Bill Comrie immortalized at MacEwan University

Edmonton – In recognition of his $1.5-million donation to MacEwan University Athletics in 2015, Bill Comrie will be immortalized with a bust which will be unveiled at an event on September 20. The bust, created by Greg Polutanovich, will be installed permanently in the lobby of the Christenson Family Centre for Sport and Wellness. Polutanovich is known for his great eye for detail, and he creates realistic pieces that have won him international acclaim.

Thanks to Comrie’s game-changing donation to the Griffins hockey programs, the men’s and women’s squads will each award six $5,000 scholarships annually starting in 2017/18.

The event takes place just days before the Griffin’s men’s first game in their new home, the Downtown Community Rink, part of the Rogers Place development. “The donation is substantial, as MacEwan is on the brink of transition,” said women’s hockey coach head coach Lindsay McAlpine. “We have a new arena to call home, and with the increased visibility, larger numbers of players from across Canada will be interested in joining our rosters.

“It’s an amazing gesture that shows Bill’s commitment to community philanthropy,” said Bram Stephen, coach of the men’s team. “It allows us to compete with every institution in our league and it will have a major impact on our programs for years to come.”

While the Comrie name is well-known in hockey circles, Bill also cemented his family’s reputation in the business world. Following the passing of his father in 1968, Comrie left hockey to help his dad’s small struggling furniture business, Alberta Factory Sales with two business partners. Selling his 50% interest for $16,000 he started Bill Comries Furniture Warehouse with only $8,000. When he moved into a brick building in 1975, he renamed Bill Comries Furniture Warehouse to The Brick. He turned The Brick into a retail giant with annual sales of $1.5 billion. Comrie was named MacEwan University’s 2012 Allard Chair in Business. During his tenure, he worked with business students to discuss the importance of leadership, teamwork and personal commitment.

When: Tuesday, September 20
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Bill Comrie High Performance Centre (Main entrance, Christenson Family Centre for Sport and Wellness, 108 street and 104 avenue)

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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