

# Letter From The President

Season's Greetings!

I am proud to announce that the Hamilton Hurricanes are coming off of another very successful season in 2012. The Hurricanes had a win-loss record of 6-2 in the regular season and advanced through the playoffs to their third-consecutive Ontario Football Conference Championship game. The team played one of their best games of football against a very tough opponent and came up just shy of capturing the club's third-consecutive OFC Championship title with a 19-16 loss to the London Beefeaters.

This season proved to be one of the most emotionally difficult times for everyone associated with the organization. We lost one of our most talented Offensive Lineman, Zac Duguay, tragically on the morning of August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Zac was a one-of-a-kind athlete who battled through seizures to play the game that he loved. He never let anything come in the way of his passion to play the game of football and had aspirations to play at the CIS level. His skills, heart, and determination would have allowed him to play at the CIS level, and professionally, if Zac had chosen to pursue that dream. To honour Zac's memory and what he stood for on and off the field of play, the Hamilton Hurricanes, with the help of Zac's family, have created the Zac Duguay Team First Award which will be awarded to a player of the Hamilton Hurricanes organization who best exemplifies the values that Zac lived by, as well as, what the individual brings to the team as an athlete.

More great things have happened over this past season off the field for the Canes. We have been experiencing great success with our Alumni Association and Alumni involvement with the club, we have organized events that will be taking place in the near future, such as the Poker Tournament, and we continue to build relationships with the community and local media to help promote the Hamilton Hurricane brand, as well as, invites members of the community to come and take in an exciting and fast-paced Hurricanes game. There are many great things happening in the City of Hamilton that will benefit the Hurricanes in the future and we look forward to experiencing them with each member of our Alumni, our coaches and staff members, and most importantly, our fans.

On behalf of the Hamilton Hurricanes organization, we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and we look forward to seeing you in 2013.

Mike Samuel  
President, Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club

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### November is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month



## HAAA Grounds Honoured as Past Grey Cup Site by CFL

The Hamilton Amateur Athletic Association Grounds (also known as the HAAA Grounds) served as home to the Hamilton Tigers from 1872-1949. In 1950, the Tigers amalgamated with the Hamilton Wildcats to create the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The new team became the permanent tenants of Ivor Wynne Stadium, and will continue to be the permanent tenants in the new stadium in 2014. The Tiger-Cats joined the Canadian Football League as an inaugural member in 1958. A plaque outlining much of the Grounds history (including information on the Grey Cup games played there) is located next to the main entrance on Charlton Ave.

HAAA has hosted seven (7) Grey Cup games between 1910-1935 and is now home to the Hamilton Minor Football Association (HMFA), the Hamilton Ironmen of the Ontario Varsity Football League (OVFL), and the Hamilton Hurricanes (CJFL) as a practice field during the spring, summer, and fall months. Below is a list of the Grey Cup games that were played at HAAA. As you can see, a Hamilton team was involved in each of the seven games and won five Grey Cups on home field.



### Grey Cup at HAAA Grounds

Grey Cup	Date	Champion	Score	Loser	Attendance
2nd Grey Cup	26 November 1910	Toronto Varsity Blues	16-7	Hamilton Tigers	12 000
4th Grey Cup	30 November 1912	Hamilton Alerts	11-4	Toronto Argonauts	5337
5th Grey Cup	29 November 1913	Hamilton Tigers	44-2	Toronto Parkdale Canoe Club	2100
16th Grey Cup	1 December 1928	Hamilton Tigers	30-0	Regina Roughriders	4767
17th Grey Cup	30 November 1929	Hamilton Tigers	14-3	Regina Roughriders	1906
20th Grey Cup	3 December 1932	Hamilton Tigers	25-6	Regina Roughriders	4806
23rd Grey Cup	7 December 1935	Winnipeg 'Pegs	18-12	Hamilton Tigers	6405

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This year, in honour of the 100<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup game, the Canadian Football League championed an initiative to produce banners which would commemorate the former sites of Grey Cup games and former Grey Cup winning teams, which are no longer a part of the CFL. The HAAA Grounds were chosen due to the fact that it hosted such a great number of Grey Cups and that there is so much history embedded in each blade of grass.



It only seemed fitting that the Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club would be asked to receive the banner for the Grounds as they have been using the field for Training Camps, practices, and games since the mid-nineteen sixties. Representatives of the Hamilton Hurricanes, Board member, Mr. Glenn Gibson and General Manager, Mr. Bruno Silvestri were on hand Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> to receive the HAAA banner.



*Glenn Gibson, Bruno Silvestri & CFL Commissioner Mark Cohon*

This is a great honour for the City of Hamilton and for the Hamilton Hurricanes organization. It will allow the younger generations to learn about the history of football in Hamilton for years to come. The banner will forever immortalize the Grey Cup games and the champions who played for Canadian football's greatest prize in the heart of Hamilton at the HAAA Grounds.

# Hamilton Hurricanes 2012 Award Winners

The Hamilton Hurricanes hosted their annual Team Awards Banquet on Friday, November 16th. The evening was full of cheer and excitement as players, coaches, team staff, and family and friends gathered to celebrate the athletes and their accomplishments from this past season.

## **Your 2012 award winners are:**

**Sam Merchanti Community Award** - Tyler Corbett

**Wally Barubek Leadership Award** - Steve Wilkieson

**Special Teams Award** - Spencer Skidmore

**2012 Dennis Griffin Offensive Lineman** - Dalton Laughlin (1st Team OFC All-Star)

**2012 Defensive Back** - Ryan Dalley (OFC All-Star)

**2012 Coach's Award** - Matt Brady

**2012 Zac Duguay Team First Award** - Cory Raposo

**Fred Dunbar Rookie of the Year Award** - Anthony Pizzuti (CJFL Offensive All-Canadian)

**2012 Russ Jackson Offensive MVP** - Ryan Kotar

**2012 Ron Foxcroft Defensive MVP** - Adam Grilj (CJFL Defensive All-Canadian)

**Matthew C. Daley Team MVP Award** - Kyle Johnston (OFC Outstanding Player of the Year)

I was able to catch up with two of the award winners, Matt Brady (**MB**) and Adam Grilj (**AG**), and asked them a few questions about winning the awards and how the Hurricanes' organization has impacted their lives.

## **Interviewer:**

**What does winning this award mean to you?**

## **MB:**

I feel that by winning this award I was able to prove to the coaching staff that they could rely on me in any situation to get the job done and to lead the team when I was called upon. It feels good to know that I have that kind of relationship with my coaches.

## **Interviewer:**

**Now that your Hurricanes' career has come to end, how has being a Hurricane impacted your life?**

## **MB:**

The Hurricanes have helped me grow up into the man I am today. These guys are more than just teammates to me, they are like family and I know that whenever I come to see this team play or practice, I will be welcomed back any time. This team is great for the city of Hamilton and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

## **Interviewer:**

**You came to the Hurricanes with one year left to play in the CJFL, why did you choose to play here?**

## **AG:**

The biggest reason why I chose to play in Hamilton was because it would mean that I was close to home, close to my family and friends. I also wanted to correct the decision I made my Rookie year when I played for the Braves. I wanted to be recognized and I knew that playing for the Hurricanes would allow me that opportunity.

## **Interviewer:**

**You have had a very successful year, what can you attribute your success to?**

## **AG:**

The success that I had this season would not have been possible without the help of my coaches, the staff, and my teammates. Without dedication from them, I would not be where I am today.



**Cory Raposo**  
Winner of the 2012 Zac Duguay  
Team First Award



**Matt Brady**



**Adam Grilj**



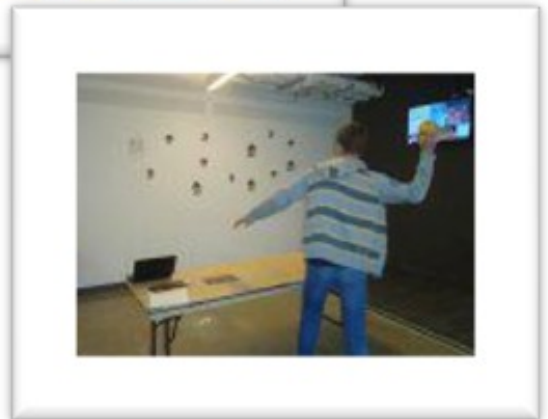
## ‘Canes Battled Breast Cancer - Mohawk College Fundraiser

The Hamilton Hurricanes hosted a fundraiser for breast cancer research at Mohawk College for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A group of volunteers, led by the ‘Canes Marketing Coordinator, Paige McElroy, went to the college on a mission: They were going to raise as much money for breast cancer research as possible.

Creative games entertained students all day. The prizes were much appreciated by the students. The Hurricanes t-shirt prizes were the first to go and chips and pop were also popular prizes. Staff and faculty even joined in on the games. Throwing a football at various targets had everyone laughing and having a great time in support of a great cause.

Through donations by students, staff, and faculty members we raised approximately \$200 in just a few hours!

We would like to thank Mohawk College for having us and thank all of you who threw a football for a great cause. Thank you to all of the volunteers that made this event possible as well. We look forward to holding our next fundraiser; the 2013 Poker Tournament.



## Calling All Alumni!

We have been working hard this year on creating an Alumni Association and we are now ready to open up the new Hamilton Hurricanes Alumni Association Membership to all past players, coaches, and staff.

We're just like you. Remember your time with the Hurricanes? How much fun you had and how much support you received from the community? We are asking you to join our Association in order to support and assist us in helping our 2013 team!

Many of our players in the past have not had to pay registration fees. In 2012, and recent years, this has not been the case. Our players must now pay registration fees in the amount of \$500. This amount is hard for many of our young adults to come up with, especially when coping with college and university fees. The Alumni Association Membership fees will help the Hurricanes assist their financially-challenged players and reward their hardest workers. Your membership will benefit the lives of these young adults and the organization as a whole.

Whether you were a player, a coach, or a staff member, we cannot wait to reconnect with you! Starting now, you can join our Alumni Association.

For your minimum membership fee of \$50 you will receive:

- 2 Hurricanes 2013 Season Passes
- Quarterly Alumni Newsletter
- 1 T-Shirt
- 1 Hurricanes Ball Cap

Exclusive access & discounts to event tickets

**\*Package valued at over \$100**

\*In addition to your cheque please include a note with your name and e-mail address, so that you may receive a conformation e-mail. Packages will be available for pick up in the beginning of 2013.

Thank you in advance for your support of our team entering the 2013 season. Please visit us on Facebook @ [www.facebook.com/hurricanesalumni](http://www.facebook.com/hurricanesalumni)



Your Members Fees can be paid by way of cheque and must be addressed to:

**The Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club**

**P.O. Box 99027**

**Heritage Postal Centre, Stoney Creek, ON, L8J 2PJ**

## Hamilton Hurricanes Poker Tournament

### Have you had a night out lately?

We all know that life can get busy and become hectic easily. Whether you're new in your career, a new parent, just got that promotion you've been waiting for, or are recently retired and looking for something to fill your newfound time, everyone needs to unwind, take a break, and have a night out every once in a while.

The Hurricanes are inviting everyone to come out for a night of care-free excitement and thrills this February as they are hosting their third Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament. The tournament will be held at the stunning Marquis Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. A buffet style dinner will be complimentary and will be followed by raffles and prize giveaways. These prizes include brands such as; the Hamilton Tiger Cats, Maverick for Men, Visage, and much more. A cash bar will also be available to guests. The tournament will commence after the prizes have been claimed.

When it comes to the tournament it's not all fun and games. Some will play for fun and some will play to win. Some of the best poker players in Hamilton will be in attendance. Competitive by nature, Hamiltonian's from all walks of life will fight for their chance to win 1<sup>st</sup> Place and get their hands on the large cash prize. The last table standing will win various amounts of cash prizes as well.

**HAMILTON HURRICANES  
POKER TOURNAMENT**

FRIDAY, FEB. 8TH, 2013  
MARQUIS GARDENS 1050 Rymal Rd. E, Hamilton

DOORS OPEN at 6:00 pm • DINNER AT 6:30-7:30pm  
POKER STARTS 7:30 sharp

\$75<sup>00</sup> per player

**CASH BAR, GREAT PRIZES**

WWW.THE-CANES.COM

\*NOT-FOR-PROFIT EVENT 100% OF PROCEEDS ASSIST THE TEAM

The graphic features a football helmet on the left, a large blue 'H' logo on the right, and a stack of blue and white poker chips in the center. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with varying font sizes and weights.

# How Can I Help?

## How to Become A Canes Volunteer...

The Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club is always looking for Volunteers or Co-op Students. We are initiating new programs the 2013 season and are asking for people to volunteer in areas such as; Marketing, Administration, Media, and Game Day Assistance. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the community and gain experience in the Sports Industry. These positions are best suited for College or University Students/Graduates looking for experience in; administration, marketing, or media. However, you need not be a student to apply. We are looking for ambitious people to join our team and work in our fast-paced environment. Many available positions work around the successful candidate's schedule.

**For further information please contact:**

### **Game Day Activities:**

Mike Samuel, President of the Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club: [msamuel@the-canes.com](mailto:msamuel@the-canes.com)

### **Media:**

Nick Pelletier, Media Coordinator: [npelletier@the-canes.com](mailto:npelletier@the-canes.com)

### **Marketing/Administration:**

Paige McElroy, Marketing Coordinator: [mcelroypaige@gmail.com](mailto:mcelroypaige@gmail.com)

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## Follow The Canes All Year-Round...

Looking for up-to-date information on your Hamilton Hurricanes? Would you like to watch player highlight films? Interested in what is happening around the Ontario Football Conference? Can't make it to a game?

**No problem...We have you covered!**

- Check out the Hamilton Hurricanes webpage ([www.the-canes.com](http://www.the-canes.com)) for information on players, upcoming games, and events
- Follow the Hamilton Hurricanes on Twitter ([@CanesFootball63](https://twitter.com/CanesFootball63)) for breaking news, photos, and scores during the season
- LIKE [Hamilton Hurricanes Football Club](#) & [Hamilton Hurricanes Alumni Association](#) on Facebook and keep up-to-date with everything Hurricanes all year-round

