

2017



2017 **Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame**
Induction Dinner

The Gates on Roblin
Proud 5 time host of
the Annual Manitoba Rugby
Hall of Fame
Induction Dinner!

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THE GATES
ON ROBLIN

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Manitoba Rugby





Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame

To: **Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2017 Inductees**

From: **Ray Hoemsen**
Chairman, Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee

On behalf of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee, I would like to congratulate and welcome the 2017 inductees to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame as Honored Members.

2017 is the eighth year since the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame was established to honour those individuals and groups that have made a significant and valuable contribution to the game, which has been played in Manitoba since 1879.

It is not an easy path to induction as an Honoured Member. Nominations received from the rugby community are screened, reviewed, and researched by a Sub-Committee of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, selected recommendations for induction are ratified by the Board of Directors of Rugby Manitoba, and then approved by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee for induction.

Whether you are a Player, a member of a Team or a Builder; you have all made outstanding and significant contributions to rugby locally, nationally and/or internationally. As Honoured Members you have been distinguished by your peers for your notable achievements on or off the pitch, inspiring all involved in the game.

We truly thank you for your dedication to Rugby!

Sincerely,

Ray Hoemsen, P. Eng.
Chairman, MRHOF
www.manitobarugbyhalloffame.com



Hall of Fame

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame

Honourable Members

PIONEER

• Ian Williams	2010
• Albert Shepherdson	2010
• Jim Platt	2011
• Robert Pringle	2014
• John Whyte	2015
• John Walton	2016

BUILDER

• Dwight Evans	2010
• MGRP Founders Committee	2010
• John Reilly	2010
• Gilles Roy	2010
• Bob Elder	2011
• Art Logan	2011
• Gary MacDonald	2011
• Ken Pearn	2011
• Glenys MacKenzie	2012
• Don Pincock	2012
• Peter Press	2013
• Jim Feasby	2014
• Rick Romsa	2015
• Rob St. Germain	2016
• WASP Women's Athletic Association	2016
• St. Paul's High School Rugby Program	2016

OFFICIAL

• Ken Adams	2010
• Dave Barnes	2011
• Mike Brown	2012
• Gary Nicholson	2012
• Ray Skett	2012
• Wilf Erichsen	2013
• T. Colin Gibbs	2013
• Guy McKim	2014
• Paul Harland	2015

PLAYER / TEAM

• Larry DeBooy	2010
• Corinne Enns	2010
• Winnipeg Rugby Football Club (Winnipeg Blue Bombers)	2010
• Val Gompf	2011
• Neville Rhoda	2011
• SNAFU Rugby Tournament	2011
• 1994 Manitoba U17 Boys Provincial Team	2012
• Riley Barkman	2013
• Saracens RFC Men's Premiership Championship Team 1979-86	2013
• Brian Erichsen	2014
• Brent Tomchuk	2014
• 1996 Manitoba U19 Jr Women's Provincial Team, National Champions	2014
• Brenda Treleaven	2015
• 1997 Manitoba Sr. Men's Tier II National Championship Team	2015
• Jeff Harrison	2016
• Angela Ploegman	2016
• 1972-1975 Saracens Rugby Football Club - 1st Division Men's Team	2016

Introduction

2017 Inductees

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Friday, October 13, 2017

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame celebrates the history of the sport of Rugby in Manitoba, recognizing those that have significantly contributed to the game and its development.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Sub Committee recommended a number of Inductees, 5 of whom were subsequently ratified by Rugby Manitoba and approved by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee for Induction in 2017.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2017 Inductees are truly worthy representatives as Honoured Members of the Hall of Fame and we are proud to be recognizing their accomplishments and contributions to the game of Rugby in Manitoba.

PLAYER/TEAM

- **Andrew Jackson**
- Saracens Rugby Football Club
- **Mandy Marchak**
- Wanderers Rugby Football Club
- **St. John's High School
Rugby Team 1977**

BUILDER

- **Don Innes**
- Wasps Rugby Football Club
- **Jim (Pops) Russell**
- Assassins Rugby Football Club



Hall of Fame

From the Desk of Tim Powers
Chairman
Rugby Canada



September 1, 2017

On behalf of Rugby Canada, best of luck for another excellent Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame induction event! Acknowledging, recognizing, and memorializing the achievements of those people and organizations that have done so much for the sport we all love is vital. Someday I hope to see all of our provinces starting Halls of Fame.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners Andrew Jackson, Many Marchak, Don Innes, Jim Russell, and the 1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team – you are all great recipients. I hope you all have a wonderful evening enjoying the positive impact you have had on your community.

Thank you to all in attendance for supporting rugby in Manitoba and Canada. I personally appreciate everything you do and the time you give the sport.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Powers

Chairperson, Rugby Canada Board of Directors

RUGBY CANADA
Toronto Office / Bureau de Toronto
30 Rue East Beaver Creek Road, Suite 110
Richmond Hill, ON CANADA L4B 1J2
Tel / Tél: 905 707 8998
Fax / Téléc: 905 707 9707

rugbycanada.ca
info@rugbycanada.ca

Victoria Office / Bureau de Victoria
3024 Rue Glen Lake Road
Langford, BC CANADA V9B 4B4
Tel / Tél: 250 418 8998
Fax / Téléc: 250 386 3810

Canada



Manitoba Rugby





PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of all Manitobans, I am pleased welcome those attending the 8th Annual Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner.

It is often said that sport is a metaphor for life; that the immense commitment required to succeed in sport and the obstacles encountered along the way prepares athletes well for the many challenges they will experience throughout their lives. As a former competitive athlete, that has been my own experience and also that of many other Manitobans. Sport, especially competitive athletics, tests you. It compels to you to confront your weaknesses and, by doing so, makes you stronger.

The four individuals and one team being inducted into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame tonight are tremendous examples of the achievement that comes from commitment and hard work. They have each earned their place in our province's sport history, joining many others who have achieved success and contributed to the growth of sport in Manitoba.

I join all Manitobans in congratulating tonight's inductees and in thanking the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame for continuing to recognize excellence in sport throughout our province.

The Honourable Brian Pallister



Hall of Fame



Mayor's Message

A warm welcome and greetings to everyone attending the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Dinner celebrating the sport and builders of Manitoba Rugby.

This prestigious gathering will recognize some of Manitoba Rugby's finest:

- Andrew Jackson - Saracens Rugby Football Club
- Mandy Marchak - Wanderers Rugby Football Club
- St John's High School Rugby Team 1977
- Don Innes - Wasps Rugby Football Club
- Jim Russell - Assassins Rugby Football Club

I am delighted to offer my congratulations to all of this year's inductees to the Hall of Fame. Your significant accomplishments to advance the sport of rugby in Manitoba are certainly deserving of this special honor bestowed today! Many of you will have cherished memories of team mates and the many lessons learned on the field of play, while few will remember final scores or games won or lost. You have all showed remarkable leadership and commitment to your sport.

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg and my City Council colleagues, I want to recognize the work of the organizers and volunteers who support the activities of the Rugby Hall of Fame and make events like this possible. And of course, best wishes to all the inductees, their family and friends who have advanced the sport in our province.

Warmly,

Mayor Brian Bowman,
City of Winnipeg

September 1, 2017



To the Inductees of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame

On behalf of the volunteers and staff of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum Inc. let me congratulate all of the newest inductees into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame. The class of 2017 certainly looks like a worthy group as your Hall celebrates its 8th anniversary of inductions.

The celebration of one's sport heritage is truly important; not just for the past but also for the present and especially for the future of a sport like Rugby. We congratulate you on your continuing effort to do so.

Have a wonderful celebration this October as you gather to reminisce, renew acquaintances with former team mates and friends as you celebrate some of Manitoba Rugby's finest.

Sincerely,

James Kraemer
Chair, Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors



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Funding Partner



Hall of Fame

On behalf of Sport Manitoba, congratulations to all the inductees at the eighth Annual Induction Dinner for the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.

Manitoba's sport community is proud of its rugby history and those who have distinguished themselves as players, coaches, umpires, and volunteers. Being inducted into the Hall of Fame represents excellence in the sport of rugby along with hard work, dedication, and motivation.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge all the athletes, teams, and builders worthy of induction into the Rugby Hall of Fame. Their accomplishments will be persevered as part of Manitoba's great sport heritage and will inspire those to come.

Sincerely,



Laurel Read
Interim CEO





David L.W. Wilson
President
Maple Grove Rugby Park
90 Frobisher Road
Winnipeg, MB
R2N 3Z1

To:

Andrew Jackson (Saracens Rugby Football Club)
Mandy Marchak (Wanderers Rugby Football Club)
St. John's High School Rugby Team 1977
Don Innes- (Wasps Rugby Football Club)
Jim Russell - (Assassins Rugby Football Club)

Esteemed inductees to the Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame

Congratulations,

The individuals and group above have left an indelible mark on Rugby and all of sport in Manitoba. Your commitment to play, drive for improvement of our game on and off the field, and dedication to our Rugby family are inspirational and worthy of this recognition.

Maple Grove Rugby Park was founded on the belief that our Rugby community would flourish when great players, teams, coaches, and builders had the opportunity to get involved, demonstrate our values and athletics and have a place to call our sport home. AJ, Mandy, Don, Pops, and The 1977 St. Johns High School Rugby Team athletes are all familiar faces at the Park, always welcome, and sorely missed when absent.

The Executive and the entire Board of Directors Maple Grove Rugby Park extends their warmest congratulations on your appointment to The Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame.

Yours in Rugby

Dave Wilson
President

Colin Fraser
Vice President, External

Kerry Peterson
Secretary

Jose Orellana
Vice President, Internal



Hall of Fame



Congratulations to all of the inductees into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame for 2017.

In order to be considered for induction, an individual, organization or team must have demonstrated something special. That is never truer than this year. Whether it is prowess playing the game or working behind the scenes to ensure the game can be played to its truest heights, the inductees are worthy of this accolade for their contribution.

Rugby in Manitoba, through the years, has had many high points. A rich history has been created that we continue to build on. The inductees are rightfully being rewarded for their part in that history.

Again, congratulations to you all.

Sandy Donald
President, Rugby Manitoba



**MINISTER OF
SPORT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

Room 118
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

AUG 24 2017

To the 2107 Inductees to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame:

On behalf of Premier Pallister and all of my colleagues from the Manitoba government and as the Minister of Sport, Culture, and Heritage, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations to all of the 2017 Inductees to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.

Your accomplishments as players, teams and builders represent significant and lasting contributions to the growth and development of rugby in Manitoba.

On this night when you are being recognized and honoured by your peers, you should be deeply proud of what you have brought to the sport you love. It is befitting that your accomplishments and contributions will now live on as a permanent part of the history of rugby in Manitoba.

Again, to all the inductees, congratulations and enjoy this evening with your family and friends as you join the other revered members of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Cox
Minister



Hall of Fame



*Congratulations to Mandy Marchak on her induction
into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.*

Thank you for your outstanding contributions and dedication to the Wanderers RFC, Rugby Manitoba, and Rugby Canada over the years. We are so proud of all your accomplishments!

Sincere congratulations to all of the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees.



Wanderers.ca



Wanderers Rugby Club - Winnipeg



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Congratulations!

Special congratulations to **Mandy Marchak** on your induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and to all the 2017 inductees.

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Manitoba Rugby



Mandy Marchak - Player

Mandy found Rugby by accident, through injury. While at Grant Park High School in Grade 11, she suffered a back injury which forced her into a brace, thus missing out on the Provincial Track Championship's that year. Upon recovery she decided she would enjoy her final year of High School and participate in whatever sports she could. Rugby turned out to be one of those sports. This was the only year in which she played High School Rugby and she excelled, and along with the rest of her team mates, won the Women's High School Championship that year in 2000. Club Rugby followed and she immediately joined the Wanderers RFC Senior Women. Mandy played for the Wanderers until 2004 and was involved in several Provincial finals, with the Women winning in 2004. On Oct. 04, two days after that Provincial final victory, Mandy moved to BC and North Vancouver to play with the Capilano RFC. An integral part of the Capilano WRFC from 2004 to 2009, Mandy garnered national attention and in her final year was named the CDI BC Women's Premier League Player of the Year.

Fully part of the Canadian Women's program, Mandy chose to move to England in 2009 to play in that country's Women's Premier League with the Saracens Women RFC. Here she thrived over the next 3 years playing against some of the best Rugby players in the world, and was asked to play with many representative sides including the Wooden Spoons and the Moody Cows. Mandy's International career started in 2002 with her selection to the Canada U-19, 15s program and in 2004 along with a number of other girls became part of Canada's first U-23 Women's program centered in Edmonton. Many players from this initial program continue to play to this day, the program laying the foundation for the Canadian Sr. Women's teams of the future.

Selected to her first 15s World Cup in 2006, Mandy was chosen to start Canada's first game against New Zealand at fullback. Injuring her Quad in the first half, she was sidelined for the rest of the tournament until the 3rd versus 4th place game against France as a reserve. In the 2010 World Cup in England, Mandy was selected at outside center and played in all of Canada's games, the team finishing in 6th place following a loss to the USA. Under a new coach, Mandy was chosen in 2014 for her third World Cup in France playing all the games again at out-side center. The squad played some magnificent Rugby and made it to the final against England following a victory over hometown favorite France. The final was an epic battle between two great teams with Canada falling to England and finishing in 2nd place, their highest ever placing in a Women's 15s World Cup.

While playing 15s, Mandy got involved in the grassroots of the Canadian Women's 7s program in 2007. In 2008 the Women played in their first World Cup qualifier in the Bahamas defeating the USA for a spot at the 2009 7s World Cup in Dubai. This was Mandy's first 7s World Cup and with the rest of the ladies they played well throughout the tournament, losing to England in the 3rd versus 4th place game. Mandy continued with the 7s program as it grew in popularity. In 2011 Mandy was chosen Captain of Canada's Women's 7s team and over the next year the team went undefeated and won four tournaments; Las Vegas, Hong Kong, Amsterdam and the Dubai (Challenge Cup), the pre-cursor to the HSBC Women's 7s. Mandy continued with the 7s program playing prop and was a relentless force to be reckoned with in every game and tournament she played. Selections for the 2013 7s World Cup in Russia resulted in Mandy being chosen for her 2nd appearance. The ladies played exceptionally well and made it to the finals to play New Zealand on a water logged field. The ladies fought admirably but finish 2nd, yet another milestone however, for the Canadian Women's 7s Program.



2017 Inductee

With Rugby 7s admitted in 2009 into the 2016 Rio Olympics, it would be trying times for many of Canada's outstanding and experienced 2013 squad to remain healthy over the course of the next three years in a highly competitive international environment. Following shoulder surgery in 2013 and with the Olympics drawing nearer, Mandy began to experience back problems and in April of 2016 after suffering recurring numbness in her right leg, made the tough decision to call it a day on her 7s career and her Olympic aspirations. The true team mate that she is, she made the journey down to Rio to cheer the Canadian Women on to a Bronze Medal.

Mandy has had a long and fulfilling Club and International Rugby career spanning 16 years and has been known as one of the best players in the World. Through the years she has met and made lifelong friends, traveled the world over, contributed back to the Rugby community and been a role model to the next generation of Women's Rugby; and to say the least, a very deserving candidate for induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.

Mandy Marchak:

- 43 Women's 15s International Caps
- 17 Women's 7s International Caps
- CDI BC Women's Premier League Player of the Year 2008-2009
- Canada Women's 7s Captain 2011-2012 (4 Tournament Victories; Las Vegas, Hong Kong, Amsterdam and Dubai)
- Silver Medal 2014 Women's 15s World Cup France
- Silver Medal 2013 Women's 7s World Cup Russia



Hall of Fame



**The Assassins Rugby Football Club
and its sponsors would like to
congratulate Jimmy "Pops" Russell
and all the other inductees into the
2017 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.**



**CELEBRATING OUR 50 YEAR HISTORY
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Manitoba Rugby



Jim (Pops) Russell - Builder

Introduced to the game in 1978 by his friend Wolfgang Penner, and following a memorable 1979 SNAFU spectator experience, **Jim** started playing rugby for the Assassins Rugby Football Club in 1980, where he spent 14 years as a Prop forward before an injury was to end his playing days at the age of forty. During his brief playing career, Jim was bestowed the clubs' Most Improved Player and Best Forward awards in 1981 and a Best Forward 2nd Division award in 1993. All the same, Jim's many contributions to the game of rugby are to be found in his work as an Administrator, Coach (where he garnered the nickname "Pops") and a Volunteer.

As an administrator Jim served his club in many capacities over the years including: Member at Large (1982-1985), Vice President (1986), President (1987, 1988, 1992, 2005 and 2006) and Secretary/Publicity (1997 and 1998). In addition to his club involvement, Jim was honoured to be selected to serve as the Area Manager for the Rugby Canada Can/Am International match held in Winnipeg in 1993, served as Rugby Manitoba's High Performance Unit Manager and Rugby Canada Super League Sr. Buffalo Manager in 2005, and served five terms as Rugby Manitoba Secretary in 2007, 2008, 2011, 2013 and 2014.

Arguably perhaps, Pops' more significant contributions to the sport could be found in his work as a Coach. Head coach, co-coach, assistant coach, Pops has coached at the High School, Club and Provincial Team levels for many years beginning in 1986 with the Assassins RFC and continuing to this day with the Manitoba Senior Men's Provincial Team program alongside comrades Rick Romsa, Randy Dilk and Brent Tomchuk. At the High School level Pops was to coach at Churchill High School from 1988 to 1993 and again in 1998 winning the Provincial 11 Aside Championship in 1988, the Provincial 15 Aside Championship in 1989 and the Provincial "B" Championship in 1993. At the Club level, Pops coached the Assassins RFC in varying capacities from 1986-1992, 1994-2003, and again in 2005, 2010 and 2011 helping guide the club to 17 various 1st and/or 2nd Division Provincial and/or League Championship titles between 1995 and 2003. At the Provincial level, Pops coached in varying capacities the Manitoba U-17 Boys from 1993 to 1997 (winning a Western Canada Summer Games Bronze Medal in 1993 and Gold Medal in 1994), the U-18 Boys in 1998 and 1999, the U-21 Men's in 2004 and 2005, the Sr. Buffalo in 2006 and 2007 and the Sr. Men's Provincial Team program from 2013 to the present.

As a volunteer, Jim remains a long standing member of the Manitoba Friends of Rugby established in 2005 by the wives of the Provincial U-21 Men's Team coaches. Since then the group has raised more than \$225,000 in support of various provincial level and youth rugby development programs and initiatives, including elite athlete funding assistance and various Maple Grove Rugby Park enhancements.

Following a pitch by Don Pincock, in October of 2008, on the prospect of one undertaking to establish a Hall of Fame for rugby in Manitoba, Jim jumped at the opportunity believing for many years that as a sport, little was done collectively



2017 Inductee

to celebrate our history, accomplishments and successes. As a result, Jim was to lay the groundwork for establishing the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, developing much of its structure, securing a likewise committed group of volunteers, and served as founding Committee Chair stepping aside in 2017; but remaining to serve in the capacity of Communications Coordinator.

Over the years Jim has been bestowed many honours for his contributions and achievements to the sport including the Assassins RFC "Presidents Award" in 1990, 1995, and 2005 and "Long Term Service Award" in 2001; the Rugby Manitoba "Raymond Skett Award" in 1994; the Rugby Manitoba "Presidents Award" in 1998 and 2005; the Province of Manitoba "Order of Sport Excellence – Coach" award in 1994, and in 2012 was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his outstanding and exemplary contributions to Canada in the public service (Project Management) and the local community (Rugby Volunteerism).

For 38 years and counting, Jim has and continues to serve the rugby community in Manitoba with a breadth of contributions and achievements to be rivaled by few and thereby deserving of his induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame as a "Builder".



Hall of Fame

A proud history of champions!

The The Saracen's Rugby Club would like to salute
Andrew Jackson and the
1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team
along with a special congratulations to
all the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees.

You are all champions of Rugby in Manitoba.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1968 Saracens RFC
1969 Saracens RFC
1972 Saracens RFC
1973 Saracens RFC
1974 Saracens RFC
1975 Saracens RFC

1979 Saracens RFC
1980 Saracens RFC
1981 Saracens RFC
1982 Saracens RFC
1983 Saracens RFC

1984 Saracens RFC
1985 Saracens RFC
1986 Saracens RFC
1988 Saracens RFC
1990 Saracens RFC
1992 Saracens RFC



Manitoba Rugby



Andrew Jackson - Player

A graduate of St. John's high school and a key member of that school's highly successful rugby teams, **Andrew Jackson** represented numerous Manitoba provincial U-20s and Senior Men's teams over a period of several years and was a key member of the Saracens Rugby Football Club.

Better known to most as AJ, Andrew was first selected to represent Manitoba in the U-20s in 1975. He missed the 1976 year due to injury but played again in 1977, at which time he was selected to the Canadian U-20 All-Star team.

An automatic selection to Manitoba Sr. Men's Provincial Rugby teams when available, Andrew's participation was particularly remarkable and an indication of his commitment to the game given that his prime playing years were spent pursuing his education out of province at Lakehead University on a wrestling scholarship, during which time he won a CIAU Heavyweight Championship. Those who know rugby and particularly those who played with or against Andrew know him as a genuine student of the game, a fast learner and a relentless competitor. A lock forward, Andrew was an excellent scrummager and an astute lineout technician. He played during the era preceding the lifting of players in the lineout and with rigor applied himself to developing the skills and techniques that made him a formidable lineout jumper. He was also a very useful goal kicker.

As a Saracen, Andrew played for his club from the time he graduated high school all the way through to 1990, playing in seven of the ten winning Saracen sides that won provincial championships during this time, missing only three games; one due to University attendance, the other two due to injury. He was of course a member of the Saracen touring team to New Zealand in 1980 where he played in all six tour games and was awarded "Man of Match" honours in the Saracens 21 to 7 victory over the Opawa RFC.

Andrew's playing record for the Manitoba Sr. Men's Provincial Rugby teams is outstanding, and where he, along with a squad comprising of sixteen other Saracens, three Wanderers and one Assassin, played an influential role accomplishing an upset and first time ever Manitoba Sr. Men's victory over Alberta in 1980. On the strength of this game, and others played representing the province, Andrew was invited to the Canada West All-Star camps in 1981, 1982 and 1983. Here he further caught the eyes of long-standing Canadian lock forwards Has De Goede and Ro Hindson who saw in Andrew, both abilities and potential. Both affirmed that for Andrew to realize his full potential he would need to play rugby in the lower mainland of British Columbia. Unfortunately this was not a realistic option for Andrew who was in the midst of attending Lakehead University at the time.



2017 Inductee

Andrew's situation however was definitely Manitoba's gain where, to summarise, Andrew enjoyed a representative career spanning twelve years from 1975 through to 1986 during which time he gave sterling service to both his union and the Saracens Rugby Football Club. One can only imagine the heights that Andrew might have achieved had he played in the modern professional era and had the opportunities of assistance that exist today for Canadian players of demonstrated ability and potential. One question would however remain: Who would have been big and/or strong enough to lift AJ in the line outs of today?



Hall of Fame

The Winnipeg Wasps would like to congratulate **Don Innes** on his induction into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame. Don has made an outstanding contribution to the Wasps and to the sport of rugby, both on and off the pitch, over four decades. His leadership and dedication over so many years have shown us what it means to be a Wasp. Thanks for everything, there's only one Don Innes!

Black and Gold Forever



Black and Gold Forever

Congratulations to the **STAND OUT 2017 Inductees**
to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame –
Mandy Marchak, Don Innes, Jim Russell, Andrew Jackson,
and the 1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team



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Manitoba Rugby



Don Innes - Builder

For many such as **Don**, rugby was to become a way of life. While he made many friends over the years throughout his rugby experiences, fate would have Don meet his wife and best friend Jan, at of all places, a Wasps' "Ides of March" party.

Don along with his good friend Bob Constable joined the Wasps Rugby Football Club in 1967, two years after the club's founding. Encouraged to play by Bob's mother at the urgings of her employer, both were among the first Canadians (i.e. those without a foreign accent) to join and play for club. Their first game was against the Wanderers Rugby Football club, the only other rugby club to exist in Winnipeg at the time, at the old Weston Field located on Logan Avenue. Don was to continue playing for another 25 plus years, initially starting out on the Wing and moving to the Stand Off position in his later years. As a player Don was instrumental in many of the Wasps' 1st, 2nd and 3rd Division Provincial Championship teams over the years, was an avid participant in the Legends Rugby Team, and participated in a number of the club's noted overseas tours as well, including the tour to Ireland in 2015. Not yet finished, Don is planning to participate in the upcoming Golden Oldies tour to New Zealand in 2018.

In addition to his many playing experiences, Don undertook to coach various high school teams throughout the years coaching at Vincent Massey, J. H. Bruns and Springfield Collegiate to aide in the club's recruitment efforts and to inspire new generations of athletes to play the game of rugby.

Don also served many terms as President and Vice President of the Wasps RFC. As a member of the Board of Directors who took control of the club during some difficult times in 2006 and the years following, Don was appointed President again and undertook to guide the club back to a solid foundation upon which to build for future success. If ever one wanted to know how a president should run a rugby club they needed to look no further than Don.

As a member of the club executive Don was also involved in the early days in what was to eventually transpire as the formation and development of Maple Grove Rugby Park (MGRP). Along with Bart Evans of the Assassins RFC, Don worked on the proposal that was to see both rugby clubs agree to contribute the substantial monies they earned through Bingo fundraising endeavours in an effort to help finance the creation of a rugby facility in Winnipeg.



2017 Inductee

Don's rugby endeavours would eventually migrate to the upkeep and maintenance of MGRP where he served as Groundskeeper and General Manager of the park for seven years. Although a paid position, Don donated many hours of his time and other resources of his own volition in efforts to maintain the quality of the fields and general condition of the facility during trying economic times. Don took pride in this work, motivated by his experiences, like many players prior to 1985, of playing on trodden down cow pastures and asphalt parking lots passing as rugby pitches.

In 1983, in recognition of his hard work and dedication to the Wasps RFC and the development of rugby, the club struck the "Don Innes Award", the club's highest honour presented annually at seasons' end to a club member who has demonstrated exemplary service to both the club and the sport of rugby in general. Player, administrator, volunteer, employee, Don's contributions to the sport are truly deserving of induction as an Honoured Member to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame



Manitoba Rugby



St. John's High School 1977 Rugby Team - Team

The 1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team, while a career highlight for its members, is likely less well known for how its remarkable program development, initiatives and achievements had such a positive impact on the Saracens Rugby Football Club specifically, and, Rugby in the province of Manitoba in general, for many years to come.

Coached by Peter Press and Raymond Skett, the team not only competed in the Manitoba High School League, it was to participate in the Manitoba High School All Star Game competing against a team of all star players selected from the remaining High School League teams, and was to develop even further with an unprecedented touring initiative that included an exhibition game against Benilde-St. Margaret's College, St. Paul's Minnesota, a three game set at a prestigious High School Tournament in Chicago Illinois, as well as a 5 game England tour in March of that year. In its totality, the team was to amass a record of 14 wins against 2 losses, scoring 514 points for (111 Tries, 4 Penalties, 29 Converts) versus 66 points against (8 Tries, 10 Penalties, 2 Converts), and going undefeated with 0 points scored against the teams in the Manitoba High Schools League on its way to a 46 to 3 victory against Kelvin in the Manitoba High Schools final.

From that 1977 St. John's team, fifteen players went on to play on the Manitoba Junior U-20s Provincial Team (MB U20), four would become Canadian U20 All Stars (CA U20), and eight would go on to play on the Manitoba Senior Men's Provincial Team (MB Sr. M). Record and all, a truly extraordinary accomplishment.

1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team

Coaches: Raymond Skett, Peter Press,
(Principal) Dick Mutchmor

Players: Rick Romsa (C) (MB U20, CA U20, MB Sr. M), Rob Penner (VC), Ed Weedmark (VC) (MB U20, MB Sr. M), Stewart Carmichael (MB U20), Harry Robertson (MB U20, CA U20, MB Sr. M), David Felske, Don Grant (MB U20, MB Sr. M), Ron Langford (MB U20, CA U20), Arnold Majdell (MB U20), Rob Majdell (MB U20, MB Sr. M), Doug Tesluck (MB U20), Rick Fredricksen, Andrew Jackson (MB U20, CA U20, MB Sr. M), John Keith (MB U20), Ihor Holowczynsky (MB U20, MB Sr. M), Alf Plantz (MB U20), George Smith, Jack Miller, Frank Cazzorla, Ron Bennett, Markus Van Wyk, George Seidel (MB U20), Rick Romanowski (MB U20, MB Sr. M), Taras Matwyczuk

Managers: Brian Marchak, Dale Johnson, Romeo DiGirolamo



2017 Inductee

1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team Record

England Tour

• St. John's	7 (1 T, 1 PK)	Churches College	18 (1 T, 4 PK, 1 C)	Loss
• St. John's	34 (8 T, 1 C)	Bayhouse	0	Win
• St. John's	10 (2 T, 1 C)	Brune Park	14 (2 T, 2 PK)	Loss
• St. John's	15 (3 T, 1 PK)	Brune Park Alumni	13 (2 T, 1 PK, 1 C)	Win
• St. John's	7 (1 T, 1 PK)	Gosport U 19 All Stars	3 (1 PK)	Win

Chicago High School Tournament

• St. John's	16 (4 T)	Loyola College	4 (1 T)	Win
• St. John's	25 (5 T, 1 PK, 1 C)	Graystone	0	Win
• St. John's	50 (10 T, 5 C)	New Tier West	0	Win

Benilde-St. Margaret's College, St. Paul's Minnesota

• St. John's	76 (18 T, 2 C)	Benilde-St. Margaret's	4 (1 T)	Win
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MB High School All Star Game

• St. John's	16 (4 T) MB High School All Stars	4 (1 T)	Win
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MB High School League Schedule

• St. John's	20 (4 T, 2 C)	Westwood	0	Win
• St. John's	30 (6 T, 3 C)	Kelvin	0	Win
• St. John's	60 (13 T, 4 C)	Gordon Bell	0	Win
• St. John's	46 (10 T, 3 C)	Fort Richmond	0	Win
• St. John's	56 (12 T, 4 C)	St. James	0	Win

Mb High School Final

• St. John's	46 (10 T, 3 C)	Kelvin	3 (1 PK)	Win
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Hall of Fame



**Sincerest Congratulations to all of
the Rugby Manitoba Inductees tonight.**

*Special congratulations to **Andrew Jackson**
and the **1977 St. John's High School Rugby Team**
on your induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.*

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Manitoba Rugby



Congratulations Hall of Famers!

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Congratulations to all the
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Our congratulations to all of the
2017 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Inductees!



Hall of Fame



RUGBY MANITOBA

On behalf of Rugby Manitoba we would like to congratulate all of the 2017 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame inductees.

Your hard work and commitment to the sport of rugby in this province is exemplary.

It is because of your efforts and many like you that the sport we all love can continue to thrive in Manitoba.

Cheers!

TRY RUGBY

The best touchdown you'll ever score!



**For more information
on Rugby in your
community please
contact our office at:**

executivedirector@rugbymanitoba.com
204-925-5664

Rugby Manitoba offers a variety of programs for kids of all ages. Our programming expands a lifetime in sport and begins with kids as young as 4 years old.

Our Rookie Rugby programs run across multiple community centres in Winnipeg. These programs are targeted for kids 16 and under. Including Mini, Flag and Tackle programs which run April-June annually.

We offer school based rugby in a variety of schools in Winnipeg in the spring as well. Whether it's through school based Rookie Rugby sessions or our High School league play.

Cheers!

Manitoba Rugby



Welcome to the Rugby Hall of Fame

Congratulations to all of the 2017 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame inductees.

Welcome to



1155 Main St. Winnipeg 204 586-6599

Greatness never settles.

Congratulations to all of this years inductees,
on achieving their place of honour in the
Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.



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Hall of Fame



***Congratulations to our newest inductees to the
Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame from the
Executive and Board of Directors of Maple
Grove Rugby Park***



Manitoba Rugby



Our Vision.

To support the growth and development of all aspects of the sport of Rugby in Manitoba.



Our Objectives.

1. Work to help establish, restore and sustain connections among Rugby Alumni.
2. Financially and morally support and improve the game of Rugby at all levels of play.
3. Identify males and females with standout athletic ability and provide financial support that will widen their opportunity to play at an elite level.
4. To provide a financial vehicle for patrons and friends of Rugby to assist in the growth and development of Rugby in Manitoba.
5. To support programs that will increase the number of players and build community awareness for the sport of Rugby.
6. Support events that restore and strengthen the relationship between Rugby Alumni and the current community based clubs involved with Rugby in Manitoba.
7. To provide additional financial support for programs not currently funded at a provincial level that improve the quality of play and skill levels for players, coaches and referees.
8. To continue to support and enhance Maple Grove Rugby Park as one of Canada's premier facilities.



Hall of Fame

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Guidelines

Purpose

- To celebrate the history of the sport of Rugby in Manitoba by recognizing those whom have significantly contributed to the Game.

Categories

- Player/Team
- Official (Referees, Coaches, Managers and Non-coaching Staff)
- Builder (Administrators, Media, Patrons, and Volunteers)
- Pioneer (contributions should, but not necessarily, be prior to 1980)

General Criteria

- Nominees should have been involved in Rugby at least 20 years and have contributed significantly to the sport of rugby in Manitoba.
- Player nominees must have been retired for at least three years from a national or provincial team program.
- Nominees may be recognized posthumously.
- Nominees may be considered while holding elected office at the provincial, national or international rugby board level.
- Nominees will not be considered for induction while serving on the Manitoba Rugby Hall Of Fame Committee in the following positions: Committee Chair, Sub-Committee Chairs and Induction Sub-Committee – Nominations Coordinator and Selections Jury members.

Nomination Procedure

- Nominations can be provided on-line or via downloadable form.
- The Nominator may be asked by the Induction Sub Committee to provide additional information and/or documentation concerning the Nominee.
- Nominations for induction are valid for a period of three years (once a nominee is deemed eligible).
- Nominations not recommended for induction within the three year period of nomination validity may be re-nominated; otherwise Nominations recommended for induction stand in perpetuity.

Selection Process

- Nominations will be considered by the Induction Sub Committee and any subsequent recommendations for induction are subject to ratification by the Rugby Manitoba Executive and final approval by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee.
- Criteria for evaluation should include:
 - Accomplishments
 - Honours received
 - Involvement with the game
 - Overall career
 - Recognition of their contribution(s) by club, union and community (local, national and/or international).
- Inductees will be announced in late spring/early summer, prior to their induction in the fall.

Number of Inductees

- Maximum of ten inductees annually.

Timelines

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • Nomination Receipt | Ongoing all year |
| • Nomination Research | Ongoing all year |
| • Nomination Evaluation | End May |
| • Nomination Recommendation | Mid June |
| • Nomination Ratification | End June |
| • Nomination Approval | Mid July |
| • Nomination Announcement | End July |
| • Nomination Induction | Mid October |

Removal

- If an inductee brings the Game in disrepute, including by a criminal action, the Selection Committee will review the situation and make a recommendation for retention or removal, conditional upon the approval of the Rugby Manitoba Board (not only the Executive).

Induction Sub-committee

- Chairman (appointed by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee).
- All appointments by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame will normally be for a two-year term for the purpose of continuity.
- Honourable Member/s of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.
- Independent non-rugby community representative.
- One Manitoba Rugby Club Past-President.
- Minimum one past president of either: Rugby Manitoba, Maple Grove Rugby Park, Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees, Manitoba Rugby Club in good standing.
- Alumni Representatives – two former players or officials (one male, one female) – who have been retired from the game (on the field) at least five years.

Revision

- These Guidelines are subject to revision by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee, who will provide a copy of the revised Guidelines to Rugby Manitoba.

Relationship between the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and Rugby Manitoba

- The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame is an independent organization, and is at arms-length from Rugby Manitoba, with no reporting relationship (other than for informational and liaison purposes) to Rugby Manitoba.

www.manitobarugbyhalloffame.com

www.manitobarugbyhalloffame.com/nomination-form.html

Manitoba Rugby



Thank You

2017 MANITOBA RUGBY HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:

Committee Chair:

Committee Vice-chair
Recording Secretary
Communications Coordinator

Finance Sub-Committee Chair

Treasurer
Sponsorship Coordinator

Induction Dinner Event Sub-Committee Chair

Venue/Catering/Beverages Coordinator
Tickets/Invitations Coordinator
Program/Prize Coordinator
MC/Agenda Coordinator

Exhibit Sub-Committee Chair

Archivist
Inductee Displays and Dinner Displays Coordinator
Web Site Coordinator
Inductee Memento Coordinator

Induction Sub-Committee Co-Chairs

Nominations Coordinator/s

Selections Jury Members

• Ray Hoemsen

- Vacant
- Jim Feasby
- Jim Russell

• Bill Forbes

- Bill Forbes
- Gary Macdonald

• Linda Romsa

- Rick Romsa
- Jose Orellana
- Jamie Cole
- Linda Romsa

• Glenys Mackenzie

- Glenys Mackenzie
- Glenys Mackenzie
- Rob St. Germain
- Rick Romsa

• Larry Cherrett

- Larry Cherrett

- Val Gompf
- Paul Harland

• Wilf Erichsen

- Wilf Erichsen

- Gary Nicholson
- Guy McKim



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- All the Advertisers who made this program so special.



Hall of Fame

That adds up to **53** great new friends!

The Friends of Rugby
would like to congratulate all five inductees
in today's ceremonies.

