## MANITOBA RUGBY HALL OF FAME



INDUCTION DINNER

### **Thank You**

#### MANITOBA RUGBY HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Committee Chair: Jim Russell

Members: John Russell - Secretary

Calyn Goodchild - Communications

Finance Sub-committee Chair: Blair Riordan Members: Linda Romsa

Dinner Sub-committee Chair: Linda Romsa
Members: Rick Romsa

Exhibit Sub-committee Chair: Brenda Treleaven Members: Rick Romsa

Selection Sub-committee Chair: Ray Hoemsen

Members: Ashley Prest, Brenda Treleaven,

Larry Cherrett

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Istock (Cover Photo), Tao Pasnak (Tao Design), Designtype

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

## 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 Hall of Fame**



To: Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2013 Inductees

From: Jim Russell

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee Chair

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee is once again proud to host our fourth Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Dinner honoring those who have made a meaningful and substantial contribution to our sport.

The sport of Rugby in Manitoba continues its long and proud history that dates back to the late 1870's and it is fitting that we in Manitoba continue to celebrate that history and recognize those who have made a significant contribution to the game in our province. Tonight's five inductees are from three of the four established categories of player/team, officials, builders and pioneers.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee is an independent arm's length organization from Rugby Manitoba. The criteria for nomination require having been involved in the sport of Rugby for at least 20 years and having made a meaningful and significant contribution to the game. Selection criteria include accomplishments, honours received, involvement with the game, overall achievement, and recognition of the contribution to club, union and community rugby at the local, provincial, national and/or international levels.

Several nominations have been received and reviewed by the Hall of Fame Induction Sub-Committee and their selected recommendations for induction to the Hall of Fame ratified by the executive of Rugby Manitoba and approved by the Hall of Fame Committee.

On behalf of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee our congratulations to all of the 2013 inducted honourable members of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and our sincerest thanks and appreciation to you, and your families, for your dedication and contribution to the game and sport of Rugby in Manitoba.

Yours truly

√im Russell,

Chair, Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee

2013



On behalf of Sport Manitoba, congratulations to all the nominees and inductees at this year's Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. This event provides the opportunity to recognize Manitobans for their outstanding achievements and contributions to sport in our province.

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

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,

**SPORT MANITOBA** 

Jeff Hnatiuk President & CEO



Unding Partner

Manitoba 🗫

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From the office of the President

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate all the 2013 Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame inductees on this wonderful achievement. To be honored in this way, by your peers, shows that you have been an integral part in growing the sport of Rugby here in Manitoba, and beyond, through dedicating countless amounts of time and energy.

Without people such as you our union would never be what it is today. Your passion and dedication for rugby has left an indelible mark on our game.

So enjoy the induction ceremonies and thank you once again for all you have done to make rugby what it is today in our province.

Yours in Rugby,

Sandy Donald

President

Rugby Manitoba

Sandy Donald 145 PACIFIC AVE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, R3B 2Z6 204-925-5664 president@rugbymanitoba.com



From the Desk of Pat Aldous Chairman Rugby Canada

August 29th, 2013

#### 2013 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

A Message from the Chairman of Rugby Canada,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2013 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Dinner.

It is my honour to congratulate this year's inductees. On behalf of Rugby Canada, I would like to acknowledge your commitment to the great sport of Rugby in Canada. This past year there have been many tremendous accomplishments made in the sport across the country at the grassroots and international levels, and the contributions made by members of the Manitoba Rugby community form part of these successes.

Rugby has a rich history in the Province of Manitoba, dating back over 130 years. The establishment of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame was centered on recognizing significant contribution to the sport and its development in Manitoba. The achievement of being inducted into the Hall of Fame is something you should be especially proud of.

Congratulations to all, and enjoy the evening.

Sincerely.

RUGBY CANADA

Pat Aldous Chairman

RUGBY CANADA

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rugbycanada.ca info@rugbycanada.ca











### A Message from the Minister

As Minister responsible for Sport, it is my great pleasure to offer best wishes to Rugby Manitoba's members, organizers, guests and Hall of Fame inductees as you meet to celebrate your fourth annual Hall of Fame banquet.

I also want to congratulate this year's inductees who are being recognized for their rugby skills, excellence and commitment to the game. Rugby, like so many sports, not only strengthens players' bodies, it also strengthens their minds and helps them become stronger adults and more responsible citizens.

Manitoba's rugby coaches, trainers and volunteers are committed to providing the best possible opportunities for everyone who wants to be a part of this exciting, energetic sport, whether they play competitively or just for fun.

I commend Rugby Manitoba for promoting and supporting the sport in communities all across the province and for recognizing the outstanding achievements of local players. Your hard work and dedication means that all rugby enthusiasts, from beginners to experienced athletes, can develop their skills and enjoy the thrill of the game.

I encourage you all to keep playing to win and to do it with great enthusiasm and good sportsmanship.

I wish you all continued success.

Eric Robinson Minister responsible for Sport







#### Message from Mayor Sam Katz

It is my sincere honour to welcome all of those attending the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Hall of Fame and Induction Ceremony. It is also my pleasure to offer congratulations to all those participants acknowledged in the induction ceremony.

I know a lot of hard work and dedication is required to ensure sustained success and I congratulate the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame for their continuing efforts in recognizing this sport in our community.

I would also like this opportunity to welcome all visitors to our beautiful city. Winnipeg is a community that boasts first class attractions, supreme hospitality and a warm, welcoming spirit. As a result, we attract visitors far and wide to our City – The Heart of the Continent. Time and again, individuals walk away with the sense that Winnipeg is a city of unique sights and dynamic experiences, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the amenities which have come to define our community.

On behalf of the citizens of Winnipeg and my colleagues on City Council, I would like to wish you much more success in the future.

Warm regards,

Sam Katz MAYOR

Heart of the Continent • Au cour du continent

## Introduction

### 2013 Inductees Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Saturday, October 15, 2013

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 5 inductees who were ratified by both the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and Rugby Manitoba.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2013 Inductees are truly worthy, and we are honoured to be recognizing both their accomplishments and contributions to the game of Rugby in Manitoba.

#### **PLAYER**

- RILEY BARKMAN
  - Wasps Rugby Club

#### **OFFICIAL**

- T. COLIN GIBBS
  - M. A. R. R.
- WILF ERICHSEN
  - Assassins Rugby Club

#### **TEAM**

• SARACENS RFC MEN'S PREMIERSHIP CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM 1979 – 1986

#### **BUILDER**

- PETER PRESS
  - Saracens Rugby Club

## **Congratulations** Riley Barkman and all the Hall of Fame recipients who truly **Stand Out!**



**Proud sponsors of Rugby in Manitoba!** 

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The Winnipeg Wasps would like to congratulate **Riley Barkman** on his induction into the Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame.

Riley spent over two decades making on and off field contributions to the Wasps, and the sport of rugby in Manitoba, and we thank him for his dedication and service.

**Black & Gold Forever** 



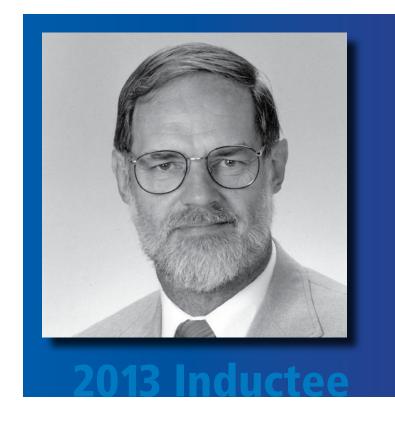
## Riley Barkman - Player

**Riley Barkman** was raised in Kleefeld, Manitoba. After high school his path for higher education found him joining the Military, spending two years (1966-1968) at Royal Rhodes in Victoria, BC and two years (1968-1970) at Kingston Military College. Teammate Jon Jenkins later coined the nickname "General Barkman" for a tour book biography, referring either to Riley's military background or ability to marshal a team through great understanding of the game and its strategies. In either case, the name was well earned.

It was out in Victoria and Kingston that Riley was first exposed to and fell in love with Rugby. When Riley returned to Winnipeg in 1970, there were four teams in Manitoba: Assassins, Saracens, Wasps, and Wanderers, all recently formed. Riley eventually joined the Wasps RFC, and began a lifelong participation in the sport of Rugby.

Riley played club Rugby with the Wasps for more than twenty years until the early 1990s when an injury forced him to retire from playing. Riley was a person who very much "respected the game", and always had its best interest at heart, thus earning the trust and respect of his peers. He was heavily involved with all aspects of the sport here in Manitoba, and if the game needed an impartial person to settle a conflict or to work on a committee to improve the nature of the sport, that person would generally be Riley.

Riley spent ten years playing on the Manitoba Provincial Team (1972-1982) and in the mid-1980s was co-coach for the provincial program. He was involved in the formation and coaching of the Vincent Massey High School teams in 1974-1975, also coaching his own club, the Wasps, for five years (1974-1980). He was invited by the MRU to attend a planning conference for Rugby in Manitoba held in Gimli in the mid-1970s.



Riley served as Captain for Manitoba in several fixtures against touring sides from overseas. In 1972 he played against welsh side LLANELLI; in 1973 against Irish side DUNGANNON; and in 1976 against Irish side LANSDOWNE. Riley cherished the opportunity to play against teams from countries where Rugby culture was prominent, and would likely consider this a highlight of his career

In 1985 Riley was asked help commemorate the opening of Maple Grove Rugby Park by being the captain of a President's Select Team pitted against the Manitoba Provincial Team of the day.

Riley was also a key participant in seven overseas tours with the Wasps to Hawaii, Trinidad, England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as trips to Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the United States, contributing his much respected leadership and character to every tour.



Manitoba Hydro is proud to support Manitoba Rugby. Congratulations to this year's Hall of Fame inductees.



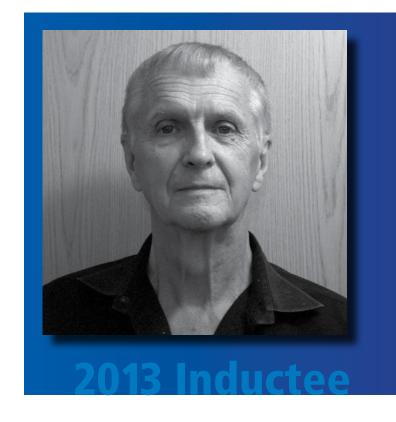


## T. Colin Gibbs - Official

**Colin Gibbs** started playing Rugby at school in England in 1951, as he attended a Rugby/public school. After graduating, Colin attended Loughborough College, a technological university and the top Rugby college in the United Kingdom. Loughborough has won the college/university championship in England 27 times since it was instituted nearly 100 years ago and numbers amongst its graduates, over 100 Rugby internationals including Fran Cotton, Ben Kay, Andy Robinson Clive Woodward, and Gerald Davies. Colin graduated as an engineer.

Coming to Canada in 1981, Colin became a coach and referee. As a coach, Colin was the 1st level 3 coach in Manitoba. He coached the Wasps Women to several Provincial championships and Women's Provincial Team for many years. He coached the Wasps Women on a very successful tour of England, where they defeated Oxford University women, a select Welsh Women's side, and Loughborough University Ladies coached by Jim Greenwood. He was the key to the successful establishment of our provincial Women's Rugby team and its high ranking nationally in the 1980's. Under his tutelage, three of our provincial women Rugby players played for Canada. He also coached the Manitoba Under-21 XV's against the Welsh Under-19 national team, the University of Manitoba men's team and at all levels in Manitoba.

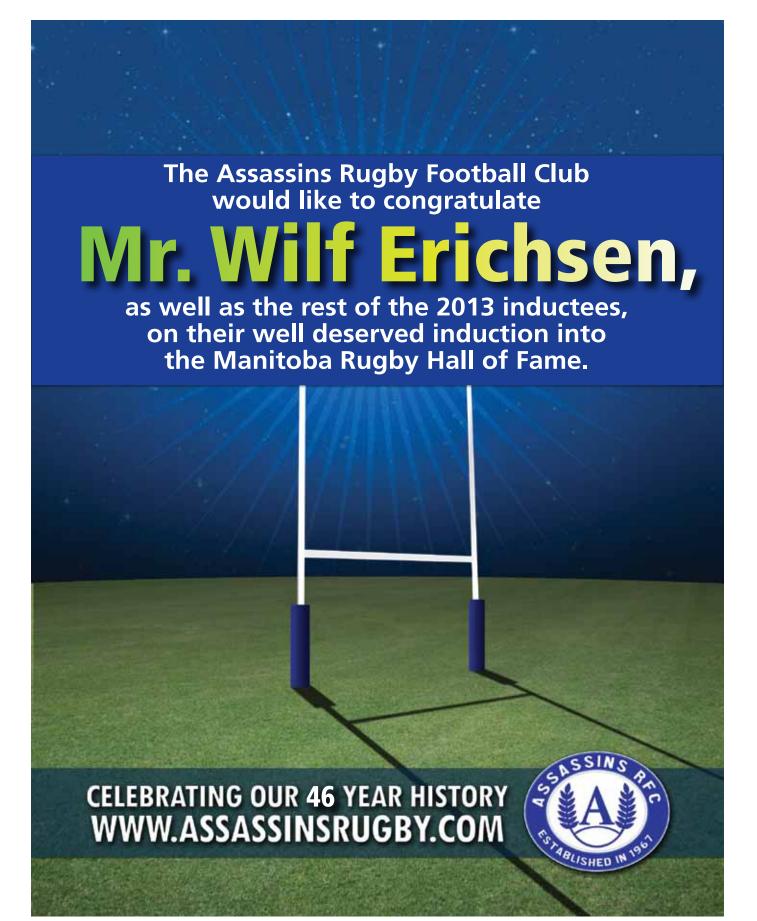
With respect to Maple Grove Rugby Park, Colin was the engineer who developed the plans and design drawings, contributing his time and expertise at no cost, to the enrichment of the facility and our Rugby fraternity. He helped supervise its construction and has continued to advise and consult since then.



Colin's most significant contribution to Rugby in Manitoba has been as a referee and official. Colin has officiated at the CSG's, WCSG's, RC Tier 2's, in all divisions in senior rugby, in the colts and at schools level, for decades. He has refereed at the Marches Schools Sevens in the UK, is presently in his 7th year as an IRB educator and has served as match commissioner at national and international matches. Colin has been President of MARR and served it in the capacity of educator, appointments secretary and treasurer and was instrumental in developing its structure. Colin served as MARR representative on the Rugby Manitoba Board for a number of years and also as Treasurer of Rugby Manitoba for several years.

Colin has contributed immeasurably to officiating Rugby and Rugby in general for over 30 years in Manitoba, and continues to do so. He suggests that a strong sevens and/or tens program at school, junior and senior levels is essential if Rugby is to grow in Manitoba and the full potential of MGRP is to be reached.

Hall of Fame

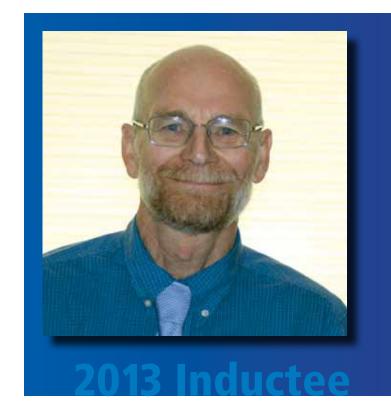


## Wilf Erichsen - Official

Willfort "Wilf" Erichsen, started playing Rugby as part of the first youth Rugby program in Manitoba Rugby history. In 1971, an 18-year old Wilf got to know Dennis Caine, who was both a supervisor at a youth drop-in centre and a Rugby player with the Assassins RFC. That summer, Dennis formed a team of 14-18 year olds known as the Frontiersmen, on which Wilf was a player. Wilf and his fellow teammates played exhibition games against the 2nd division teams in the Manitoba Rugby Union and also in a 7's tournament. The team failed to re-form the following year, but Wilf had moved on to become a senior player with the Assassins. He was the first official graduate of a youth Rugby program in Manitoba.

Wilf continued to play Rugby with the Assassins until 1977, when persistent knee problems and the responsibilities following the birth of his first son, Bryan, brought his playing career to an end. It was then that his contribution to Rugby took flight and soared. He took on the duties of Treasurer of the Manitoba Rugby Union in 1977-1978 with Larry Cherrett as President. He started refereeing in 1978, and continued acting as a referee diligently and in an exemplary fashion until 2003. His contributions as an official with the Manitoba Rugby Referees involved him in developing that organization and serving in every capacity – as secretary, treasurer, appointments convener, President and as the representative for MARR on the MRU Board.

In 2000, he undertook a third career in Rugby, again as Treasurer with Rugby Manitoba. Wilf assumed responsibility with a \$53,000 deficit on the books, and left nearly 10 years later with the budget boasting a surplus. He kept the organization on a level financial path for years.



Wilf's contributions to the sport of Rugby do not end there, as he also acted as a coach to teams at several different levels. He spent 4 years coaching Rugby at Oak Park High School, several years coaching the Saracens Colts team, and for 6 years coached the Saracens' Senior Team. Wilf also helped set up and run a youth Rugby program on Saturday mornings with Garry MacDonald, Ray Hoemsen and others in which both of his sons, Bryan and Scott, participated along with a new generation of Manitoba Rugby players.

Wilf has contributed greatly to the development of in Manitoba in multiple capacities, and Manitoba Rugby has benefitted substantially from his efforts.





## **Manitoba Rugby**

## Saracens RFC Men's Premiership Championship Team 1979–1986

Between 1979 and 1986 **The Saracens RFC Men's team** were Premier League Champions and holders of the Patrons Challenge Cup for eight consecutive years. With few exceptions, the club's record number of consecutive wins did not come easily and in some cases actually demanded titanic struggles against exceptionally tenacious and very determined opposition. The first of the eight wins illustrates the degree to which the Saracens were actually tested.

The 1979 final was played against the Wasps RFC at Lipsett Hall, Winnipeg. The Saracens fielded a team consisting of a fair mix of veterans and rookies; six of the players were new to first division rugby that year and seven were very recent graduates of St. John's High School in Winnipeg's North End. At the end of regulation time the game was all tied up at seven all. This was only the second year in which Rugby Manitoba had deployed a play-off system and had yet to plan for this contingency. The respective captains in consultation with the referee - a Mr Derek Milton - opted to play two ten minute periods of over-time. In the ensuing extended struggle the Saracens scoring seven unanswered points to take the title for the first of what would prove to be eight titles.

In the years that followed a number of the Saracens' victories came only after battling through overtime periods or replaying games not settled in overtime. In the 1980 semi-final versus the St. James Club, a last minute try to the Saracens earned a draw and an opportunity to play St. James again. The Saracens won the second match and went on to defeat the Assassins in the final. Most famously in 1984, the Saracens managed to hold old rivals, Wasps, to a draw in over-time in the semi-final, forcing a mid-week rematch which they won. They then went on to defeat the Wanderers RFC in overtime in the final. This incredible three-hundred minutes of hard, highly competitive Rugby was played within a span of only eight days.

Some notable on-field achievements spanning the period from 1979 through 1986 that should be highlighted are:

- The Saracens won five Manipogo and five Snafu tournaments, and were undefeated in all eight WASP 7's.
- Five Saracens players were selected to attend Canada Western Senior Men's camps.
- The club toured New Zealand in 1980 returning with an honourable record of; played six, won 2, tied 1, lost 3.
- In the course of winning eight consecutive Premier Championship match games, the Saracens outscored their opponents 185 to 36.
- In 1980, Rugby Manitoba decided to have the Patrons Challenge Cup winners represent Manitoba at the Canadian Rugby Union Western Semi-finals in Regina. The Saracens, augmented with four notable players from other Winnipeg clubs - three from the Wanderers RFC and one from the Assassins RFC - pulled off an upset win over Alberta. This was first time a Manitoba team had ever defeated an Alberta provincial side.



• The Saracens RFC successfully recruited excellent players during these halcyon years but in the light of this year's fellow nominee Peter Press it seem only fitting to give some emphasis to a specific fact: More than half of the players whom played in one or more of the eight championship victories were graduates of Winnipeg's St John's High School, the school where Peter had introduced the game of Rugby.

This Saracens' team was obviously blessed with some exceptionally gifted athletes and talented Rugby players, a number of whom no doubt will already be, or are soon to be, members of Rugby Manitoba's Hall of Fame. Possessing this exceptional talent was of course a huge asset to the Saracens and it obviously contributed to the team's run of successes. However, and as everyone knows, while talent is a necessary ingredient to the mix, it is not sufficient of itself to guarantee team excellence and high achievement.

Other factors clearly played their part here. The team consistently featured a mix of veteran and rookie players, bringing maturity blended with the eagerness of youth. Blessed with the presence of some excellent leadership qualities from veterans and rookies alike, the team also quickly developed a tenacious will to win, the hallmark of all long-term strong and successful teams. Completing this picture was the team's unique quality of "teamness" that developed and solidified through the eight years, a shared commitment to play for the greater good of the team. This essential component of the Saracens' success allowed them to repeatedly present an unflagging and resolute effort that did not cease until the final whistle was blown and the game was truly over.

It is fair and honest to say that with its talented players, excellent on-field leadership, a strong and healthy team culture and a genuine grasp of the essence of competitive team sport, Saracens premier teams of 1979 through 1986 brought distinction and honour to the Manitoba game by virtue of the level of excellence it aspired to, and, in many instances, reached. The club's achievement was to establish and maintain consistent playing excellence over an extended period of time.

This then, was the Saracens RFC team of 1979 - 1986, a team deserving of a place in the Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame.

**Hall of Fame** 

# A proud history of champions!

The Saracens Rugby Club would like to salute Mr. Peter Press and the members of the 1979 - 1986 Saracens Teams and a special congratulations to all the 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees!

You are all champions of Rugby in Manitoba.

#### MANITOBA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1968	Saracens RFC	1979	Saracens RFC	1984	Saracens RFC
1969	Saracens RFC	1980	Saracens RFC	1985	Saracens RFC
1972	Saracens RFC	1981	Saracens RFC	1986	Saracens RFC
1973	Saracens RFC	1982	Saracens RFC	1988	Saracens RFC
1974	Saracens RFC	1983	Saracens RFC	1990	Saracens RFC
1975	Saracens RFC			1992	Saracens RFC



## Peter Press - Builder

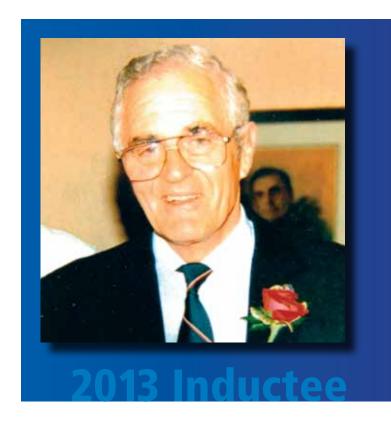
Following a distinguished career as a player in England (he is the oldest surviving Club Captain of the Gosport RFC in Hampshire) and a very short playing career with the Wasps RFC in Winnipeg, **Peter Press** turned his energies to helping build the sport of rugby in Manitoba.

In 1967 he helped create a team at the University of Winnipeg, eventually merging it with a dormant River Heights team to form the basis of the Saracens RFC. Peter was the Saracens' first coach, leading the Club to Provincial championships in its first 2 years of operation.

In 1968 Peter was elected as President of the fledgling Manitoba Rugby Union, now a league of four teams, a position he held for the next two critically formative years. During his tenure, the MRU created a constitution which still forms the basis for the current version; helped set up what is now the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees as an independent, self-sufficient organization; laid the groundwork for the introduction of a second, development division; created a formal set of rules for competition; introduced the concept of a Discipline Committee; initiated the annual publication of a year-book and generally became established as an effective, cohesive organization.

Also under his leadership, the MRU was admitted in to the Canadian Rugby Union as a full partner and formal, CRU sanctioned inter-provincial games were arranged with Alberta, UBC and touring teams from other countries. For three years Peter was the official representative for all three Prairie Provinces on the CRU Board which he used to good effect by arranging for the first ever CRU sponsored national referees' clinic to be held here in Winnipeg.

In late 1970 Peter stepped down from the MRU because of a serious game-induced medical condition. Confident that the MRU was now on a firm footing and in capable hands he set out to do something new, creating a rugby team from his students at St. John's High School. Other schools were taking similar initiatives and by 1973 the Manitoba High Schools Rugby Union had been formed. Peter was appointed as the first President of this new MHSRU and developed it into a mature, lasting and stable organization.

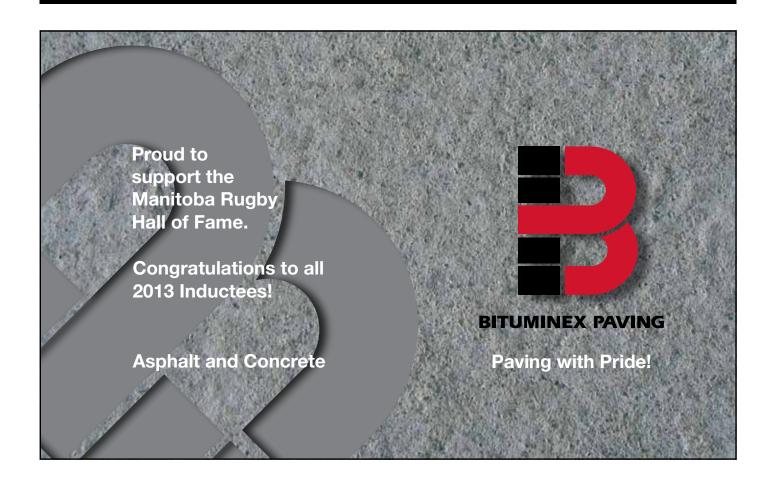


Peter continued to coach various teams and occasionally to referee well into the 1980s. Perhaps the zenith of this phase of his career was when he organized a tour of his hometown of Gosport by a St. John's High School team in 1977. The team acquitted itself admirably against some of the better teams in the area.

Though Peter may rightly argue that others share the credit for many of these accomplishments, his enthusiasm, foresight and organizational skills helped them happen more quickly and effectively. He was largely responsible for creating the institutional basis for Rugby in Manitoba as we know it today. He is an Honorary Life-Member of the Saracens RFC and is still revered at St John's High School. His legacy endures through his players and students, many of whom continue to be active in Manitoba Rugby.



Congratulations to the 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees!



## That adds up to **30** great new friends!

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



## 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 from the MGRP to the Hall of Fame Inductees and to the organizers and supporters of the Hall of Fame Dinner.



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## Sincere Congratulations

Sincere congratulations to all of our Rugby Manitoba Inductees tonight.

And special thanks to **Peter Press** and the **1979-1986 Winnipeg Saracens Rugby Football Premier Division Team,**for their many years of outstanding contributions to the

Saracens Rugby Club.



##