

# Bassett named provincial officials' award recipient

By **MICHAEL ZURAW**  
Special to the IFP

The Ontario Swimming Officials' Association (OSAO) recognized Gord Bassett at their annual general meeting late last month.

OSOA is the governing body for swimming officials in Ontario and this year the John Grootveld Memorial Award was posthumously present to Bassett, whose involvement with the Blue Fins stretched over three decades.

The John Grootveld Memorial Award is presented to Master Level Officials in Ontario who have dedicated over 25 years to the sport of competitive swimming, with an emphasis on those individuals who helped mentor new officials.

Bassett passed away in June of this year due to a heart ailment. The longtime Stewarttown Public School teacher held many roles, including coach, president and most notably officials' chair.

In his capacity as an official, Bassett was responsible for helping create and implement many of the educational materials still in use today to train new swim officials across the province.

In his capacity as a Master Official he participated in many swim meets across the continent at all levels of competition, from Introductory meets to national and international competitions.

Through Bassett's dedication and hard

work he was able to fully train a large number of volunteers with the ability to run any level of competitive swim meet, a feat most other large clubs across Ontario are still unable to accomplish.

It was not only Bassett's knowledge and experience that filled the ranks of Ontario officials, but also his demeanor and charisma. In order to convince parent volunteers to spend four hours on deck, you need to offer a lot of encouragement.

He would continually entertain and inspire the officials he trained with many stories of interesting events and circumstances surrounding swim meet competitions.

Bassett made the training and experience interesting, enjoyable, and relaxed. Very few Master Officials ever had his enthusiasm for the sport and the people involved.

One of Gord's most endearing quotes, "You get far better results with a little honey than with vinegar," sums up his attitude toward teaching on deck. Whether he was explaining the finer points of rule infractions to young swimmers, or teaching junior officials how to properly calculate an official swim time, Gord always managed to do it with a honeyed smile.

For those of us, lucky enough to have been mentored by Gord, his absence will always be felt, but his philosophy and legacy of teaching, and mentoring will carry on with the Halton Hills Blue Fins.



The late Gord Bassett was a fixture not only with the Halton Hills Blue Fins but as a member of the Ontario Swimming Officials' Association as well. Bassett, who died in June from a heart problem, was posthumously honoured with the OSOA's John Grootveld Award at its recent annual general meeting. Submitted photo

## Raiders win 5 straight

Anthony Marra had two goals and an assist to lead the Georgetown Raiders to a 4-0 victory over the guest Burlington Cougars Saturday night in an Ontario Junior Hockey League matchup.

Despite outshooting the 5-9-0 Cougars 52-20 on the evening, the 8-1-1 Raiders held just a one-goal lead against the youthful Burlington side until the 13-minute mark of the third period after they'd worn down Cougar netminder Evgueni Makarski.

Francois Cote and Blake Jones also tallied for Georgetown, with veteran Marc Williams earning his first shutout in a Raider uniform.

Next up for the Raiders, who've won five games in a row and moved into top spot in the OJHL's West Division, is a home date with the North York Rangers this Saturday at the Alcott Arena beginning at 7:30 p.m.



Christ the King quarterback Tanner Cadwallader was surrounded by Nelson Lords' tacklers on many occasions Thursday afternoon as the Jags dropped a 12-6 decision. Photo by Eamonn Maher

## CtK in the Pink; Jr. Rebels 4-0

Several hundred students from host Christ the King Secondary School and surrounding elementary schools turned out to support the annual Pink senior football game to raise funds in the battle against cancer last Thursday.

The 1-3 Jaguars had trouble generating much offence against the visiting Nelson Lords throughout the contest, yet still had a chance to pull out a late victory, but a last-minute drive ran out of time in a 12-6 defeat.

A stiff wind also stifled the offences in the junior game, won by the Lords 6-0.

Meanwhile, Georgetown's junior Rebels are now 4-0 after a 30-6 trouncing of the host Oakville-Trafalgar Red Devils on Wednesday.

The senior Rebels lost 32-0 to O-T.

**COUNTDOWN TO THE RAIDERS NEXT HOME GAME**

**October 18, 2014**  
7:30 pm at Mold-Masters SportsPlex

**Georgetown Raiders vs. North York Rangers**

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