

Miller's time — always well spent!

Article by David Fisher, Photo by Peterborough Petes

Hockey fans often see Brian Miller, head trainer for the Peterborough Petes, down on one knee at the Peterborough Memorial Centre attending to an injured player. This man cares deeply for his players' physical wellbeing, but there's much more to B-man than meets the eye.

A native of Glen Morris, Ontario, between Brantford and Cambridge, Brian has made Peterborough his home for the past 13 years.

Miller graduated from Brock University in 1991 with a degree in physical education, then he moved on to Sheridan College where he studied Sports Injury Management.

Following his tenure at Sheridan, Miller served as head trainer with the OHL's Guelph Storm for three seasons before taking the same position with the St. John Flames, in the AHL, until 2002 when he settled in Peterborough to work with the Petes.

Brian and his wife Esther have four children, Josh (20), Elisha (18), Luke (16) and Noah (14). Raising four kids, especially when they're involved in sports, can be exhausting, but when other activities are added to the mix it makes for a hectic lifestyle.

Miller has always put others first, a hallmark of his career. This principled, humble, soft-spoken man has made a difference wherever he has served.

For three years Miller directed the Christian Athlete Hockey Camp in Waterloo, Ontario and continued this responsibility the last two summers when the camp moved to a new location in Brantford. At these camps, convened by Hockey Ministries International, aspiring, young hockey players are given instruction in hockey fundamentals and there's also a spiritual dimension at the core of the program that has positively impacted many lives over the years.

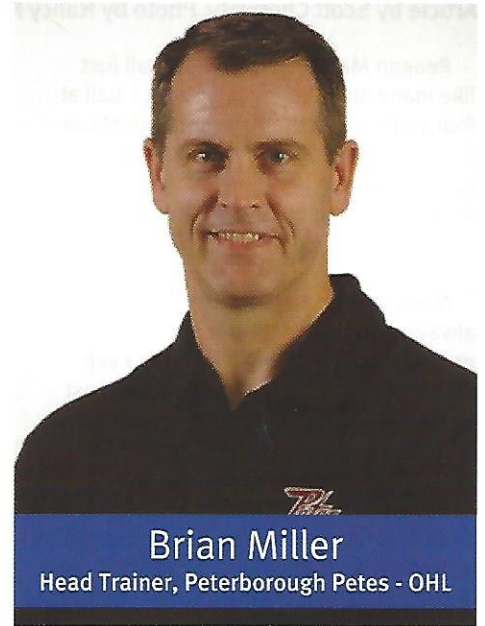
For the last two years Miller has coordinated the Operation Christmas Child program in conjunction with the Peterborough Petes where fans are encouraged to bring shoeboxes filled with hygiene items, school supplies and toys to the rink. These are distributed to disadvantaged children in third world countries, giving them something to be

excited about. Brian and Esther plan to visit the nation of Senegal in Africa for ten days in June to help distribute the "care packages" to bright-eyed children. Watching them open these boxes will be a life-changing experience for the Millers.

Miller, an inventor and an entrepreneur, came up with the idea for the Option B skate straps seven years ago. These Velcro straps replace the laces and make it much easier to tighten skates. Hockey players with special needs have especially benefited from these straps.

Several years ago Miller had the opportunity to visit Israel as the equipment manager for the Canadian men's ice hockey team at the Maccabiah Games. In addition to his duties Brian and Esther got in some sightseeing in the land of the Bible, which was thrilling for them as committed Christians. In addition to everything else he does, Miller serves as an elder at his local church, Auburn Bible Chapel.

Ex-Pete Mark Flood commented, "Brian Miller helped me through a couple of awkward years as a teenager, moving away from home at a young age. He taught me how my body worked and needed to be maintained to become a high-end athlete. He's also a family man and guided me and my teammates on the right path in our time with the Petes."



Brian Miller
Head Trainer, Peterborough Petes - OHL

Mother Teresa's quote, "The good you do today people will forget tomorrow; do good anyways. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; give the world the best you have anyways" is a favourite of Miller's, and he embodies that statement well.

I've known Brian Miller personally for close to 25 years, and this kind, generous man has certainly been a positive influence wherever he has gone. He is truly one of Peterborough's unsung heroes!

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