

**2023 SSHF INDUCTION DINNER & CEREMONY**



The members and representative of the 2023 SSHF induction class pose for a photo.  
Designer Photo Regina/Bruce Vasselin

The 2023 Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner & Ceremony honoured seven inductees. Three of the inducted athletes – Jaime (Cruikshank) Boyer (multi-sport), Ryan Getzlaf (hockey) and Hayley Wickenheiser OC (hockey) – were Olympians while Joan McEachern (soccer) was on Canada’s first Women’s World Cup soccer team. The three builders who were inducted were Lorne Lasuita (multi-sport), Bernadette McIntyre (curling), and Noreen Murphy (softball) who had decades of experience contributing to the grassroots of Saskatchewan sport.



Ryan Getzlaf signs the hat of a young fan during the Hall of Fame open house.

**MOBILE EXHIBIT TRAILER AT 2024 BRIER**



**2205 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, Sask. S4P 0S4  
(306) 780-9232  
sshf@sshfm.com**

 [sasksportshalloffame.com](http://sasksportshalloffame.com)

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- 547 inductees from 53 sports are in the Hall of Fame, representing 149 communities in Saskatchewan
- The permanent collection contains more than 19,000 items
- Our *Never Give Up* educational outreach program reached 17 different communities across the province over the 19 sessions and 1,618 students and teachers took part
- The *Creating Active Champions* summer education program saw 808 participants in 2023
- The SSHF’s Mobile Exhibit Trailer hosted 19 classroom tours during the 2024 Brier Tankard men’s curling championship and a total of 3,826 people visited the trailer during the event
- Nearly 50 copies of inductee Bill Brownridge’s latest book *A Prairie Boy* were given free to children who visited the Hall of Fame between January and March of 2023 thanks to the generosity and support of the Brownridge Family
- 126,525 people reached on the SSHF Facebook page in the last year (an increase of 188.3%)
- 1,986 Followers on Facebook @SaskSportsHF (an increase of 11.7% over 2022)
- 1,111 Followers on Instagram @SaskSportsHF (an increase of 7.5% over 2022)
- 7,775 views on TikTok (an increase of 31.1% over 2022)
- 64,347 sessions (9.1% increase) and 111,112 page views on the SSHF website in 2023



**INTERPRETING SASKATCHEWAN’S SPORT HISTORY**

*Grit*

May 25, 2023 to May 10, 2024



**Dedication to Sport: Our 2023 Inductees**

September 23, 2023 to present



**U Sports Women’s Hockey Championships in Saskatoon**  
March 13 to April 25, 2024



**SASKATCHEWAN  
SPORTS  
HALL OF FAME**

**2023**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

## BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2023-2024 year was a time of tremendous transition in the history of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame (SSHF). After 34 years of remarkable service, Shelia Kelly announced her retirement to the Board in early 2023, graciously providing us with ample notice to begin the daunting task of finding a replacement.



Over her 30-plus years at the helm she's guided the hall through a period of growth and stability to become an industry leader in sport heritage, not just in Canada, but throughout North America. The mission of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame is to recognize sports excellence, preserve sport history and educate the public on the role of sport in Saskatchewan's cultural fabric. We are only able to carry out this mission, due to Sheila's tireless advocacy in honoring our rich history. I would like to thank her for 34 years of service and congratulate her on an extraordinary career.

I would be remiss to not acknowledge the hard work of the staff — Bryann, Vickie and Matt — as they pulled together to maintain and operate the Hall as a team within the first quarter of the year. Bryann took on the role of Acting Executive Director for a period of time, allowing the board to focus on the recruitment process for a new ED. Thank you all, for your work and ongoing commitment to the Hall.

At the beginning of Q1, the board struck an Executive Director selection committee and engaged a recruitment agency to execute our Executive Director search. We were thrilled to welcome Erin Stankewich to the role in mid-July.

With the staff compliment back up to full capacity, we saw the continuation of key deliverables throughout the year, including an increase in participation in our Creating Active Champions summer programming and an increase of 20% in visitation overall. Our Induction Dinner and Ceremony took place in September and welcomed seven new inductees to the Hall.

This year, we were also able to welcome back much beloved offerings for the first time since 2019 including our Regina Friends' Reception, which was hosted at the Hall in January. The board was also pleased to see the Travelling Mobile Exhibit out again with a week-long residency at the 2024 Brier in Regina resulting in almost 4,000 visitors, including nearly 20 school classrooms and a few 'special visits' from TSN.

We also used this transition year as an opportunity to review and revisit our strategic plans and undertook a strategic planning session in March 2024. The board and I look forward to seeing this plan being implemented in the coming years.

I would like to thank the board for their work over the past year, and I look forward to progress ahead.

Trent Blezy

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Chair:</b>	Trent Blezy	<b>Directors:</b>	Amber Day
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Karen Meban		Tennille Grimeau
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mike Babcock		Scott Kistner
<b>Past Chair:</b>	Robb Elchuk		Tim Leier
			Jeff Lightheart
			Kelvin Ostapowich
			Christopher Weitzel
			Cary Wessel

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am thrilled to provide my first Executive Directors Report for the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. I joined the Hall in July 2023, in the middle of our busy tourist season and right in the middle of planning for our annual induction.

It has been a true privilege to come into an organization that has seen consistent leadership, dedicated staff and motivated board members. This trinity of passion provided me with the space and confidence to learn and gain knowledge of the organization and its practices at a steadied and measured pace.

Through the dedication of the staff, and the detailed planning of my predecessor, we were able to seamlessly welcome the Class of 2023 at our Annual Induction Dinner and Ceremony in September. What a wonderful experience to go through in my first few months at the Hall!

This year our galleries saw several of our inductees' stories told through exhibits including *Grit*, our year-long feature exhibit as mounted by our contract Curatorial Assistant, Marah Mattison. Curator Bryann Seib mounted the *2023 Dedication to Sport* exhibit and utilized our collection to create a number of mini-exhibits that reflect our community including: Baseball Tournaments in Saskatchewan display, an Indigenous athletes display and a Remembrance Day display, to name just a few. This flexibility in curation is a unique way the SSHF can respond to our community and provide customized educational tools for school tours and visitors alike.

Our education program continued to thrive under the guidance of Education Coordinator Vickie Krauss. 2023 saw the growth of in-person classroom tours, executing over 80 in-person and virtual classroom sessions, including the popular *Never Give Up* series.

A focus for myself this year was a re-introduction of the Hall to the tourism community and province at large to find opportunities for collaboration and partnership that further amplify our vision and mission. This year that included participating in Frost Regina pancake breakfast, I Love Regina Day and the Queen City Marathon. Our most exciting partnership was with Curl Canada and Tourism Regina, as we became the temporary home to the Brier Tankard Trophy, leading up to the 2024 Brier in Regina.

Other partnerships that aided us in our success this year include SaskTel's ongoing sponsorship of our *Never Give Up* educational program, the City of Regina Winter Initiatives Grant which allowed us to put on our *Schools Out* winter break programming, Community Initiatives Fund and Service Canada summer student grants to allow us to hire facilitators for summer programming, *Creating Active Champions*.

Led by our Communications Coordinator, Matthew Gourlie, we also focused on looking at our social media strategy and finding ways to reinvigorate our brand and reach through all communication means, including our *For the Record* newsletter and the Hall of Fame website. We were able to undertake this project with assistance from Tourism Saskatchewan's MEPP grant.

While we have had many successes this year, we still face a few challenges including aging exhibits and technologies, and limited space for both storage and displays. I look forward to working with the board of directors and leading our team into the future with a new strategic plan and with renewed energy and optimism to find ways to face these challenges with creativity and an eye to the future.

I want to round out my report with a special thank you to all the support and patience shown by the wonderful staff, board and volunteers. In addition to the organizational knowledge held by those individuals, our consistent support from Sask Sport and Sask Lotteries allows our organization to continue to grow and serve the Saskatchewan public.

Erin Stankewich  
Executive Director

## PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMMING

### Creating Active Champions Education Program

July 4 - August 18, 2023  
Partners: Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) & Canada Summer Jobs



### School's Out

February 20-23, 2024  
Partner: City of Regina Winter Initiatives Fund



### Breakfast of Champions at Frost 2024

February 4, 2024  
Partners: Regina Downtown BID & Frost Festival 2024



**Never Give Up school program**  
May 16 to June 16, 2023 & October 31 to November 30, 2023  
Partner: SaskTel

