

RI Reds Announce 19th Annual Reunion Plans

Providence, RI - The Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society has announced plans for its 19th annual weekend reunion, August 2, 3 and 4. The three-day celebration this year will salute the 70th anniversary of the old Rhode Island Reds' American Hockey League Calder Cup championship season back in 1948-49.

This year's reunion chairman once again will be Bill O'Connor, who has chaired all 18 previous Reds' reunions. O'Connor and his committee have planned a trio of entertaining events for former Reds and other ex-pros, plus young and older fans who attend.

Events will include a private "Meet & Greet" face-off reception for players and sponsors on Friday (Aug. 2) at reunion headquarters in the Hampton Inn & Suites on Post Road in Warwick. Saturday (Aug. 3) will mark the popular reunion dinner-dance, this year to be held at the 12 Acres banquet facility in Smithfield, and Sunday (Aug. 4) will feature the organi-

zation's traditional reunion festivities at Goddard State Park in Warwick, hosting players and fans from all decades, past and present.

"Last year we had one of our strongest turnouts of players and fans ever at Goddard State Park," O'Connor recalls. "We hosted 235 guests that included 30 former Reds' players and other ex-pros. It's early right now, but we already have signed up a number of fans and a dozen players."

The annual Goddard State Park event will feature on-stage introductions of former Reds and other pros attending, presentation of special annual awards, a delicious buffet luncheon, and music from the past.

Admission to the event at Goddard is \$40 per person for adults, \$15 for children ages 6-12, and no charge for ages 6 and under. For additional ticket info, folks should contact Mal Goldenberg at 401-864-6191 or email mal@rmcri.com. No tickets will be sold at the gate.



RI Reds Announce Winner of the Ray Ross Award

Providence, RI - The Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society has announced that former Rhode Island Reds and Boston Bruins goaltender Ross Brooks will receive the Ray Ross Perseverance Award on Sunday, August 4 as part of its 19th annual reunion weekend.

The award is named after forward Ray Ross, a Reds fan favorite from the 50's and 60s, who steadfastly toiled for 14 seasons (9 with the Reds) in minor league hockey but unfortunately never got a call to the NHL. On the other hand, Ross Brooks' diligence and persistence paid off after spending 9 seasons as backup goalie for the Reds and other minor league teams when he was finally given that elusive roster spot in the NHL with the Boston Bruins at age 36. He became one of the oldest rookies in NHL history after paying his minor league dues.

His long career as a professional hockey goaltender took him to six leagues and 14

teams before getting his call to the NHL. Among his career highlights, Brooks shared the Harry "Hap" Holmes Memorial Award for lowest goals against average in the AHL with teammate Dan Bouchard in 1972. In the 72-73 NHL season, Brooks matched an NHL record at the time, set by Bruins' goaltender Tiny Thompson way back in the 20's for the longest consecutive winning streak by a goaltender, 14 games.

Brooks played for the Bruins from 1972 until 1975 and then a single season with the Rochester Americans before retiring. Playing for a powerhouse team that regularly finished around the top of the league standings, he compiled a career record of 37 wins with just seven losses and six ties with a goals-against average of 2.63. His career winning percentage is one of the highest recorded for goalies with 50 or more decisions.

"Ross is truly a most deserving person to receive the Perseverance Award. He worked very long and very hard during his career to perfect his game and get to the top," said Buster Clegg, the Heritage Society's founding president and former Reds' general manager for parts of Brooks tenure with the Reds.

Today Brooks, a resident of Lincoln, remains active and regularly attends Reds reunion weekends. Since retiring he has coached high school hockey, worked with the Providence Bruins and served as a manager of operations at Providence College's Schneider Arena.

The annual Goddard State Park event August 4th will feature onstage introductions of former Reds and other ex-pro hockey players, presentations of special awards, a delicious buffet luncheon and memorable music from the good old days from Reds games at the Rhode Island Auditorium. Last year's event drew 253 guests that included 30 former Reds and other ex-pros.



Photo courtesy Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society

Meals on Wheels of RI Announces Appointment of Megan Grady as Executive Director

Providence, R.I.— The board of directors of Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the appointment of Meghan Grady as the agency's executive director.

Grady, who most recently served as chief operating officer for YWCA Rhode Island for nearly eight years, began her new role on June 24.

"Meghan's vast experience in nonprofit leadership and passion for creating change to better the lives of Rhode Islanders will help Meals on Wheels of RI continue to grow and prepare for a future where our services will be in even higher demand," said Kevin Millonzi, Meals on Wheels of RI Board Chair. "We are incredibly excited to have her lead our agency into its next chapter."

As YWCA RI's COO, Grady was responsible for day-to-day leadership and internal operations of the organization, which has an annual budget of \$3.2 million and has locations in Central Falls, Coventry, Providence and Woonsocket. Her commitment to the agency's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism has received widespread recognition, including being named a Providence Business News 40 under 40 and receiving a United Way of Rhode Island Young Leaders Spark! Award, both in 2016.

Prior to her most recent role, she held leadership positions within the City of Providence during Mayor Angel Taveras' administration and at the American Heart Association.

"I am honored to be selected as Meals on Wheels of RI's next executive director, and to build upon the 50 years of work the agency, its dedicated staff and exceptional volunteers have done to improve the health and lives of our most vulnerable seniors," Grady said. "The organization is doing such incredibly important and vital work, and I look forward to leading efforts to increase its impact across the state."

In 2017, Grady was selected for the nationally competitive Allstate Foundation Greater Good Nonprofit Leaders Program. Developed in partnership with the North-

western University Kellogg School of Management's Center for Nonprofit Management, the unique program is catered to highly motivated nonprofit professionals to grow their leadership capacity and have a greater impact on the sector.

In 2015, she was awarded a Hassenfeld Public Service Fellowship and completed Harvard University Kennedy School of Government's Leadership Decision Making executive education program. She also has won a Roger Williams University Young Alumni of Achievement Award and serves on the United Way of Rhode Island Board of Directors.

Grady earned a master's degree in public administration from Roger Williams University and a bachelor's degree from

Merrimack College. She lives in Barrington with her husband, Eric P.W. Hall.

The board of directors thanks MOWRI Director of Operations Lauri Kaplan and Finance & MIS Director Patricia Sullivan for serving as co-interim executive directors



during the search.

About

Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island

Since 1969, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island has focused on meeting the nutritional and other special needs of the elderly in order to help them maintain their independent lifestyles. Meals on Wheels of RI directly addresses the issues of nutrition, health and safety in our senior population, impacting thousands across the state every year with our Home-Delivered Meal Program, the only nonprofit meal delivery program of its kind in Rhode Island; the Capital City Café Program and Senior Restaurant Program, which offer community-based dining for more mobile seniors; an Emergency Meal Program; the Senior Wish Program, providing necessities for seniors in need; and the Pet Food Program.

Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, a 501 (c) (3) organization, is not an affiliate of a national organization and relies on donations from individuals, corporate funding and sponsorship and foundation grants. All funding received directly provides services for RI residents.

Admission to the event at Goddard Park is \$40 for adults, \$15 for children ages 6-12 and no charge for ages 6 and under. For additional ticket or event information, please contact Mal Goldenberg at mal@rmcri.com or call 401-864-6191. No tickets will be sold at the gate.

On August 3rd, the night preceding, the Reds will also host its annual dinner-dance

at the 12 Acres banquet facility in Smithfield. Guest speaker will be Greg Bouris, former communications director for the New York Islanders and Florida Panthers and the MLB Players Association. Tickets are \$50 each and can also be reserved by contacting Mr. Goldenberg at the above. None will be sold at the gate.

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