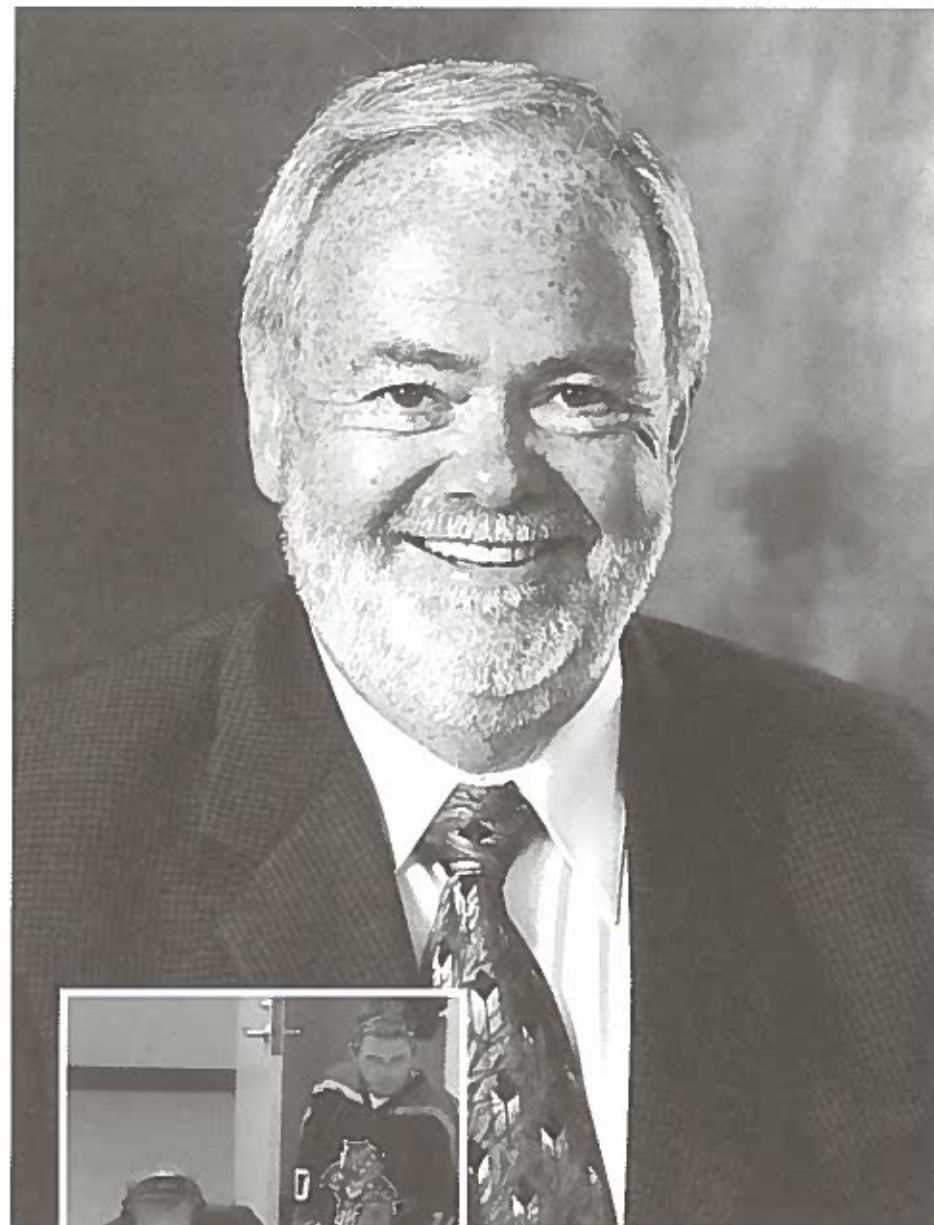


KEN “JIGGS” McDONALD

Sports Broadcast Journalism



Inducted: 2003
Years at GCI & VS:
1952 - 1956

Ken McDonald, “Jiggs”, as he is fondly referred to by his peers, was born in Galt on November 28, 1938. A resident of Ayr, Ontario, Jiggs’ high school years were spent at GCI & VS. He got his start in broadcasting when he was one of several students participating in a weekly school program. Convinced he would never be a hockey player, but wanting to be part of Canada’s national pastime, he became a goal judge, then a P.A. announcer, and later, a sportswriter for a local newspaper. He did all of this before he turned 17.

Mr. McDonald started his official broadcasting career in 1956 in Lindsay, Ontario. From there he moved to become sports director and the program director of radio station CFOR in Orillia, Ontario, from 1958 to 1967. With the expansion of the NHL from the “Original Six” to a league double the size in the fall of 1967, established members of the sporting media, especially with knowledge about hockey, were in high demand. He took advantage of the moment and joined the fledgling Los Angeles Kings on their broadcast team and stayed in LA until 1972. From there he moved to Atlanta where he was the voice of the Atlanta Flames until 1980. Long Island was his next stop where he became the broadcaster for the New York Islanders from 1980 – 1995. While he was there he had the pleasure of broadcasting three Islander Stanley Cup championships. He called these championships the thrill of his broadcast career. Mr. McDonald returned to Ontario in 1995 where he partnered with Harry Neale from 1995 to 1997 as the radio broadcast team

for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Since 1999 he has been the play by play voice for the Florida Panthers.

Mr. McDonald’s talent allowed him to be the voice of Sports Channel America and he broadcast 11 consecutive Stanley Cup Final Series from 1984-1995. He also was selected to broadcast Ice Hockey at the Olympic Games in Calgary (1988), Albertville, France (1992) and Lillehammer, Norway (1994). For CTV, he even called the play by play for Olympic Basketball in Barcelona (1992).

In 1990, Mr. McDonald was inducted into the Broadcast wing of the Hockey Hall of Fame. In the same year he received the Foster Hewitt Memorial Award for broadcast excellence. Mr. McDonald is the past-president and co-founder of the NHL Broadcasters’ Association. In November 2003, he broadcast his 3000th NHL game and while no official records are kept of broadcast longevity, it is reported that this represents the greatest number of NHL games ever broadcast.