

LEDUC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Glyn O'Brien

Born in 1944, Glyn O'Brien grew up in New Brunswick playing recreational hockey on outdoor rinks. On Saturdays, he and his friends would play hockey on a nearby slough and then listen to NHL games in the evenings. He moved to Alberta in 1969 and became a City of Edmonton Police Officer.

Glyn was keen to continue playing hockey recreationally. When he and his wife Marilyn moved to Leduc in 1972, he discovered quite a few players in the area interested in putting together a league. Collectively, they formed the four-team Leduc Oldtimers League in the 1973-74 season. Glyn volunteered to administer the league and set up the schedule. After a successful season, the league was renamed the Old Blades Hockey League (OBHL), with players ranging in age from 19 to 40-plus.

Glyn became the inaugural league president and acting treasurer in 1975, and the OBHL continued to evolve and grow. Glyn, along with other executive members, were passionate about developing the league, and their enthusiasm was contagious. Over time, Glyn introduced the hugely successful players' draft, pooling all the players each year and having each team take turns drawing players of different positions and abilities for the next season.

In 1978, Glyn also formed the Rusty Blades team with some of the top OBHL players. The Rusty Blades went on to win numerous tournaments, and they continue to play in Edmonton's North of 50 League.

Glyn continued playing hockey until 2018. The OBHL continues to fill a major role for adult recreation in the Leduc community, currently including eight teams and 120 active players.

