

SPORTS & LEISURE

Sports Hall of Fame adds six inductees



The Halton Hills Sports Museum Hall of Fame will welcome six new inductees at its sixth-annual ceremony on Thursday, June 21 at Christ the King Secondary School. Tickets are \$40 each and are available by contacting Glenda Nixdorf at 905-873-1360. A reception will be held at 6 p.m. with the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Visit

the website hhsm.ca for more information. Below and on page 35 reporter Eamonn Maher has compiled profiles of the inductees, pictured above (from left): Don Cousens (athlete), John Grace (athlete), Bryan Lewis (athlete/builder), Kerwin McPhail (builder), Glenda Nixdorf (builder), Richard Van der Wal (builder).



His zebra-striped jersey bears the number 35 on its back, but Don Cousens figures he's probably done a good job when nobody notices he was even out on the field.

Selected to work six Grey Cup championship games as a head linesman since 2002, the 54-year-old has become one of the Canadian Football League's top officials and a mentor for newer ones overseeing the line of scrimmage.

Don Cousens

Soon after his playing career ended with the Georgetown District High School Rebels and he was hired as a Halton Regional Police officer, Cousens joined the Lakeshore Football Officials' Association in 1980 in order to maintain involvement with the sport he loves.

Beginning with minor club

and high school football as a line judge, Cousens progressed through the Ontario and Canadian junior ranks to the Canadian university level, working the Yates Cup OUA championship match before getting invited to the CFL Officials' Camp in 1998.

Over 15 seasons in the CFL, Cousens has officiated 243

games, with his professional debut coming at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium between the hometown Tiger-Cats and the Toronto Argonauts.

Cousens, now a staff sergeant with the HRPS, still manages to fit local-area high school and youth contests into his schedule and estimates he's worked more than 1,200 amateur games over the past 32 years.



A self-confessed "adrenaline junkie," John Grace has literally turned his involvement in triathlons into a lifestyle rather than just a recreational activity.

Having turned 60 in the fall, the Halton Region mechanic still takes his bicycle to work most mornings, making the 17-km trek to the depot on Steeles Ave.

Grace has ridden his bike to places all over the planet,

John Grace

representing Canada at 12 World Triathlon Championships (swim, bike, run) and seven World Duathlon Championships (bike, run).

Not only dominating his own age group by winning every event he entered in 2011, earning the Triathlon Ontario Masters (40+) Athlete of the Year Award, it's a regular oc-

currence to see Grace overtake competitors half his age or more during the late stages of a race.

He has won numerous provincial age group titles and was Canadian Masters Duathlon champion in 1999 and nationals age group (55-59) winner in 2006.

As well, Grace received the

Triathlon Ontario's Official of the Year honour for 2011, as he serves as a head referee on the weekends he doesn't compete. He is also director of TO's technical committee.

A member of the Georgetown Runners since 1984, Grace has twice been named captain of the Canadian contingent at world championships and will compete in this year's triathlon worlds in Auckland, New Zealand.

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