

Donor spotlight
January 2024

The Mews family legacy continues with 'heart'

“I know he's with me, so when I celebrate an assist and a goal for my team, I imagine he's cheering me.”
- Henry Mews

When it comes to the Mews family, their affection and loyal support of the Ottawa Heart Institute is truly a family affair. Their deep commitment to world-renowned cardiac care is now reaching the third generation of the family with Henry Mews. The 17-year-old OHL defenceman is among Canada's best under-18 hockey players and is seeing much success this year with the Ottawa 67's.

Mews recently teamed up with Colin Zappia (the Ottawa 67's colour analyst) and a Heart Institute Foundation board member to create "the Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away" initiative. For every assist made by Mews this season, Zappia will donate \$11.

Incredibly, the Mews family has also stepped up to match donations, along with Randy Robitaille, Henry's agent, trainer Tony Greco, family friend Armando Gianetti of Preston Hardware, and other supporters, resulting now in \$77 per assist that will be donated to the world-class Heart Institute.



Left to right: Grandfather Hank Mews and grandson Henry. Agent Randy Robitaille and Henry.

So far, Mews has 28 assists and six goals, and \$2,156 has been raised and counting.

"I lost my grandfather the afternoon of my very first OHL game." Mews explains, "he was my biggest fan, and I carry him with me every time I step on the ice. I know he's with me, so when I celebrate an assist and a goal for my team, I imagine he's cheering me on. I think he's just as proud that I'm continuing in his footsteps, inspired by his giving spirit. I get to give back through the game we both loved."

Colin Zappia shares, "As a lifelong fan of the game and a supporter of the Heart Institute, this initiative is a great way to help raise

awareness and generate new support. The funds raised are being used to further research efforts that give more people the gift of time."

This past November, AFP Ottawa recognized the generosity of the Mews family during the 2023 Philanthropy Awards. The award for Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist was bestowed upon the family for their longtime commitment and million-dollar gift to the Institute, partly inspired by the exceptional patient care that their father received, the late Hank Mews.

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During his acceptance speech, Rob Mews shared, "You have to give back to the community, and that's what we learned from our late father. We're following in his footsteps."

"The 67's and the Heart Institute are Ottawa Institutions we are all very proud of. I love the collaboration and creativity and how everyone has rallied to support innovative patient care and ground-breaking cardiac research. I'm so grateful for the continued support of the Mews family and community as well. We are seeing incredible momentum and results, says Lianne Laing, President of the Heart Institute Foundation. Helping such a great cause is hard to resist. Seeing the donation grow from \$11 to \$77 has been amazing. It is sure to be a winning season for all."

We do not doubt that his grandfather Hank, would be so proud of his grandson. Obviously, with young Henry Mews and this fundraiser, the "apple" does not fall far from the tree.



Top & bottom : Henry poses with his proud parents. Mews with trainer Tony Greco.