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Acknowledgment: The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame and the Sports Legacy Committee gratefully acknowledge all of the volunteers and staff members of the Kelowna Museums Society who contributed to the success of the induction ceremony. Thank you to all who have supported, and who continue to support sports in the Central Okanagan.



2012 Induction Ceremony Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame Museum

November 22nd, 2012



Our Vision...

A dynamic, interactive and accessible facility dedicated to the legacy of sports in the Central Okanagan and to the recognition and commemoration of those whose commitment to sports in our region continues to inspire all of us to do better in our sport, in our community and in our selves.

Our Mission...

To preserve and interpret the sports history of the Central Okanagan and to promote the healthy quality of life that comes through the inspiration of those who have gone above and beyond in their sport and its promotion.

Program Itinerary:

Master of Ceremonies; Mike Roberts, CHBC-TV

Welcome & O Canada (Sung by Heidi Hewitt)
Grace & Breakfast

Interview with Guest Speaker
Interior Savings & COSHOFM cheque
presentation to KidSport Kelowna

Keynote speaker: Doug Manning, President
Central Okanagan Rugby Enthusiasts (CORE)

Induction Ceremony:

Glenn Ennis (video & presentation)
Athlete Category
Presenter: Bert Gretzinger (2009 Inductee)

Erminia Russo (video & presentation)
Athlete Category
Presenter: Jo-Anne Ritchie (2009 Inductee)

Alex Recsky (video & presentation)
Builder Category
Presenter: Brian Roche (2008 inductee)

1988 Okanagan Sun (video & presentation)
Team Category
Presenter: Jay Christensen (2010 Inductee)

Dr. Barry Urness (video & presentation)
WAC-WR Bennett Special Recognition Award
Presenter: Steve Bennett

Prizes & Closing Comments

The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame is honoured to welcome the 2012 inductees;

Glenn Ennis | Athlete Category
Erminia Russo | Athlete Category
Alex Recsky | Builder Category
The 1988 Okanagan Sun | Team Category
**Dr. Barry Urness | WAC-WR Bennett Special
Recognition Award**

Athlete Category:



Glenn Ennis started his rugby career in Kelowna, played around the world and wound up on the big screen. Ennis was a member of Canada's first ever World Cup rugby team in 1987 and would play in two more World Cups in 1991 & 1995 where he was also a vice-captain. Ennis was named a world all-star twice in 1988 and 1991. 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.

Athlete Category:

After starring on the high school volleyball scene for the KLO Cougars, Erminia Russo elevated her game at the University of British Columbia. Then in 1985, Canada's National team named her to the squad where she would play over 150 international matches including the 1996 Olympics, 2 World Championships, 2 World Cups and 2 Pan-American Games. Erminia was named captain of Team Canada in 1989. She moved into coaching in 1993.



Builder Category:

Alex Recsky has had his hands all over the local sports scene for more than 20 years. A physiotherapist with the CFL Calgary Stampeders, he moved to Kelowna where he assisted college athletes at OUC and UBCO, the Okanagan Sun and Kelowna Rockets. He also gives of his time volunteering for the BC Senior Games Committee, Memorial Cup Committee, World Junior Hockey Championships, BC High School Volleyball championships and at Kelowna General Hospital.



Team Category:



The 1988 Okanagan Sun junior football team enjoyed a dream season. 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.

WAC-WR Bennett Special Recognition Award: (Posthumously)

Dr. Barry Urness (1942-2012) worked tirelessly on improving the local sports scene and our community for over 30 years. He was a founding member of the Okanagan Sun junior football team, helped to resurrect high school football in the Central Okanagan, was President of the Kelowna Amateur Sport Society for 10 years and has been a member of the Kelowna Civic Awards Committee for 25 years. In 2008, Barry also founded the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame Museum.

