



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nanaimo's Sports Hall of Fame Inductees Selected

NANAIMO, BC –

Nanaimo's soon-to-be-opened Sports Hall of Fame has selected its inaugural round of inductees.

The Sports Hall of Fame (SHOF) Committee of the Nanaimo Museum has chosen ten of the sports community's finest representatives of sport for induction from over 50 nomination applications (see our sidebar story for the complete list of inductees).

Three individual athletes, one media person, two sports community builders, two teams, and two sport pioneers will be recognized for their contribution to sport in Nanaimo when the SHOF opens in September of this year.

Each of the three individual athlete inductees was once an Olympic athlete who represented Nanaimo when they competed in the Games.

Brenda Taylor, a double Olympic Gold medallist in rowing, says she was pleasantly surprised when the call came that she'd been selected. "I'd heard there was talk of opening a Sports Hall of Fame in Nanaimo but I didn't know I'd been nominated," she says.

Taylor, who is now a mom as well as a consultant for sport and environmental sustainability, says when she was growing up Olympic athletes always came from somewhere else. So when Phil Olsen from Nanaimo became an Olympian in track and field, it helped her realize that her dream of competing was attainable.

"Smaller places like Nanaimo offer things that bigger cities don't, like community support. Where you came from had an impact on how you did in the end. So it's important that kids know 'Oh, I can do it too'."

Taylor has already been inducted into the Victoria SHOF and the BC SHOF, but says she always hoped Nanaimo would get its own sports hall of fame.

"I thought if Nanaimo ever did have a sports hall of fame that's who I'd pass along my sports memorabilia to," she says.

The mother of former Olympian Phil Olsen's best friend submitted an application nominating Olsen after she saw a story in the newspaper asking for candidates.

Olsen, who's record for javelin throwing has never been beaten by another Canadian, is now an educational assistant at Woodlands Senior Secondary, where he works with senior alternative and skills for life teens.

"My belief when I competed internationally was that I was always representing my home town, so I appreciate getting this recognition in return," he says.



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And Gerald Kazanowki, a financial planner who once represented Canada in two Olympic games, says when he speaks to kids in schools says, “They’re just astounded that someone who played in the Olympics is standing right there in front of them.”

He believes SHOF will create a legacy that will inspire young kids to believe they too can compete if they excel and do the best they can do.

John Manning, President of the Nanaimo Museum is excited about the opening of the Sports Hall of Fame.

“Sports plays a significant and important role in the life of a community,” he says. “Our pride in our City swells when the Clippers win a hockey championship, and our hearts break when a local sports hero, such as Allison Forsyth, has to retire due to injury. I don’t think you can have a vibrant and active community without a strong local sports presence – something that we have always had in Nanaimo. The Museum is excited to be opening the new Sports Hall of Fame, and hopefully it will become an important gathering place to celebrate Nanaimo’s incredibly strong sports heritage, and be a catalyst to inspire today’s teams and athletes.”

All inductees will be honored at a celebration dinner to be held on September 20th at the Port of Nanaimo Vancouver Island Conference Centre ballroom. Tickets for the celebratory event are available to the general public for \$75 each and can be reserved by calling the Nanaimo Museum at 250-753-1821.

SIDEBAR – Complete List of Inaugural Inductees to the Sports Hall of Fame

The Sports Hall of Fame Committee of the Nanaimo Museum is pleased to announce the following 2008 Inductees for the inaugural induction to the Sports Hall of Fame.

Athlete

- Phil Olsen – Javelin
Represented Canada at 1976, 1980 (boycotted) and 1984 Olympic Games.
Six-time Canadian Champion between 1973-83 and 1st Commonwealth Games, Edmonton 1978.
No Canadian has thrown a javelin further than Olson’s 87.76 meters.
- Gerald Kazanowski – Basketball
Came in 6th at Olympic Games, Seoul 1988 and 4th in 1984 Olympics Games in Los Angeles.
Member of the 4 time Canadian National Champions, University of Victoria, from 1979-83.
Three-time All Canadian and two-time recipient of the Premier’s Athletic Award.
Came in 1st at the World University Games Edmonton 1983.
Competed in a total of 7 World Championships.
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- Brenda Taylor – Rowing
Member of the Canadian National Rowing team from 1985-92 in women’s four and eights



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Won double Olympic Gold in 1992 and was a double World Champion 1991. One of only 38 Canadian athletes to have won 2 or more gold medals.

Selected as Rowing Canada Aviron's Award for longstanding contribution to the sport.

Media

- **Larry Thomas**
Was the voice of sports on Nanaimo radio for many years as the Sports Director on CHUB from 1966-80.

Announcer for Clippers Play by Play 1975-80.
Voice of Bathtub Race from inception in 1967.
Voice of Nanaimo Timbermen for many years.
No longer with us.

Builder

- **Elwood Wylie**
Builder of the Nanaimo Track and Field club to a first class facility (Rotary Bowl at Nanaimo & District Senior Secondary).

President of the club from 1971-89.

Won a Governors medal for commitment to the community.

Deceased, 1989.
- **Harry Wipper**
Director of Parks and Recreation in Nanaimo for many years and was also a Canadian Championship lacrosse player.

Team

- **1956 Nanaimo I.W.A. Timbermen Lacrosse Team**
Mann Cup Canadian Champions
Bobby Allan, Don Ashbee, Bill Bamford, Pee Wee Bradshaw, Derry Davies, Bud Dumont, Arnie Dugan (Captain), Fred Fulla, Clem Linford, Doug McRory, Spud Morelli, Dave Patterson, George Potts, Bobby Raffle, Terry Rodway, Lisle Scott, Donn Sherry, Alf Shuker, Gogi Steward, Joe White, Harry Wipper (Player/Coach)
- **1914 Northfield Violets Football (Soccer) People Shield Canadian Champions**

Pioneer

- **Nanaimo FC Rangers (aka Swifts, Thistles and Wellington Rovers)) Football (Soccer)**
Established in 1890 as the BC Football Association first formed in Nanaimo



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BC Champions 1893, 95, 99, 1900, 01 and 03 (no National Championship existed)

- Hugh (Red) Thompson– Mile Runner
1936 Olympic Games competitor as the BC One Mile Champion.
Deceased 1942.



1956 Timberman lacrosse team; Mann Cup Canadian Champions



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