

40th Anniversary Celebration a Huge Success at Sport Alliance Ontario

On Thursday November 4th, over 100 leaders in sport and recreation joined in to celebrate the inaugural **Ontario Sport Administration Wall of Honour Induction**, coinciding with the 40th Anniversary of Sport Alliance Ontario.

The original “Sport Centre” concept was hatched following a landmark conference which was held in late 1968 at the Guildwood Inn in Scarborough. At that time the well-known sport and recreation visionary, Bob Secord, proposed to the 48 provincial sport organizations that attended, that Ontario required a new plan for sport development – one that included a centralized “home for sports”.

The first home to sport was established in the fall of 1971 and the first nine PSOs moved in to the Sport Ontario Administration Centre. Over the span of forty years the organization continued to grow and as new PSOs, MSOs and PROs joined the Centre the administration was always seeking additional space. The present home to sport and recreation at 3 Concorde Gate is the fifth physical location over the past 40 years. The years have seen a 500 percent growth in occupancy. Ministry funded sport programs such as the Ontario Games and Ontario Sport Awards have been added to the responsibilities of Sport Alliance Ontario as has the addition of KidSport.



The five inductees to the Wall of Honour included:

BOB SECORD - *The Bob Secord Conference Centre*

“Mr. Sport and Recreation” Robert (Bob) Secord began his career in sports administration immediately following his graduation from the University of Toronto in 1948. He was involved in municipal recreation in Brantford and Mimico. In 1951, he was hired by the Province of Ontario and through numerous shifts of the Sport and Recreation portfolio, Mr. Secord was continuously involved in directing aid for the development of both mass participation and high performance athletes.

Under his auspices the Sports Federation of Ontario was formed along with the original Ontario Sports Centre and the present programs of support for provincial sport bodies were developed. He was one of those who started the National Coaching Certification Program. In 1970, he initiated the Ontario Games (summer and winter) for able bodied athletes. He helped to establish the Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled in 1975 and the Ontario Senior Games in 1985. He was also involved in the development of the Special Olympics Program for the mentally challenged. In addition, he started the Ontario Sports Awards Program. Bob was instrumental in the success and growth of the Canada Games since their inauguration in 1967 and he was the Founding Chairman of the Interprovincial Sport and Recreational Council, and was on the Board of the Canadian Olympic Association.

In October 1975, Bob was loaned to the Canadian Olympic Association for a year to develop and direct its support program for Canada's athletes participating in the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal.

Bob Secord was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for Sport and Recreation in 1980, a position from which he retired in 1989 after 38 years service. Throughout these years, Bob played an active part in many sport and recreation organizations related to his responsibilities. For his many contributions he was made a Honorary Life Member of Sport Ontario, the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation in Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Recreation Society, the Ontario Recreation Society, and the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario. In 1988, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association granted him a Citation of Outstanding Achievement and he was elected as a Honorary Member of the Canadian Olympic Association.



Accepting Bob Secord's posthumous honour was daughters Barb and Susan Secord pictured here with Holly Abraham, Chair of Sport Alliance Ontario

Bob Secord's lifelong contribution to the development and advancement of people through participation in sport and athletic endeavours is well-known to Canada's athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, organizers, volunteers and the media. His commitment to creating opportunities and events to the highest quality for Canada's athletes earned him a place on the Honour Roll of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

JAMES WORRALL - *The Jim Worrall "Wall of Honour"*

In 1934, Jim represented Canada at the British Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games) in London, winning silver in hurdles; two years later he competed in the Berlin Olympics, where he competed in the 110 m and 400 m hurdles, and was Canada's flag-bearer in the opening ceremonies. In 1945, he re-established the Ontario Track And Field Committee (now the OTFA), and by 1947 he became involved in the Olympic movement as a volunteer. Over the next 12 years, James was assistant Chef-de-Mission at the 1948 and 1952 Olympics, and the Chef at the 1956 and 1960 Games. He was elected President of the Canadian Olympic Association in 1961, and held the position until 1968. Prior to Sydney, James had represented Canada in some capacity at every summer Olympic Games since 1936. He was appointed a member of the International Olympic Committee in 1967, and became the first Canadian to sit on its Executive Board in 1974. He was also heavily involved in Canada's Olympics, sitting on the Board of the (1976) Montreal Olympics and the (1988) Calgary Games. He retired as a voting member of the IOC in 1989, and was created a **lifetime Honorary Member of the IOC at that time.** James was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1976.



Accepting a posthumous honour was Jim's wife Birgitte Worrall. Pictured here are Jim's three daughters, Birgitte and Holly Abraham

These are the "formal" components of a life time contribution to sport, but equally important, Jim Worrall was deeply committed to young athletes – he was an integral part of the Olympic Academy and, in partnership with the SAO and the former PSO Council, developed the Jim Worrall Scholarship Fund to assist young athletes. He was always willing to meet and talk with young people and seasoned sport administrators alike.



DR. ROBERT JACKSON

Dr. Robert W. Jackson is being recognized for his extraordinary leadership, dedication and excellence in sport for athletes with a physical disability. He was a true pioneer and often referred to as the Father of Paralympic sport in Canada, and Ontario.

Most would say that the Canadian Paralympic Movement started when Dr. Jackson attended the 1964 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan. Canada did not compete at the Games but Jackson, a medical student then, who was working as an orthopaedic consultant with the Canadian Olympic Team in Japan, witnessed the Games firsthand and he questioned why the Canadian team was not participating in the Games. In 1967 Jackson, along with several others, founded the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association in order to send a team to these Games. Dr. Jackson became the founding President, a position he held from 1967 to 1972. In 1972 Dr. Jackson accepted the responsibility for organizing the 1976 Olympiad for the Physically Disabled to be held in Toronto, parallel to the Olympic Games in Montreal. As a result of these Games and Jackson's leadership the pre-cursor for the Canadian Paralympic Committee was created. Dr. Jackson also served wheelchair sport at the international level with roles as Director, Vice-President, and President of the International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation from 1972 until 1984. Dr. Jackson has received many awards and recognitions, some of which included: 1976 –Civic Award of Merit from the City of Toronto; 1984- named the Executive of the Year in Amateur Sport given by Air Canada; 1994 - named as one of 40 individuals worldwide who had made the most impact on sports during the 40 years of the Sports Illustrated magazine; and, in 1997 – received the Olympic Order from Juan Antonio Samaranch.



Accepting posthumously on behalf of Dr Jackson was his wife – Marlyn and his Daughter – Johanna. Pictured here is Marlyn and Holly Abraham

Dr. Jackson was passionate and dedicated and he exemplified true leadership and excellence in his involvement with athletes with a physical disability.

DR. GENE SUTTON

Gene was a larger than life character who lived each day to the fullest with hard work and dedication to the development of Sport in Ontario and Canada.

She sat on the Executive Board of Directors of the Canadian Olympic Committee, was President of Sport Hamilton, Vice Chair of Gymnastics Canada, Chef de Mission for the 2003 Santo Domingo Pan American Games, played a leading role in the Golden Horseshoe's bid for the 2015 Pan American Games, and she was actively engaged as the Chair of Hamilton's 2010 Olympic torch celebration.

Gene truly devoted her life to the sport of Gymnastics. She was a member of the Gymnastics Canada Board of Directors for 21 years and vice Chair for 17 years, was one of those rare individuals whose dedication to the Olympic ideal, particularly through her work with Olympic education and Olympic academies, transcended the politics of sport.

She led the charge in promoting the ideals of the Olympic Games as the Chair of the **Canadian Olympic Academy** and in May 2009, Gene travelled to Greece to lecture at the International Olympic Academy. She was a member of the COC Team Selection Committee, Mission Staff for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games and 1999 Pan Am Games. Gene Co-Chair COC Congress 2001, she was a member of the True Sport Board of Directors.

Dr. Sutton was also part of Canada Games Mission Staff in 1997, 1999, 2001 and Gene was Team Ontario's Chef de Mission in 2005 and was extremely proud to win the Canada Games Flag for Ontario.

Additional accomplishments include, member of the Executive Committee and Sport Technical Chair, International Children's Games 2000, and was a recipient of the OFSAA Leadership in School Sport Award in recognition of her many contributions to gymnastics and school sport in general.

Gene Sutton was a visionary who used her experience and knowledge to make a difference from the playground to the podium in her dealings with sport and everyday life



Accepting this honour posthumously was Gene's daughter – Stephanie Sutton. Pictured here is Doug, Stephanie and Holly Abraham

JUDY KENT

Judy's initial professional involvement with sport was as the coordinator of Coaching for the Province of Ontario under the former Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Judy first became involved with Commonwealth Games Canada in 1986 as a member-at-large. She became deeply involved both in sport programs and the increasingly important field of international development through sport. In 1992, she authored a seminal report for the Government of Canada to assess the lessons learned by nine other leading nations involved in "sport aid". Her analysis formed the basis for Canada's funding of international development through sport. Judy's leadership position at CGC provided the catalyst and operational expertise to establish the framework, philosophy and structure of Canada's first major initiative in development through sport, the Commonwealth Sport Development Program (CSDP). This trail blazing program later became known as International Development through Sport (IDS). Today, the program

continues to provide vital support to children and youth in various parts of the Commonwealth. Judy has maintained a close connection as member of the management and advisory committees at different times over a period of sixteen years.

Among her contributions to the Commonwealth Games movement at the Federation level has been her membership on the CGF Sports Committee (1998 to 2007), the Board of the Hamilton 2010 Commonwealth Games bid, and on the Evaluation Commission for 2002 Manchester Games Bid. Judy also took a leadership role in the promotion of women's issues in Commonwealth sport as Chair of the Federation's ad hoc Woman in Sport Committee.

She was the first woman named as Assistant General Manager for a Canadian team. She then became the first woman to be appointed Canadian Chef de Mission at Victoria in 1994, and that same year became CGC's first woman President, serving from 1994 to 1998.

In recognition of her ground-breaking efforts to support women in sport, Judy received the YMCA's Women of Distinction Award in 1996, and was twice-named (in 2003 and 2004) to the list of Canada's Twenty Most Influential Women in Sport. In 1995 she was named the Canadian Volunteer Sport Leader of the Year. Judy has also received the Commonwealth Games Canada Award of Merit.

She has been President of the Canadian Lifesaving Society and Vice-Chair of the Esteem Team, a national athlete role model program.



Pictured here is Judy Kent receiving her award from Holly Abraham

Judy's influence on Sport extends well beyond the borders of Ontario. Judy has made keynote presentations on all continents and led workshops on topics such as sport governance, leadership, effective change and volunteer management. She was the lead facilitator for the Management Training Seminar for Women at the University of Lausanne; and the Women in Sport Forums in Shanghai, Qatar, Paris and Swaziland; Sport and Recreation South Africa Conference on Strategy for Hosting Sporting Events, and the Sport in the City Conference, Melbourne.

Judy Kent has been a visionary leader in our system for over three decades and epitomizes true Canadian values that reflect so well on our province and country.

BARB MONTEMURRO

In 1974, Barb answered a simple ad in the newspaper looking for volunteers for the Toronto Olympiad for the Physically Disabled. Little did she know this simple request would lead to over 35 years of volunteering that would bring her around the world and include attending 3 Paralympics. Barb has dedicated her time to developing wheelchair sports – doing whatever it took to ensure that wheelchair users had an



opportunity to participate in sport and recreation. Her many accomplishments include:

Pictured here is Barb Montemurro with Kathy Vincelli, General Manager of 2012 Ontario Games, Toronto

- At the 1976 Toronto Olympiad for the Physically Disabled – she organized the parade of Nations at both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- **Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association:**
 - Member since 1974
 - Currently President (since 1991, 20 years!)
- **Other Board and Committees:**
 - Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association
 - Associate Executive member
 - VP Development
 - Currently VP Marketing & Communications (since 1994)
 - Founding member – Sport Alliance of Ontario
 - Founding member; 1998 to 2009 – Sport 4 Ontario
 - International Wheelchair Rugby Federation 1993 to 2002
- **Team Manager**
 - 1984 Canadian Jr. Wheelchair team at US National Championships
 - 1986 to 1991 Canadian Team at World Wheelchair Multi-Sport Championships in Stoke Mandeville, England
 - 1986 Canadian Team at World Championships for Physically Disabled in Sweden
 - 1992 Team Canada at Paralympics in Barcelona

- **International Delegate**

- 1986 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships in Switzerland
- 1996 Paralympics in Atlanta
- 2000 Wheelchair Rugby delegate and Jury of Appeal at Paralympics in Sydney

Barb has established herself as a leader for wheelchair sports locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. When faced with the loss of her vision, she could simply have given up but she hasn't. Instead she has done exactly what she would expect any one of the athletes she has spent over 3 decades passionately advocating for – she met all the challenges head-on and just keeps giving. Barb has been instrumental in making ParaSport what they are today at the international, national and especially the provincial levels and we are grateful for all her passion and dedication as a sport administrator and true sport leader.

JOE HALSTEAD

Joe Halstead's impact on sport and recreation in our province and country has covered a wide spectrum. He is the Chairman of Ontario Place Corporation and he served as Commissioner, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, City of Toronto (1998-2006). He was the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture (North York 1994-1998) and Chairman and CEO of the Festival Management Committee (Scotiabank Caribana, 2006-2010).

He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Metrolinx Corporation, the Regional Transportation Authority. As well, he is a Board member of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Team Up Foundation. Joe Halstead has been involved in the not for profit and recreational sectors most of his professional career. He has served on such Boards as; the Premier's Roundtable on Volunteerism, the Toronto Community Foundation, the Canada Games Council, the Inter-Provincial Lottery Corporation and the Toronto Economic Development Corporation. He was also the Executive Lead for the World Youth Day Conference and the Pope's visit to Toronto in 2002.



Pictured here is Joe Halstead

Joe Halstead previously spent 24 years with the Government of Ontario in a broad range of management positions, rising to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of the Provincial Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation and heavily involved in the promotion and funding of amateur sport.

His influence on sport in our community has been huge. He was the Vice-Chair of the bid committee which recently secured Toronto as the Host City for the **2015 Pan/Para**

Pan American Games – the first major Multi-Sport Games in Ontario since 1932. He has served on numerous other Federal, Provincial and Municipal organization involved in sport over the past 20 years.

- 1993 World Indoor Track & Field Championships Organizing Committee
- 1994 World Basketball Championships Advisory Committee
- 1996 Olympic Bid Committee
- Negotiating Committee to bring the Raptors Basketball Team to Toronto
- Exec. Lead for the 2008 Toronto Olympic Bid
- The McMurtry Group on Strengthening Commonwealth of Nations through Sport.
- Involved with and the Coaching Association of Canada and Canadian Olympic Committee

Joe Halstead has the unique ability to bring together the positive forces of government; corporate and community interest for the betterment of our society and for sport in particular. He was a tireless advocate for PSOs and MSOs to stand up for their sector and to demonstrate what sport and recreation can do as a catalyst for change in our society.

The final naming of the five boardrooms in the conference centre



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