

2021 Award of Merit Recipient - Bernard "Buzz" Deschamps

Our first Award of Merit recipient is Bernard "Buzz" Deschamps. Buzz was born in Penetanguishene on December 17, 1939.

Buzz was a professional hockey player in the 60's and 70's. He played in seven leagues over the course of his career and was instrumental in the development of the Midland Sports Hall of Fame and was also inducted as an Athlete as well as being a member of the Midland Indians Baseball team.

He first played Junior "C" hockey with the Penetanguishene Hurons. After being drafted by the New York Rangers, Buzz spent the next 10 years playing professional hockey from coast to coast, for such teams as the Sudbury Wolves, the Indianapolis Chiefs, the Long Island Ducks, the Baltimore Clippers, the St. Paul Rangers, and the Los Angeles Blades of the World Hockey Association before he finished his career with the Providence Reds of the American Hockey League in 1968-69. The Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League drafted Deschamps, but he chose retirement.

Buzz spearheaded the creation of Bunn's Kids in the 1990's which has enabled hundreds of children to participate in sports and recreation activities in Midland and area by providing financial assistance to as many less fortunate children as possible, to allow them to participate in various recreational and character-building activities within our region. The Bunn's Kids organization was a tribute to his father's (Bunn Deschamps) life-long involvement in the Midland sporting community.

There is no-one more deserving of recognition for his community spirit and dedication to Bunn's Kids, and those efforts represent a true sense of community and caring, and it is for this that we honour Buzz tonight.

It is indeed a great pleasure to present the Award of Merit to Bernard "Buzz" Deschamps.