (1963-1967) as the coordinator to assign referees for league and city playoffs. Many of these youthful referees ultimately provide services to such leagues as the WHL. His contributions over the years were diverse, demanding and innovative. In recognition of his services, the City recognized Edwin for his contributions to the Saskatoon Playgrounds Hockey League.

In 1962, Edwin Blakley was presented a Certificate of Merit by the SPHL (picture available upon request). The recognition was for "his faithful and untiring efforts on behalf of the Playgrounds Hockey, has contributed to the development of sportsmanship, Leadership and good citizenship among the youth of Saskatoon and recognition of his loyalty" Edwin received additional recognition in 1967. Edwin Blakley was awarded Life Membership in the Saskatoon Playgrounds Hockey League (picture available upon request).

In an entirely different sport, Edwin was also active in the Saskatoon Goldfins Swim Club for about 10 years beginning about 1966 as the volunteer Treasurer, an organizer, and a timer. Ultimately, competitive swimming in Saskatoon became a force in Canada and has led to the establishment of the Harry Bailey Aquatic Facility and the Shaw Centre.

Edwin Blakley's involvement in many community sports ended about 40 years ago in 1981. His enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication as a volunteer in varied capacities directly impacted the lifelong activities of his 5 children and the local sporting community. His legacy is evident in several sports at both the community and elite levels. In addition to this past unbiased

recognition by the City of Saskatoon, it is unique and noteworthy that Edwin Blakley was awarded Life Membership status in two sports: hockey and softball. In recognition of Dr. Edwin Blakley's contribution to sport in the Saskatoon community dating back more than 60 years ago, our family and friends would be deeply honoured if his contributions were recognized by the City of Saskatoon. A street, neighborhood, or park named for his contributions would be a distinct honour.

Attachment:

No attachment.

Additional comments:

Do you wish to address the Naming Advisory Committee? No