



80+ HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

TEMPLE DE LA RENOMMÉE DU HOCKEY 80+

Newsletter Spring 2025

They “Came From Away”

May 3rd Induction Event

The 17th induction ceremony for the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame took place on May 3rd, 2025, at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre in Ottawa. Two BUILDERS and 27 PLAYERS were welcomed into the Hall.

While it's common for inductees to travel a short distance to attend the event, this year's ceremony set a new precedent. Four honorees made the journey from Newfoundland—truly "coming from away." Felix Collins (Paradise Shiny), Andrew Ennis (Placentia Recreational Hockey), Howard Sooley (Heart's Delight-Islington Hockey), and Ernie Walsh (Placentia Bay Youth Hockey) traveled halfway across Canada for their induction. They arrived not only with Newfie enthusiasm but also with greetings from the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Dr. Andrew Fleury.

Two of the Newfoundland inductees were celebrated with a memorable send-off from their teams. After their final game of the season, they gathered at a local pub alongside 150 players, friends, and family for a Recognition Presentation. There, they were honored with a special banner commemorating their achievement.



*Felix Collins & Andy Ennis
at send-off party*



Ernie Walsh, Howard Sooley, Andy Ennis and Felix Collins

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Errata

In the Winter 2025 Newsletter it was incorrectly reported that **Bill Orban** played for Team USA in the Canada 150 Cup. He did not; he played for Team Canada. Apologies for the error. (Ed.)



May 3rd Induction Event (continued)

The Newfoundland Four were not the only ones making the journey for their induction. Others traveled from various locations, including Ft. Myers, Florida; Brockville, Cobden, Kitchener, North Bay, and Whitby in Ontario; and Montreal and Pointe-Claire in Quebec.

The day's events kicked off with a time-honored tradition: a spirited Blue vs. Gold game featuring 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame Alumni. Though friendly, the match carried a competitive edge, with Gold once again emerging victorious.

At 3:00 pm, the main on-ice event—the inductees' game—began. Before the puck dropped, team photos were taken and individual players were introduced. Following the national anthem, Ottawa Alta Vista Ward Councillor Marty Carr conducted the ceremonial face-off between Ernie Walsh and Ralph Emmerson. The game delivered its usual thrilling competition, with the Blue Team securing the win on goals by Jim Walman, Felix Collins (2), John Earle, and Michael Avedesian. The Gold Team had scoring from Jacques Théorêt and Patrick Parkes.



The 17th Group of Inductees



Councillor Marty Carr at ceremonial face-off between Ralph Emmerson & Ernie Walsh

May 3rd Induction Event (continued)

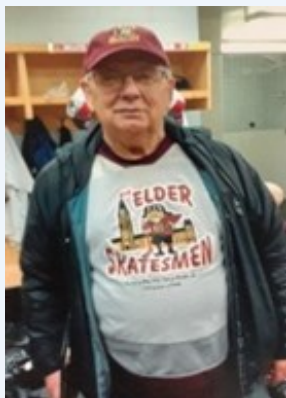
Later, the celebration moved to Ellwood Hall at the Jim Durrell Centre, where the induction dinner and ceremony were held. Co-hosts Raymond Chauvet and Chris Valentine led the event, with Councillor Marty Carr formally welcoming the 200 attendees on behalf of the City of Ottawa and Mayor Sutcliffe. She remarked how inspiring it was to see 80-year-olds still playing hockey.

Amidst cheers from friends and family, a piper led the inductees into the hall, setting the stage for the evening's festivities. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner while Clint Matthew's humor kept the crowd entertained.

The highlight of the evening was the ceremonial induction. Each inductee was introduced with a brief overview of their accomplishments before being officially "knighted" into the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame by President Herb Brennen. Using a wooden hockey stick signed by all inductees during the on-ice event, Brennen conducted the induction, solidifying their place in the Hall.

This latest group of inductees brought the Hall's membership to over 400. To commemorate the milestone of reaching 400 members, a draw was held among the 27 players and 2 builders being inducted to select one to be named the 400th inductee. The lucky individual chosen was Michael Begley—congratulations to Michael on earning the distinction of being the 400th inductee!

Reg Woods –Builder



Reg Woods joined the Elder Statesmen hockey organization in 2013 after a long hockey career in Ottawa. He quickly became the coordinator for the 65+ group and by 2017, he was coordinating and playing with both the 65+ and 70+ groups. Although an injury in 2018 limited his playing, he continues to coordinate at least two hockey groups and serves as the equipment manager, purchasing items like sweaters, hats, and socks for all eight Elder Skatesmen groups.

Reg enjoys staying in touch with players via phone calls, which many players' wives find entertaining. He also keeps everyone updated on world events with his dressing room talks. Reg's dedication to senior recreational hockey has enriched players' lives and helped the sport thrive through social and physical activity.

Johnny Leroux—Builder



Known as the "Father of Oldtimers Hockey in Stittsville," John has dedicated his life to sports—playing, coaching, officiating, and fundraising. Wearing his #4 jersey, he played defense in men's leagues for over 40 years, but his legacy lies in organizing oldtimers hockey. He founded two town leagues (1971 and 1978), the latter still active today, and established the Stittsville Merchant Selects, a powerhouse in senior hockey with teams across multiple age categories. His teams competed in tournaments across North America, including the renowned Snoopy Tournament in California. In honor of his contributions, the city renamed Stittsville Arena to The John Leroux Arena in 1971. A passionate sports fan, John's involvement extended beyond hockey to softball and boxing. He was recognized with the Ottawa Sports Awards' Lifetime Volunteer Achievement in 1971 and served 14 years as chair of minor sports for Stittsville's Royal Canadian Legion. A Korean War veteran, John also made his mark as a Canadian boxing champion during his military service.



2025 OTTAWA INDUCTEES

BUILDERS

Johnny Leroux Merchant Selects
Reg Woods Elder Skatesmen

PLAYERS

Bernard Alain Ottawa Senior Whitehawks
Michael Avedesian Pointe-ClaireOldtimers
Gary Beers Ottawa Senior Whitehawks
Michael Begley Elder Skatesmen
Bob Bowes Elder Skatesmen
Gord Buske Dukes of Durham
Jon Cobb Wooden Sticks Hockey Club
Felix Collins Paradise Shiny, NL
Percy Courtney Snowbirds, FL
Randy Cuthbertson Octokids
John Earle Brockville Magedomas
Ralph Emmerson Cobden Old Guys
Andrew Ennis Placentia Recreational Hockey, NL
Howard Hoppenheim Senior Westmount All-Star Team
John Hutchins Elder Skatesmen
Bill Lamb Octokids
Ronald Maciura Ottawa Senior Whitehawks
Alain Maislin St. Alphonse de la Batoche
Gerald Ouellette Elder Skatesmen
Patrick Parkes Elder Skatesmen
Bunny Ryan Dukes of Durham
George Schertzer KW Oldtimers League
Howard Sooley Heart's Delight-Islington Hockey Club, NL
Jacques Théorêt Elder Skatesmen
Jim Walman Silver Foxes
Ernie Walsh Placentia Bay Youth Hockey Assoc., NL



Thank You

The 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame extends grateful thanks to the sponsors and contributors that supported the 17th Induction event:

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Wayne Watson	Jean-Guy St. Pierre	Ottawa Senators	
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Future Inductions

18th Induction

The 18th induction into the 80+Hockey Hall of Fame will be held in Gatineau QC on 25 October 2025. The on-ice activities will be held at the Slush Puppy arena with the dinner and induction ceremony at Chateau Cartier Hotel. This event will include the first woman player to be inducted into the Hall. Contact: raymond.chauvet@sympatico.ca.

2026 Inductions

The 19th induction into the Hall will be held in Kitchener -Waterloo, Ontario on March 28th, 2026. Contact Rod Brandvold, rodbrandvold@rogers.com, or John Thompson, jtdaytimershockey@gmail.com.

The 20th induction will be hosted by the Saskatoon 60+ Hockey League on April 18th, 2026. Contact rodbrandvold@rogers.com or David Hume, dave.hume@sasktel.net.

Local Hosting of Induction Ceremonies

The 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame welcomes teams, clubs or communities that would like to host induction events. Local hosting brings local flavour to the event and reduces travel costs for inductees and their families and friends. The Hall executive will assist the local hosting committee with all aspects of the event from planning to execution. They have developed a checklist that describes the division of responsibilities between the Hall executive and the local hosting committee to guide the work.

If you are interested in hosting an induction event, please contact Herb Brennen herbertbunting31@gmail.com or Rod Brandvold rodbrandvold@rogers.com to get started.



We Made it to the NHL!

While many of us dreamed in our youth of making it to the NHL, a lucky 13 of our 80+ Alumni actually did. During the second intermission of the April 6th NHL game between the Ottawa Senators and Columbus Blue Jackets, these 13 skaters, proudly wearing their Gold and Blue 80+ HHOF jerseys, took to the ice at the Canadian Tire Centre for a 3-minute game of hockey. The crowd roared with applause as they skated onto the ice and throughout the brief competition. The 80+ HHOF logo was prominently displayed on the jumbotron the entire time.

You can view the whole of the spectacle, including the sole goal, at:

<https://youtu.be//XtKGvRyYrg>

Earlier, in the first intermission of the Senators/Bluejackets game, Herb Brennen, President and Loris Bondio, Vice President of the 80+HHOF gave a spirited on-air interview with the TSN host Claire Hanna.



Canadian Tire Centre Jumbotron with 80+ HHOF Logo



Opening Face-Off



Claire Hannah interviewing Herb Brennen, President, and Loris Bondio, Vice President, 80+HHOF

To see the complete interview: https://youtu.be/ln_4s03wX4A?si=GgwIqHOWp2kjZi8r

The event gave great publicity to the 80+HHOF and to the importance and value of continuing to “lace them up” even into one’s golden years. A very complimentary article on the event by Julian McKenzie was published in The Athletic section of the New York Times of April 8th

A big thank you to the Ottawa Senators for showcasing the Hall and to Liam Maguire for helping to set it up.



(P.S. The Blue team won the game 1-0)



80+ Tournaments

This and future 80+Hockey Hall of Fame newsletters will provide information on tournaments that have 75+ and/or 80+ divisions. If you would like your tournament to be listed in the newsletter, send tournament information to: info@hockey80plus.ca with TOURNAMENT in the subject line.

Canada 150 Cup

The 2025 edition of the Canada 150 Cup tournament between Canada and the United States will be held in Burlington, Ontario, 20-24 October 2025. This year there will be two teams from the United States and five teams from Canada in the tournament. Contact: Peter Austin: paustin19@gmail.com.

XXIII Parksville Panters Fall Classic Senior Hockey Tournament

The Parksville Panters will be hosting their 2025 Fall Classic Hockey Tournament at Oceanside Place Arena in Parksville/Qualicum Beach, BC, 9-11 September 2025. The tournament has 60+, 65+, 70+, **75+** and **80+** divisions. A wine & cheese event, a beer garden, and a banquet dinner are part of the festivities. The organizers are looking for another 80+ team for this tournament. Contact: parksville.panters@gmail.com or Neil Houlihan at 250-802-8871.

Victoria Playmakers Tournament

The Victoria Playmakers Association will be hosting their 35th annual Victoria Playmakers Hockey Tournament, March 24 to 28, 2026. This annual event takes advantage of the mild spring weather in Victoria BC and attracts teams from western Canada, the western United States, and even Japan. The tournament is renowned for its superb organization and hospitality.

The tournament features forty teams in divisions ranging from 55+ years to 80+ years, in five-year increments, as well as a 55+ women's division. Teams in last year's 80+ Division were: Edmonton Vintage, Panter Buoy, Saskatoon 80+, Vancouver Schooners, and Victoria Breeze.

Spread the Word/Gather Info

Share this newsletter with anyone interested in the exciting world of hockey played by octogenarians. We are looking to expand our database, so please let us know about any 75+ hockey teams, leagues and tournaments in your area. If you have any information that would be of interest to the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame and alumni, please send it to us for inclusion in the newsletter. The next issue of the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame newsletter will be sent out in late summer. Send your input to: info@hockey80plus.ca with NEWSLETTER in the subject line.



80+HHOF Administration

Annual General Meeting

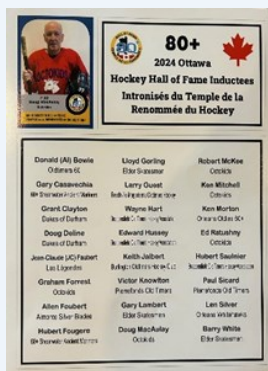
The Annual General Meeting of the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame not-for-profit corporation will take place on 17 June 2025 at 11:30am at Montgomery Legion, 330 Kent St., Ottawa. Official notice will be sent to sponsoring teams prior to the AGM.

Inductee Alternate Hockey Jersey Set

As part of your Induction experience, the Hall provided either a blue or gold personalized jersey and sock set. Inductees are now able to purchase their alternate hockey set (jersey and socks exactly as your original), in the opposite colour. Having a second jersey set gives you the opportunity to register and play in 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame Alumni games for either the blue or the gold team wearing your personalized jersey. Add your name to the next production run by contacting Rod Brandvold at: rodbrandvold@rogers.com before June 30, 2025. Price: \$100.00 + shipping

Inductee Plaque Rendering

At each induction the names of all inductees are inscribed on a plaque that each inductee is given to hold and display for a period before the plaque is finally mounted in the Montgomery Legion in Ottawa. For future inductions, a rendering of the plaque on glossy paper personalized for each inductee will be produced and available at the induction ceremony. Cost of the plaque rendering is \$30.



Lost Contact Information

Contact information for 80+ HHOF Alumni inducted in 2019 and previously seems to have gone missing. If you were inducted into the Hall in 2019 or earlier, or have contact information for someone who was, please send the information to: richard.sennott@sympatico.ca.

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