

## RINK RAT TOUR 2007

Three years ago, twelve Central Manitoba families had a dream to play hockey in Europe. Jack Holmes helped us accomplish this dream.

After fundraising for three years, seven families remained committed to the trip. With only seven pee wee age players left, the only way the Canadians could ice a team was to allow younger and older siblings to play. Jack was able to organize hockey games of a house league calibre in Switzerland and Germany that allowed the wider range of players for the Canadian team. With Jack's knowledge of hockey, he was able to pick teams that were competitive and it soon became evident that Jack was there for the kids. He also arranged for a goalie to play for the Canadians and arranged mingling of the Swiss and Canadian teams after the game.

Jack picked the Canadians up in Geneva and "The Blue Dream" was a joy to tour the countries in with wonderful views from the upper deck. The boys kept busy playing cards and learning some Swiss. Visits to the Cailler chocolate factory, Grindelwald, the Neuschwanstein castle, Austria, and Heidelberg were of interest to hockey players and parents alike. Everyone enjoyed the accommodations, the meals, and learning some of the history and culture of Europe. Jack also kept everyone entertained with his storytelling.

Our thanks to Jack for making our European experience both exciting and unique. Thank you for fulfilling the dreams of thirteen Canadian hockey players and their parents. The memories will last a lifetime.