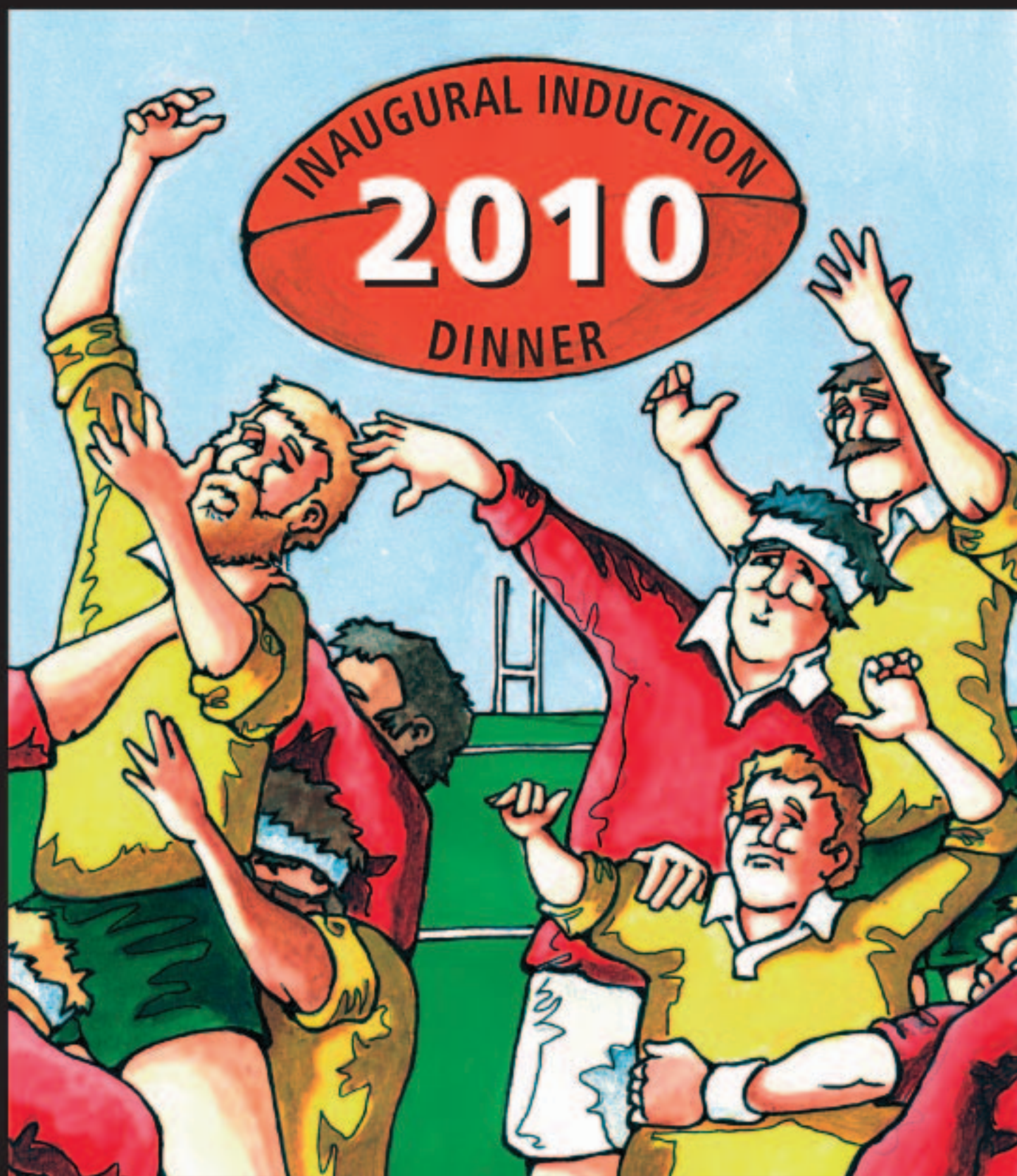


# MANITOBA RUGBY • HALL OF FAME



OCTOBER 16, 2010

# Thank You

## MANITOBA RUGBY HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Committee Chair:	Jim Russell
Members:	John Russell Secretary
Finance Sub-committee Chair:	Blair Riordan
Members:	Linda Romsa
Dinner Sub-committee Chair:	Zbig Jablonowski
Members:	Gary MacDonald, Don Pincock
Exhibit Sub-committee Chair:	Brenda Treleaven
Members:	Rick Romsa
Selection Sub-committee Chair:	Ray Hoensen
Members:	Ashley Prest, Brenda Treleaven, Larry Cherrett

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Lainie Wintrup, Justin Rak-Barville,  
Rob Gillespie (Cover Illustration), Tao Pasnak (Tao Design), Design Type  
and thank you to all the Advertisers who made this program so special.

Note: Feel free to drop us a line should you have comments or suggestions. At [rugbyhalloffame@gmail.com](mailto:rugbyhalloffame@gmail.com)

# Manitoba Rugby



# Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



To : Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Inductees  
Manitoba Rugby

From: Jim Russell  
Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee Chair

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee is proud to host our inaugural Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame induction dinner.

The sport of Rugby in Manitoba has a long and proud history that dates back to the late 1870's and it is fitting to celebrate that history and recognize those who have made a significant contribution to the game. Tonight's inductees are from the categories of player/coach, officials, builders and pioneers.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee is an independent organization and is at arm's length from Rugby Manitoba. The criteria for nomination includes having been involved in Rugby at least 20 years and having made a significant contribution to the game. Nominations were reviewed by the selection committee and their recommendations ratified by the executive of Rugby Manitoba.

Selection criteria also include, accomplishments, honors received, involvement with the game, overall career, and recognition of their contribution by their club, union and community (local, national and/or international).

Our sincere congratulations to all of the 2010 inductees and our thanks for your significant contribution to the sport of Rugby in Manitoba.

**Jim Russell**

Chair, Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee.

# 2010

# Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



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

**From:** Christian Taylor  
President Rugby Manitoba

**Date:** October 8, 2010

**Subject:** Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame – Congratulations!

2010 marks a significant year for Rugby Manitoba. We have just finished our 130th year in the province, Maple Grove Rugby Park is celebrating its 25 Anniversary and with that we have the beginning of a Hall of Fame to recognize and honour significant contributions to our sport.

To be named to any Hall of Fame would be the highest of honours. To be named to a Hall Of Fame in its inaugural year with a history as rich as our own is a testament to the dedication and contributions that these individuals and groups have made. The contributions and commitment that have been shown are what has helped this game grow and prosper. All of these inductees have left a lasting mark on both the sport and the many people they have met along the way. For that, on behalf of all of Rugby Manitoba I would like to say Congratulations to the inductees and their families. You all deserve this recognition and we thank you for your tremendous contributions.

Sincerely,

**Christian Taylor**  
President  
Rugby Manitoba



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum, congratulations to the Manitoba Rugby Union on establishing a hall of fame to recognize the athletes, coaches and builders in your sport. This, your inaugural induction dinner, will be a major step in honouring your sport history and heritage and a cherished memory for all involved.

Special congratulations go to the inductees on being recognized for your achievements and your commitment to your sport. This is a special honour in your life; a recognition by your peers and colleagues in Rugby of sport excellence and achievement.

The Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum represents the heritage of all sport in Manitoba. The celebration of our history, achievements and events is a critical part of our society. Honouring and recognizing those whose accomplishments and dedication to sport have woven the fabric of our history. This is critical to sport and our future.

Our heritage is our inspiration. It inspires pride in the memories of what has been accomplished. It inspires desire and determination for present-day athletes to achieve. It inspires dreams for the future; for what is possible and what can be achieved.

Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to make this event happen and best wishes for a great evening of sharing proud memories and honouring your sport heritage.

Sincerely;

**Don Pincock**

President  
Board of Directors  
The Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum



145 Pacific Ave. • Winnipeg, MB R3B 2Z6 • 204.925-5736 • Fax 204.925-5916  
[www.halloffame.mb.ca](http://www.halloffame.mb.ca)

Hall of Fame



From the Desk of Rick Bourne  
Chairman  
Rugby Canada



**TO / À:** Rugby Manitoba  
Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Inductees  
Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee

**FROM / DE:** Rick Bourne

**CC:** Graham Brown, CEO  
Rugby Canada Board of Directors

**DATE:** September 28, 2010

**SUBJECT/OBJECT:** Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame – Congratulations!

---

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate all the inductees to the inaugural 2010 Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame!

I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate the volunteer committee from Manitoba with the dedication to forming the Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame in order to recognize the outstanding achievements by individuals and groups who were key members and stakeholders in Rugby's more than 135 years in Manitoba.

Congratulations to the 2010 Inductees and thank you for your years of commitment to the sport of Rugby!

Sincerely,  
**RUGBY CANADA**

Rick Bourne  
Chairman



**RUGBY CANADA**

Toronto Office / Bureau de Toronto  
40 Vantage Road, Suite 20, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3N5  
Tel / Tel: 905-780-8908 Fax / Téléc: 416-353-1243  
info@rugbycanada.ca www.rugbycanada.ca

Victoria Office / Bureau de Victoria  
2128 Government Street, Suite 2C, Victoria BC V8T 5G5  
Tel / Tel: 250-418-8968 Fax / Téléc: 250-386-3833



# Manitoba Rugby

# Introduction

## 2010 Inductees Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Saturday, October 16, 2010

In recognition of the 130-year history of the sport of rugby (first played in 1879) in Manitoba, a Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame has been established as the result of a joint effort by the Friends of Rugby, Maple Grove Rugby Park and Rugby Manitoba.

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

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Selection Committee – rugby community representatives Ray Hoemsen (Chair), Larry Cherrett, and Brenda Treleaven, and community/media representative Ashley Prest of the Winnipeg Free Press – recommended 10 inductees who were ratified by both the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and Rugby Manitoba.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2010 Inductees are truly worthy, and we are honoured to be recognizing both their accomplishments and contributions to the game of rugby in Manitoba.

### PLAYER/TEAM

- **LARRY "BIGFOOT" DEBOOY**  
– Saracens Rugby Football Club (Posthumous)
- **CORINNE ENNS**  
– Sturgeon Creek Rowdies Rugby Football Club
- **WINNIPEG RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB** (1879-1935) – now Winnipeg Blue Bombers (since 1936)

### OFFICIAL

- **KEN ADAMS**  
– Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees

### BUILDER

- **MAPLE GROVE RUGBY PARK FOUNDERS COMMITTEE**
- **DWIGHT EVANS**  
– Assassins Rugby Football Club
- **JOHN "KIWI" REILLY**  
– Brandon Barbarians Rugby Football Club (Posthumous)
- **GILLIS ROY**  
– University of Manitoba Wombats Rugby Football Club

### PIONEER

- **ALBERT SHEPHERDSON**  
– Wanderers Rugby Football Club
- **IAN WILLIAMS**  
– Wasps Rugby Football Club



# A proud history of champions!

The Saracens Rugby Club  
congratulate Legendary player - Larry "Bigfoot" Debooy  
and one of our founding fathers - Ken Adams,  
and the 2010 Hall of Fame Inductees.  
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



# Larry "Bigfoot" Debooy - Player

Larry "Bigfoot" Debooy, former Captain of the Saracens Rugby Football Club, represented his Club at the Premier Division level for 35 years (since 1970); played (and also served as Captain) for Manitoba numerous times and participated in several national tryouts. Larry also coached the Saracens and set the standard which all club players should strive to achieve.

His nickname referred to his physical size but for Larry "Bigfoot" Debooy, it also reflects the footprint he left on the game of rugby in Manitoba.

At 6-foot-5 and 230 pounds during his playing days, Debooy's passion for playing rugby was matched only by his devotion to fitness which allowed him to make rugby his lifelong sport.

His "Bigfoot" nickname began with his stature but he carried it proudly with a fierce playing style and unique training techniques.

The Saracens Rugby Football Club's longest playing member, Debooy played 35 years in the First Division and served 18 years as Saracens' captain. He was selected to 15 provincial teams where he was named captain seven times. Rugby Manitoba officials said these records are unlikely to ever be broken in Manitoba.

He played in numerous international matches during his career which he later expanded to including the role of coach with the Saracens. His former teammates, who were also his lifelong friends, said Debooy "set the standard" for the work ethic and sportsmanship that all rugby players should aspire to achieve.

"Larry was a very unique athlete and so well respected by all of the rugby community," said Gary MacDonald, a longtime friend and Saracens teammate. "To play a demanding sport like rugby for 35 years is unique in itself but to play at a First Division level for that length of time is unheard of and a tribute to Larry's commitment to fitness."



## 2010 Inductee

Two of his well-known muscle-recovery techniques included the use of ice baths and horse liniment. "Larry received a lot of teasing about the aroma of this technique but it was hard to argue the results," MacDonald said.

Zbig Jablonowski, another longtime friend and Saracens teammate, joked that Debooy was involved in a lot of broken bones over the years. "These included, but were not limited to, broken legs, broken arms, broken noses, dislocated shoulders and thousands of stitches," Jablonowski said. "and I'm not referring to Larry, but to injuries Larry inflicted on competitors and teammates. I speak from personal experience!"

Debooy, who died on January 16, 2009 after a battle with cancer, is survived by his wife Valerie and a legacy of battles on the rugby park.

## Hall of Fame - Player

Sometimes making the right call is difficult,  
**but not this time!**



Congratulations to Ken Adams on being named to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame in recognition of his work as a referee and a tireless promoter of the sport.



**Proud to  
support the  
Manitoba Rugby  
Hall of Fame.**

**Congratulations to all  
2010 Inductees!**

Asphalt and Concrete



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**Manitoba Rugby**



# Corinne Enns - Player

**Corinne Enns**, an original member of the Sturgeon Creek Rowdies Rugby Football Club, played for over 20 years (and also served as Captain); and represented Manitoba at the provincial level and Canada internationally on Canada's Senior Women's Team as a fullback in the inaugural Women's Rugby World Cup in 1991. Corinne coached in the schools, continues to support her club and will still pull on her cleats to help at practice.

Those who leave a lasting impression on their sport are those who epitomize not only great athletic skill but also exhibit fair play, hard work and camaraderie. As one of the best female rugby players in the history of Manitoba rugby, Corinne Enns symbolizes all of these attributes.

Although she played a single match in 1985, she began her rugby career in earnest in 1987 when Kathy Ryan, a fellow physiotherapy graduate and Sturgeon Creek Rowdies RFC member, took her to the Sandbagger tournament in Grand Forks.

Corinne's ability as a fast, powerful runner, good tackler and kicker made her perfect for the fullback position at which she excelled.

At the club level Corinne played for the Sturgeon Creek Rowdies RFC and held the captaincy for many years. She was first named to the Manitoba Provincial team in 1987 but wasn't able to participate until 1989 due to injury. She continued to be an integral part of the provincial team until the early 2000's. She was often named the "Best Back" by her club and also received many Provincial MVP awards.

Corinne first stepped onto the international stage as part of the Canadian National Women's team for the inaugural Women's World Cup in 1991. The team played against New Zealand and Wales in their pool, losing to NZ and tying Wales. They went on to win the Plate competition after prevailing over the Soviet Union, Italy and Spain.



## 2010 Inductee

Corinne was on the pitch either in the centers or at fullback for all matches except the NZ tilt. She remained active in the national program until acceptance to the Winnipeg Fire Department in 1995 which meant a change in priority and she was no longer able to make the commitment required of a national athlete.

Over the years Corinne has coached both High School and Junior Provincial teams and even tried her hand at refereeing high school games for a season. Although her career as a player ended in 2003 she still occasionally shows up for club practice to help out with the backs and continues to support the team from the sidelines.

Corinne continues to enjoy many long term friendships that were formed during her years playing rugby and remains an inspiration to many women playing the sport today.

# Hall of Fame - Player

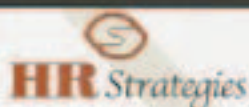


# WINNIPEG RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

## DOMINION CHAMPIONS 1935



**Congratulations**  
to all Hall of Fame  
Inductees



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**Manitoba Rugby**



# Winnipeg Rugby Football Club 1879-1935 - Team

## Winnipeg Blue Bombers 1930-2010

The Winnipeg Rugby Football Club was established in 1879, the same year rugby was first played in Manitoba, and is now celebrating its 80th Anniversary as the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Although the Winnipeg Rugby Football Club changed codes from "rugby union" to "gridiron football", their roots were in rugby – which is the foundation for Canadian and American football today. In 1935, the "Winnipegs" were the first Western team to win the Grey Cup – which was originally presented to Canada's amateur rugby football champion.

Rugby Union Football was first played on the Canadian prairies in the late 1870's. The Winnipeg Rugby Football Club, organized in 1879, was the first club in Manitoba. In 1888 St. John's College and the Royal School of Infantry/90th Regiment (now known as the Royal Winnipeg Rifles) joined the Winnipeg RFC to form the Manitoba Rugby League, the forerunner to the Manitoba Rugby Football Union which was founded in 1892. Prairies' rugby was limited to Winnipeg until the North West Mounted Police (Regina) and Moosomin (SK) clubs formed to challenge the Winnipeg-based sides. The first interprovincial play in the West took place in October of 1890 when the North West Mounted Police came to Winnipeg, and were defeated by the Winnipeg RFC 39-4 (news coverage at the time by the Manitoba Free Press nicknamed the visitors the "Roughriders" – possibly the origin of the Saskatchewan Roughriders name).

Rugby football was played in what became Alberta and Saskatchewan by 1890, and by 1907 the new provinces had organized their own competitions and adopted the rules of the Canadian Rugby Union. The three prairie unions formed the Western Canada Rugby Football Union in 1911, but were not allowed to compete for the Grey Cup (donated by Governor General Earl Grey in 1909 for the winner of the Dominion of Canada's amateur rugby football championship) until 1921.



## 2010 Inductee

Under the direction of R.M. (Dick) Mahoney, the community-owned Winnipeg Football Club began operations on June 10, 1930 following the reorganization of the financial difficulties of the Tammany Tigers. In 1933, the Winnipeg Football Club amalgamated with St. John's (of the Manitoba Rugby Union) to form the 'Pegs. The "Winnipegs" became the first team from Western Canada to win the Grey Cup in 1935, when they travelled to Hamilton and defeated the Hamilton Tigers 18-12. In 1935, Winnipeg Tribune sports writer Vince Leah referred to the Winnipegs as the "Blue Bombers", which was soon adopted as the new name for the club.

Numerous Winnipeg Blue Bombers have played representative rugby for their province or country – including current well-known veterans such as centre #60 Obby Khan (Ontario) and defensive tackle #97 Doug Brown (British Columbia and Canada).

## Hall of Fame - Team

# Sincere Congratulations



Sincere congratulations  
to All of our Rugby Manitoba Inductees tonight.

And special thanks to **Larry "Big Foot" Debooy** and **Ken Adams** for their many  
years of outstanding contribution to the Saracen Rugby Club.

## MacDon®

Manitoba Rugby



# Ken Adams - Official

Ken Adams, an active referee in the 1980's and 1990's, as President of the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees developed programs to assist in the identification of local officials by Rugby Canada, coordinated international referee exchanges, and implemented a strong administrative process to ensure the viability and growth of local rugby officials. Ken also played for and helped to coach the Saracens Rugby Football Club, represented Manitoba on the provincial team and remains a shameless promoter of Manitoba rugby in Canada.

An integral part of any sport is the official who makes it possible for the game to be played within the constructs of the laws associated with it. Ken Adams has been instrumental in enabling the sport of rugby in Manitoba through his contributions to the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees (MARR) over the years.

Ken began playing rugby in his native England at the age of 10 and continued throughout his university days, captaining the university team. After graduation he went to New Zealand where he played for the Otago "Country" team, a feeder for the Otago Provincial Team.

After ending up in Winnipeg Ken founded the Saracens RFC in 1969 with Peter Press, Gerry Nufer and Howie Goss. He played for 10 years with the Saracens and is an honorary life member of the club. He played on the provincial squad and captained that team from 1969 to 1974. He also served on the Manitoba Rugby Union Board as Secretary (1970's) and Executive Vice-President (1990's).

Ken began his career as an official in 1979 and was an active referee for 25 years. He was a member of the Canadian referee panel from 1990-1996 and was selected to officiate Under 19, Tier I and Tier II, as well as Women's matches. He also ran touch for the international Senior Men's (Can-Am) match held at Maple Grove Rugby Park between Canada and the USA in 1994. A few years later,



## 2010 Inductee

Ken was once again selected to run touch when the Junior Maori (a national team composed of players of Maori descent), second only to the New Zealand All Blacks, visited Winnipeg to play a match against a Prairie Select side.

As President of the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees, Ken implemented a strong administrative process to ensure the viability and growth of local rugby officials. He was the MARR representative on the provincial board for many years. He pursued a referee exchange program with New Zealand, Britain and other Canadian provinces - the highlight being when Bill Zubrec, a local referee, spent time in New Zealand. He also set up hosting opportunities and facilitated introductions whenever local referees were travelling elsewhere. Ken was a member of the Canadian Referee Assessor panel as well for many years.

Ken continues to serve on the Discipline Committee, having been a member for 15 years. He remains a shameless promoter of Manitoba rugby to others in Canada.

## Hall of Fame - Official



# Maple Grove Rugby Park



Maple Grove Rugby Park is one of North America's finest Rugby facilities boasting five regulation size rugby pitches, a licensed Clubhouse and is home to rugby for many clubs in Manitoba.



**Congratulations to the MGRP Hall of Fame inductees and to the organizers and supporters of the Hall of Fame Dinner.**



## MAPLE GROVE RUGBY PARKS EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	ROB ST. GERMAIN
VICE PRESIDENT	DAVE WILSON
SECRETARY	DUNCAN MACLEOD
ASSASSINS' REP	RYAN MARTIN
RUGBY MANITOBA'S REP	DAVE WILSON
SARACENS' REP	RICK AND LINDA ROMSA
WANDERERS' REP	HILARY MOWAT
WOMATS' REP	LARRY CHERRETT
WASPS' REP	KIRK GORHAM



# Maple Grove Rugby Park - Builder Founder Committee

Maple Grove Rugby Park was established in 1985 as the home of the majority of the Winnipeg-based rugby clubs, and has evolved into a multi-sport facility which has hosted numerous school, club, provincial, national and international events for rugby, flag football, lacrosse, ultimate and volleyball. Without the leadership of the Founders Committee (which first met in 1982) and the support of the community, Maple Grove Rugby Park would not be one of Manitoba's premier multi-sport facilities.

The Maple Grove Rugby Park Founders Committee was the group responsible for the invention, creation, development and construction of Maple Grove Rugby Park, the premier rugby facility in Western Canada, which was initially opened in 1985. Maple Grove Rugby Park has since its opening been the home of the majority of the Winnipeg based rugby clubs, and has developed as a major multi-sports facility, as well as a template for many other sports-developed and managed facilities.

Commencing with the first meeting held November 4, 1982 at the Cambridge restaurant between Gary MacDonald, Don Pincock and Larry Cherrett, it was decided to form a committee of club representatives and others to plan and implement a field development project. A group of dedicated and creative individuals strived to successfully complete such project. They were primarily the following: Assassins – John Burman, Saracens – Gary MacDonald, St. Vital – Martin Waigh, Wanderers – Peter Heaveysege, Wasps – Doug Schon, Wasps Women – Brenda Treleaven, University of Manitoba Wombats – Larry Cherrett, Manitoba Rugby Union – Geoff Ellwand, Chair – Bob Moffatt, Vice-Chair – Don Pincock, Accountant/Treasurer – Bill Forbes, Surveys & Plans – Ron Amann, and Fields Design – Rob Tisdale.



## 2010 Inductee

The committee met nearly monthly between November 25, 1982 until August, 1984 when the lease was about to be signed and the corporation Maple Grove Rugby Park Inc. was created. During these meetings an internal structure was hammered out, land identified and approved, plans for construction discussed and approved, and fund raising plans discussed and implemented. The committee raised approximately \$300,000 and implemented the first sport-developed and managed facility in Winnipeg, all without government funding.

While others took over from the committee in completing portions of the plans and in the further contribution to the future success of Maple Grove Rugby Park, the above committee members took the idea to reality and a number of them continued in various capacities to contribute to the future success of Maple Grove Rugby Park as one of Manitoba's premiere multi-sport facilities.

## Hall of Fame - Builder





# ASSASSINS

## Rugby Football Club

Established in 1967

Featuring High School, Colts, Senior Women's  
and Senior Men's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Teams

**Celebrating our 43 Year History**

and in Honour of our  
Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Inductee

## Mr. Dwight Evans

[www.AssassinsRugby.com](http://www.AssassinsRugby.com)

## Congratulations to all 2010 Inductees!

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# Manitoba Rugby



# Dwight Evans - Builder

Dwight Evans, a founding player for the Assassins Rugby Football Club in 1968, was instrumental in the club's establishment and served in many board and executive capacities, including President. Dwight went on to become President of the Manitoba Rugby Union, and also chaired the 10th anniversary celebration of Maple Grove Rugby Park in 1995.

Dwight Evans was one of the original players when the Assassins Rugby Football Club was founded in 1968. The club, and the sport of rugby, have come a long way since then and Dwight was instrumental in establishing the strong organizational structure that enabled both to prosper.

Dwight played from 1968 to 1985 and served on the executive of the Assassins RFC for many of those years. He filled a variety of positions from Social Coordinator to President between 1977 and 1980. In 1978 he was the principal author of the new Assassins RFC constitution. From 1985 to 1989 Dwight was a member of the Assassins Board of Directors. In 1985 he developed a long term strategic plan for the club.

Dwight was elected to the Manitoba Rugby Union Board as the Special Events Coordinator in 1980 to coordinate the hosting and running of the 1981 Western Canadian Championships. At that time the MRU was struggling and provincial funding for the sport was in question. The new board worked hard to reinstitute programs that had lapsed and to rebuild the union. Soon the sport of Rugby had regained its good standing in the eyes of the provincial sport funding body.

Dwight went on to serve on the MRU board for six years, several of those as president. During that time he drafted a new constitution and also attended Canadian Rugby Union meetings and worked with the other smaller provinces to advance initiatives that were important to them.



## 2010 Inductee

It was around this time that the dream of a home for rugby in Winnipeg started to become a reality. The development of Maple Grove Rugby Park was initiated and, as President of the MRU, Dwight was involved with the rugby park committee in negotiations with the City of Winnipeg as well as many planning meetings.

When Dwight stepped away from rugby in 1989 he left a strong foundation that the Assassins RFC and Rugby Manitoba have continued to build on.

## Hall of Fame - Builder



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
SENIOR MEN DIVISION TWO  
**1986**



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
SENIOR MEN DIVISION TWO  
**2003**



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
SENIOR MEN DIVISION TWO  
**2004**



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
SENIOR MEN DIVISION TWO  
**2010**



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
SENIOR MEN DIVISION TWO  
**2006**



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
**COLTS**  
**2005**



Rugby Manitoba Champions  
**MANITOBA CUP**  
**2005**



The Barbarians:  
Still Going,  
Still Growing  
and  
Still leaving  
room for more.

**The Brandon Barbarians  
Rugby Football Club**

[brandon barbarians.org](http://brandonbarbarians.org)

Adjunctive Rugby  
Organizations

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**JOHN REILLY**

is a member of

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BRANDON BARBARIANS  
RUGBY FOOTBALL  
CLUB

**2007**



**D5764**

Expires  
May 31, 2008

*We're not just pretty faces*

we  
remember

**Manitoba Rugby**



# John "Kiwi" Reilly - Builder

John "Kiwi" Reilly, a co-founder of the Brandon Barbarians Rugby Football Club in 1981, served on the Executive for 28 years in numerous capacities, including President, and was a force in the development of rugby in Western Manitoba. Following his untimely death in 2009, the North Pitch of Brandon's Canada Games Rugby Park was renamed Reilly Field in recognition of his many contributions to the game.

John was born in 1948 in Napier New Zealand and played rugby for the Napier Marist RFC. In 1972, Iris first met John in Napier and in 1975 they moved to Canada and got married in Elm Creek, Manitoba (Iris's home town).

In 1981 John, Doug Filipchuk, and Guy McKim formed the Brandon Barbarians Rugby Football Club, at the time the only rugby club outside of Winnipeg. For the first two seasons (exhibition only), all games were played at Green Acres School. When the Barbarians were asked to find another field, the three co-founders approached the City of Brandon and were allowed to play on the (in)famous field by the Assiniboine River with the huge tree in the end goal directly behind the uprights. This turned out to be very good exposure for the Barbarians since the field was alongside one of the main roads into Brandon, and traffic jams resulted from cars pulling over to watch matches!

John played the wing as well as hooker, and as one former player said.... "Kiwi was a man with an uncanny ability to burrow into a maul from an offside position and pop out, onside, with the ball." John served as the President of the Barbarians as well as a coach after John Keogh passed away in 1989. John was not only a Level 2 Rugby Coach, but also a certified Referee and was a member of the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees and was on the roster for games for numerous years. As time moved on John remained the only founding member in Brandon and became the back bone of the organization right through to his last days! John always said that it was the development of rugby that would keep him in Canada.



## 2010 Inductee

The high school (with 11 schools) and youth (Boissevain, Brandon, Minnedosa and Souris) programs all evolved and grew due to the strong alumni from the Barbarians. Players were developed for both Manitoba and Canada.

John helped to secure and co-chair the 1996 National U18 Championships and co-chaired (with Dennis Hunt) a committee to develop world class rugby fields for the 1997 Canada Summer Games, recognized by Rugby Canada as a "superbly organized event", this led to John receiving the Manitoba Rugby Union's Volunteer of the Year Award. This was the first time a club had hosted back-to-back national championships. The two fields which were developed (and which John helped maintained) are a legacy to the game of rugby in Brandon and Manitoba. Following John's death in 2009 the North pitch was renamed "Reilly Field".

## Hall of Fame - Builder





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## Congratulations to all the Rugby Hall of Fame inductees!

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Congratulations to Gillis Roy.  
Always a teammate,  
always a friend.



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# Manitoba Rugby



# Gillis Roy - Builder

Gillis Roy, who first played for the then University of Manitoba Rugby Football Club in 1974, has been the foundation of the club since he first stepped on the field. He has played, coached, refereed and/or administrated for over 35 years. As one of rugby's true "unsung heroes" he has done whatever it takes to sustain both the club and the game.

In the summer of 1974, Gillis Roy found rugby but far more significantly Rugby and the University of Manitoba RFC/Wombats found Gillis Roy. He has been the foundation on which the club has remained anchored. He shaped and guided the Referees Association as well.

Gillis Roy played in the second row in the first and second divisions from 1974 through 1980 when a back injury curtailed his playing career.

More importantly however, from 1974 through until the early 2000's he was match secretary, record keeper of rugby players and potential recruits, equipment manager, opened his home as a form of clubhouse, assisted in coaching and generally did each and everything necessary to encourage and support the club in its growth and development.



## 2010 Inductee

Hundreds of rugby players throughout the world remember his efforts and their interactions with him with warmth and gratitude.

Gillis refereed and also scheduled referees, from 1980 until the 2000's, helping to structure the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees as a result.

He contributed to the operations of Maple Grove by marking the fields and other necessary tasks over a number of years.

Gillis continues to support rugby in many and diverse ways, and is the epitome of a rugby player/supporter and builder.

## Hall of Fame - Builder

**Congratulations**  
to all the  
Hall of Fame Inductees



***RUGBY***  
***MANITOBA***

*The Older we get ... the better we were!*



# Albert Shepherdson - Pioneer

**Albert Shepherdson**, a member of the Wanderers Rugby Football Club, reestablished the club and was instrumental in the reconstitution of the Manitoba Rugby Union in 1968 (rugby in Manitoba had been dormant since 1961). Albert played at a high level for a number of years in Wales before immigrating to Manitoba. He represented Manitoba in their first inter-provincial match against Alberta (a competitive match with Alberta was a condition imposed by the Canadian Rugby Union for the readmission of the Manitoba Rugby Union), and played for a number of years thereafter.

Albert Shepherdson is a long time member of the Winnipeg Wanderers Rugby Club, the oldest of the surviving clubs in Manitoba.

Albert grew up in Wales where he started playing rugby as a child in 1937. Albert played in the Pontypool area from the late 1940's until 1965, playing at a high level for the British Army, Blaenavon, Ush and Talywain clubs. While there he was, according to his own words a "middling good prop". Albert was part of the 1956-57 Monmouth Union winners and the 1959-1960 Ben Francis cup winners. In 1966 Albert immigrated to Manitoba for work and became part of our rugby community.

Upon his arrival in Winnipeg, Albert joined the Winnipeg Wanderers RFC, which was being reconstituted by John Walton and Derry Newton, as rugby had been dormant since 1961.

When he arrived the Wasps had just been formed and with only two clubs the game was being re-established. Albert remembers that the first game he played was 12-a-side event.



## 2010 Inductee

Albert scored two tries for Manitoba in a close loss of 24-22 versus Alberta in 1968. This was a very significant match for Manitoba since the Canadian Rugby Union had imposed a condition for readmission of the Manitoba Rugby Union to the national union which required Manitoba to field a competitive side, as well as having a viable league schedule. The close result of this match helped to enable the readmission of the Manitoba Rugby Union to the Canadian Rugby Union in 1968.

Albert continued to play for the Wanderers until 1976 (and for Manitoba until 1974) when he immigrated for work to China.

Thereafter, he played and coached in Trinidad in the late 1970's until he retired from play, playing his last game in 1980.

## Hall of Fame - Pioneer





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**Congratulations  
to all the Hall of Fame  
Inductees**

## ***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.



# **Manitoba Rugby**



# Ian Williams - Pioneer

Ian Williams arrived in Winnipeg in 1964 to find only one active club – the Winnipeg RFC. Ian co-founded the Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Football Club (1965), took the first Winnipeg side to Edmonton Rugby Fest (1967) – nearly upsetting the highly ranked Vancouver Meralomas, played for Manitoba in their first inter-provincial match against Alberta (1968) and coached Manitoba's provincial side in their first match against the University of British Columbia (1968). Ian (and wife Carolyn) helped Manitoba rugby to prosper and grow.

Ian Williams came to Canada from Scotland in 1957 and first played for the Toronto Scottish (and as scrum half helped to win the Quebec 7's in 1958). After relocating to Montreal in 1961, Ian played for the Town of Mount Royal. Ian moved to Winnipeg in the winter of 1964, where Ian found that a thriving rugby community in the late 1950's (mainly Commonwealth Forces teams based in Shilo), had only one club remaining in Winnipeg – the Winnipeg RFC (now the Wanderers). Stalwarts such as Derry Newton and John Walton had kept rugby alive in Winnipeg by holding regular training and playing the odd away game with clubs in Regina and Wisconsin.

With the encouragement of Derry Newton to form another club and sensing the potential for a renewal of rugby in Winnipeg, Ian put ads in the Winnipeg Free Press and Winnipeg Tribune looking for "anyone interested in playing rugby". The response was incredible and included the six "Ian's" – such as Ian Wallace (formerly of the Melrose & Scotland Under 16's) and Iain McDougall (ultimately Ph.D., Dean of Classics at the University of Winnipeg) who, in turn through his connections at the then United College, recruited Gary Filmon (future Premier of Manitoba); leading to the formation of the Winnipeg Wasps in 1965. Soon, the Winnipeg Wasps (with Ian as Captain) and the Winnipeg RFC were "running" together on the south banks of the Red River by Churchill Drive, once the snow melted. Eventually the Wasps relocated to the grounds near the CNR locomotive in Assiniboine Park for their games. Lieutenant Bob Kompf of the Princess Patricias then joined the Wasps, leading to Lipsett Hall (at the former Canadian Forces Base) as a home for local rugby. Winnipeg Blue Bombers players such as Paul Robson also started turning up for early season outdoor training.



## 2010 Inductee

Ian took the first representative team from Winnipeg to the Edmonton Rugby Fest in 1967 where they pushed the high ranking Vancouver Meralomas to a very close decision (over 30 years later, the Wasps still take part in the Edmonton Rugby Fest). In 1972 Ian purchased (and rented to other club members, mainly teachers at River Heights School) a house on Alexander Street which quickly became known as the "Hive" and became the headquarters for the club.

Members of the Wasps went on to not only form the Manitoba Schools Rugby Union (1973), but also several clubs - the Assassins (1967), the University of Manitoba (1973), St. Vital Buccaneers (1974), Portage Wolves (1979), Sturgeon Creek Rowdies (1980), and the Brandon Barbarians (1981) – and were also one of seven clubs who came together to create Maple Grove Rugby Park (1985), the primary home of rugby in Winnipeg.

# Hall of Fame - Pioneer

We just made  
10 more great friends!

The Friends of Rugby  
would like to congratulate all 2010 inductees  
in today's ceremonies.

