

DON (WHOOPIE) ARTHURS

Post-WWII baby boomers, particularly boys from Brampton, were expected to play lacrosse. The torch, “the gutted stick,” was traditionally passed from father to son. Don received his stick from his father, Bill (Whoopie) Arthurs, a Mann Cup Canadian Champion with the Mimico-Brampton Combines of 1942 and a 1992 Brampton Sports Hall of Fame Inductee. Don carried the torch with distinction throughout a Brampton Minor, Junior and Senior career. His Pee wee (1954), Bantam (1956) and Midget (1958) Excelsiors all won Ontario titles.

A five-year veteran with Brampton’s Junior A Excelsiors, Don won his first Canadian Minto Cup title in 1959. The title gave Brampton its third consecutive Canadian crown. In 1961, the Brampton Senior Excelsiors picked him up to play in his first Eastern Canadian Mann Cup final.

During his Junior career in 1961, Don was the Ontario League’s Most Valuable Player. In 1962 he won the league’s scoring title. Playing a 20-game schedule Don totaled 101 points, 59 goals and 42 assists. He added 32 points in 10 playoff games, 18 goals and 14 assists. The Excelsiors were Canadian Minto Cup finalists in 1962.

Don played with the Brampton Senior Excelsiors from 1964-67, winning a 1964 Ontario Senior scoring title with 114 points, 70 goals and 44 assists in 24 games. Always a prolific scorer, Don was selected by Brooklin (1964) and Peterborough (1966) to play in Canada’s Mann Cup final, winning the Mann Cup with Peterborough.

Don was inducted into the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1997, the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2005 and has been a life member of the Brampton Excelsiors since 1989.

Inducted May 9, 2017 to the





KELLY CRAIG

In the course of her two-sport-career in Women's Softball/Fastpitch and Hockey, Kelly has medaled both provincially and nationally. During a 10-year period with the Brampton Blazers from 1993 to 2003 she played three positions; pitcher, first base, and outfield.

Individual laurels for Kelly began in 1998 as she was named the top batter at the Provincial Squirt Championships. She added a Most Valuable Player Award at the 1999 Provincial Squirt Championships. Her Brampton Blazers Novice team won a Provincial and National crown in 2000 and a Provincial Novice title in 2001. As a member of the Blazers Bantam team she won a National Championship in 2002 and was named the All-Star first baseman.

Her Softball/Fastpitch medal totals include three Provincial Golds (2000, 2001, 2009), five Provincial Silver, six Provincial Bronze and National Gold in 2000, 2002 and 2009. She added a National Senior Bronze while playing in Kitchener in 2010. At the Canadian Senior Nationals she was named Most Valuable Player of the preliminary round. Her Cambridge Coyotes Junior team won Provincial and National titles in 2009.

In 2005, as a member of Team Ontario, she was a Silver medalist at the Canada Summer Games. In 2008, Kelly's Laurier University Golden Hawks were Silver medalists at the Canadian Intercollegiate Women's Fastpitch Championships. She was an Ontario Women's Intercollegiate All-Star first baseman in 2008. In 2009, her Golden Hawks won the Canadian Intercollegiate Women's Fastpitch title.

From 2005-2011, Kelly was a carded athlete funded through Quest for Gold for her accomplishments in Fastpitch.

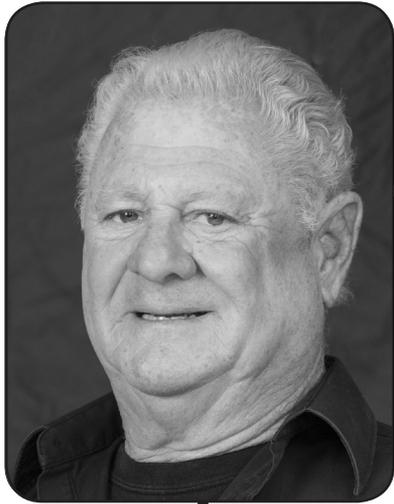
Before attending Laurier, Kelly received the Brampton Centennial Secondary School's Female Athlete of the Year in 2005, having played Flag Football, Volleyball, and Fastpitch.

Kelly played hockey (defence) with the Brampton Canadettes from 1996-2005. As part of the Canadettes Midget team, she won an Ontario Women's Hockey Association Provincial title in 2003-2004. During her hockey career her Canadettes teams were medalists at numerous tournaments.

Kelly was the recipient of Brampton's Sports Achievement Award in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004.

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BILL ZARDO

During a 40-year career, Bill Zardo took Canadian stock car racing to new heights, while demonstrating hard work, dedication and commendable sportsmanship.

Bill, who was born in Brampton in 1942, got hooked on the sport in 1960 when helping his longtime friend Jim Halahan at Pinecrest Speedway in Concord. It was then Zardo decided he would like to own and race his own car one day. And his dream became a reality in 1962 when he purchased his own wheels and raced at Pinecrest until it closed down in the mid-'70s.

In 1981, Zardo moved on to the CASCAR No. 7 Lights Series and it was here that Zardo excelled and went on to become the first CASCAR Super Late Model Series champion. Zardo dominated stock car racing throughout the '80s and won the Flamboro Speedway's Driver of the Year award in 1982. Zardo went on to add Flamboro's Late Model titles in 1984 and 1986 and a Molson Series' crown in 1984. In 1987 Zardo was crowned Flamboro's Triple 50s champion after squeaking by his close rival Jr. Hanley.

Zardo was arguably the number one stock car racer of the '80s but that wasn't enough for him. He set his sights on making a splash on the international circuit in the '90s, and the American Canadian Tour gave him that opportunity. He achieved his goal by winning the Flexmor Super Late Model title in 1996.

Zardo continued to race in the Super Late Model Series from 1997 until 2005 and added the Super Late Model Series championship at the ripe old age of 53. He was deservedly inducted into the Flamboro Stadium and Speedway Hall of Fame in 2013.

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DR. MARK EVANS

Born and raised in Brampton, Mark has been engaged in sports for over five decades. In that time, Mark has distinguished himself as a player and builder in the game of lacrosse. Inducted into the Builder's category, Mark's contributions as a 'builder' began in the early 1980s and have spanned over 35 years. Mark coached the Jr. A Excelsiors and initiated the field lacrosse program at Central Peel Secondary School in the mid-1980s. For the next twenty years, Mark coached several field and box house league and rep teams. In 1985, he was awarded the OLA's Jr. A Coach of the Year Award and in 1999 he was the first recipient of the BMLA's Revis Bennett Coach of the Year Memorial Award. In 2000, he coached the University of York (England) Field Lacrosse team while completing his doctoral studies. Further coaching honours were received in 2004 and 2007 as a member of the coaching staffs with Brampton's U16 Canadian Field Lacrosse Championship and the Jr. A Excelsior teams.

Mark served on the Brampton Minor Lacrosse Association and Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club executives, assuming a variety of roles and responsibilities. In 1996, he was named a Lifetime Member of the Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club, and in 2009 received the George "Mush" Thompson Award in recognition of significant contributions to lacrosse in Brampton. In 2009, he received the Ontario Lacrosse Association Award of Excellence for his leadership co-coordinating the Canadian Junior A Minto Cup Lacrosse Championship Series, hosted in Brampton. Mark is currently preparing a book about the history of lacrosse in Brampton and its contributions to Brampton's heritage.

Mark's sustained commitment has contributed to the development of a rich legacy of lacrosse excellence in Brampton. Mark joins his grandfather, E.W. "Billy" Evans, (1983) and his father, Gwilym (2009) to become the first third-generation member of Brampton's Sports Hall of Fame. The Evans family's association with lacrosse in Brampton has spanned more than 75 years.

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FRAN RIDER

Fran Rider's name is synonymous with women's hockey. She is known provincially, nationally and internationally.

Her 50-year career began as a player and volunteer at the inaugural Brampton Canadettes' Dominion Ladies Hockey Tournament, the largest women's tournament in the world. She captained Brampton's top team in the COWHL, the forerunner of the NWHL and CWHL, served as the Canadettes' tournament director for 10 years and ran the Canadettes' first junior and senior hockey schools.

A women's hockey pioneer, Rider always dreamed of a World Championship and the inclusion of the sport in the Olympics. She formed an International Division with the inclusion of Holland and West Germany in the 1985 Brampton Tournament, created the First World Women's Hockey Tournament in 1987 and served on the steering committee of the Women's World Championship in 1990 in Ottawa.

Rider's vision and tireless work towards the acceptance of women's hockey in the Olympics was realized in 1998 in Nagano, Japan. She was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame as the first builder for women's hockey. This recognition of her lifetime commitment to hockey was presented during the 2015 IIHF World Championships in Prague, Czech Republic.

Rider received the Order of Canada (2015) and Order of Ontario (2016) and the Order of Hockey Canada (2017) for her contribution to women's hockey. She was the first woman in 45 years to receive the O.H.A.'s Gold Stick Award, and also earned an Ontario Ministry of Culture and Citizenship Contribution to Sport Award. Rider has served on many Boards and committees and has been with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association since 1978. As President, her focus has been on bringing stakeholders together to provide each player an opportunity to excel as a person and as an athlete within a supportive and positive environment. Her vision has led to Universal advancements for female hockey that benefit young girls and women in all parts of the world.

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