

FEATURED EXHIBIT — *PRAIRIE PRIDE: A HISTORY OF SASKATCHEWAN FOOTBALL*

After undergoing extensive upgrades and renovations, the SSHF re-opened to the public in September with a new featured exhibit — *Prairie Pride: A History of Saskatchewan Football*.

The exhibit features photos and artifacts that span more than 100 years of Saskatchewan football history. *Prairie Pride* captures some of the legendary stories and the icons of that lore that helped stir the passions of the people of the province.



Featuring unique artifacts from some of the sport's greats in the province – Ron Lancaster, George Reed, Paul Dojack, Dave Ridgway, Glenn Dobbs, Bobby Jurasin and many more – *Prairie Pride* will bring back a flood of memories for Saskatchewan Roughriders fans.

While Rider legends are featured prominently, there are also displays highlighting the great university, junior and women's teams that have brought acclaim and championships to the province.

STEM INTERACTIVE GALLERY SPONSORED BY SASKTEL BRINGS STEM SUBJECTS TO LIFE

In September of 2020, our new STEM Interactive Gallery sponsored by SaskTel opened to the public. This new gallery highlights the role of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in the world of sport. The gallery features six interactive stations where guests can measure their physical dexterity while also considering how the science behind these tests applies to sport and human kinetics.

STEM has been a growing field in schools for many years. While these topics can feel sedentary, the STEM Interactive Gallery allows students to mix learning with physical activity.

The STEM Interactive Gallery also helps bring some of the accomplishments of our SSHF inductees to life through to-scale measurements.



COLLECTION & DATABASES CONTINUE TO GROW

With COVID-19 affecting the work life of many people, we have seen individuals and organizations getting their own collections in order. As such, we have received donations from across Canada. There have been approximately 288 new donations this year with our largest additions coming from the Dave Pagan collection, and Ron Woolgar collection. Many donated items have come from people's private collections.

After four months and 1540 photographs later, three students funded by Young Canada Works have completed rigorous research on 250 trophies in our collection. The students were able to work remotely as they studied images, files, archives, and the internet for relevant resources and information. Their research primarily focused on potential connections between our trophy collection and current Hall of Fame inductees, past sporting events, companies that sponsored trophies, and past sport organizations.



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<https://sasksportshalloffame.com>

DID YOU KNOW...

- 527 inductees from 52 sports are in the Hall of Fame, representing 146 communities in Saskatchewan
- The permanent collection contains more than 19,000 items valued at just under \$1 Million
- There are currently more than 19,050 digitized scans of items within the permanent collection including:
 - 81,700 (5,700 of which were added in the past year) scanned pages comprising 4,100 (275 are new) individual archives
 - 9,350 (227 of which were added in the past year) individual photographs
 - 6,150 (200 of which were added in the past year) artifacts scans
- SSHF videos have been viewed more than 15,800 times on YouTube during the 2020-21 fiscal year. That is an increase of 322% over the past year
- The SSHF page on Facebook reached 280,052 people during the last year
- 1,376 Likes on facebook.com/SaskSportsHF (an increase of 16.6% over 2019)
- 1,549 Followers on Twitter @SaskSportsHF (an increase of 3.8% over 2019)
- 875 Followers on Instagram @SaskSportsHF (an increase of 19.7% over 2019)
- 315,000 Impressions on Twitter @SaskSportsHF in 2020
- 250,720 Visitors to <https://sasksportshalloffame.com> in 2020



**SASKATCHEWAN
— SPORTS —
HALL OF FAME**

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

To say it has been an interesting first year as president of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame would be an understatement. This has been a challenging year for all of us, but I am proud of how everyone on the Board and staff pulled together to navigate this changing landscape.

As a Board we miss meeting face-to-face and having the opportunities to get together in person and seeing the full-time staff. One of our biggest challenges this year has been navigating how to honour our 2020 Induction Class. As a Board we didn’t feel it would do justice to their accomplishment to host our Induction Dinner virtually. With that in mind, we opted to cancel the 2020 Induction Dinner and look to induct the class when it is possible to gather safely.

One of the perks of being president was getting to call our next Induction Class to let them know that they are going into the Hall of Fame. I’ve spoken to some fairly high-profile people over the year and you can tell that they are touched and very excited and honoured to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. It means a lot to them to be honoured by their home province.

We are keeping a close watch on the recommendations coming from health officials and are eager to induct our next class in-person when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

While this year has been irregular, our Executive Director Sheila Kelly and the staff have done a wonderful job of keeping us relevant and keeping the Hall involved in the community. We have adapted to the changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. We’re not just sitting on our thumbs feeling sorry for ourselves.

As we’ve all had to do, the staff has done a wonderful job of pivoting online. The *Creating Active Champions* program moved outdoors and was streamed online. Vickie Krauss, our Education Coordinator, has done great work hosting school tours virtually with the Virtual Field Trip program. Matthew Gourlie, our Communications Coordinator, has done a good job of engaging with the public through social media to keep us in the public’s minds. Matthew worked with Curator Bryann Seib to create a virtual tour allowing visitors to experience the featured exhibit, *Prairie Pride: A History of Saskatchewan Football*, from their homes.

There have also been some impressive renovations, upgrades and new elements to the Hall of Fame galleries that the staff has worked hard on. Bryann did some great work putting together *Prairie Pride* and one of the disappointments of this year is that the public haven’t had many opportunities to come in and see the exhibit and the renovations in person. I commend the staff for the job they have done under these circumstances as we wait for more face-to-face interactions with our visitors and with each other.

We have been able to recruit some excellent new Board members this year with the additions of Trent Blezy and Tim Leier. Trent was elected to his first term at the last Annual General Meeting, while Tim joined early in the New Year. Tim is also an inductee as a member of the 1983 University of Saskatchewan Huskies hockey team. They have both brought a lot of expertise and enthusiasm since coming aboard.

With welcomes also come goodbyes as two directors are stepping down. Kevin Dureau, Vice President of the SSHF, is resigning after five years of service. Lori Ebbesen is completing her first term and will not be seeking re-election. Kevin and Lori have been active in committee work over the years, with Kevin serving on the Audit and Induction Selection Committees, and Lori chairing the Governance Committee.

New recruits offer an opportunity to better represent the diversity of the province and our membership within our Board. We want to expand the scope and geographic distribution while attracting new Board members who can bring different experiences and perspectives to the group.

As a Board we are focused on the challenges we face and what we can do to mitigate the risks going forward. Still, I am confident in our future. I look forward to re-opening the galleries to the public and hosting our in-person induction ceremony as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.



All the best, Robb Elchuk

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Robb Elchuk	Directors:	Samer Awadh
Vice President:	Kevin Dureau		Trent Blezy
Treasurer:	Mike Babcock		Lori Ebbesen
Secretary:	Mike Babcock		Laurel Garven
Past President:	Rankin Jaworski		Tennille Grimeau
			Tim Leier
			Kelvin Ostapowich

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

March 16, 2020 is the day that everything changed for the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame (SSHF), and much of the nation. Already closed to the public in order to implement some planned renovations and upgrades, the decision was made to stop these activities and move the staff to a short-term remote work situation as the province, country and world dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. “Flatten the curve” was the buzz phrase in those early days, but reality soon hit that there would be nothing short-term about the situation and the SSHF moved into damage control.

Initial reactions focused on ensuring core funding was secure, reducing expenditures across the board, managing staffing levels, and transitioning programming to online platforms as much as possible. The future certainly looked anything but bright. Tourism has been severely impacted by COVID-19 and it will take years for our industry to regain what it has lost. But the SSHF is coming out of the past year with a number of successes behind us and the knowledge that we are well positioned to make our way forward in the future.

We have many individuals and organizations to thank for helping us through 2020/21.

- Saskatchewan Lotteries for our core funding.
- SaskTel, who didn’t lose a beat in pivoting their annual support away from in-person classroom presentations and towards the establishment of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Interactive Gallery, to become the presenting sponsor.
- Tourism Saskatchewan, Creative Display and Saskatchewan Lotteries who came together to sponsor Phase I of the Hall of Fame redevelopment. The opportunity to display 527 inductees by year in a single gallery area, with room to expand, has provided the SSHF with expanded exhibit capabilities within the remainder of the facility.
- Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) who fully supported the delivery transition of our summer program, *Creating Active Champions*, allowing us to virtually connect with our participants and, as a result, expand participation levels exponentially.
- The 19 individuals and corporations who chose to support our Teammate and Sport Legacy Fund program (please see the website for names) thus contributing funds to both our annual operations as well as the future growth of the SSHF.
- Every “Friend of the Hall” who chose to purchase a membership and/or make a donation this past year. We are indebted to all of you.
- Emergency funding programs provided through the Government of Saskatchewan, Tourism Saskatchewan, Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, and the Canadian Museums Association have been critical to the financial survival of the SSHF this past year.
- With the traveling mobile exhibit parked for the year, we appreciate the support of Hornoi Leasing and Sterling Truck & Trailer Sales to keep it safe this past year.

One of the biggest disappointments from 2020 was the cancellation of our induction dinner celebrations. Having only connected with the Class of 2020 members mere weeks before, it was difficult to tell them that they would now be the Class of 2021 and that they would have to maintain confidentiality for another year. The grace that these soon-to-be inductees have shown over the past few months has truly been appreciated.

Despite a pandemic, we were able to adapt current programming and continue a number of partnerships. Among these were:

- Social Media partnership with Global Regina & Saskatoon to promote Saskatchewan’s sport history through 52 *Did You Know?* Facebook posts, and 12 *Vignettes* for newscast and online applications with host Daniella Ponticelli.
- Heritage Saskatchewan and the 2020 Virtual Provincial Heritage Fair allowing for the annual presentation of a Sport Heritage Award.
- *Women in Sport Series* featuring virtual conversations with SSHF inductees. The inaugural discussion was hosted by Global Television’s Daniella Ponticelli and featured Catriona Le May Doan.
- *Saskatchewan Sport Stories* providing a more in depth look at components of some inductee’s careers as discussed with Communications Coordinator, Matthew Gourlie. In 2020 Diane Jones Konihowski, Glenn Hall and Lynn Kanuka (Williams) shared their time and their stories.

Operationally we passed the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic in a strong position. However, we have not been immune to the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our inductees, families and friends. The loss has been profound. We cannot end this year without extending condolences to all of those, and there are many, who have been tragically impacted by this global pandemic. We look sport to brighter times ahead as we showcase the legacy of our inductees through the celebration of Saskatchewan’s history.

Sheila Kelly

CREATING ACTIVE CHAMPIONS MOVES ONLINE

Thanks to the funding support of the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) our *Creating Active Champions* summer program was able to move forward virtually. The seven-week program featured 45 minutes of physical activity and information about Saskatchewan sport history that was streamed twice every weekday over Facebook Live.

Hosted by students Ross Vanstone and Catherine Liu, the program encouraged children and adults of all ages to get active and learn some great sport history.

They were able to shoot either outside or recorded socially distanced inside when the weather was inclement. By not hosting the participants, Ross and Catherine had the freedom to tape on location and involve invited guests from the local sport community.

In total, *Creating Active Champions* reached 18,996 people on Facebook and drew 7,082 total views.



VIRTUAL TOURS BRING SSHF TO THE CLASSROOM

Without being able to visit or host classrooms as we would under normal circumstances, Education Coordinator Vickie Krauss devised some new means to bring the Hall of Fame and the stories of our inductees to students.

Our Inductee Pen Pal program paired inductees with classrooms and students through the guidance of their teacher. Many inductees graciously gave their time to share their stories and answer questions from the students.

To support educators and their virtual education programming, our website was once again updated with significant content to support the Saskatchewan Curriculum. With the unveiling of our new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Interactive Gallery sponsored by SaskTel in the summer, new online programming was created to support the STEM Gallery allowing students and visitors to learn and think about the ways STEM is present in all sports.

While on-site visitation has not been possible, we have offered a Virtual Field Trip opportunity to teachers. By connecting through a video call, the students get an interactive tour of the Hall of Fame and our displays. The field trip highlights the feature exhibit *Prairie Pride: A History of Saskatchewan Football* but can also be tailored to the interests of the teacher and their current curriculum unit.

Since its launch, 18 classrooms and a total of 478 students and teachers have done a Virtual Field Trip to the SSHF with many more tours booked for spring.

