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Youngsters to learn from hockey legends

A handful of lucky Mississaugans will get hockey tips from some of the all-time greats of the game on Friday, Sept. 26 at Toronto's Ricoh Coliseum.

The youngsters, chosen in a random draw, will rub shoulders with Bobby Orr, Mike Bossy and Cassie Campbell, just to name a few.

Called the Chevrolet Safe & Fun Hockey program, the 100 participating 5 to 8-year-old girls and boys from across the country will receive on-ice and off-ice lessons from the hockey legends.

The program is conducted in partnership with Hockey Canada and focuses on skill development, drills, games and safety instruction.

"The Festival is being held to stress to parents, coaches and players the values of respect and responsibility and that positive attitudes towards healthy competition, teamwork, and fair play are just as important to youngsters as the development of hockey skills," said GM Canada manager Fred Lautenschlager.

"I'm worried that many young players never get to experience the pure enjoyment of the game," added Orr. "They are pressured by parents, by coaches, and each other. As parents, coaches, and teammates it is our responsibility to ensure that everyone leaves the arena with a positive experience to bring them back."

"This program is designed to promote values such as respect and responsibility both on and off the ice at an age where we can leave a lasting impression. And the results speak for themselves. Kids are learning hockey skills, and having fun doing it!"

Mississauga participants will include Avery Bourbonnais, Gabriel Campanelli, Justin Couto, Matthew Lundy, Lucas Vendramini, Julia DiFonzo, Jacob Marshall, Logan Ratcliffe, Brett Simon, Christopher Carr-Ansah, Tyler Johnston and Scotty Reid.

There will also be a free Chevrolet Hockey Community Skating Party on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 1-3 p.m. at the Ricoh Coliseum.

To register call 1-800-GM DRIVE by Sept. 21.

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Youngsters to learn from hockey legends. Former NHL hockey great Bobby Orr (right) will instruct 100 lucky youngsters at the Chevrolet Safe & Fun Hockey program on Sept. 26. *File photo*

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