

50th Anniversary Edition



# SASKATCHEWAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

## FOR THE RECORD

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT LINDA BURNHAM



I am honored to be President of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame (SSHF). I acknowledge I have big shoes to fill, and I thank our immediate Past President Scott Waters for his dedication and service. We have a long line of Past Presidents who have contributed to advancements and successes the SSHF has experienced over the past years.

2016 has been a milestone for the SSHF as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have made that celebration last the entire year and have showcased three major events as highlights.

*Diamond Girls* is a play about the Saskatchewan women who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The one-act, one-woman show has toured several provinces over the last few months and it has received rave reviews everywhere it has played. We are so proud to be associated with *Diamond Girls* and proud to have some of those players as inductees in the SSHF.

Our next major event has been a traveling exhibit that is presently touring throughout communities in Saskatchewan. Our 505 inductees represent over 140 Saskatchewan communities and the traveling exhibit has been our way of taking the Hall to the people. Another major success, the traveling exhibit has provided us with great exposure throughout the province.

The final major event will be our Gala on September 30. We have chosen to forgo the induction of a new class this year in favor of celebrating the 505 current inductees. The successes of these inductees is cause for celebration and we wish to recognize them once again in this evening planned to be a one of a kind event. We will showcase several inductees in Hotstove panels representing Hockey, Football and Olympians. We also have some short videos prepared to showcase many of our inductees while it tells a story about the SSHF. We hope you will join us for this exciting evening.

While we celebrate our past, we also have challenges to accomplish ahead of us. Our Board of Directors is a group of individuals who are dedicated to making things happen, and have proven qualified to do so. Our plan is to still secure a new location for the SSHF which will allow us to better showcase the inductees and be more appropriate for the many wonderful artifacts we possess. We continue to search for sustainable fundraising to support the Hall. We have big dreams and those come at big costs!

I do want to recognize the amazing staff we have at the SSHF. They have all shown dedication to this year of celebration and have most willingly given of their time to ensure the success of every event. Thank you to Sheila, Vickie, Brock, Autumn and the summer staff, Amber, Danelle and Jenna, who have given the SSHF such dedication and commitment in this special year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I thank you for your support. Please drop by the Hall, or the traveling exhibit and experience what the Hall is all about. Saskatchewan is a great sporting province. We recognize excellence. We celebrate sport.

Best wishes,  
Linda Burnham, President

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August/September 2016

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

Time's running out to join the SSHF in celebrating an exciting milestone! The SSHF will host an Anniversary Gala on Friday, September 30, 2016 at the Queensbury Convention Centre in Regina.

This event will feature first class cuisine and entertainment that is second to none as we honour those who are synonymous with Saskatchewan sport, the 505 inductees currently installed in the SSHF. Their stories speak to this province's rich sports history and celebrate some of Saskatchewan's proudest sports moments.

The evening will be highlighted by a Parade of Inductees, featuring five decades of sports excellence. Guests who are part of this Gala will also engage in an emotional response as they share the personal stories commemorating Saskatchewan's sport heritage from three star-studded Hotstove Panels comprised of Football, Hockey and Olympic inductees of the SSHF.

We are very excited to officially announce all inductees that will be included in these Hotstoves:

Football - George Reed, John Konihowski, Al Ford & Gerry James

Hockey - Glenn Hall, Fred Sasakamoose, Ed Staniowski, "Chico" Resch & Bob Bourne

Olympic - Joan McCusker, Diane Jones Konihowski, Fiona Smith-Bell & Mike Mintenko

Inductees, please make arrangements to join us for this auspicious occasion as soon as possible. If you are planning to attend please let us know so that we may prepare the speaking notes in advance for our Parade of Inductees.

Ticket Prices:

Single - \$150

Table of 8 - \$1200

Tickets to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Gala are currently available directly from the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame via 306-780-9232, [sshf@sshfm.com](mailto:sshf@sshfm.com), or online at [www.sasksportshalloffame.com](http://www.sasksportshalloffame.com). Our host hotels are the Ramada and Hotel Saskatchewan. Reservation details are available on our website. Funds raised from our Gala will support *Never Give Up*, a provincial education program targeting youth at risk and the positive impact that involvement in sport can have on one's personal growth and development.

The SSHF would like to thank the following sponsors who have made a commitment to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala:

### 50th Gala Sponsors:



Photo: SSHF's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala brochure. Designed by Colleen Kramer Dahlstrom.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Since 1966, the SSHF has honoured outstanding Athletes, Builders and Teams. 2016 was one of the few times in the SSHF's existence when there was no formal induction held. With 505 inductees currently being celebrated, the deadline is quickly approaching to recognize more outstanding products of Saskatchewan for induction in 2017.

The first step for all of our inductees to be honoured in the SSHF is, besides having an outstanding sport career, to be nominated. There is a common misconception that it is the job of the SSHF staff to nominate and select inductees; however, this is not the case. Staff members are not allowed to nominate Athletes, Builders or Teams. Therefore, all nominations that are brought to the Hall of Fame are from the public – that means you! Nomination forms can be found at [sasksportshalloffame.com](http://sasksportshalloffame.com).

The Board of Directors would like to officially remind nominators that the annual deadline for nominations into the SSHF is **Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**. Given that this date falls on the weekend, nominations will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRAVELING EXHIBIT ROADSHOW

We've taken our show on the road! One of our goals for this momentous year was to hold events throughout Saskatchewan in order to properly showcase our province's rich sport history and fulfill our provincial mandate. We are thrilled to say that we have been extremely successful in accomplishing this goal. Our semi-trailer, which has been outfitted with artifacts that speak to the phenomenal sports history of Saskatchewan, has been traveling around the province since July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The response to one of our largest projects to date has been incredibly positive. When people walk into the trailer, they are instantly transported back in time to some of Saskatchewan's proudest sports moments. As they stand in awe at all of the memories and prestige that surround them the only word they are able to muster is "awesome".



### Traveling Exhibit Sponsors:

#### Platinum (Presenting)



#### Gold



#### Silver

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#### Anniversary (All Star)



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We have also had numerous inductees and their family members come and visit the trailer in their respective hometowns, which has been great to see. If you didn't have a chance to see our exhibit when it was in a community near you, don't worry! You still have a few more chances to see it, including during our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Plans are also already underway for a second tour to celebrate Canada 150! See you in summer, 2017.

The SSHF would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors, as the planning and execution of this exciting endeavor would not be possible without all of their support.

*Photo: Top Right – A crowd of over 400 gathered for the launch of our Traveling Exhibit. Bottom Right – Volleyball inductee Joyce Senyk Gamborg visiting the trailer in Melville. Photos courtesy of SSHF archives.*



### TWO NEW EXHIBITS NOW OPEN: RACING FOR THE RINGS – SASKATCHEWAN AT THE SUMMER OLYMPICS AND INDUCTEES THROUGH THE DECADES – 1990-99

Our Gallery 3 has been taken over by Olympic Fever! On display until September 17, 2016 will be a dedication to our inductee's participation in the summer Olympics. In August, 2016 our Canadian summer athletes were going for the gold in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Once again we showcased Saskatchewan's Olympic champions of the past as we anxiously followed our current athletes' progress in Rio.

From clothing to medals, photographs and more, sports fans will not want to miss the chance to see our Olympic collection before it goes back into the vault.

Our feature Gallery has also been updated. To celebrate all of our wonderful inductees throughout 2016, a rotating display has been installed in Gallery 1. "Inductees Through the Decades" will rotate every three months to display the inductees from each decade: 60s/70s, 80s, 90s, 00/10s. Currently on display are the years 1990-99.



*Photo: Panoramic view of our newest display, "Racing for the Rings: Saskatchewan at the Summer Olympics". Photo courtesy of SSHF archives.*



## **DIAMOND GIRLS SHINES ON ROAD SWING**

What started as a simple interview between writer Maureen Ulrich and former AAGPBL player Arleene (Johnson) Noga (pictured right) has turned into something so much more. As Maureen explains, she never dreamed that *Diamond Girls* would draw in the numbers it has, nor receive such an overwhelmingly positive response from its audiences.

But let's start at the beginning, shall we? Eleven days of rehearsal in Estevan resulted in Opening Night on Day 12 – June 20<sup>th</sup>. Bear in mind, Malia Becker performs all thirty pages of script and twenty-one characters. The only bits she doesn't do are the lines recorded by Kenn McLeod, our intrepid director and radio announcer. Malia and Kenn quickly cut to the heart of the script, individualizing each character with a subtle change of voice, body language, gesture, or prop and had a blast doing it. Technical Director Bill Hales stepped in to create the soundtrack for the show – a series of cues and nostalgic musical interludes designed to make audience members feel like they are watching from the stands. The precise timing of every smack of the glove and crack of the bat is crucial, and Stage Manager Shelby Lyn Lowe handles all of them with aplomb.



After a warm reception in Estevan and Weyburn, from there we headed to Regina for the SSHF's June 28<sup>th</sup> premiere. We have performed this show 30 times already, but this is still our favourite. How exciting it was to bring *Diamond Girls* to the city that was home to so many phenomenal softball players. How both thrilling and terrifying for Malia to take the stage in front of Mary Baker's, Arleene (Johnson) Noga's, and Daisy Junor's families and friends – and before Arleene herself. But the audience was with us the entire way – laughing, applauding, and cheering. What a night.

A week later *Diamond Girls* quickly became the unofficial “sweetheart” of the Regina Fringe, drawing in the second highest attendance numbers. Each time we move to a new Fringe, it's like starting over in terms of building audience and getting the word out.

The first time someone approached Malia in Winnipeg and asked, “Are you Diamond Girl?” I wanted to jump for joy. This woman later told me, “Usually we don't see shows of this quality at the Fringe.” This patron was back at our show a few nights later with her mother and husband in tow. No higher compliment – apart from the young ladies from a Manitoba softball team who wanted a picture with Malia after the show.

*Diamond Girls* received a FIVE star review from *CBC Manitoba*, who also selected us as one of the top five one-woman shows at the Winnipeg Fringe. Here are a few tidbits from reviews:

“Malia Becker hits it out of the park in this summery one-hander featuring 21 characters. Some scenes involve 3 people, all played by Becker, masterfully juggled, crisp and distinct.” Shawna Dempsey, *CBC Manitoba*

“A time capsule that holds history, heart and laughter held together by the strong performance of Becker. *Diamond Girls* is not only one of the best plays of the (Potash Corp International Fringe) festival, it is engaging for all mindsets, history buffs, sports aficionado and theatre lovers.” Ezekiel McAdams, *Planet S*

“Becker does the characters proud and is arresting to watch, moving nimbly between characters, batting a thousand all the way.” Liane Faulder, *Edmonton Journal*



Critics love Malia, but they don't always love the script. One even described the narrative as “weak,” missing the point that the show is designed as a timeline of the AAGPBL from 1943-54. But we'll take the criticism as long as there are bodies in seats – and so far, there have been plenty.

The beautiful thing about *Diamond Girls* is the majority of Fringe patrons connect with the subject matter immediately. I see it in their faces. The show seems to resonate with both baseball and theatre fans, which delights us all.

As much as we have enjoyed the Fringes, we are eager to get on to the next phase. After a three-week hiatus in September, we will travel to Calgary for the International Sports Heritage Association conference, Swift Current, and Moose Jaw. A matinee on October 1<sup>st</sup> as part of the SSHF's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala will close out the season on *Diamond Girls*.

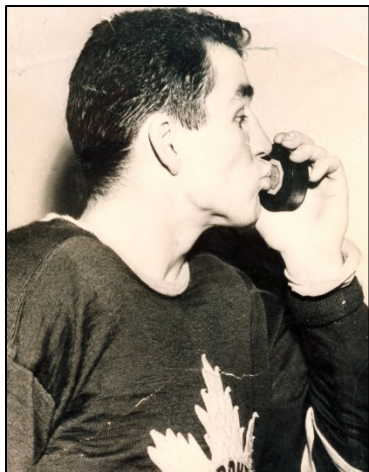
My cousin Marci turned to me after the performance on August 16 with tears streaming down her cheeks. When I asked her why she was crying, she said, “There was just so much anticipation, and it went beyond that. It was so wonderful.” I couldn't say it any better myself. I couldn't be happier with the show, the response to it, and the people who have made it all possible. Thank you Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame for helping *Diamond Girls* shine.

Maureen Ulrich, Writer and Producer

## **REGINA DIAMOND GIRLS FINAL SHOW – OCT 1 AT THE ARTESIAN**

Tickets are currently on sale for Regina's final showing of *Diamond Girls* on October 1. Individual tickets to *Diamond Girls* are \$20 each. Seating is "rush". To purchase your tickets please call 306-780-9232 or email [sshf@sshfm.com](mailto:sshf@sshfm.com).

## **INDUCTEE NOTES**



Congratulations are extended to the following honoured members of the SSHF on their most recent accomplishments.

**Richard "Rick" Reelie** (Athletics – 2011), 28 years since competing in his first Paralympic Games, Rick Reelie returned as a coach for athletics in Rio this summer. Rick is one of 17 Saskatchewan residents attending the Olympics/Paralympics as an athlete, coach or official in 2016.

**Gerry James** (Football, Hockey – 1994), the only person in history to play in the Grey Cup Final and Stanley Cup Final in the same year is being celebrated once again. On Thursday, July 12, Gerry was added to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers' Ring of Honour. Don't miss your chance to see Gerry speak live during our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on September 30. Gerry will join three other football legends during the Football Hotstove Panel.

*Photo: (Left) Gerry James kissing a puck while playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs. Photo courtesy of SSHF archives.*

## **IN MEMORIAM**

The members of the Board and staff extend their sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Lloyd, Gordie and Jim.

**Lloyd Campbell** (1955 Garnet Campbell Curling Team – 1971), although he competed in three Brier Championships, his second was the most special. Lloyd led his team, comprised entirely of Campbell brothers, to the Canadian Men's Brier Curling Championship in 1955, Saskatchewan's Jubilee year. Lloyd passed away on May 25, 2016, he was 101 years old.

**Gordie Howe** (Hockey – 1971), commonly known as "Mr. Hockey", Gordie was truly a legend in the hockey world. From 1946-80 Gordie spent 26 seasons in the National Hockey League, 25 of them with the Detroit Redwings. He still holds 16 league records. Gordie passed away on June 10, 2016, he was 88.

**James "Jim" O'Sullivan** (Judo – 2003), Jim dedicated nearly three decades of his life to the sport of judo. He served as president of the Prince Albert Judo Club from 1966 to 1995 and acted as a competitor, instructor, referee, and tournament organizer during that time. He also received his fifth degree black belt in 1995. Jim passed away on June 28, 2016 at the age of 83.

*Photo: (Right) Hockey legend Gordie Howe with SSHF Executive Director, Sheila Kelly, during the Gordie Howe Breakfast, September 25, 1993. Courtesy of SSHF archives.*



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**September 20 – Autumn Golf Classic in Saskatoon:** Don't miss your chance to golf with Roughrider legends! Former Roughriders and SSHF inductees George Reed, Al Ford, Dale West, Roger Aldag and many more will be in attendance during the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Roughriders Alumni golf tournament. For more information or to register a team, please contact Hugh Vassos 306-222-5392 or George Reed 306-787-5418.

**September 30 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala:** Save the date! You won't want to miss our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

**October 1 – Regina President's Reception:** For those of you residing in Regina and District, after the final performance of *Diamond Girls*, please join us at the SSHF for our Regina President's Reception. These receptions are always a great opportunity to renew friendships, catch up on the most recent SSHF activities and learn a bit about what's ahead. We hope to see you there!

**October 31 – SSHF's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** On this day, 1966, the SSHF – then named the Molson Sports Hall of Fame – officially opened the doors to its original location in the Molson's Hospitality House on Dewdney Avenue. Less than one month later, the Saskatchewan Roughriders would win their first Grey Cup in franchise history. It was a great time for Saskatchewan sport.

## **2016/2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **STAFF**

Executive Director:	Sheila Kelly
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Communications Coordinator:	Autumn McDowell
Admin Assistant/Education Coordinator:	Vickie Krauss

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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Galleries – Monday to Friday  
Galleries – Saturday  
Admin Offices – Monday to Friday

10:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Noon – 5:00 pm  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The SSHF is closed on statutory holidays.

## **PHOTO CREDITS**

Linda Burnham – Courtesy of Employee Benefits by Choice  
Initial interview between Maureen Ulrich and Arleene (Johnson) Noga – Courtesy of the SSHF archives  
*Diamond Girls* promotional poster – Credit Designer Colleen Kramer Dahlstrom/ sharpshooter photography  
Land Titles Building, home of the SSHF – Courtesy of the SSHF archives

## **FUNDING SUPPORT**

The Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame gratefully acknowledges the funding received from:

