

Seven Inducted to the Canada Games Hall of Honour

(Summerside, PEI) – At an event in Summerside, PEI at the 2009 Canada Summer Games, seven individuals were inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Honour.

In February of 2007, the inaugural induction into the Canada Games Hall of Honour took place at a ceremony in Whitehorse Yukon as part of the 2007 Canada Winter Games. The induction celebrated former Canada Games Chairman, the late Jack Pelech, for his years of volunteer support and countless contributions.

“As the volunteer President of the 1999 Canada Games in Corner Brook Newfoundland, as the Chair of the 40th Anniversary Steering Committee and as a current Canada Games Council Board member, I can speak to the unbelievable support and vision that many founding members of the Canada Games family have and continue to facilitate in the building of our Movement,” said Wayne Trask, current Council Board member.

The Canada Games Hall of Honour recognizes, honours and celebrates exceptional Canada Games alumni who have distinguished themselves as athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers or administrators. The second Hall of Honour induction ceremony celebrated the successes of seven inductees who have contributed immensely to the Canada Games Movement.

This year's induction ceremony, held at the Shipyard Market in Summerside, saw five builders and two athletes inducted. The ceremony took place during the Official 2009 Canada Games' Tailgate party in front of an excited audience of invited guests. A special multi-media presentation depicting the commitment of the honoured recipients played as the awards were presented.

Please find the following short bios on the Hall of Honour recipients:

Bob Secord

Bob Secord, also known as "Mr. Sport and Recreation," was instrumental in the development and success of amateur sports and recreation programs in Ontario and across the nation and was a founding father of the Canada Games. By the end of his career, Secord held the prestigious position of Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Sport and Recreation, and had earned a reputation throughout the athletic community and with the Canada Games family as one of the most effective and approachable sports advocates in the civil service.

Roly McLenahan

Roly McLenahan was a leader in the formation of New Brunswick's Canada Games team as they ventured into their very first Games held in Quebec City in 1967. His belief in the Games and their impact went far beyond sport development. Shortly after his passing in 1984 the Interprovincial Sport and Recreational Council and the Canada Games Council combined to name the Canada Games Torch in his honour which is still in use today.

Certainly, McLenahan saw the role the Canada Games play in motivating young athletes to aspire to higher levels, but he will also be remembered and inducted for celebrating the influence the Games had on opening the eyes of participants to see that Canada was a large country bound by a love of sport.

Bill Clarke

Bill Clarke was a founding member of the Canada Games Council Board, and through his leadership, helped see the birth of the Canada Games property. Clarke passed away in 2000, at the age of 68, But his legacy and support of the Canada Games continues to live on to this day, and will live on still through his induction into the Canada Games Hall of Honour.

Don Johnson

The 1975 Canada Winter Games in Lethbridge were the first for Johnson, but certainly not his last. Don Johnson was seen as an amateur sport leader across Canada for his leadership and strength in the Canada Games movement and his belief in the Games as a major opportunity for nation-building. Don Johnson was seen as an amateur sport leader across Canada for his leadership and strength in the Canada Games movement. He, along with the others honoured in the builder category this year, were instrumental in guiding the growth and sophistication of the Canada Games – from its “good idea” stage through its growth phase.

John Wilbert

One of the most celebrated coaches in Prince Edward Island, John Wilbert has taught his athletes, dedication, respect and drive and has passed on his love for the Canada Games and all they stand for. In his career as a coach, John has brought an incredible tally of national medals back to the Island. A conservative estimate is more than 150. Of those, judo athletes have won an incredible 11 medals at Canada Games, far and away the best record of any Island sport.

Dave “Eli” MacEachern

An all around athlete Dave “Eli” MacEachern started out as a promising soccer player in the late 1970’s, a Canada Games athlete in Athletics in the 80s and wound up being Prince Edward Island’s first ever gold medal winner in the Olympics in Bobsled , two decades later. Through it all, Dave “Eli” MacEachern has acted as a great ambassador to the sports he represents, his home Province and the Canada Games Movement, and continues to inspire developing athletes with his story.

Cassie Campbell

1991 marked the inaugural year female hockey debuted at the Canada Winter Games. It was also the year that Cassie Campbell made her first appearance as the Captain for team Ontario. This would surely not be her last appearance as a hockey team captain. Cassie joined Canada’s national women’s hockey team in 1998, Campbell has won 21 medals, including 17 gold medals

and four silver medals. As the longest serving captain in Canadian hockey history, from 2001 until her retirement in 2006.

Congratulations to all the 2009 Canada Games Hall of Honour Inductees and their families. For more complete bios on these deserving individuals please contact Tiffany MacLaren tmaclaren@canadagames.ca.