

Mr. James (Jim) C. Quick

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 1977 as a "Builder"



James (Jim) Chesley Quick played a major role in the establishment of basketball in the province. Jim was the founding (1969) president of the Baie Verte Men's Basketball League; he was the first men's coach in Baie Verte and coached in the first men's basketball tournament held outside of St. John's. He coached the first team from Baie Verte to win any award in basketball and the first championship team.

In addition to these accomplishments, Jim was instrumental in the development of basketball regionally, in Stephenville and in Corner Brook but of course his biggest contribution to basketball was in Baie Verte.

Along with his coaching and refereeing, Jim was instrumental in organizing the Baie Verte High School Invitational Basketball Tournament. This tournament was the largest and oldest continuing invitational tournament of its kind in Newfoundland.

Jim was born June 26, 1927 in St. John's. He was the only child of Chesley and Marble Quick. He attended Bishop Field College from kindergarten through to grade eleven. Upon graduating Bishop Field he entered the Newfoundland School of Pharmacy where he graduated in 1948. On June 7, 1950 he married Elizabeth Mary Shea of St. John's, they had six children.

In November of 1963, Jim Quick took up residence in the town of Baie Verte where he opened Baie Verte Pharmacy. It was on this day that a sport history would begin in that town. Mr. Quick being an avid basketball and soccer player himself was interested in helping the youth of Baie Verte. Upon arrival in the town Mr. Quick's children were registered at St. Pius X Elementary / High School. He soon discovered that there was no physical education program in the school. He then initiated an intramural program that basically consisted of basketball. His next challenge was to organize a boys' high school varsity team. Due to work commitments, Jim held practices from 9:00 am – 10:00 am each day. At the first practice he brought a block of wood, showed it to the boys and told them that it was not a basketball, otherwise they would have not know the difference.

Jim continued to work with the senior boys, slowly moulding them into a basketball team. Some short time later, he began a junior boys' program and followed with a senior girls' program. The men's varsity team continually became a force to be reckoned with.

In 1969 Jim took a group of 12 boys to St. John's to compete in the provincial high school "B" tournament, where they captured the championship. None of these boys had ever been off the Baie Verte Peninsula.

In 1978 he received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for community service.