

2015 Inductees

ATHLETE CATEGORY:

SARAH CHARLES

Sarah began her gymnastics career at age 5 and at age 17 won her first World championship in the Double Mini Trampoline (2003) and added another World title in 2007. She is a gold medalist at the 2004 Pan Am Games and Indo-Pacific Games.



ATHLETE CATEGORY:

CHRISTI VAN HEES

Christi is a 6-time Canadian National racquetball champion (1997-2008) and a 2-time World champion (1998 & 2006). She captured a silver medal at the 1999 Pan-Am Games and was the #1 ranked player in the world in 2005.

PIONEER ATHLETE CATEGORY:

WAYNE HICKS

To date, Wayne is the only Kelowna player to have his name on the Stanley Cup. He won the Cup as a member of the 1961 Chicago Black-hawks. He played 117 NHL games with Chicago, Boston, Montreal, Philadelphia & Pittsburgh. He helped Kelowna win it's first-ever BC Midget hockey title in 1953.



BUILDER CATEGORY:

ROD BELINSKI

As a head coach, Rod guided the KLO Cougars to 5 Provincial high school boys volleyball titles. His teams qualified for the Provincials in 20 of his 21 years as coach. Rod was instrumental in moving the BC Volleyball Championships to Kelowna in 1993 and served as Tournament Chair for 19 years.



BENNETT AWARD (SPECIAL RECOGNITION):

JOHN & JENNIFER HINDLE

The Hindles started the Kelowna Apple Triathlon in 1983. John helped build the junior racing programs at Big White & Silver Star Mountains. Jennifer was a tireless volunteer in the Kelowna arts scene helping with the Ballet & Symphony.

2014 Inductees



2004 KELOWNA ROCKETS HOCKEY TEAM

After losing in the 2003 Memorial Cup in Quebec City, the '04 Rockets rebounded to win the trophy on home ice in 2004. The WHL regular season champions went undefeated in the '04 Memorial Cup beating Gatineau 2 - 1 in the title game at Prospera Place.



GILLIAN THOMSON

While winning Gold & Silver medals at the Hobie 18 World Championships and Pan American Games, Gillian was also involved in growing the sport of sailing back home in Kelowna. She's garnered Provincial, National and International recognition for her Learn to Sail & Disabled Sailing programs.



MIKE AND BRENDA VAN TIEGHAM

They could be called Mr & Mrs Track and Field in Kelowna. They helped form the Kelowna Track and Field club, built the Jack Brow Track meet into a premier event in Western Canada and coached several athletes to success on the track including an Olympic berth, a World championship and a Junior Pan American Games Championship.



GLEN MERVYN

Glen won the Silver medal at the 1960 Olympic Summer Games in Rome in the Men's 8 rowing event. He coached the Men's Pairs Rowing Team to a Gold medal at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. At age 50, he became a National & World cycling champion in his age category.

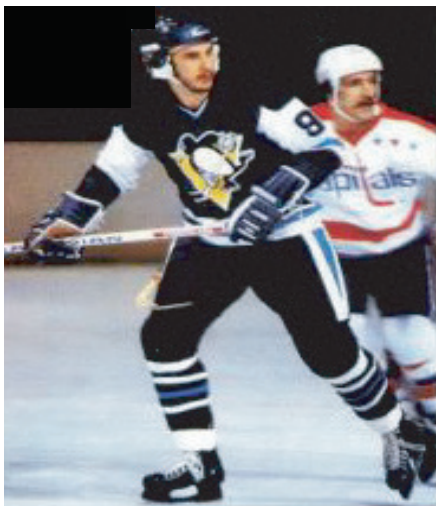
2013 Inductees



After winning the BC and Canadian Junior Women's titles in 1987, the **1988 Sutton Junior Women's Curling Team** captured the World crown in 1988 in Chamonix, France. The team of Julie Sutton-skip, Judy Wood-3rd, Susan Auty-2nd, Marla curling champions and were named BC Team of the Year in 1988.



Brock Aynsley was a high school track star who later competed in the 1991 Pan American Games and attended the 1972 Olympic Games trials. He then turned his attention to catching footballs and as receiver, played 8 seasons in the CFL winning the 1977 Grey Cup with the Montreal Alouettes and was named to the CFL Eastern Conference All-Star team.



Blair Chapman still holds the WHL record for most goals by one player in a single was drafted 2nd overall in the NHL amateur draft by the Pittsburgh Penguins. Blair Chapman played in over 400 NHL games for Pittsburgh and the St. Louis Blues.



Wayne North was the driving force in helping Junior A hockey succeed in Kelowna. He was Owner, GM & Coach of the Kelowna Buckaroos of the BC Junior Hockey League between 1970 and 1981. Under his guidance, 15 Buckaroo players graduated to the NHL ranks and many others were able to obtain U-S College scholarships.

2012 Inductees

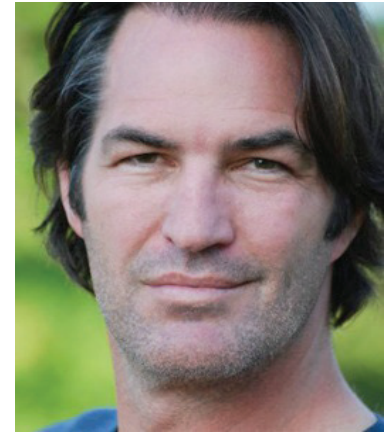
See more of the inductees and their stories on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#). To learn more about the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame Museum visit: www.kelownamuseums.ca



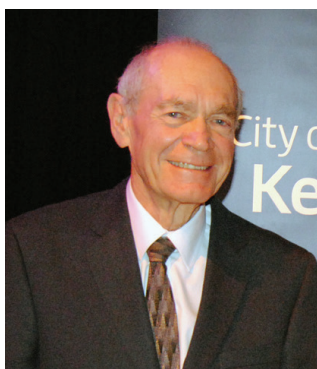
Alex Recsky was a physiotherapist with the CFL Calgary Stampeders. He moved to Kelowna where he assisted college athletes at OUC, UBCO, the Okanagan Sun, and Kelowna Rockets. He also gives of his time volunteering for the BC Senior Games Committee, World Junior Hockey Championships, BC High School Volleyball championships, and at Kelowna General Hospital.



After starring with the KLO Cougars volleyball team, **Erminia Russo** would become a member of Canada's National Team in 1985. She played in over 150 international matches including a pair of world cups, 2 world championships and the 1996 Olympic Games. Erminia was named captain of Team Canada in 1989. She moved into coaching in 1993.



Glenn Ennis started his rugby career in Kelowna, played around the world and wound up on the big screen. Ennis played in 3 rugby World Cups. He was a vice-captain and team leader. After playing professional rugby in Japan for ten years, he became a Hollywood stuntman appearing in over 15 movies including being a stunt double for actor Steven Seagal.



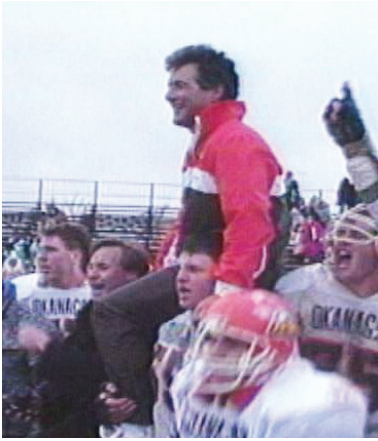
Dr. Barry Urness was a founding member of the Okanagan Sun junior football team, helped to resurrect high school football in the Central Okanagan and has been a member of the Kelowna Civic Awards Committee for 25 years. Barry is this year's recipient of the WAC-WR Bennett Special Recognition Award for his contribution to sports in the Central Okanagan.



The '88 Okanagan Sun enjoyed a dream season. There was no doubt; they were the most dominant club on the grid iron. Undefeated in regular season play, they rolled through the BCJFC playoffs and then defeated Prairie rival Saskatoon in the Western Final. The Sun travelled to Burlington, Ontario where they blanked the Burlington Ti-Cats 50-0 to claim their first national championship.

2011 Inductees

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Lawrence Nagy was a soccer player who had to be convinced to play football. After his first 'hit', he was hooked. He played high school football in Kelowna, won a Vanier Cup with the Alberta Golden Bears and then took up coaching where he won 5 BC titles with and two Canadian championships with the Okanagan Sun junior football club. He is a 3-time BC Junior Football League coach-of-the-year and was the top amateur coach for all sports in BC in 1989.



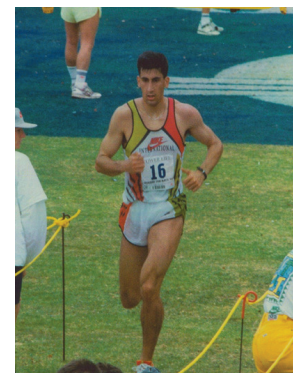
Eric Tasker had a dream, to bring high end soccer to the Central Okanagan. He realized that dream before passing away in 2010 from cancer. Eric Tasker played, coached, managed, refereed and helped start the Okanagan Challenge soccer team. Eric was given the Calgary Winter Olympics Community Service Award in 1988 and the BC Soccer Association Merit Award in 1994. He became a national referee and conducted clinics to hundreds of youngsters in the Okanagan.



For the better part of two decades, **Joan Campbell** was unbeatable in the BC Interior. A 3-time club champion in Penticton and later a 9-time champ in Kelowna, Joan Campbell won 10 interior titles and was a member of the BC team which captured the Canadian Senior Women's title in 1972. She is the standard that young female golfers of today try to emulate.



A long distance runner who was just getting warmed up at the 1500 metre mark, **Aundrea Bertoia** really ratched it up in the 3000 metre event. A BC high school champion, gold-silver-and bronze at the Western Canadian Juvenile championships, she added a bronze medal at the 21st Junior Olympic Athletic Championships in Japan in 1990.



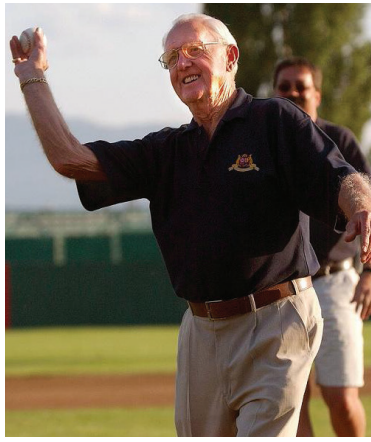
Dan Bertoia excelled in the 1500 and 800 metre runs winning Provincial, Western Canadian & National titles. On the international scene, he competed for Canada at the Pan-American games winning bronze.

2010 Inductees

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Don Arnold from Winfield helped power Canada to its first ever gold medal in rowing at the 1956 Olympics in Australia. Arnold won a silver medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome and is a member of the BC Sports Hall of Fame, Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame.



Henry 'Hank' Tostenson from Kelowna is simply known as "Mr. Baseball" at ballparks throughout BC and beyond. Henry Tostenson was instrumental in the resurrection and growth of minor baseball in Kelowna. He started the Babe Ruth league and was responsible for the installation of the original lights at Elks Stadium.



At a time when female sports didn't receive a lot of recognition, along came the **Teddy Bears** basketball team. This Kelowna squad was formed in 1956 and during their 8 year existence, won six BC titles, two Canadian championships and captured plenty of attention along the way. The team, which was formed by the late Bob Hall, garnered lots of headlines across the country as they ran the floor against each opponent.



From his days in Kelowna minor football to a ten year CFL career, **Jay Christensen** was tall and had good hands. The lanky receiver demonstrated his catching ability with the Okanagan Sun and played for 4 CFL teams over ten years; Calgary, BC Lions, Edmonton and Ottawa. Jay won a Grey Cup with Edmonton and still shares the CFL record for most 2-point converts in one game with two.



Mervyn Andrews was a successful field hockey coach winning a pair of BC High School championships at KLO Secondary School. 3 dozen of his players would go on to play for provincial and national teams as well as earning scholarships to Canadian and American universities. Mervyn was named Coach of the Year by Field Hockey Canada in 1993.

2008/2009 Inductees

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2009

The name **Jack Brow** is synonymous with minor and amateur sport in the Central Okanagan. From 1958 to 1979, Jack Brow worked tirelessly promoting participation in sport. As a result, everything from minor hockey to youth soccer prospered.



2009

Jo-Anne Ritchie's run to success in the early 1990's helped grow the sport of triathlon in Canada. She captured the World Championship in 1991 in Australia and followed that performance with a second and third place showing at the next two World Triathlon Championships.



2009

The **Rick Folk** curling team was a runner-up at the 1993 Brier and won the Canadian Men's curling title in 1994. Skip Rick Folk, Third Pat Ryan, Second Bert Gretzinger, Lead Gerry Richard, and Alternate Ron Steinhauer were inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

2009

A family of athletic accomplishment- dad, mom and all three sons-the **Athans family** was a force in the water and on the snow. George Athans Sr. was an Olympic diver in 1936 and 1948 and gold medal winner at the British Empire Games in 1950. The matriarch, Irene, is a record holder in Canadian Masters Swimming. George Jr. was a world water-ski champion for four years, the late Greg Athans won the world moguls and ballet ski championship in 1977, and Gary competed at the 1984 Winter Olympics (skiing) and is a national junior champion in both water and snow skiing.



2008



The first inductees in the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame Museum were the 1958 Kelowna Packers, the first Canadian hockey team to play behind the Iron Curtain in the Soviet Union. The Western Canadian Senior hockey champions captured first place in a 6-team tournament in Moscow.