

TORONTO, ON – October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – On Saturday, six members of the Ontario Lacrosse community were inducted into the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame. Originally announced as the Class of 2020 before the extension of the ongoing pandemic forced a cancellation of last November’s scheduled induction ceremony, the six inductees were honoured in front of select friends and family at a ring ceremony and luncheon in Niagara Falls, ON over the weekend to celebrate their accomplishments.

Al Gordaneer, the first inductee to be honoured in the Player category, played Junior Lacrosse with the Mississauga Junior “A” PCO’s from 1966 to 1970 before joining the Brantford Warriors team in 1971, where the team defeated the New Westminster Salmonbellies to capture the Mann Cup. Al continued to play for the Warriors until his retirement in 1973.



The second inductee, Marion Ladouceur, was honoured in the Builder category for her sustained and impactful volunteer contributions from 1985 onward. Beginning as a executive member of the Pelham Raiders Minor Lacrosse Association, Marion’s volunteerism took her through to the OLA’s Board of Directors, where she continues to serve as Past President.



Steve McCullough, the third inductee of the event and second in the Player category, was a lifelong member of the Brampton Excelsiors who was a defensive specialist. As a part of the 1976 Ontario Champion and Minto Cup Finalist Excelsiors squad, Steve’s physical ability, as well as his passion for scoring, made him a standout choice for the Senior “A” squad before his retirement from lacrosse in 1986.





The fourth inductee, Gavin Prout, was well-regarded as an offensive threat every time he stepped on the floor. A key member of the late 90's Whitby Junior "A" Warriors, Gavin's scoring ability led the team to Minto Cups in both 1997 and 1999. In his rookie MSL year with the Brooklin Redmen (now known as the Brooklin Lacrosse Club), the team captured the Mann Cup championship at home. Throughout his career, Gavin was recognized with the Dennis MacIntosh Junior "A" MVP Trophy, the Bobby Allan Top Scorer Trophy, the Dean McLeod Playoff MVP Trophy, the EW Billy Evans Top Graduating Junior "A" Player Award, and the MSL's Gene Dopp Rookie of the Year Award.



Phil Sanderson, the fifth inductee and fourth in the Player category, comes with a last name recognizable far and wide throughout the Ontario Lacrosse community. As a dominant and respected defensive player, Sanderson was a member of two Minto Cup teams (1994 and 1998) and three Mann Cup teams (2002, 2008 and 2009). In 1997, he was awarded the John "Gus" MacCauley Award as the top Junior "A" Defensive Player.



The final inductee of the event, and the second in the Builder category, was Joanne Stanga. Joanne has been an instrumental force in developing all aspects of the women's field lacrosse game throughout Ontario, Canada, and internationally. She has invested her passions and talents as a league convenor, team coach, program developer, and most importantly, left legacy impacts on generations of former and current players throughout the province. In recognition of her involvement, the Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse League christened its U19 Division trophy in her name.





The six inductees were recognized in front of a limited capacity audience of one hundred people. Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame President Chuck Miller was the Master of Ceremonies, while Junior “B” Commissioner and Zone 9 volunteer Dave Vernon gave the blessing for the meal.



(L): Master of Ceremonies Chuck Miller



(R): Junior “B” Commissioner Dave Vernon



(L to R): Al Gordaneer, Gavin Prout, Joanne Stanga, Steve McCullough, Marion Ladouceur, Phil Sanderson

