



80+ HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

TEMPLE DE LA RENOMÉE DU HOCKEY 80+

Newsletter Summer 2025

Women in Hockey

Women’s hockey has seen remarkable growth over the past few decades. From limited recreational opportunities in the mid-20th century to the establishment of the Professional Women’s Hockey League in 2023, the sport has truly flourished.

Another historic milestone is set for October 2025 in Gatineau, Quebec. Ginette Hatin, who plays with the Sages de la Rive-Sud in Saint-Hubert, QC, will become the first woman inducted into the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame. (Look for more on this special event in the autumn issue of the newsletter.)

Also celebrated this year is Bernie Alain, inducted into the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame in May 2025. A significant figure in the rise of women’s hockey in western Canada, Bernie’s journey began in Edmonton.

As detailed in a December 2023 article by Dan Barnes in *The Ottawa Citizen*, in 1972 Bernie was playing goal for a seniors' team and officiating games when women in his life asked him why there were no women’s teams in Edmonton. Determined to change that, Bernie rented ice time at his own expense and reached out to a local newspaper to explain his vision. After a story ran—complete with his phone number—calls started pouring in. A radio station picked up the story, and soon, women were showing up for Sunday night hockey.

The first sessions, Bernie recalled, were a mix of ages, abilities, and gear. But by fall 1973, there were enough players to form two teams: the Edmonton Chestnuts and the Edmonton Chimos. Bernie coached and managed both, with support from players’ husbands and boyfriends.

Although his dream of creating a full women’s league in Edmonton faced hurdles—limited ice time and societal resistance—his impact was undeniable. In 1975, Bernie’s coaching came to an abrupt end after he broke his leg while breaking up a fight during a seniors’ game he was refereeing. He spent nine months in a cast. Still, the Chimos continued without him and became trailblazers for women’s hockey. From challenging men’s teams in small towns to winning provincial and national titles, they helped push the sport forward. In 1983, they even competed in Canada’s first national women’s hockey tournament.

Today, as Bernie reflects on those early days with the Chimos and sees the strides women’s hockey has made, he has every reason to feel proud of his lasting contribution.

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Bernie Alain

SoYouThinkYouKnowHockey:
During which Olympic Games was women’s hockey first played?
 (Answer on page 5)



Annual General Meeting – 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame

The Annual General Meeting of the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame was convened at 11:30 a.m. EDT on 17 June 2025, both in person at the Montgomery Legion in Ottawa and via Zoom teleconference. The meeting was chaired by President Herb Brennen.

President Brennen reported on the two induction ceremonies held during the 2024–2025 fiscal year—one in Huntsville, ON, and the other in Ottawa. These events resulted in the induction of 56 new members into the Hall of Fame. He noted that both events provided “learning opportunities”.

Treasurer Raymond Chauvet presented the financial report. He affirmed the organization’s financial stability but noted that operations were being sustained on a "hand-to-mouth" basis. Revenues and cash flow were sufficient to support day-to-day functions and induction events; however, resources remained inadequate for strategic development.

During discussion, the Board identified the critical need for a national sponsor to support long-term growth. It was agreed that securing a significant multi-year financial commitment is essential to advancing the organization’s mandate. The Executive Committee is currently preparing a sponsorship proposal to that effect.

Bergeron & Co., Chartered Professional Accountants, were appointed as auditors for the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

The Board of Directors for 2024–2025 was re-elected with two changes:

- **Fred Merchant** was appointed ex-officio Board member as USA Liaison.
- **Larry Doshen** was appointed to the Board with a communications portfolio.

Under New Business:

- Peter Austin provided an update on the upcoming Canada 150 Cup tournament.
- Gratien Allaire reviewed plans for the October 2025 induction ceremony in Gatineau.
- Rod Brandvold offered preliminary details regarding the March 2026 induction event in Kitchener-Waterloo.
- Wayne Watson reported on preliminary discussions with possible sponsors for an induction ceremony in Whitby in late 2026.

80+ Hockey Hall of Fame in the USA

Inspired by the Canadian 80+HHOF, Fred Merchant has led the development of a USA version. Check out the web site:

<https://teamusaplayers.org/usa-80-hall-of-fame/>



Board of Directors

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- President
Herb Brennen
- Vice-President
Loris Bondio
- Secretary-Treasurer
Raymond Chauvet
- Director
Rod Brandvold
- Director
Clint Mathews
- Director
Larry Doshen
- Director Southern Ontario Region
Peter Austin
- Director Western Region
Dave Hume
- Director Quebec Region
Nicolas Matossian
- Director ex-officio USA Liaison
Fred Merchant

Executive Committee

- Herb Brennen
herbertbunting31@gmail.com
- Loris Bondio
bondiolg@gmail.com
- Raymond Chauvet
raymond.chauvet@sympatico.ca
- Rod Brandvold
rodbrandvold@rogers.com



Future Inductions

Gatineau

The next 80+Hockey Hall of Fame induction, the 18th, will be in Gatineau QC. The event, organized by les Grands Flos de Gatineau with the support of the city of Gatineau, will take place 25 October 2025. On ice events will be held at the Slush Puppie Centre, 500 boulevard de la Cité, and include:

12:00 – 13:00	Atom (U10) team vs Grandfathers (80+)
13:15 – 14:15	The Thunder Blades (women team) vs Les Grand Flos (75+)
14:30 – 15:30	Inductees game

The banquet and induction ceremony will be held at Hotel Chateau-Cartier beginning at 17:30.

For information contact Raymond Chauvet Raymond.chauvet@sympatico.ca or Gratien Allaire Gratien.Allaire@gmail.com

2026 Inductions

Kitchener-Waterloo

The 19th induction into the Hall will be held in Kitchener -Waterloo, Ontario on March 28th 2026. Planning is well underway for the event. Look for news of it at *519 Sports Online* closer to the event. Contact Rod Brandvold, rodbrandvold@rogers.com, or John Thompson, jtdaytimershockey@gmail.com.

Saskatoon

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.

Supporting Teams/Clubs Annual Contribution

Conducting induction events and managing the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame incur considerable costs. Induction fees cover only a portion of the expenses. The Hall relies on contributions from sponsoring corporations, individuals, and Supporting Teams'/Clubs' membership fees.

It is that time of year when we remind Supporting Teams/Clubs that annual contributions are due. Please send your payment of \$200 to the Treasurer at: raymond.chauvet@sympatico.ca.

If your team is not an 80+ HHOFF Supporting Team/Club, we would encourage you to consider becoming one. The dues are \$200 annually. One benefit of becoming a Supporting Team/Club is that the \$50 nomination fee for any of your octogenarians is waived. Another is attendance at the Annual General Meeting to participate in guiding the direction of the organization. The biggest benefit is having an organization that recognizes the accomplishment of your 80-year-olds.



Tournaments

Canada 150 Cup

The annual Canada 150 Cup competition between 80+ teams from Canada and the United States will be held in Burlington Ontario again this year at the Appleby Ice Centre. Date for the tournament is 20 October to 24 October 2025. There will be four teams in the tournament this year, two from the United States, one from Ottawa and one from Burlington. Teams will play a round robin with the championship game being between the highest ranked Canadian team against the highest ranked American team.

The tournament coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Burlington Oldtimers Hockey Club, the host for the event. The Club is planning a social event at their clubhouse for tournament players and significant others during the tournament. For information 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. Don Puccini (inducted 2023) has put together a team from the Ottawa Elder Skatesmen that will attend the tournament in September. Don's email is: dpuccini@rogers.com.

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. Contact: Butch Boucher: butchboucher@shaw.ca.

Westmount Oldtimers Hockey Tournament

On May 29, 2025, members and supporters of the Westmount Oldtimers Hockey Tournament presented a cheque for \$102,309 to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. The funds came from Old Timers hockey tournaments and related events from 2023-24. It was the 33rd year that the Old Timers donated to the Montreal Children's Hospital with more than \$1 million donated to combat pediatric brain cancer. The tournament that was the source of these donations was started in 1989 by members of the Senior Westmount Allstar Team (SWAT) Nicolas Matossian Sr. and Howard Hoppenheim, both 80+ HHOF alumni. They organized a charity tournament inspired by Nicolas Matossian's son who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. The annual tournament continues and over the years has provided funds for various equipment and research at the Montreal Children's Hospital as well as donating to the Nicholas Matossian Endowment.

Other Tournaments??

Are there tournaments in your region that include 75+, 80+ or older divisions? Let us know of any and we will feature them in future newsletters. Send the information to: info@hockey80plus.ca.

SoYouThinkYouKnowHockey

Who is the all-time leading scorer in the IIHF World Hockey Championship?

(Answer on page 5)



Supporting Inclusive Hockey: Capital City Condors Donation

The Capital City Condors provide hockey opportunities for players who are unable to join traditional teams due to physical or cognitive disabilities.

During the 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame induction event on 3 May 2025, a donation box was circulated among attendees in support of the Condors. Additionally, alumni game players contributed by donating the equivalent of their ice time fee. Together, these efforts raised over **\$700**—a meaningful contribution by the Hall toward promoting **adaptive, special needs hockey** in our community.

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.

Also, if you are aware of any of your fellow 80+HHOF alumni who have not received this newsletter, or if you know of someone who has passed away please send that information to: richard.sennott@sympatico.ca. Thank you for your valued assistance in keeping our contact information up to date.

In Memoriam

Remembering 80+ Hockey Hall Of Fame Alumni who have passed away in recent years.

(20xx) - Year of Induction

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Larry McNabb (2011) | Allan Mason Deeks (2013) |
| Roger LaPlante (2016) | Ernie Butler (2017) |
| Donald MacDonald (2018) | David Moore (2019) |
| Frank Shychoski (2022) | |

May they rest in peace.

SoYouThinkYouKnowHockey:

Women’s hockey was first played in the Winter Olympics in 1998 in Nagano, Japan.

Bonus points if you know who won gold.

Boris Mikhailov of the Soviet Union was the all-time leading scorer in IIHF World Hockey Championships



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