



** Hockey Night in Barrie V | Player Mini Biographies**

Mike Gartner – Right Wing, Born October 29, 1959 in Ottawa, Ontario, Gartner began his junior playing career with the Niagara Falls Flyers. Gartner was drafted 4th overall, by the Washington Capitals in the 1979 NHL Entry Draft. Gartner played for 5 teams over his NHL career, including the Washington Capitals, Minnesota North Stars, New York Rangers, Toronto Maple Leafs and Phoenix Coyotes. In 1554 career games (including playoffs) Gartner posted 751 goals, 677 assists for an amazing 1428 points! In 2001 Mike was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Now retired, Gartner enjoys family life, with his wife Coleen, his two son's Dylan and Josh, and daughter Natalie. Gartner and his former teammate, Wes Jarvis, are business partners and own three skating rinks in the Toronto area.

Shayne Corson – Left Wing, Born August 16, 1966 in Barrie, Ontario. The Montreal Canadiens drafted Corson in the first round (eighth overall) of the 1984 NHL Entry Draft. Shayne has played for five NHL teams including the Canadiens, Oilers, Blues, Leafs, and finally with the Dallas Stars. Shayne captained three NHL clubs during his 19 season professional career. He has also played for Team Canada at the Canada Cup, World Junior Ice Hockey Championships, World Cup of Hockey, and the 1998 Winter Olympics. Corson was known as a gritty player, with good instincts both offensively and defensively, and a good leader. Corson represented his teams three times at the NHL All-Star Game, having scored 780 points and earning 2648 penalty minutes during his 1296 career NHL games (including playoffs). Shayne is playing in his fifth Hockey Night in Barrie and continues to volunteer and help promote many charitable causes.

Darcy Tucker – Forward, Born March 15, 1975 in Castor Alberta, he played most of his National Hockey League (NHL) career with the Toronto Maple Leafs. A sixth round draft choice in 1993, Tucker began his NHL career with the Montreal Canadiens. Darcy also played for the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Colorado Avalanche. In 1015 career NHL games (including playoffs), Tucker scored 235 goals, amassed 497 points and was assessed a whopping 1491 in penalty minutes! In 1998, Tucker married Shannon Corson, the sister of former NHL player Shayne Corson. Shayne and Tucker were teammates on the Leafs for three seasons. Tucker and his wife have two sons, Cole and Cain, and a daughter, Owynn.

Dale Hawerchuk – Centre - Born April 4, 1963 in Toronto played in the National Hockey League (NHL) for 16 seasons for Winnipeg, Buffalo, St. Louis and Philadelphia. He won the NHL's Calder Memorial Trophy as the league's Rookie of the Year in 1982 and was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in his second year of eligibility in 2001. He is currently the head coach of the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League. Hawerchuk's career statistics are impressive. In 1285 career games (including playoffs) he scored 548 goals with and incredible 1508 points. In the third game versus the Soviets in the 1987 Canada Cup, Dale had a goal and two assists in Team Canada's historic win and was named Canada's MVP for that decisive game!

Raffi Torres – Left Wing, Born October 8, 1981 in Toronto, Torres began his junior hockey career with the OHL's Brampton Battalion in 1998. He was drafted 5th overall in 2000 by the New York Islanders. Raffi has played for six teams in his NHL career including Edmonton, Columbus, Buffalo, Vancouver and is currently a member of the Phoenix Coyotes. In 591 career NHL games so far (including playoffs), Raffi has collected 135 goals, 261 points and 533 penalty minutes. In the offseason, Torres makes his home in the Greater Toronto Area.

Alan Thicke – Born March 1, 1947 in Kirkland Lake, ON. Thicke is a comedian, songwriter, composer and veteran actor of film and television, Thicke started his career on the Canadian airwaves as a game show host in the 1970's. In the 1980's he hosted his popular talk show 'The Alan Thicke Show'. Alan is probably best known for his role as patriarch of the Seaver family on the hit American network show 'Growing Pains' from 1985-1992. Alan has three sons including Robin a platinum album selling musician.

Wes Jarvis – Forward, Born May 30, 1958 in Toronto, Wes was Selected by the Washington Capitals in the 1978 NHL Entry Draft, Jarvis also played for the Minnesota North Stars, Los Angeles Kings, and Toronto Maple Leafs. During his time in the NHL, Wes accumulated 86 points in 237 games. Jarvis was the head coach of the Newmarket Hurricanes of the OPJHL and was an assistant coach with the Barrie Colts for three seasons. Wes and wife Darlene have four daughters. He and former NHL'er Mike Gartner own and run National Training Rinks.

Daniel Tkaczuk – Centre, Born June 10, 1979 in Toronto, Tkaczuk began his OHL junior hockey career with the Barrie Colts in 1995. During his stellar four seasons with the Colts, Daniel amassed an amazing 334 points in only 238 games. Tkaczuk was selected 6th overall in the 1997 NHL Entry Draft by the Calgary Flames. He represented Canada at the 1999 World Junior Ice Hockey Championships, where he won a silver medal and led the team in scoring. Daniel spent two productive seasons with the Flames AHL affiliate in Saint John and one year with the big club. He also played professionally Europe and formally retired last year. Tkaczuk is the President of iHockeyTrainer.com, an online hockey school for training and skill development. He is also a columnist for The Hockey News, often providing insight from a player's perspective.

Gary Leeman – Right Wing/Defence, Born February 19, 1964 in Toronto, Leeman was drafted 24th overall in 1982 by the Toronto Maple Leafs as a defenceman. He also played for Calgary, Vancouver, St. Louis and Montreal where he won a Stanley Cup in 1993. In the 1989-1990 season with the Leafs, Leeman scored 51 goals and two season later was involved in the blockbuster trade that brought Doug Gilmour to Toronto. To date, the 10 player deal is the largest in NHL history. In 703 career NHL games (including playoffs), Gary scored 207 goals, had 490 points with 567 penalty minutes. He finished his career in Germany's Deutsche Eishockey Liga for the Hannover Scorpions. He retired in 1999.

Matt Beleskey – Left Wing, Born June 7, 1988 in Windsor Ontario, Matt grew up in Midhurst and played his minor hockey for the Barrie Icemen AAA program of the OMHA's Eastern AAA League. After his Bantam season with the Icemen, Beleskey played one season with the Collingwood Blues Jr. A. club of the OHA. He was drafted in the 2nd round (21st overall) in the 2004 OHL Priority Selection by the Belleville Bulls. In 2006, he was selected by the Anaheim Ducks 112th overall in the NHL Entry Draft and began his professional career in by debuting in two games in 2008 and began playing regularly during the 2009-2010 season. In 173 NHL games (including playoffs), so far Matt has scored 24 goals and 44 points.

"Iron" Mike Keenan – Coach, Born October 21, 1949 in Bowmanville ON, Mike is a former head coach in the National Hockey League (NHL) and former General Manager of the Florida Panthers. He is currently working as an analyst for the New York Rangers on MSG Network. Mike coached Philadelphia, Chicago, New York Rangers, St. Louis, Vancouver, Boston, Florida and Calgary. In 1993, Mike's Rangers won the Stanley Cup. Currently, he is 5th all time in National Hockey League wins. Keenan's teams never missed the playoffs until 1998. "Iron Mike" was notorious for pulling or switching his goaltenders, sometimes multiple times in a period. In game 4 of the first round of the 1987 playoffs, Keenan pulled his goalies, Ron Hextall and Glenn Resch, a total of five times in a single game (the 5th time to gain a man-advantage in the last minute of play).

Kurt Browning - Figure Skater, Born June 18, 1966 in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, is a Canadian figure skater, choreographer and commentator. Browning was both Canadian figure skating champion and World Champion four times. He represented Canada in three Winter Olympics, 1988 (finishing 8th overall), 1992 (6th) and 1994 (5th), and earned the privilege of carrying the Canadian flag during the opening ceremonies of the 1994 games in Lillehammer, Norway. Browning landed the first ratified quadruple jump (a toe loop) in competition. This accomplishment is listed in the Guinness Book of Records. Kurt married Sonia Rodriguez, a principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, in 1996. They have two sons.

Aaron Ekblad – Defenceman, Born February 7, 1996 in Belle River, Ontario plays for the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Ekblad was selected first overall in the 2011 OHL Entry Draft. Ekblad's application to be the only player born in 1996 in the draft was approved unanimously, after a six week review by Hockey Canada. With the approval, Ekblad became the first defenceman ever granted "exceptional player" status. The status allows him to compete in the Canadian Hockey League a year earlier than his eligible age. The only other players given such eligibility were centre John Tavares in 2005 and Connor McDavid in 2012. Ekblad will be eligible for the NHL Draft in 2014.

Darrin Shannon- Left Wing, Born December 8, 1969 in Barrie, Darrin played for the Buffalo Sabres and the Winnipeg Jets/Phoenix Coyotes. Darrin was drafted fourth overall in the 1988 NHL Entry Draft, ahead of NHL Stars Jeremy Roenick, Rod Brind'Amour and Teemu Selänne. He recorded 87 goals and 163 assists for 250 points in 506 career NHL games. Darrin was named the Canadian Major Junior Scholastic Player of the Year in 1988 and was a Memorial Cup Tournament All-Star Team that same year playing for the Windsor Spitfires of the OHL. He now resides in Alliston, Ontario and is an investment manager. He is the younger brother of Darryl Shannon and has 3 daughters and a wife.

Darryl Shannon – Defenceman, Born June 21, 1968 in Barrie was drafted 36th overall by the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 1986 NHL Entry Draft and as well as the Leafs, he played for the Winnipeg Jets, Buffalo Sabres, Atlanta Thrashers, Calgary Flames, and the Montreal Canadiens. Despite a serious illness, he played a total of 553 games (including playoffs) in the NHL, scoring 32 goals and 118 assists collecting 539 penalty minutes. He moved to Germany in 2001 to play in the Deutsche Eishockey Liga for the Krefeld Pinguine and the Eisbären Berlin. He is the older brother of fellow former NHLer Darrin Shannon who played together while with the Winnipeg Jets. Following his retirement, he lives in Buffalo, New York where he is an active member of the Sabres Alumni Association.

Michael Hutchinson – Goalie, Born March 2, 1990 in Barrie, Hutchinson was selected in the 4th round (69th overall) of the 2006 OHL Priority Selection by his hometown Barrie Colts. After three years in Barrie, Hutchinson was dealt in the summer of 2009 to the London Knights where he finished his junior career. He was selected by the Boston Bruins in the 3rd round (77th overall) of the 2008 NHL Entry Draft. On March 30, 2010, the Bruins signed Hutchinson to a three-year, entry-level contract. On April 12, 2011, Michael was recalled by Boston to the NHL. On March 3, 2012, Hutchinson was recalled by Boston to be backup goaltender because of an injury to Tuukka Rask, just one day after his 22nd birthday.

Ron Hoggarth – Referee, Born April 12, 1948, in Barrie, Ontario is a retired National Hockey League referee. His career started in 1971 and ended in 1994. Hoggarth worked 550 games in the American and Central Leagues, before officiating in 1175 regular season NHL matches and 150 playoff games, second only in games worked to Hockey Hall of Famer Andy VanHellemond. He refereed the 1989 N.H.L. All-Star Game and 35 international games before he retired in 1994. Ron continues to be involved in hockey with the Legends of Hockey working in over 50 games a year across Canada for various charities. He is in demand as a public speaker and promotes hockey and Barrie at every opportunity.

Troy Crowder – Right Wing, Born May 3, 1968 in Sudbury, Troy played parts of seven seasons in the National Hockey League with the New Jersey Devils, Detroit Red Wings, Los Angeles Kings, and Vancouver Canucks from 1987–88 to 1996–97. Crowder was drafted 108th overall by the Devils in the 1986 NHL Entry Draft. He compiled 433 career penalty minutes in 150 NHL games played. Crowder went into the NHL with a well-earned reputation. Crowder was as tough as they come during his juniors years. He made an immediate impact during his first full-season in the NHL bloodying legendary tough guy Bob Probert and then going on to put down many other challengers. The hockey He also scored nine goals and sixteen points. Crowder has a son that plays AAA hockey in the Sudbury area.

Jennifer Robinson – Figure Skater, Born Dec. 2, 1976 in Goderich, ON is a six time Canadian Women's Figure Skating Champion. Her successful amateur and professional skating career provided celebrity status and she is undoubtedly a Canadian treasure. Trained at the Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie for most of her career, Jennifer developed a genuine love for her city and its people. Jennifer works very hard at giving back to the community that supported her skating dreams. In 2010, Jennifer was elected as the Councillor for Ward 8 in Barrie and serves the residents she represents with compassion and unparalleled grace.

Hon. Peter MacKay - PC, QC, MP , Born September 27, 1965 in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Minister MacKay is the Member of Parliament for Central Nova and currently serves as Minister of National Defence in the Cabinet of Canada. He is married to Nazanin Afshin-Jam an Iranian-Canadian model, singer, and human rights activist, and a former Miss World Canada. MacKay was the final leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada (PC Party). On October 15, 2003, he and Canadian Alliance leader Stephen Harper agreed to merge the two parties, forming the Conservative Party of Canada. In December 2003, members of both parties ratified the merger. A sports enthusiast, MacKay is active in local adult rugby, baseball, football and hockey teams in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. He played for the Nova Scotia Keltics rugby union club.

Hon. Bal Gosal – Born 1961 in Ratainda, India, was elected to the House of Commons in the 2011 election. He represents the electoral district of Bramalea—Gore—Malton as a member of the Conservative Party, and serves as Minister of State (Sport) in the cabinet of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Mr. Gosal has worked as a commercial insurance broker with London Life and was actively involved in financial planning. Mr. Gosal has been a member of the Peel Regional Police Services Board and Peel Children's Aid Society and served as a member of the Brampton Board of Trade Marketing Committee. Mr. Gosal and his wife, Pawanjit, have three children and live in Brampton.