



**Ontario Lacrosse Association**  
1 Concorde Gate, Suite 200C  
Toronto, Ontario, M3C 3N6

T: (416) 426 - 7066  
[www.ontariolacrosse.com](http://www.ontariolacrosse.com)

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## **ONTARIO LACROSSE AWARDS & HALL OF FAME INDUCTION BANQUET RECAP**

TORONTO ON – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) held its Annual Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Marriott Gateway on the Falls in Niagara Falls, ON. This ceremony included many of the OLA's key contributors – staff members, the Board of Directors and Board of Governors, volunteers, organizers, partners, top-spirited players, Hall of Fame Alumni and executives – as well as friends and family of those present.

The evening began with cocktails and camaraderie among those present. Ceremony Host Doug Anderson welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. Upon taking their seats, Ontario Junior "B" Lacrosse League Commissioner Dave Vernon offered grace and dinner was served.

Following dinner, the awards ceremony took place. Five OLA awards and six Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame inductions were presented in the following order:

### **HALL INDUCTION: Jamie "Bats" Batley** – Peterborough – Player Category (Box, Men's Field)

Jamie Batley won the Ontario Junior "A" Scoring Leader title in 1987 and was named Ontario Junior "A" League MVP in 1988. Jamie was a member of the Canadian Men's National Field Lacrosse team in 1990, as well as a member of the Six Nations Mann Cup Championship teams in 1995 and 1996.

Mr. Batley was unable to attend the Induction Ceremony due to a prior commitment in his schedule. Peterborough Lakers General Manager Ted Higgins accepted the award on Mr. Batley's behalf, and remarked on the personal achievements of Mr. Batley's storied career.

### **OLA AWARD: Chuck Rowan Award** – Dylan Brant – Fort Erie Hawks

The OLA's Chuck Rowan Award is presented to the Midget or Intermediate player demonstrating proficiency in box lacrosse combined with outstanding achievement in citizenship and academics. The Award is presented in memory of Chuck Rowan, and nominations are accepted to honour individuals within the box lacrosse community who meet the qualifications. One nomination is selected annually to receive this award, which includes a plaque and a \$1,000 academic bursary.

OLA Vice President of Minor Box Laurie Hansen was on hand to present the 2017 Chuck Rowan Award to Dylan Brant of the Fort Erie Hawks. Mr. Brant thanked his coaching staff, teammates, parents and the Ontario Lacrosse Association for his award.

**HALL INDUCTION: Paul Day** – Grimsby/Peterborough – Builder Category (Box)

Paul Day became a team builder with the St. Catharines Athletics Lacrosse Club in 1993. Following his success in the Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse league, he moved on to work with the St. Regis Braves and Brampton Excelsiors of the Ontario Major Series Lacrosse League. In 2017, Paul was the General Manager of the Mann Cup Championship Peterborough Lakers team who defeated New Westminster 4 games to 2 to capture the title. In addition to Paul's OLA team building resume, he has also been directly involved with Team Canada's Men's Indoor Championship teams in 2007, 2011 and 2015.

Mr. Day was introduced by close friend Sean Allen, who reflected on the memories of Paul's involvement throughout the years. Following Mr. Allen's introduction, those in attendance were shown a video of Mr. Day's Hall of Fame Induction acceptance speech. "For me to be going into the Builder's Category, it says a lot about the great teams that I was working with throughout my career," said Mr. Day of his Hall of Fame Induction.

**OLA AWARD: E.W. Billy Evans Award** – Tanner Thomson – Mimico Mountaineers

The OLA's Billy Evans Award is presented to the most outstanding Junior "A" graduating player. This award is presented in memory of Billy Evans, a player who travelled to Canada from Wales in the 1920's to play for the Brampton Excelsiors Lacrosse Club. Eligible candidates must have competed for five years in the Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse League, and nominations are proposed by each of the 11 teams in the league. One nomination is selected annually to receive this award.

The Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse League was represented by Linda Blogg, who spoke to the legacy and impact of Billy Evans' involvement with lacrosse in Ontario. Ms. Blogg then introduced Mimico Mountaineers Lacrosse Association representative Sean O'Callaghan who detailed the on-floor and off-floor accomplishments of Tanner Thomson, as well as the influence and effect his playing had on the Mimico Mountaineers in their pursuit of the 2017 Minto Cup. Mr. O'Callaghan then introduced Tanner's mother Amanda, who accepted the award on Tanner's behalf and read a personal letter that he had prepared to mark the occasion.

**HALL INDUCTION: Roy (Leroy) Ledoux** – Cornwall – Builder Category (Box)

With 46 continuous years of involvement in the Eastern Ontario lacrosse community, Roy Ledoux has participated as a coach, referee, team manager, fundraising coordinator, association president and zone director. His passion and dedication to building the sport of lacrosse has resulted in the expansion of Zone 5, the resurgence of the Cornwall Celtics and a Founders Cup Championship title with the Akwesasne Indians of the Ontario Junior "B" Lacrosse League.

Introduced by Rad Joseph, himself an Eastern Ontario Lacrosse contributor, Roy paid homage to those individuals who had an impact on his career. "People ask me why I was [involved in lacrosse] all of this time, I just say that it's because when I was playing when I was a young kid, people used to do it for me," stated Mr. Ledoux in his Hall of Fame Induction video, which was shown following Mr. Joseph's introduction.

### **OLA AWARD: Jamieson Kuhlmann Award** – Reed Kurtz – Guelph Regals

The OLA's Jamieson Kuhlmann Award is presented to the Midget or Intermediate player demonstrating proficiency in field lacrosse combined with outstanding achievement in citizenship and academics. The Award is presented in memory of Jamieson Kuhlmann, and nominations are accepted to honour individuals within the field lacrosse community who meet the qualifications. One nomination is selected annually to receive this award, which includes a plaque and a \$1,000 academic bursary.

Jamieson's father Mark Kuhlmann was in attendance to present the 2017 Jamieson Kuhlmann Award to Reed Kurtz of the Guelph Regals. Mr. Kuhlmann spoke about the gratitude that the Kuhlmann family felt as the Ontario Lacrosse community continues to honour Jamieson's memory, and about the conviction he felt as he read through Mr. Kurtz's nomination and transcript. Mr. Kurtz thanked his coaching staff, teammates, parents and the Ontario Lacrosse Association for his award.

### **HALL INDUCTION: Scott "Scotty" McMichael\*** – Brooklin – Player Category (Box)

According to Peter Vipond, himself an Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame member inducted in 2004, there is little appreciation for how good Scott McMichael was playing at both ends of the floor. Despite his prominently defensive role, he averaged at least one point per game throughout his Junior and Senior lacrosse careers. After winning the Founders Cup as a member of the Scarborough Saints in 1985, Scott joined the Major Series Lacrosse Brooklin Redmen where he was an Assistant Captain of the 1988 and 1990 Mann Cup Championship teams.

Scott was honoured posthumously, with his lacrosse-playing sons Ryan and Mitch accepting the induction on his behalf after being introduced by Peter Vipond. "One of the memories I'll never forget was, when all of his teammates were resting and relaxing during the intermission of a game, my dad would be out there playing catch with me and my brother," said Mitch in the Hall of Fame Induction video dedicated to his father.

### **OLA AWARD: Merv MacKenzie Award** – Dr. Steve MacGregor – Kitchener Braves

The OLA's Merv MacKenzie Award is presented to the person selected as having done the most for the promotion of the game of lacrosse in Ontario. One nomination is selected annually to receive this award, which includes a plaque.

OLA Vice President of Promotion Lynn Orth presented the 2017 Merv MacKenzie Award to Dr. Steve MacGregor of the Kitchener Minor Lacrosse Association. Steve began coaching in 1979, and has sustained his contribution to minor, junior and senior lacrosse clubs in Brampton, Orangeville and Kitchener resulting in involvement with over 40 teams during his long-standing career. Dr. MacGregor thanked his wife Angie and his family for continually supporting his passion for the game.

### **HALL INDUCTION: Ken "Monster" Montour** – Ohsweken – Player Category (Box, Men's Field)

Ken's playing career began in his hometown of Ohsweken as a goaltender of the Six Nations Minor Lacrosse Association. As a box goaltender, Ken was the recipient of the 1995 OLA Larry Ruse Award (awarded to the midget goaltender in box lacrosse who posts the best Goals Against

Average). Ken played his entire Junior “A” and Senior “A” career in Six Nations with the exception of the 2001 and 2002 seasons, where he travelled to the west coast to participate as a member of the Coquitlam Adanacs of the Western Lacrosse Association, who captured the Mann Cup Championship title in 2001.

Kevin Martin introduced Ken Montour with the story of how he became a box goaltender. As a young boy, it was necessary for everyone on the lacrosse team to take their turn as the goalie. According to Mr. Martin, when it was Ken’s turn to mind the net, “he walked into the crease and never left. And that’s how a legend was born.” Following Mr. Martin’s introduction, Mr. Montour’s induction video was shown.

#### **OLA AWARD: “Mr. Lacrosse” Award – John Doherty – OLA Past President**

The OLA's “Mr. Lacrosse” Award is presented in memory of Thomas “Tip” Teather to the person selected as having made an outstanding contribution to the game of lacrosse in Ontario. One nomination is selected annually to receive this award, which includes a plaque. The “Mr. Lacrosse” Award is the Ontario Lacrosse Association’s most prestigious service award.

Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum President and former Ontario Lacrosse Association President Chuck Miller called upon OLA Past President John Doherty to receive the 2017 “Mr. Lacrosse” Award. Mr. Miller detailed his fond memories of Mr. Doherty’s presidency, and thanked him for his eleven years of leadership and governance. John remarked, “In my capacity as OLA President, it was expected of me to present this award to many worthy names who came before me. For me to be on the receiving end of the Mr. Lacrosse Award is a very special honour.”

#### **HALL INDUCTION: Bert Russell – Brampton – Veteran Category (Box)**

Aside from two seasons in his illustrious 17-year playing career, Bert Russell was a Brampton Excelsior. By the time he retired from playing, he had won two Minto Cup championships, had been a finalist on three Mann Cup teams and won several Ontario Lacrosse provincial championships beginning in the Midget Minor division and culminating in the Major Series division.

Mr. Russell was introduced by his cousin and teammate, Larry Gibson. Mr. Gibson spoke of the pride that the family felt when hearing that Mr. Russell was to be inducted into the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame. “When I look at this Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame Induction ring, it will remind me of all the incredible players that I played with and against during my career, and I’m going to wear it proudly,” Bert said as he smiled during his Hall of Fame Induction video.

The Ontario Lacrosse Association’s Annual Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony concluded with Ceremony Host Doug Anderson calling the four nominees who were present, as well as the McMichael family, to the stage to be formally recognized. A standing ovation was delivered by the 200 guests in attendance to celebrate the 2017 Class of the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame inductees and Ontario Lacrosse Association award winners.

Special credit to Tim Prothero of VintageLAX for photographing the ceremony, and to Mike Pollington of Pollington Productions for contributing the Hall of Fame Induction videos to the presentation.



About the Ontario Lacrosse Association:

Since 1897, the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) has been recognized as the administrative governing body which exists to improve, foster, perpetuate and govern of all levels (youth, junior and senior) and disciplines (box, field and women's field) of lacrosse in the province of Ontario.

In addition to coordinating the operation of the sport, the OLA provides informative resources, technical development programs and additional supplies for those interested in the "fastest game on two feet." For more information, contact the Ontario Lacrosse Association at (416) 426-7066 or email [info@ontariolacrosse.com](mailto:info@ontariolacrosse.com).