

# Five new inductees in 2016 for Sports Hall of Fame

By Eamonn Maher  
emaher@theifp.ca

The Halton Hills Sports Museum Hall of Fame will welcome six new inductees at its 10th-annual ceremony on Thursday, June 16 at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown.

The 2016 inductees are: Debbie Boycott (builder, Special Olympics rhythmic gymnastics), Bill Fisher (builder, baseball & hockey), Jim Hall (athlete/builder, wrestling), Juri Kudrasovs (athlete, hockey), Colleen Shields (athlete, swimming).

The keynote speaker for the event will be curler and golf pro Mike Harris, who represented Canada at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan.

Tickets are \$30 each and are available by contacting Glenda Nixdorf at 905-873-1360 or email info.hhsm@bell.net

A reception will be held at 6 p.m. with the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Below are profiles of each inductee:

## DEBBIE BOYCOTT

The Special Olympics motto is, Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

Boycott has certainly enjoyed success, serving as head coach twice and once as an assistant for Canada's rhythmic gymnastics team at the World Special Olympics Summer Games, during which her athletes earned 76 medals, while also providing young people with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to participate in the sport.



The Oakville Butterflies Special Olympics Rhythmic Gymnastics Club was founded by Boycott in 1999 and she served as its head coach, lead organizer and cheerleader.

She became involved to support her daughter Emily, who won 15 World Games medals before her retirement last year, but over the years Debbie helped foster the growth and development of Special Olympics rhythmic gymnastics in Ontario and across the country by running training camps and introducing new coaches to the sport.

Since Boycott became involved, the number of clubs in the province has grown to 17 from three in 1999.

A native of Thunder Bay, Boycott has received several awards for her involvement, such as the Special Olympics Ontario Female Coach of the Year in 2013 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Halton Down Syndrome Association earlier this year.

## BILL FISHER

When the Georgetown Royal Canadian Legion Branch discontinued its sponsorship of the local minor hockey organization in the late 1950s, Fisher assumed the house league chairman role with the incoming group of volunteers and went on to serve in several other capacities over close to three decades.



According to officials with the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council, Fisher was set to receive its annual award in 1984 but passed away at the age of 65, just weeks before the induction ceremony and instead received the posthumous Murray Ezeard Award.

Fisher, a Winnipeg native, spent every Saturday through the fall and winter at the rink, serving as a head coach, timekeeper, general manager of registration and chief fundraiser, always carrying draw tickets in his pockets to sell.

He also coached minor baseball teams in Georgetown for several years.

## JURI KUDRASOVS

The puck always seems to find prolific scorers and the Norval native had a knack for being on winning hockey teams as well.

The son of a Russian father and Latvian mother, Kudrasovs played minor hockey in Georgetown and starred the only local team that won the Grand Championship at the International Bantam Tournament in 1967.

Despite losing the top half of his thumb in a waterskiing accident as a teen, the talented, diminutive centre enjoyed three solid seasons with the Jr. A Kitchener Rangers and was a 10th-round draft pick of the National

Hockey League's Minnesota North Stars.

Now 63, Kudrasovs broke into the International Hockey League in 1972-73 with a 34-goal campaign and went on to win the Turner Cup with the Toledo Goaldiggers as team captain, leading scorer and MVP, netting the clinching goal in the seventh-and-deciding game.

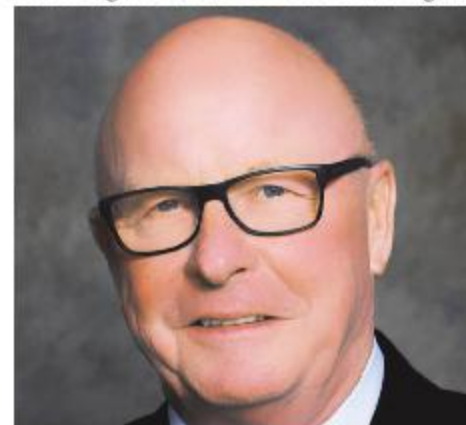


He came close to earning another Turner Cup in 1977 when the Goaldiggers lost in the finals.

Kudrasovs returned to Georgetown to play for the Intermediate A Raiders for six seasons, resulting in five OHA titles and the Hardy Cup Canadian championship in 1982.

## JIM HALL

A two-time Canadian university wrestling champion in 1969-70, Hall returned to teach and coach many Rebels sports teams at Georgetown District High School, where his distinguished career on the mats began.



The 66-year-old captured district and regional titles at GDHS in the 123-pound weight class from 1965-68, before moving on to become captain of the Waterloo Warriors wrestling team, winning the Ontario and Canadian championships in back-to-back years.

It was the first time that a Waterloo wrestler was victorious at nationals.

As a builder, Hall was three-time head coach of the Canadian Schoolboy Team that competed in world championships in New Mexico, California and Montana.

He taught locally at Centennial Middle

School in Georgetown and at GDHS. The Arthur, Ont. native coached a variety of sports teams, earning several Halton championships in fastpitch while guiding local wrestlers to numerous provincial and national titles.

Hall was also heavily involved in the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association and conducted certification for coaches.

## COLLEEN SHIELDS

Going up against one of the most formidable, frustrating and unforgiving opponents one could imagine on many occasions, the oldest person to swim across Lake Ontario conquered her foe one last time just two years ago and then put the rivalry to rest.

Shields made her first successful attempt at the crossing from Niagara-On-The-Lake to the Leslie St. Spit in Toronto in 1990 in just under 18 hours at age 38 to become the oldest woman to accomplish the feat.



She regained the title in 2006 in an even faster time of 16:30:17 at 54 years old and was confident the speed record for ladies was within her capabilities. Yet the next five attempts, between 2008-12, had to be abandoned due to either uncooperative conditions, injury or illness.

In August of 2014, all the stars seemed aligned for Shields to give it one last successful shot to be the oldest female or male to cross Lake Ontario.

An unusually lengthy spell of calm water paved the way, although at one point after a three-hour bout with sickness, she wanted to quit. But Swim Master John Scott wouldn't hear of it and that tough love propelled her to the finish line at Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto in 21:33:49, where Marilyn Bell the first person to make the crossing in 1954 was waiting to greet her.

The Toronto native was an elite-level sprint swimmer as well, taking part Canada's Olympic Trials in 1968 in the 100m and 200m backstroke. She won the gold medal in the 50m back for her age group at the World Masters Swim Championships in Denmark in 2002, representing the Etobicoke Masters.