



# HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS Sports Hall of Fame



## INDUCTION CEREMONY

*Saturday, May 25, 2024 • 2 – 4 pm*

*The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame  
is part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative*



## WELCOME!

On behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 2024 Induction Ceremony.

Today we will be celebrating the accomplishments of six Athletes that have excelled in their chosen sport along with four individuals who as Builders have dedicated themselves to the promotion of sport in the Highlands by volunteering, teaching and helping others succeed. In addition, we are recognizing the 1974 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Football Team, the Redmen, for their outstanding success that year.

We are thrilled to recognize the Haliburton County Red Wolves as the first recipients of the newly created Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame was created in order to recognize and celebrate excellence in sport. Today we are doing just that by inducting these amazing individuals who have shown us the importance of sport in our lives and in our community.

Also new this year is our Rising Star Award. We are very excited to expand our mandate to recognize young people who are leading the way in their respective areas of excellence.

Thank you so much for coming out today and joining in this celebration!

*All the best,*

*Roger Trull*

Chair, Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame


## THE HISTORY



Five years ago, under the leadership of Scotty LaRue, a group of volunteers came together to create the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame. This not-for-profit organization was created to recognize and honour the individuals, teams and builders of the Haliburton Highlands whose endeavours in sports have brought distinction and honour to themselves and the community.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame is part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

Over the past five years the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame has become a fixture in the Haliburton Highlands. Several important milestones have marked the Hall's first few years:

1. In a memorable ceremony held at Haliburton's A.J. LaRue Community Centre in June 2022, the inaugural group of inductees consisting of 11 athletes, 3 builders and 3 teams was welcomed into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame.
2. With the generous support of the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Township of Minden Hills, two public spaces have been created to display the inductee panels. In Haliburton, the panels are displayed in the Community Hall at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre and in Minden the displays are located at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
3. An interactive Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame website, including video tributes for each inductee, was launched. The website can be reached at [hshsoff.ca](https://hshsoff.ca) (or scan QR code: )
4. This year, a *Rising Star Award* has been created to recognize young Haliburton County athletes (ages 14 to 19) who have distinguished themselves in their sporting accomplishments.

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame committee congratulates all of the 2024 inductees.

*Many Thanks To Our Founding Sponsors*

Curry Chevrolet

Minden Subaru

# AGENDA

1:55 – Piping in of Inductees and Award Winners – Piper: Brian Sachs

2:00 – National Anthem – Vocalist: Ella Gooley

## WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies: Roger Trull

Chair, Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame

## INDUCTEES OF 2024 – PART 1

### *Athletes*

Kate Campbell

Scott (Scotty) LaRue

Colin Newell

Greg Newell

Mark Robinson

Gary Vasey

## PRESENTATION BY STUDENT ATHLETES

Lily Manning

Avery DeGeer

## INDUCTEES OF 2024 – PART 2

### *Builders*

Gary Brohman

Jane Heyes

Mark Schell Sr.

Ken Rosenberg

### *Team*

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Football Team 1974

### *Outstanding Achievement Award*

Haliburton County Red Wolves

## RISING STAR AWARDS

Evan Backus

Cheyenne Degeer

Owen Nicholls

## WRAP-UP

4:00(ish) – Reception

# Kate Campbell



*"Hard Work and Raw Speed Help Sprinter Excel," the local headlines said of Kate Campbell in 1996. After winning silver medals at a provincial championship, the HHSS student competed in the Royal Canadian Legion National Championship in Quebec where she earned a silver medal in the 80m hurdles, a gold medal in 300m hurdles, and a gold medal as part of Ontario's 4 x 100 relay team. These outstanding achievements reflected her dedication to training in both individual and team events.*

*Kate excelled in competition, setting regional and COSSA records year after year, some of which still stand today. A highlight was her gold medal win in 1998 at OFSAA in the 300m hurdles – the first and only gold medal in the history of Hal High. Kate capped off her high school athletic career with gold medals at Kawartha and COSSA. At OFSAA that year, she brought home the bronze medal in the 400m hurdles.*

*Kate remembers her inaugural year in track and field as an incredible experience because of the high number of participants. "Our early morning track practice sessions before school hold a special place in my heart," she says. "Tim Davies, Walter Tose and Paul Morissette were exceptionally supportive coaches."*

*Her athletic success was rewarded with several scholarship offers from American universities, but Kate chose to delve into the arts. With the same discipline she gave to sport, she explored music, theatre, dance and film. Now, her focus is jumping the hurdles of producing, writing, and directing. Kate returned to Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in recent years for the Haliburton International Film Festival screening of her award-winning short film 'Boundless'. This extraordinary story of WWII women pilots has received international acclaim.*



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*I am deeply honoured to be inducted into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame. My journey in Track and Field holds a cherished place in my heart, with wonderful support from my parents, grandparents and teammates. The coaching of Tim Davies, Walter Tose, and Paul Morissette was amazing, especially Paul, who served as my primary coach and mentor. I am immensely grateful for Paul's unwavering belief in me and his support of my overall well-being. The experiences and lessons learned in competitive sports training within a supportive community have been immense. Experiences I have carried as I followed my career in the arts. My athletic training taught me humility in victories, grace in setbacks, as well as the power of timing, balance, patience, and perseverance. This awareness has empowered me to pursue and excel in my calling, and I am truly grateful for that.*

## Scott (Scotty) LaRue



Scotty LaRue has fond memories of playing hockey on Haliburton's Head Lake as a young boy. He played on the local teams, but by the age of thirteen, Scotty moved to live with relatives in Kitchener where he could play at a higher level. He excelled at high school sports, participating in football, soccer and swimming as well as playing on the All Ontario Championship Midget "A" hockey team. In the summers he went on extensive canoe adventures with Camp Wanapitei which is based in Temagami.

LaRue was scouted by the Montreal Canadiens. Scotty Bowman, coach of the Peterborough Petes, took an interest in the feisty young defenceman, encouraging him to play at the Junior B level because of his young age. Then another NHL team came knocking, the Detroit Red Wings. That tryout led him to Seaforth to Captain their Junior C team, where he met a young woman named Emily.

From 1961 to 1964, LaRue was star defenceman for Woodbridge, Weston and then the Whitby Dunlops where he had the opportunity to be coached by Jim Chery. The Dunlops managed to beat the Oshawa Generals to make the playoffs. The next year, after playing some exhibition games with the Generals alongside Bobby Orr, LaRue was ready for a new adventure. He hung his skates around his neck and boarded a ship bound for France.

St. Gervais, at the base of Mount Blanc, was his home for a year where he played professional hockey European style and even got a chance to face off against the Czech Republic in exhibition games.

The Highlands called Scotty home in 1965 where he went into business with his dad and married his Seaforth sweetheart. Sport has remained a big part of his life. He played competitively in curling, fastball and golf, but LaRue never lost his passion for hockey. He was proud to own and manage the Haliburton Huskies Junior D Hockey team with his father, A.J. LaRue, during the glory days of their 1971 Ontario Hockey Association Junior D Championship.



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*To be nominated for induction into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame is an honour that I will never forget. My father, A.J. (Ab) LaRue, and my mother, Wilda, sacrificed so much to make sure I had the opportunity to excel in sports. When I was 13, they gave me a choice: stay in Haliburton or move to Kitchener, ON to live with my aunt so I could play hockey at a higher category. That led me to a Midget "A" Ontario Championship, a chance to play Major Jr. "A," and a professional hockey contract in France. Back home after these experiences, my dad and I bought a Junior "D" franchise, which became the Haliburton Huskies. The team won the Ontario Championship in 1970-71, an event that brought the community together. My wife Emily and our four children are grateful for the many family memories that are connected to sports.*

## Colin Newell



Hockey and fastball fans alike cheered for Colin Newell in the 1980's. He played for the Haliburton Huskies Junior "C" Hockey team in the winter, and the Minden Rockcliffe Hustlers in the summer. The Hustlers were the team to beat, winning six Tri-County Championships, in seven years. Colin's dedication to fastpitch softball led him to the I.S.C. league in the 1990's, playing for clubs that included Owen Sound, Oshawa, Scarborough and Bracebridge. He competed in Provincial, National and World Championships in places as far away as British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and Salt Lake City.

Colin received numerous MVP awards and brought home bronze and silver medals at the Canadian Fastball Championships, silver at the I.S.C World Championships, and gold at the Ontario Senior "AAA" Championships. He also won three Ontario Intermediate C championships with Bracebridge.

The Newell family lived and breathed fastpitch. Colin credits his dad, Gene Newell, for inspiring himself and his brother, Greg, by building a baseball diamond beside their house in Gelert. "Dad called it our Field of Dreams," Colin says. "He never tired of coaching us."

Gene and Gala Newell were always more than happy to hit the road for a fastpitch tournament. "Mom and Dad were our biggest fans," Colin says. "They would have been so proud to have seen this recognition."

Colin is remembered by a former coach, Brian Harrington, as a right fielder with an upright batting stance and blurring bat speed. "More often than not, Colin decided the winning outcome of the game with a timely hit in the late innings. He was also a generous mentor, sharing his knowledge and skills of the game at clinics for young kids."



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*It is an honour to be inducted into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame. I would like to congratulate past members and this year's inductees on their accomplishments and inclusion into the HHSHF. This achievement would not have been possible without the support and help of many people, but I especially want to acknowledge my mom and dad. From a makeshift ball diamond on our property in Gelert, I had the opportunity to play with my dad and brother. Then, I played for the Minden Rockcliffe Hustlers with my dad as coach. As I progressed to higher levels of competition, my parents traveled throughout North America following my career. Fastpitch softball and sports in general taught me many valuable life lessons and, most importantly, built lifelong friendships. Lastly, I would like to thank the Hall of Fame committee members for their hard work and dedication for establishing the HHSHF for the Haliburton Highlands.*

## Greg Newell



Greg Newell was an all-round athlete who played four years of Junior C Hockey for the Haliburton Huskies and Lindsay Muskies, and thirteen years of A level Fastpitch Softball.

Greg grew up in Gelert, with a baseball "field of dreams" in his yard built by his dad. Greg credits his parents, Gene and Gala, for their support. It was a career highlight when they watched from the stands as he led the team with ten RBIs, to win the NAFA AA Championship in Fargo North Dakota.

Greg started playing with the Minden Rockcliffe Huslers fastball team in the Tri County League when he was only 14, with his brother Colin, dad Gene and his Uncle Jack Snell. In 1986, he played for the Oshawa Junior A team, starting a career which saw him go on to play for Stouffville, Bracebridge, Oshawa Merchants/Hornets, Greenbank Gamblers, Colborne Rutherford Transport, Pickering Boyer Heat, and Peterborough Ricart, among others. His talent was sought after, especially his hitting ability, at times playing in 3 different leagues in the same season.

Greg's passion was being on the ball diamond, and he travelled all over North America playing in Ontario Amateur Softball Association, International Softball Congress, Canadian and Eastern Canadian, and North American Fastpitch Association Championships.

Among Greg's special distinctions, was batting .571 at the Ontario Junior Eliminations in 1986. He was an OASA Champ in 1990 and again in 1999, an Eastern Canadian Silver Medalist in 1997 and 1998, and NAFA Champ in 1997. Greg was named to the All World Team at the NAFA Championship in 1997. League Championships include the local Tri-County League, Oshawa City and District, and Peterborough City League.

After his retirement, Greg was instrumental in starting the Kawartha Cubs Baseball Association in Lindsay.

The Newell family legacy continued as Greg coached his daughter Payton, in girls' softball and his son, Brock, on the Minor Bantam team that won the 2014 Provincial title. Brock went on to play baseball at Queen's University, enjoying a successful varsity career highlighted by an OUA Championship win.



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*Being recognized for playing a sport I love is an honour I owe to my dad, Gene, and mom, Gala. They motivated me to play fastpitch softball at the highest levels. Dad taught me in the field beside our house in Gelert, and it was a thrill for me to be his teammate later. He was like the Gordie Howe of fastpitch. My mom prepped meals and drove from game to game. She was my biggest supporter. I am grateful for the friendships I made on many teams, from Junior A in Oshawa to Intermediate and Senior teams playing at Provincial and North American Championship levels. Throughout my career, it was important to continue playing at home with the Minden team. I was fortunate to coach both my son Brock and daughter Payton on their respective baseball and softball teams in Lindsay, continuing the family tradition.*

## Mark Robinson



Mark Robinson enjoyed a stellar football career at Queen's University. An imposing figure on the Golden Gaels offensive line, he was selected Rookie of the Year in 1990. The highlight of his athletic career came in 1992 at the Toronto SkyDome, when Queen's won the coveted Vanier Cup with an impressive 31 to 0 win against the favoured St. Mary's Huskies. Robinson was credited with controlling the line of scrimmage, allowing future CFL star, Brad Elberg to rack up yards on the ground.

In 1993, Robinson was an Ontario-Quebec Intercollegiate Football Conference All Star and 2nd Team All Canadian. He was a finalist for TSN's prestigious Russ Jackson Award for academic achievement, football skills and citizenship. Robinson went on to earn a Ph.D. in Engineering, attaining All Canadian academic status in both 1993 and 1994. In 1994 and 1995, Robinson capped off his football career as a Golden Gaels captain. Mark Robinson's excellence in academics and athletics was recognized with an induction to Queen's University Hall of Fame.

Mark grew up in Haliburton, with the distinction of being the second baby to be born in the "new" Haliburton Hospital. Since a young age, Mark anticipated his opportunity to wear the red and white HHSS football jersey. He is grateful for the support of his family, his coaches, and his teammates, who "sweated and bled alongside me all those autumn days. They were my true inspiration."

Mark and his wife Beth (also from Haliburton) now live in rural Virginia. He pursued a career in transportation safety and infrastructure management with a focus on saving lives on North American highways. He now runs his own consulting firm.

"I've travelled the world," says Robinson, "but the Haliburton Highlands are, and will always be, one of my favorite places."



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*Football is the ultimate team sport. It is an explosive, tough and strategic game, and possibly the only sport where players go games, and even seasons, without ever touching the ball. The Highlands, and the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field, have always held a special place in my heart. I was born here (being the second baby born in the Haliburton Hospital) and raised here. The Haliburton Highlands is where I learned to play the sport that I was born to play. I thank my parents, who always supported me; my "big" brother, who toughened me; my lovely wife, who has stood beside me; all my coaches, who trained me; and all my teammates, who sweated and bled alongside me all those autumn days. You all were my true inspiration. I hope that you too find the sport you were born to play, excel at it, and make the Highlands proud!*

## Gary Vasey



*In the 1940's, young Minden hockey players like Gary Vasey skated on outdoor rinks. It was a shock when his "Little NHL Haliburton County League" team journeyed to Haliburton to play in the indoor arena. Gary and his twin brother Glen led the league to several championships. In 1950, fifteen-year-old Gary played for the Minden Monarchs and helped them win the Ontario Rural Hockey Association "C" Championships. From there, he went on to play Junior hockey in Lindsay, and then played for the Scarborough Rangers while he attended Teachers College. When he returned to Minden to teach, he was welcomed back on the Minden Monarchs team, who won three straight Eastern Ontario Championships between 1956 and 1958. Gary was lead scorer all three years.*

*Minden's Memorial Centre was packed every Saturday night with cheering fans. During the Ontario "playdowns" there were close to a thousand people inside the "old barn". Community pride was at its peak. Gary Vasey was a pivotal figure during Minden's golden age of hockey, inspiring a generation of young players to pursue their dreams.*

*Gary's skills caught the attention of Bradford's Intermediate B team, and he proved himself right away scoring 34 goals and 36 assists in the first 25 games. They won a number of Ontario Senior Championships in the 1960's.*

*In 1971, Gary secured an Ontario Junior D franchise for Bradford. As owner, general manager and coach, he called the team the Bradford Vasey Juniors. They became perennial league champions, and won the Ontario Junior C Championship in 1972-73.*

*Wherever he went, Gary promoted Haliburton County. Later in life, as an owner of a thoroughbred horse racing stable with Don Finn, his heart continued to stay in the Highlands. Some of his stakes-winning horses had names like Maple Lake, Kenmis, Minden Monarch, Kashagawigamog, and Minden.*



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*If our dad was here today, he would be honoured and humbled to receive this recognition. He would be standing in the midst of friends and family with a big smile. Young Gary was a talented hockey player whose enthusiasm for the game eventually led him to become a team owner and All-Ontario Jr. D Championship coach. He had a major influence on young people, both at the arena and as a principal in the education system. Gary loved this community and was a great ambassador for Haliburton in all his pursuits. As owner of Gary F. Vasey Real Estate Ltd., he had a vision for local development. As a thoroughbred owner/breeder, he named his horses after lakes and towns in Haliburton County. Dad approached work and life the same way he approached hockey – with joy and passion. Our family is delighted that our dad is remembered and honoured in this way.*

## Gary Brohman



*Over his long career in education at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Gary Brohman managed to juggle his assigned duties of teaching and administration with his passion for athletics. Before and after the bell rang, thousands of students called him "Coach Brob". His volunteerism in the extra-curricular school sports of hockey, basketball, and track & field were all impressive contributions to sport.*

*He was a familiar figure with a whistle around his neck in the gym, at the arena, and on what is now called the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field, named in his honour after his retirement. His commitment to developing a football culture on that field became his true legacy with multiple championship successes at both the Kawartha District level and Central Ontario Secondary School Athletics championship level.*

*Brohman was instrumental in starting the HHSS hockey program in 1985, and coached the team in its inaugural year. He also took on coaching and executive duties with Minor Hockey, and coordinated Men's and Old Timers' leagues. His holistic approach to the lifelong benefits of athletics is evident through the enthusiastic testimonials of former students. Some went on to be professional athletes, and others have incorporated the disciplines of sports training into other facets of their lives.*

*"Coach Brohman always encouraged us to work hard and do our best in class. Combining athletics with academics became my personal goal."*

*"As a mentor, he instilled tenacity, discipline and preparation. Coach Brob remembers and takes pride in every player that ever took the field for him and he has a great story to tell about each one of them."*

*"He was a builder, not just of student athletic programs, but of men and women. He helped us be successful on and off the field."*

*Gary Brohman created opportunities for the youth of Haliburton County to succeed in all facets of development. With a focus on citizenship, he encouraged excellence in athletics, the arts and student achievement. His dedication is reflected in the next generation of leaders throughout the Highlands.*



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*This achievement is not mine alone; it belongs to the countless co-coaches, community members, and devoted parents who stood by me over 38 years. Their unwavering support was fundamental to my success. I must also acknowledge my beloved wife, Dawn, whose love and sacrifices allowed me to pursue my passion wholeheartedly, including caring for our two boys, Peter and Greg. Throughout my career, my coaching goals focused on the values of character, sportsmanship, and the pursuit of excellence in every practice and game. I accept this award on behalf of everyone who contributed to my journey. My deepest gratitude to the Hall of Fame committee, to Dale Robinson and Derrell Stamp for their nomination, to fellow honourees, and to all who have shaped my career. Thank you for this incredible honour. This recognition holds a special place in my heart.*

## Jane Heyes



*Inspired by the majestic landscape of the Highlands, Jane Heyes took over as coordinator of the Haliburton Highlands Jackrabbit Cross Country Ski program in 1990. Under her leadership, the program focused on expert instruction for long-term skill development. It consistently maintained large enrolments of children from four to thirteen years of age. Many graduates went on to compete at OFSAA and Varsity levels in cross country skiing.*

*The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail Association has one of the best trail systems in Ontario, and Jane's goal was to provide positive and enjoyable experiences in this setting. Weekly mentoring of volunteer coaches and ongoing assessments of skiing abilities assured improvement for teachers and learners alike. Jane initiated the equipment rental program in 2002. Partnering with Child and Family Services (now Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents), the Jackrabbits have accumulated an inventory of ski equipment that provides affordability and inclusion for all.*

*Under her 20-year leadership as coordinator of the Jackrabbit program in Haliburton, Jane saw enrolment in the local program grow to be the largest in Ontario. Starting in 1990, she developed successful community partnerships with Glebe Park, Haliburton Highlands Museum, and the Haliburton branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. Jane's recruitment of coaches and other volunteers included Jackrabbit graduates who returned to teach younger kids.*

*The evidence of an effective builder is in the ongoing success of the program. The Jackrabbit program has continued to flourish since Jane retired, with dedicated leadership and strong volunteer support. "This all bodes well for the future," Jane says.*

*After she retired as coordinator, a Nordic trail in Glebe Park was named Heyes Way. It's a short linking trail for younger Jackrabbits who are ready to try out a part of the main ski loop, and a fitting legacy to her commitment of promoting healthy lifestyles and athletic success for youth in the Highlands.*



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*The landscape in Haliburton County has always attracted sports-minded people to come and live in our area. Cross country skiing trails were started in 1976 to take advantage of this landscape. The Haliburton Nordic Club has built one of the best trail systems in Ontario. They support the younger skiers, from to ages 4 to 13, along with Cross Country Canada, through the Jackrabbit and Track Attack ski programmes. I co-ordinated that program from 1990-2016. I would like to acknowledge the amazing support of the volunteer teachers who shared their expertise and enjoyment of skiing, whether or not they had children in the programme. Even Jackrabbit graduates came back to teach and earn their high school volunteer credits. The Jackrabbit and Track Attack programmes continue to thrive with the support of the club, young families sharing their love of Nordic skiing and leaders willing to volunteer.*

## Ken Rosenberg



*Ken Rosenberg worked at the Haliburton Highlands Golf Course overlooking Lake Kashagawigamog from the age of ten. When his greenskeeper duties were done, he practiced the game. With lots of hillside lies and rocky outcroppings, the course proved to be an excellent challenge for the young golfer.*

*For over 70 years, Ken has competed in tournaments throughout Ontario at championship levels, with amateur and professional players. He acquired his teaching certificate from the Canadian Golf Teachers Association, leading the field of all contestants who were hoping to qualify. Ken has accumulated record-setting scores at every golf course in Haliburton County and he has had 18 witnessed holes in one. More astounding is the fact that he is one of the few individuals in the history of the game to make two holes in one in a single 18-hole round. The odds of that achievement are incredible, an achievement so rare it has happened only three times on the PGA tour.*

*As a builder, Ken Rosenberg has dedicated countless hours to helping hundreds of golfers, from beginners to experts, to improve their games. Affectionately known as the golf doctor, he is widely recognized as an insightful instructor and an encouraging coach. He is known to uphold the true values of sport: commitment, character and honesty. Most important, he respects players of all abilities, and makes the game fun.*

*As an ambassador for his sport, Ken Rosenberg has shared his passion and enjoyment of a life on the links, mentoring three generations of young golfers and promoting golf in the Haliburton Highlands for seven decades.*



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*Thanks to the Sports Hall of Fame for this recognition. I am happy to represent the sport of golf, a game for everyone: men and women, young and old. As a boy, I lived close to the Haliburton Highlands Golf Club. Bob Nichol Sr. was the owner at the time. I worked for him, learning a variety of greens keeping jobs. More valuable than the wages he paid, were his golf lessons. I am thankful for the time he took to coach me. It inspired me to get my teaching certificate and help others to learn the game. The time I spent coaching the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School golf team was particularly rewarding. It has been really satisfying to see those local kids develop into good golfers and great people. Golf has connected me to this community my entire life.*

## Mark Schell Sr.



Mark Schell Sr. was an all-around outdoor enthusiast, athlete and community volunteer who is remembered for his lifelong support of programs for Haliburton youth. After graduating from HHSS, Mark attended Chef Training at George Brown College. Then Mark joined the Canadian Army and trained in Petawawa, returning to Haliburton when the war ended. Mark cooked for lodges and camps, but settled on the job of Head Cook at Haliburton High School where he stayed for many years.

A favourite of Hal High students, Mark was honoured when the yearbook committee dedicated the 1966 Hi-Lander to him. "He has fed the hungry and insatiable mob in the cafeteria. He referees the hockey games, is involved in baseball, and, all in all, puts a great deal of work forward for young people."

Mark was a member of the Haliburton Huskies when they played against Breslau for the Ontario Intermediate A Hockey Championship. For \$3.75, a fan could ride the "hockey train" to Oshawa to watch the final game. It was a golden era for hockey and Mark was on the "Pepper Pot" line.

A favourite coach and a referee, Mark did whatever it took to support the Haliburton hockey programs. He volunteered his time and donated the use of his school buses to drive teams to games and tournaments throughout Ontario. In the 1960's, he worked tirelessly to help get the new arena built. Mark was also a baseball player, who took on coaching and umpire duties. As a Boy Scout Leader, he taught lessons on navigation, survival and fishing. Local lads benefitted from the memorable camping trips he organized.

During his years as cook at Hyland Crest Long Term Care Home, Mark regularly treated residents to Friday Fish Fries, with his fresh catches from Haliburton County lakes. He was recognized by young and old for his generous contributions to sport through community service.



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As a chef at the Haliburton High School in the 1950's, Mark saw the need in the community to help out with sports for kids. His good friend Len Salvatori also asked him if he would be available to help out as a boy scout leader, and helping out was something to which Mark could never say no. There are a number of good supporters who Mark would thank if he was here today. First, his wife Edna, who raised their children while he was active as a volunteer in the community. He admired and appreciated those who sought to build integrity and character in Haliburton's young people, including Joe Iles, Stan Parish, Grant Rae, Sid Roberts, and Len Salvatori, among others. Together, they helped make our community what it is today.

## HHSS Redmen Football Team 1974

Kawartha/Central Ontario Secondary School Athletics Champions



BACK ROW: Gary Brohman, Steve Colliver, Kim Hewitt, Grant Griffin, Dean Minto, Ernie Bain, Greg Griffin, Wayne McGee, Roy Bouglmer, Wade Stamp, Cleve Roberts, Tim Chambers, Ken Stouffer, Brian Anderson, Larry Watson, Miles Maughan, Jerry Harrison, Brent Colliver, Bob Colliver.

FRONT ROW: Ernie Cooper, Laverne Hobden, Barry Shaw, Brent Winter, Greg Bishop, Shannon Mercer, Kirk Hewitt, Paul Fleming, Blake LaPorte, Lockie Hughes, Kirk Potter, Jim Thompson, Craig Barry, Ray Driscoll, Bob Fleicher.

ABSENT: Roger Bain, Lockie Davis, Ken Griffin, Dale Griffin, Bob English.

During the 1970's, Haliburton Highland Secondary School had a football program that was synonymous with excellence.

Starting in 1972, the focus was on developing the potential of local football players. The coaching staff, Bob Colliver and Gary Brohman, were intentional about building a football program that could succeed at the regional level. More important was their goal of creating opportunities for as many school athletes as possible. They were rewarded for their efforts as the team grew from 40 to over 80 members by the 1980's.

Students from all grade levels, spanning from 9 to 13, proudly donned the colours of the Redmen in recognition of their many triumphs. Whether they were participating as team members or cheering their team on from the sidelines, the Pride of the Red was county-wide.

It was a damp fall day in 1974 when the Redmen boarded the bus at Hal High and headed

to Lakefield College for the final COSSA, Single A Championship game. Lakefield had home field advantage, but the Redmen came out storming and secured a 16-point lead. By half time, the score was tied, 16 to 16. In a stunning third quarter touchdown and 2 point conversion, the Redmen retook the lead and kept it, with a heroic defensive stand, securing the win and clinching the championship, 24 to 16.

Recognized for excellence, the 1974 Redmen won the hearts of Haliburton County for their determination, hard work and indomitable spirit. Players remember the lifelong friendships they developed thanks to an inclusive team culture, where athletes of diverse talents were appreciated for their contributions. Their success paved the way for an era of distinction for the HHSS football program, later called the Red Hawks, which accumulated many more championships in coming years and became a source of pride for the Haliburton Highlands.



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS  
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# Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics Ontario



The Haliburton County Red Wolves are part of Special Olympics Ontario, an inclusive organization allowing citizens of all abilities to work and play together. Athletes and supporters connect through safe and enjoyable sports experiences including bowling, curling, softball, shuffleboard, golf and bocce. Recognized for their team spirit and comradery, athletes are dedicated to sport and to each other.

The Red Wolves bowling team has competed locally, provincially and nationally since it was founded in 1997. Local athlete Carrie Crego was selected to compete at the 2006 National Games in Brandon Manitoba and brought home a Bronze medal. Five athletes represented Haliburton County at the Special Olympics National Bowling Championship in Prince Edward Island in 2018, the Provincials in Oshawa in 2019, and the Nationals in Thunder Bay in 2020.

It is a benefit of the Special Olympics organization, that athletes



have opportunities to use the many sports facilities in the Haliburton Highlands, including the Minden bowling alley, the Haliburton Driving Range, the Minden Seniors Shuffleboard League, the Curling Club and many other venues. Over the years, they have developed relationships with local businesses and community members of all ages.

The athletes stay active with weekly or seasonal sessions in every level of sport. Those who participate in Special Olympic competitions benefit from athletic training, regular practices, and instruction in rules and etiquette.

Program leaders work to increase awareness around inclusion and acceptance through partnerships, fundraising, and a social media presence. Athletes and volunteers benefit from the enhanced sense of belonging that results from supporting and participating in meaningful sports activities. The Red Wolves continue to build on their achievements in Haliburton

County, enhancing the quality of life for all involved.



**HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS**  
Sports Hall of Fame

**Inductee 2024 - Outstanding Achievement**

## Rising Star Awards

To honour outstanding achievements in youth sport, we are proud to welcome our first group of Rising Stars. This initiative aims to spotlight remarkable young athletes and/or teams (between the ages of 14 to 19) who have demonstrated excellence in their sporting pursuits or contributed significantly to fostering a positive and inclusive sport environment within the Haliburton Highlands.

### INTRODUCING THE 2024 RISING STARS

#### Evan Backus



Evan Backus exploded onto Haliburton's sporting scene in 2023. Over the past two years, the grade 10 HHSS student athlete has competed in volleyball, badminton, cross-country running and Nordic skiing, in which he competed in 2024 at the OFSSA championship. However, it is in the sport of track and field in which the young hurdler has had the most impact. In his debut season as a competitive runner, Evan won multiple COSSA gold medals, qualifying for OFSSA (dubbed, the

third most competitive high school track and field meet in North America) in both the 100 metre and 300 metre hurdle events. Running a blazing 42.01 seconds in the 300 metre hurdles final, Evan placed second and won the silver medal – the best finish for a Haliburton athlete at OFSSA in a generation. Training with his twin brother, Graham and the rest of HHSS's track team, Evan is only beginning to see how fast he can run!



*Turn the Page  
to see the  
other 2024  
Rising Stars...*



## Cheyenne Degeer

*Cheyenne Degeer began playing hockey for the Highland Storm as a 3 year old. Excelling within every age group on the boys' teams, the young Tory Hill athlete played for the AAA Central Ontario Wolves before moving to girls' hockey, leading the Peterborough Ice Kats to provincial gold in 2022. Over the past two seasons, Cheyenne skated for the U22 Central York Junior Panthers, performing as the team's leading scorer this past season. Her exceptional two-way play has been noticed by hockey scouts in both Canada and the United States. Cheyenne represented Team Ontario at the*

*Canadian National U18 championships last November.*

*The HHSS grade 11 student from Tory Hill has accepted a Division 1 Scholarship to play hockey at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York beginning in 2025. Cheyenne hopes to study business or engineering while continuing to strive to one day play for Canada in International hockey competitions.*



## Owen Nicholls

*Owen Nicholls of West Guilford began curling as a 10 year old in Haliburton's youth curling program, and embraced competitive aspect of the sport throughout high school. Playing lead in grade nine for the HHSS curling team, his team secured gold at the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship. He also excelled as a member of several top Ontario junior*

*teams, winning bronze at the Canadian Winter Games in 2023.*

*As a first-year university student, Owen curled for the Carleton Ravens at the OUA Championships and also skipped his own team to U18 Ontario silver, qualifying for a 2nd time for the Canadian U 18 Championships. Owen extends his thanks to the Haliburton Curling Club and the local coaches who have mentored him over the years. "This is a huge reason why I am here today". We look forward to following Owen and his accomplishment within the Canadian curling community for years to come.*

## PLATINUM • \$2,000 and over •

*Kenneth & Margaret Fielding  
Andrew & Anne Hodgson  
Scott & Emily LaRue  
Don & Sheila Popple  
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### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

*Haliburton County Development Corporation  
Municipality of Dysart et al  
Township of Minden Hills*

*The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame  
is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative*



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# Memories of the 2022 Celebrations



All photos courtesy of Tofflemire Photography



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame and all its activities operate within the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations and also within the unceded, unsundered, territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg.

This area has always been called, “Gidaaki”, (upwards earth – the high lands) by the Anishinaabe.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Williams Treaties First Nations and the Algonquin Anishinaabeg are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

We also recognize the contributions of Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples in shaping and strengthening our province and country as a whole.

The intent and spirit of the treaties that form the legal basis of Canada bind us to share the land *“for as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow.”*