

Sports Museum to welcome six inductees

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Howard rose through the ranks of Skate Canada to become its head in 1986, working to improve many facets of the organization. He is credited with advancing figure skating by establishing a marketing committee and helping to produce several Canadian medallists in international competition.

Howard died suddenly in 2001 at the age of 68 while attending the World Figure Skating Championships in Vancouver at a time when the sport was at its peak in popularity worldwide. As well, he was commissioner on many International Skating Union committees that dealt with issues such as judging infractions.

John McCauley

Well known for his 10 years of work as a referee in the National Hockey League beginning in 1970, McCauley was also a big name in lacrosse circles in southern Ontario.

The Brampton native became the NHL's assistant director of officiating in 1981 after retiring from on-ice duties due to an eye injury, having officiated many memorable Stanley Cup contests. McCauley died from complications following surgery in June of 1989 at the age of 44 while still serving as the league's director of officiating. Among rule changes he helped institute was the delayed offside non-call to help speed up the pace of the game.

On the lacrosse floor, 'Gus' McCauley coached Brampton's Mann Cup national-champion squad in 1980 and oversaw Canada's winning entry at the World Field Lacrosse Championships in 1978. A huge men's recreational tournament is held in his memory each spring in Brampton.

Hal Pells

When his son Ryan began playing hockey at the age of five, Hal Pells soon discovered that coaching one of his sons wasn't for him, preferring to work behind the scenes as a member of the Georgetown Minor Hockey Association's executive.

Thirty-two years later, Pells is the guiding hand for the GMHA, boasting close to 1,800 youths signed up in house league, select or rep teams this past season. As president since 1992, the Etobicoke native sits on community sports committees besides the GMHA and is considered a tireless volunteer, spending countless evenings at the rink each year.

"In a small town like ours, I just like the atmosphere that you find at the arena. It becomes part of a routine and it grows on you, working with the people involved with minor hockey," the 62-year-old said. "You just want to try to give back to the system what you got out of it as someone who loves the sport."

Pells helped establish development programs in the GMHA, including the successful CHIP introductory level for beginners and a fund to help underprivileged youths play minor hockey each year.

Jim Ford

Statistics are usually considered when looking back on an athletes' hall of fame career and a big number stands out when assessing Jim 'Tubby' Ford's impact on youths as a sport builder in Halton Hills—8,000.

That's approximately how many girls who have played in the Kinsmen Girls' Softball League in the four decades that Ford has been involved with the organization. Starting off as

an umpire, he remains the commissioner and chief executive officer for the league, among many jobs he's undertaken as a volunteer.

Ford, who turns 75 in October, also was involved with minor hockey for several years and he is the first person to receive the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award as well as Halton Hills Sports Museum Hall of Fame induction. Ford is the only person ever to become an Honorary Member of the Kinsmen Club in Georgetown and last year earned the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship.

"It just becomes a habit and it's something I enjoy doing, so why not?" said Ford, longtime president of the Industrial Softball League. "We're fortunate in that we've had a lot of the same sponsors for over 30 years and they keep us going. I keep saying I'm going to give it up, but it never seems to happen."

(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)

ATHLETES of the Week

CHRIST THE KING	ACTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL	GEORGETOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
		
Andy Bathgate	Ben Jolly	Haley Besworth
		
Taylor Dowdall	Mike Shortt.	Sarah Chapin

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Michael Shortt and Ben Jolly, a boys' doubles duo on the Bearcat junior badminton team. The Grade 9 students won three of their four matches at the North Halton qualifying tournament at Christ the King in Georgetown but Acton's team entry just missed out on qualifying for the regional championships.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Haley Besworth and Sarah Chapin. Those two combined to capture the Halton Secondary Schools Athletic Association junior girls' doubles championship in Milton, registering a 5-0 record. The Grade 9 students didn't lose a game all season.

Christ the King Athletes of the Week are Taylor Dowdall and Andy Bathgate. Dowdall, a Grade 10 student, teamed up with Tara Bishop in girls' doubles to post a 3-1 record at the North Halton junior badminton qualifier recently.


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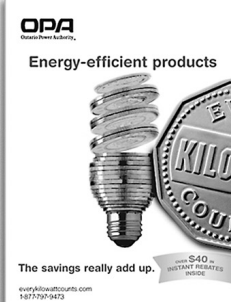
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