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NEWS RELEASE

December 21, 2023

County of Wetaskiwin Celebrates Renaming of Winfield Arena to Woody Johnson Arena

For Immediate Release – The County of Wetaskiwin is proud to announce the renaming of the Winfield Arena to the Woody Johnson Arena, in honor of Woody Johnson's remarkable contributions to sports and community development in Winfield over the past 48 years.

“Woody Johnson, a respected figure in the community, has been an example of leadership and dedication in various roles including teacher, coach, board member, and friend” stated Deputy Reeve Rooyakkers. “His commitment to fostering inclusivity in sports, ensuring access and opportunity for all, has left a lasting mark on the community.”

His commitment to sports and education began with his teaching career in Winfield in 1975. He ascended to the position of Principal in 1985 and continued to impact lives in education until his retirement in 2008. His legacy in education is matched by his involvement in sports and community development. An engaged member of the Winfield Agricultural Society and founding member and an active participant in the Winfield Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) from 1994 to 2023. His passion for minor hockey was evident in his multifaceted roles as a coach, board member, and referee/ice coordinator. Woody's involvement in WMHA was instrumental in initiating and executing significant fundraising efforts, which were crucial for the development and sustainability of the Winfield Arena, benefitting not just hockey but all user groups of the facility.

Woody's outstanding service and contributions to sports in the County of Wetaskiwin have been recognized with his induction into the County of Wetaskiwin Sports Hall of Fame in the Builder category. Additionally, he has been honored with The Recreation Volunteer Recognition Award by the Minister of Tourism, Parks, and Recreation.

The decision to rename the Winfield Arena as the Woody Johnson Arena is a testament to Woody's enduring impact on the community. This arena, which has been his second home, stands as a symbol of his tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to sports and community development in Winfield.

The renaming ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., and the community is invited to join in celebrating Woody Johnson's legacy and the unveiling of the Woody Johnson Arena.

For more information, please email wjarenacelebration@gmail.com or follow Woody Johnson Arena Renaming Celebration Facebook page.

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