CAMBRIDGE Sports Hall of Fame

Thanks for supporting the CSHF

2024 Induction Ceremony

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 1 P.M. CAMBRIDGE CENTRE





The first Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony saw Al Findlay presenting Hilda Ranscombe with her plaque as she was among the inaugural Class of 1997 inducted to the Hall. Hilda was widely regarded as the finest women's hockey player of her era (1930s) and one of the greatest female players, if not the greatest, of all time. Notice Olympic champion speed skater Derrick Campbell right behind Ranscombe. He was the guest speaker.

Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame Committee

The Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame 2024 committee consists of:

•	Chair - Gary Hedges	•	Al Pederson
•	Vice-Chair - Bob Howison	•	Paul Ross
•	Bruce Bevan	•	John Rothwell
•	Jim Cox	•	Kurt Walter
•	Karl Kiefer	•	Ted Wilson
•	Dave Menary	•	Dave Willock
•	John Morton		

^{*} With special thanks to Doc Schlei, Al Robertson, Doug Hussey, Gwen Pederson

Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame Mission:

- 1. To annually induct athletes, athletic teams and builders as determined by the CSHF selections committee.
- 2. To maintain a permanent and public sports hall of fame where displays—words, pictures and other memorabilia will celebrate and honour the unique sporting heritage of Cambridge.
- 3. To perpetuate the names and deeds of Cambridge's sports figures.
- 4. To support secondary school graduating athletes in furthering their education.



Jacqueline (Jackie) Brown

Feb. 12, 1986 - Feb. 1, 2021

Jacqueline Brown, later given the moniker "Downtown Jackie Brown," took to skis at 18 months and never looked back. Skiing was the family sport.

Born in Chatham, Ontario, her family (father Peter and mother Donna)—she has two brothers, Jonathan and Jeffrey—relocated to Ontario from Quebec and then to Cambridge.

"She went to Chicopee Ski Club," said Donna. The same ski hill where Canadian Olympic downhiller and fellow Cambridge Sports Hall of Famer Luke Sauder got his start.

At the same time she was introduced to figure skating at the Preston Figure Skating Club, where Becky Gough was a coach. Becky is also being inducted in the same class as Jackie. Jackie's main coach was Linda Purdy, the former Linda Ward, who was an early inductee into the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame. Linda coached Jacqueline until she was 14.

"She took to both sports quite well. One complemented the other."

She met lifelong friend Molly Gray during skating lessons at Galt Arena when they were three, Later they would become classmates at St. Andrew's and Southwood. "Jackie was a very competitive skater as well," said Molly.

She was eager, but she had to wait until she grew before she could take ski lessons as she was too short to take the ski lift up the hill.

When that time arrived she was far beyond what Chicipee could offer in terms of a challenge, so they got a place in Holiday Valley, at Ellicotville, N.Y. She was seven. That was when the weekend commute—about two hours each way—to Ellicotville began, and it would continue for nearly a quarter century. She grew a love for freestyle skiing, and displayed obvious talent.

"From that point on she was coached by the freestyle team coach at Holiday Valley." At a championship in New Hampshire, they were told she had an "X" beside her name and that she couldn't go any further because she was a Canadian competing on the American circuit.

So they got her started with Freestyle Ontario at 14, before moving up to Freestyle Canada's development team. She loved freestyle—the aerial training, the moguls and inverted jumps (either backwards or forwards)—which included speed.

Canada has one of the best freestyle teams in the world, and Jackie loved the competition in her favoured sport. She won four medals, including gold, at the Canadian National Junior Freestyle event at Apex Mountain in B.C. in 2002. Many other successes followed, including a fourth overall in moguls at a World Cup event at Deer Valley in Utah in 2009.

Around the time she was entering high school (Southwood) she was making trips with the Canadian team all over the world for training and competitions. Yet her grades remained consistently high (always A's) throughout the decade she competed on the Ontario Moguls team and the Canadian National Freestyle team. At 16 she was training at Lake Placid on her own. She always had drive and discipline.

Summers she would train with the Canadian freestyle team at Whistler, Zermatt, Switzerland, Chile. She competed across Canada, and in Japan, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, and Argentina among other places.

She played high school field hockey in her "off season."

As Molly notes, Jacqueline would bring back medals from all over the world but her schoolmates at Southwood would have to pry things out of her. She was not one to brag. "She was very humble," said Molly.

"She would roll her eyes if we ever complimented her," said Donna. "She would feel bad for her friends if she won and they didn't win."

She had three World Cup top 10 finishes and an armlength of other medals. She was a member of Canada's national team for six years.

She believed her height—she was 4'11"—gave her an advantage on the hills, making it easier for backflips. "I'm closer to the snow," she said.

As the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics approached, there were six skiers on the national women's team who were vying for one of three spots on the Olympic squad. Jackie was one of them. Her face appeared on a breakfast cereal box. That's when she suffered her first major injury.

Competing in Finland, they were going from one plane to another. There, in the unlikliest of places, and carrying both sets of skis, she slipped on black ice and severely sprained her ankle. Favouring the injured ankle, she sprained the other.

Shortly after she was to compete in a critical pre-Olympic competition at Calgary. Both of her feet were anesthetized so she could compete. The stakes were high. But she was unable to feel her feet and fell during competition. After years of practice, preparation, sacrifice, victory and defeat, her dream had ended. She retired shorty afterward.

"You learn more from losing than you do from winning," she had said half a dozen years earlier when she was the only woman from Ontario on the World Cup Mogul Developmental Team. Even then she was able to put things into perspective. "It's a goal of mine (the



Olympics) but it might not happen." She came oh, so close.

After her retirement in 2012, she and Crystal Lee started coaching Freestyle Ontario together in 2012 at Beaver Valley in Caledon, cementing a close friendship and sisterhood. Jacqueline coached moguls and Crystal, freestyle.

She also graduated from the Institute of Holistic Nutrition and received her bachelor's degree at the University of Guelph.

While coaching and going to school, she also worked part-time at Fiddleheads Health Store, where she met the love of her life, Scott Brenton.

After a cancer diagnosis in February 2019, she continued to live gracefully, "the most incredible spouse and life partner."

Messages of support came in from around the globe. Cancer finally claimed her on

February 1, 2021, but it never claimed her spirit.

In the early winter of 2024 Scott ventured to Mexico to stay with Jackie's parents on

In the early winter of 2024 Scott ventured to Mexico to stay with Jackie's parents on Jackie's birthday.

Then something extraordinary happened.

At 4:30 that morning Scott couldn't sleep, so he got up and went down to the hotel gym, a gym that would normally be locked at that time. He saw a hummingbird flying around in the gym.

Jacqueline favoured hummingbirds, and since her death, Scott has been reminded of Jacqueline many times when hummingbirds crossed his path, whether in unlikely places like the Yukon, or elsewhere, such as at the gym in Mexico. After it flew around in circles, he opened the door to release it, and it flew out.

"There have been quite a few hummingbird stories," said Donna.

In early 2024 the Freestyle Canada Woman in Coaching Bursary was named in loving memory of Jackie Brown by Freestyle Skiing Canada. She made a lasting impact as a skier and coach, but more importantly, as that rare individual who inspires others.

Jennifer Gaudet

March 15, 1980 -

Jennifer started playing ringette at the age of six when she was living in Edmonton.

"I was at an Edmonton Oilers hockey game with my dad (Glen) and they demonstrated ringette at intermission." It was the first exposure to the sport for both father and daugher.

"Dad, I want to play that."

And that's how both Jennifer and little sister Jacqueline got into the sport that would take them to the very heights of the sport globally. Quite simply, the sisters became two of the best players on the planet.

Jennifer was a huge Oilers fan at the time. Gretzky was at his peak with the Oilers then. He led the team to four Stanley Cups during that era, in 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1988.

Glen, who had coached hockey, signed her up and signed up younger sister Jacqueline the next year. He also began coaching ringette. During the next decade the family grew into the sport together.

"The sport really become spart of your family, and the people you play with. It's such a fun, fast, competitive game," says Jenn.

The family moved to Cambridge shortly afterward and it was in Cambridge where they made their mark on the sport, both nationally and internationally.

During the next two decades, for the general public, at least, it was difficult to separate the sisters; they often appeared together in newspaper articles and in photographs.

"I used to love playing with my sister," says Jennifer. "We know where each other is going to be. We played the same systems and

have the same kind of philosophy about playing ringette."

Among her highlights was the first time she won nationals. It was 1996. "This was the second time I had gone to a Nationals, but that year was the first time I went with my own club team, Cambridge. We represented Ontario. My dad was coaching and I was with all the girls I grew up playing with. That was really special, and I'll always remember that."

Another highlight was being named to the national team program. "Being part of that over the years has been really fun because you play with so many different styles of players (globally), but it's also really challenging because it pushed me to become a better player."

An early highlight was going to the Canada Winter Games in 1999 in

Newfoundland. She and Jackie were on the same team for those Games.

"As we got older, we could play together, but when we were younger we were not in the same age division."

A rare exception happened in 1996 when there was no team for Jackie's age division, so she was able to play up with Jennifer's team.

Playing for Canada at the Worlds was another key moment in her ringette history, as was the three-peat that her Cambridge Turbos accomplished, winning three straight national championships. Both sisters played on those teams, and their father managed them.

One year Rick Mercer put their team on TV's The Mercer Report. Mercer pretended to be Don Cherry on the bench.

As Jennifer grew up, ringette became increasingly competitive and was a yearround activity. When she got to university at Western ('03) she played lacrosse, and also played a year of varsity hockey.

At Western, Cambridge Sports Hall of Famer Anne Benedetti coached her in lacrosse. "She put that lacrosse program together and it was so good because of her, mainly because she was coaching us and playing. She was such a good athlete and an amazing coach."

The team made it to the finals that year.



Jennifer and Jackie Gaudent, left, with Rick Mercer and Cambridge Turbos teammate

Jennifer then went to teacher's college at Brock and currently teaches in Waterloo.

As an adult she's started to try different things like ballet, though her competitive career didn't wind down until 2023. And what a career it was. Most of it was with the Cambridge Turbos.

Jacqueline Gaudet

She repsented Cambridge at the National Championships and won 10 National Championship gold medals. She also won gold medals at the National Championships playing with other teams when her club team did not qualify. She has a total of 12 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 4 bronze medals from the National Ringette Championships.

Jennifer Gaude

As a member of Team Canada from 2002 to 2013, she won one gold (in 2002) and four silver medals (2004, 2007, 2010, 2013) against Finland.

As head coach of the U19 Team Canada west squad (the junior national team) in 2012, she guided her players to a bronze medal.

At the time of her induction, in addition to her teaching career and being a mother, she continues to play ringette, the sport she loves.

Jacqueline Gaudet

May 29, 1982 -

For Jacqueline Gaudet, playing ringette with her sister Jennifer was always a highlight. And like her sister, her career had many highlights, becoming one of the most outstanding players in the world.

With her induction into the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame, she and sister Jennifer join their father Glen as multiple-time inductees, having been previously inducted with

Canadian Championship Cambridge

Although Jackie wore number 14 her first time with the National Team, her number throughout most of her storied career was 18.

While Jenn was a centre forward, Jackie began at defense and then played forward and centre.

Roughly two years younger than her sister, she began skating at age two or three. Soon she too was playing ringette.

She holds a lot of memories playing in local rinks like Karl Homuth, the Preston Memorial Arena and at the new Hespeler arena. As the Cambridge Ringette Association evolved, all the teams became known as Turbos, a name that would one day become synonymous with winning.

In 1996 she won gold at her first Canadian Ringette Championsips, and has attended every CRC since.

Jennifer's age group and team became perennially successful, though Jackie's age group was not always vying for the

"I got to go to a lot of Canadian championships," says Jackie, because I was picked by another team that won provincials to go to the nationals.

She attended Woodland Park Elementary School, Jacob Hespeler Secondary School, and McMaster University

Until she reached age 18-plus, she and Jenn only played on the same team two or three times.

But that all changed when she reached that magic age. Aside from her many vears with the National Team, her career has seen her represent the Cambridge Turbos regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Cambridge won its first championship in 1996 (U16 age group). Jackie was a playing up, and played on that championship

Jacqueline married in 2010 and soon afterward moved to Waterdown. In 2015, 2016 and 2017 she and Jennifer played on the three-time Canadian championship Cambridge Turbos teams that were subsequently inducted into the CSHF. "That was a really good run," she says. "Very exciting and fun." Jackie was pregnant (with daughter Emelia) during the last victory and after playing half the season, went behind the bench to

team with her sister.

The team came close the next year, finishing third, almost doing what those early Edmonton Oilers did-they won four Cups, though not consecutively. Those Oiler teams, with Gretzky, put on a ringette exhibition during intermission that prompted Jennifer to say she wanted to play the game.

The Turbos also played in the IRF-sponsored World Club Championships against the top Finnish club teams. "We won in 2008 at Sault Ste. Marie, and then finished fourth at the

What distinguished the World Club event from the Worlds with the national team was the familiarity amongst all the players; they knew each other far better than did most members of the national team, which drew from the best players across the country.

Like Jennifer, competing in the Canada Winter Games in Cornerbrook at age 17 was an early highlight. The team went undefeated and won gold.

It's such a unique experience watching all sports at that level. I still remember Prime Minister Jean Chrétien giving a speech there at the opening ceremonies. That's when I realized we were part of something big."

In 2002 she tried out-and was selected-for the National team, as was sister Jennifer.



"What a great experience playing with such phenomenal people. That team made me better by pushing me to a new level."

Off the ice, on occasion, people would mix up the sisters, sometimes approaching and talking to one when they thought it was the other.

Her father Glen would often be one of her coaches, but not always,

She was a member of the Cambridge Ringette Association for 34 years. She still plays, though for Waterloo's NRL team; that came about when a friend asked her to come out. She also coaches as part of the National Team coaching staff.

"It's exercise, it's social, and its fun."

As a member of the Cambridge Turbos and/or Team Ontario, she competed in 26 consecutive championships, medalling 23 times; 10 gold, 5 silver, and 8 bronze. She was named a national All-Star 19 times.

She helped Canada win gold at the 2008 World Club Ringette Championships, where she was named to the All-Star line.

At home, she played in the National Ringette League (NRL) since its inception in 2003, captaining the Cambridge Turbos from 2009-2022. She has won many NRL awards in multiple categories: five-time MVP 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2007; Forward/Centre-of-the-Year four times: 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011; three-time Defender-of-the-Year: 2007, 2006, 2005; top scorer 2014 (Scoring Champion 2014).

She captained the Womens National Team three times,, winning her first world title in 2002, and is a six-time world ringette silver medalist.

She's coached at the U16 and U19 AA levels for both Waterloo Region and the Cambridge Ringette Associations. In 2017, her U19 team finished second at CRCs. She was part of the U19 Team Canada East bench staff, finishing second in 2009 and winning gold in 2012. It's been a remarkable run, and it's not done yet.

Melinda Kunhegyi & Lyndon Johnston

Figure skaters Melinda Kunhegyi and pairs partner Lyndon Johnston reached the very heights of their sport, not only in Canada, but internationally.

Kunhegyi, who was born December 1, 1965 in Guelph, made her mark on the international figure skating stage at 16, when she paired with Johnston to win the 1981 Prague Skate championship, as well as the 1981 Grand Prix International St. Gervais event, an annual senior-level international figure skating competition held in Saint-Gervais-les-Bains, France.

Skaters from the Preston club have done well at the event, beginning with Kathy Hutchinson and Jamie McGregor, who won in 1974.

The Kunhegyi and Johnston victory came a year after their clubmates, Lloyd Eisler and Katherina Matousek finished second in this event. A year before Kunhegyi and Johnston, the Preston pairs team of Becky Gough and Mark Rowsom finished second. And notably, Canadians Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini won gold there in 1978.

Eventually Preston pairs teams Christine Hough and Doug Ladret (1985) and Michelle Menzies and Kevin Wheeler (1987) and Lyndon Johnston, with new pairs partner Cindy Landry (1988) would capture gold at the St. Gervais event.

Early in her skating career Melinda began skating with the Preston Figure Skating Club where coach Kerry Leitch paired her with another talented and promising skater by the name of Lyndon Johnston.

That pairing came early on when coach Leitch, recognizing her talent, called Mark Rowsom over and said, "I want you to try pairs with this girl."

It was a tryout, of sorts, for Meinda as she had never skated pairs before. She had come to

leitch's school to improve her figures.

Leitch asked them to do a single axel, something she'd never tried before. they landed it without a problem.

"Well, let's try a double axel,"

said Leitch.

Mark threw her and Melinda landed on her face. It must have hurt like hell.

She got up and came back to Leitch with a stoic look on he face. Others would have had tears in their eyes.

All Leitch had to do was look at her and how she handled that fall. "You're a pairs skater."

No one realized at that moment that Melinda would mature and grow taller, given that her parents were not tall. But when skating with Johnston they broke the mould of a small female skater skating with a taller male skater.

It was like a man and woman skating instead of a man and girl. Together Kunhegyi and Johnston won three international medals, including silver at the Nebelhorn Trophy—named after a nearby German mountain—, an annual international figure skating competition in Oberstdorf organized by the Deutsche Eislauf-Union.

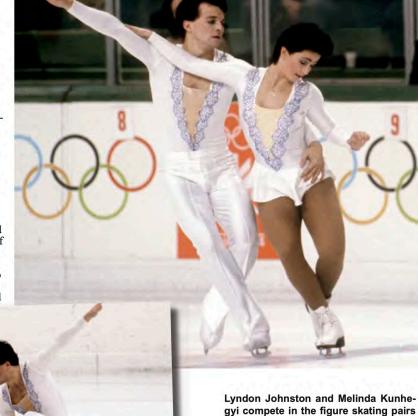
After the Olympics that year they finished fifth at the World

Championships that same year. They were two-time Canadian national silver medalists (1984-Regina),

(1985-Moncton). Figure skating at the 1984 Winter Olympics took place at the Zetra

Olympic Hall in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

They had hoped to finosh higher than 12th that year, but the field was exceptional, with Soviet skaters Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev winning gold, followed by Americans Kitty Carruthers and Peter Carruthers. Fellow Canadians Underhill and Martini finished seventh, while club-



competition at the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympic Games. (CP Photo/Tim O'lett).

mates Matousek and Eisler were eighth.

At those Olympics Great Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the dance competition, receiving twelve perfect scores (6.0), (a maximum 9 of them for artistic impression, the others in the technical merit mark) in the free dance segment of the ice

dance competition, an unprecedented feat.

In their final season together, Kunhegyi and Johnston won silver at the Ennia Challenge Cup and Canadian Championships and placed fifth at the 1985 World Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

Kunhegyi and Johnston won three national titles in Four Skating, taking gold in 1982, 1984, and 1985. Four skating is a figure skating and artistic roller skating discipline in which many world-class skaters have competed, such as Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, but not being an Olympic event, the sport was discontinued following the 1996-97 season at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships.

Melinda retired from competitive skating in 1985, while Johnston continued, pairing with Cindy Landry, with whom he won the Canadian title in 1990 at Sudbury.

Although their time together as a pair was not long, Melinda and Lyndon not only achieved world class results, but beyond that, they were quite extraordinary to watch.

Denise Benning & Lyndon Johnston

The 1970s mand 1980's were the glory years for the Preston Figure Skating Club and few pairs teams rose as high on the international stage as Denise Benning and Lyndon Johnston. Indeed, the pair achieved results at the World Figure Skating Championships that few Canadian pairs teams have bettered.

Their pairs partnership came about at the Preston club following Johnston's highly successful

stint with partner Melinda Kunhegyi that ended with Kunhegyi's retirement in 1985. Benning, born September 1, 1967 in Windsor, and Johnston, born December 4, 1961 in Hamiota, Manitoba, won bronze at both the 1985 NHK Trophy, and the invitation-only 1985 Skate Canada International, which was a prelude to the 1998 Calgary Olympics.

Several former Cambridge skaters have skated well at Skate Canada comeptitions, including both Toller Cranston and Ron Shaver, who both began at the Galt Figure Sakting Club. The list of Sakte Canada pairs victors from the Preston Figure Skating Club is a long one and includes several Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame inductees such as Coull and Rowsom, Hough and Ladret, and Brasseur and Eisler, .

The NHK Trophy, an international, senior-level figure skating competition held as part of the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating series, is hosted by the Japanese Skating Federation.

At the 1986 Skate America competition they won silver, aand were three-time Canadian national medalists (silver in 1986 and 1987, bronze in 1988).

The pair finished fifth at three consecutive World Championships and sixth at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

The pair were also three-time National Four Skating Champions (1986-1988). See the CSHF Inductee plague for Kunhegyi and Johnston for a description of the Four Skate event.

Benning got her start in the sport with the South Windsor Skating Club.

With Johnston, Benning finished fifth at three consecutive World championships (1986, 1987, 1988).

Competing at the Calgary Olymics, on home soil, was a highlight, though not without its

own challenges for Benning.

We were expected to win Canadians that year," she explained, "but I did not skate well. My nerves got the best of me. And so we were third but we were really lucky because they were sending three pairs to the Olympics that year."

Benning was always a good short skater, and loved performing. The competiton aspect was always a challenge for her.

On the eve of the long program, Benning was not sure she could compete. "I went to my sports psychologist and told him I just wanted to crawl into a hole."

The sport psychologist knew what to do. He sat her down with the world single champion Brian Orser.

"Brian, tell her a story."

Orser related a similar story that had happened to him at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics.

"In Sarajevo he had a moment like that, when he got overwhelmed." He was expected to win and the pressure was mount-

What he did the night beforen his long program was he went for a walk and looked at the Olympic flame. He got strength by looking at it and realizing he had trained for this moment and deserved to be there. It was all about the experience and it didn;t matter what was going to happen. He needed to do it for himself, and also for all the people who were supporting him and guiding him along the way.

Banning took it to heart. "That's what I did the next day. I took some time and walked down to McMann Stadium and I stood and looked at the Olympic flame and I gathered a lot of strength from

That evening they competed in the long program. "I used to like to stand at the entranceway before getting on the ice and doing warmups. I really gathered a lot of strength from that, I remember standing at centre ice (just before the program) and I literally looked at a man sitting in then audience and kind of winked

and acknowledged that I was here and let's have some fun.' Johnson and Benning skated a routine that, although not perfect, was something they could be proud of. Ranked fifth in the world,

they finished sixth. And they were the top Canadian team. After the performance "they had this really cool thing called the Intranet where they had these little computer consoles all over the Olympics and you could type in an athlete's name and send them a message. In 1980, it was magical."

It was 1988 and the internet was unknown to most people. That firt message from Benning to Orser was a precursor of what was to come. Only seven years later, by 1995, the internet and the World Wide Web were established phenomenon.

"The first thing I did was I got off the ice and I went to the little computer console and I sent a message to Brian Orser."

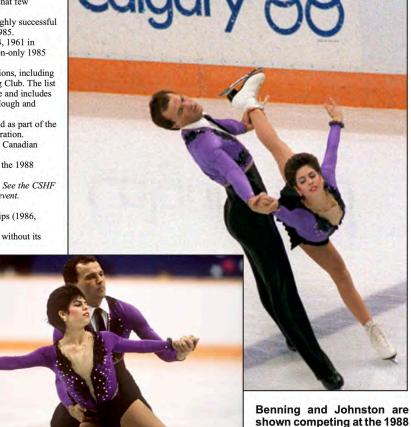
Her first computer-to-computer message on that early Olympic network, was simple. "Thank you," she typed. "I told him I made it and I had taken his advice."

He had helped her clear a big hurdle at an important moment in time. She never forgot it. "To this day, when I really need to remember that I can do things that maybe I'm afraid of, I think of that moment at centre ice (at Calgary)."

She might have thought briefly about how her coaching had been first rate, including that of Leitch and Sheldon Galbraith. About the years of training and sacrifice, the years of fun with her teammates. At then Preston club they had something special, almost akin to a family.

Benning graduated from the University of Windsor with a Bachelor of Human Kinetics degree, where she majored in Sport Administration. She worked at International Management Group (IMG) in Toronto, was the Coordinator of Athlete Programs at Olympic Spirit Toronto, and was an event director at Wendy Kane and Associates. In 2003, Benning was inducted to the Windsor Essex/County Sports Hall of Fame.

As for Johnston, after his successful years with Benning, he had a third act, and arguably his most successful, when he paired with Quebec skater Cindy Landry. They began skating together in late 1988 and won silver at the 1989 World Championships, and followed that up with a gold medal at the 1990 Canadian national championships. They placed ninth at the 1990 Worlds, and then turned professional.



shown competing at the 1988 Calgary Olympic Games.



Noah Brusso 'Tommy Burns'

June 17, 1881 - May 10, 1955

Standing at just 5'7", Tommy Burns is the shortest heavyweight champion in history. Moreover, only Bob Fitzsimmons weighed less in a world heavyweight title fight than Burns.

Born to Frederick and Sofa Brusso on June 17, 1881, on a farm six miles from Hanover, Ontario, in a little log cabin just across the road from his grandparents, he was the 12th of 13 children, though only eight lived to adulthood.

His family moved from the Hanover area to Preston in 1896 after his father had died.

Burns played lacrosse in Hespeler and Galt. He also lived for a time in Hespeler, where he learned to box at a little club led by future postmaster Schultz alongside the western bank of the Speed River.

The late Reporter sportswriter Stan Markarian wrote in a 1980 newspaper story that Burns came first to Hespeler with his widowed mother and his brothers and sisters, where Mrs. Brusso ran a boarding house. That story is in contradiction to other reports, though Noah is known to have lived and worked for a time in Hespeler. It was here, in Hespeler, that Burns began playing soccer with a Hespeler soccer team, according to Markarian. During a game in Drumbo Burns and the village blacksmith fought on the playing field. "Burns lefthooked him in the stomach and followed with a right uppercut to the jaw. The blacksmith crumpled on the ground, his ego deflated and his reputation as the town strong man gone with the wind."

That playing-field victory brought the attention of Hespeler's Chris Schultz, who ran an amateur boxing club at the old waterworks building across the road from the Hespeler Furniture Factory. This was where Burns is reported to have first learned the scientific approach to boxing.

Lary Turner, an archivist with the Hespeler Heritage Centre, related that Schultz was a boot and shoe merchant in the small village before becoming village postmaster in 1904. He was active in the community, and his name appeared often in the *Hespeler Herald* over the years. He continued as postmaster until his death in 1937, operating the post office out of his store at 2 Queen Street East until 1929, when it moved to the new federal Hespeler Post Office building at 74 Queen Street East.

As an interesting aside, the small community didn't get door-to-door delivery until 1971.

Noah was already a tough competitor on the athletic field, but thanks to Schultz, he learned to strategically channel his power within a boxing ring. He credited Schultz with teaching him the science of boxing. No one realized how far it would take the young athlete.

The question of whether the entire family settled first in Hespeler matters little to his boxing career, of course, though local historians continue to seek clarity.

Winfield Brewster wrote in Hespeler New Hope, C.W, that Burns lived in a house the south side of Queen Street next to Pabst's Hotel with his mother and a sister. Turner believes that the Brussos lived in Hespeler before settling in Preston. Whether Sofa Brusso and family lived in Hespeler or not, she soon married (1897) a Preston man, Jacob Kuhlman, but Noah and his stepfather didn't see eye to eye. That's when Noah left.

"I was unable to fit into the new arrangement and reluctantly went my own way," wrote Noah in a section of his memoirs that has previously been unpublished.

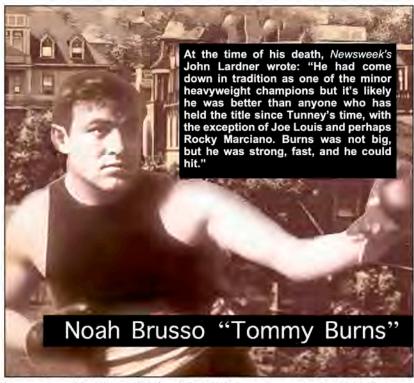
"I was then learning the moulding trade at Clare's Foundry in Preston," he said. The final split for Brusso with his adoptive town came unceremoniously as follows: "After I had worked about three months I purchased a new suit of clothes, with my mother's permission...When my step-father found it out he became very angry and said that I did not need the clothes. This was the final parting of the ways, and for keeps. I left home (Preston) and went to Hespeler and worked in the Brodie Woollen Mills (where American Standard was later located, along the Speed), spinning and weaving cloth."

Today many of his relatives are buried in Preston.

"One noon hour, while I was playing catch with a lacrosse stick, Donald Hall saw me and asked if I would like to play lacrosse with the Galt team," Brusso recalled. "I accepted his offer and went down to Galt. I played with the amateur Galt Lacrosse team, receiving \$25 a week."

In the playoffs Brusso earned a \$50 bonus for each game, "provided I was not ruled off during the game for fighting." The team won the Western Ontario Intermediate Championship in 1898.

The Brussels, Ontario, native was one of Galt's early sports heroes. "He was the



Tommy Burns (Noah Brusso) had early but vital connections not only with the Hanover, Ontario, area, but with Preston, Galt, and Hespeler.

roughest, toughest, fightingest lacrosse player I ever saw," said young sportswriter James Herbert Cranston.

Brusso attributed the cardiovascular endurance he got from playing lacrosse as great prepration for his fight career. But he also participated in other sports. "I did considerable ice skating at that time and twice raced against J.K. McCullough, who was the world's fastest skater."

Bigger things awaited the young man. Before he was finished he would be ranked among the best boxers of all time. Veteran *Toronto Star* sportswriter Milt Dunnell said he was almost certainly, pound for pound, the best heavyweight champion of the twentieth century.

Burns ruled the heavyweight division from 1906 to 1908, first winning the heavyweight title on February 23, 1906 at Los Angeles in a 20-round fight against Marvin Hart. Hespeler's Jack Lawson, a friend of Brusso's, travelled to California to see the fight. He already had a return ticket to Canada, and some loose change, so he put the rest of his money on Burns to win, at what Brewster called "juicy odds."

Burns returned to the southern part of Waterloo County—the place he called home—many times after becoming heavyweight champion of the world, and on one such visit to Preston in 1907, he drove a new red car and sported a flashy suit. He also gave a talk to youngsters at the Galt YMCA and showed moving pictures of one of his title fights.

"It will be Johnson next, "Burns told a local newspaper reporter. They fought in Australia. American writer Jack London, at the height of his fame, was there.

Johnson, the first black fighter to win the heavyweight title, towered over Burns and won the fight. For 14 rounds Burns gamely answered the opening bell, protecting a badly-swolen eye.

All told, Johnson sent Burns to the canvas four times during the contest. In the final round, Burns was knocked down for eight seconds. Police stepped in and ended the fight. It was over. It was Dec. 26, 1908; the first time a black fighter legitimately claimed the world heavyweight boxing title.

Burns died at Vancouver in 1955. At the height of his fame he was feted by hundreds of thousands. At his funeral there were only a handful of people.

Becky Gough & Mark Rowsom

Canadian Junior Pairs Champions 1980

In January 1980 Becky Gough and Mark Rowsom, a Comber, Ontario native (born 1959) were crowned Canadian National Junior Pairs Figure Skating Champions.

Indeed, the championships that year were a showcase for the Preston Figure Skating Club; clubmates Tim Mills and Mary Jo Fedy placed second and Lyndon Johnston and Janice Shompe were third.

But Rowsom and Gough were at the top of their game, finishing first on all judges' cards in both compusory and freeskating programs.

The championships were in Kitchener that year, and the Preston Figure Skating Club pair also competed in the senior competition that was won by Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini. The pair won their first Canadian title in 1979, after locals Sherri Baier and Robin Cowan won the title in 1978 at Victoria.

For Gough and Rowsom, who moved up to senior competition that year, they would finish third in their next two attempts at the Canadian crown.

They began to make their mark nationally in 1978 when competing as novices, finishing second at the Canadian Novice Championships.

They followed that up in 1979 with a silver medal at the Canadian Junior Pairs Championship, finishing behind Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame inductees Lorri Bauer and Lloyd Eisler. At the World Junior Pairs Championships in 1979 Becky and Mark won a bronze medal.

Within the short span of two years they had moved up and were ranked third nationally among seniors, with only Martini and Underhill and clubmates Eisler and Lorri Baier ahead of them.

In 1981 both Gough and Rowsom, along with and Eisler and Baier were nominaed for the Cambridge Tim Turow athlete of the year award, an award that figure skater Ron Shaver first won in 1974. By then Gough was a 16-year-old at Glenview Park Secondary School student while Rowsom, a music major, was in his second year of studies at the University of Waterloo hoping to have a singing career in classical music.

Gough always had designs on coaching, which she did following her skating career. "I'd like to try to pay backsome of what my parents have given me."



Becky Gough and Mark Rowsom, national junior pairs champions, 1980. The pair, along with Preston Figure Skating Club teammates Tim Mills and Mary Jo Fedy, and Lyndon Johnston and Janice Shompe, swept the top three positions that year at the Nationals, which were held in Kitchener.

Bill Bauer

September 16, 1945 - March 18, 2003

In 2007 Bill Bauer was posthumously recognized for his years of dedication to sport in Cambridge with the Don and Benita Rope Sports Contributor Award.

Born just two weeks after the end of the Second World War, Bauer's passion for sports, and for baseball and softball in particular, began early in life.

While he was still in his late twenties, Bauer began coaching the first Preston girls' team in the Preston Girls Softball Association. That first coaching stint began a coaching career that lasted until the end of his life.

In 1977, just a few years after his coaching career began, he was elected president of the Preston Girls Softball Association. He didn't know it at the time, but he would continue in that role for the next two decades.

A year later, in 1978, Bill started up the Preston girls' travel team known as the Preston Pantherettes.



The City of Cambridge had been in existence for only five years at that point. By 1980, Bauer and John Rothwell, who coached girls' softball in Galt, joined forces and amalgamated their two small-town travel teams to form the first-ever Cambridge Girls Softball Team.

That was also the beginning of the Cambridge Girls Softball Association.

The formation of this new Cambridge league became the foundation of one of the first major associations for girls sport in the amalgamated city.

Bauer and Rothwell continued their coaching partnership until 1985, when Bauer took on his third travel team, which



Bill Bauer was recognized in 2007 with the City of Cambridge Don and Benita Rope Sports Contributor Award.

lasted from 1986 to 1991.

By 1994 Bauer was coaching his fourth, and final, travel team, the Cambridge Gorillas.

That team, comprising a bevy of talented players, advanced to the Provincial Championship under Bauer's leadership. In a hotlycontested final game, the team came up short, finishing second in the province.

Bauer continued coaching the Gorillas until 2001.

During his coaching tenure Bauer also coached Cambridge girls baseball teams for a decade in the Can-Amera Games.

Although his teams did not win as many tournaments as Bill thought they should, the talented groups of girls he coached for nearly three decades grew into accomplished women.

Bill died in 2003, and shortly afterward, his years of dedication and coaching were recognized with a Memprial rock, located between Preston Kinsmen diamonds at Riverside Park, the place that was the centre of his coaching life. In 2007 he was posthumously recognized Don and Benita Rope sports contributor award.

His years of effort and dedication contributed significantly to making the Cambridge Girls Softball Association what it is today.



Dave Menary

January 6, 1959 -

Dave Menary's earliest sports memories are of playing baseball under coach John Riddell, but he also spent his winters playing hockey. He contnued his love of sport through his school years, playing a variety of sports at St. Andrews Senior Public School and at Southwood Secondary School, where he played including basketball, volleyball, track and field and football.

"Sports was a big part of my school life," said Menary. "I probably spent too much time playing various sports, but I couldn't help it as I loved the com-

petition. I did manage to make the honour roll when it

counted, which was important to gain admission to university.

As someone pointed out later, there was one sport he did not play: cricket.

He also took part in the first-ever Can-Amera Games, in 1972, playing volleyball with a core group of guys that continued to play with the YMCA team.

'Can-Amera became almost a lifelone activity," he recalls. "it was incredible." He was a longtime member of the Can-Amera board.

He also played on the YMCA inter-club volleyball team while in high school, winning an Ontario YMCA championship.

For the next decade he played Can-Amera volleyball, before a shoulder injury when playing varsity volleyball at university forced him to begin coaching.

But that injury began a chain of events that resulted in surgery mid-way through his second year of university. Things did not go well and his right arm became paralyzed, which led to further neurosurgery.

The entire episode was life-altering, forcing him to abandon playing sports-though he did take up marathon

running-but after being hired by sports editor Carl Fletcher at the Cambridge Reporter in 1989 when he was studying journalism at Ryerson, he began a long involvement as a contributor, serving for a dozen years as a board member of the Cambridge Can-Amera Games committee, and joining a talented and dedicated group of volunteers on the Cambridge Sports Awards committee, including Al Findlay, who became a friend for life.

"I learned a lot from Al, and from my first editor, Carl Fletcher at the Repporter."

Menary also coached T-ball and Rookie Ball with the Cambridge Minor Baseball Association, and ran nine marathons and three Can-Amera torch relays to Saginaw Township, Michigan.

"Running was never my best sport, but circumstance dictated it was all I could do at that point. I have always needed to be active, and it afforded me that opportunity. I'd go out for long runs throiugh the countryside, and when my son was young. I'd run the same routes out to Glen Morris, stopping to show him horses and tractors."

As a sportswriter, first at the Reporter, and then at the Cambridge Times, where he was an editor, he honed his craft of doing interviews and writing stories.

He also began writing his first book, which years later became Brothers of the Wind. But that first book attempt was not immediately successful as publisher's weren't interested in a speed skating book. So Menary turned his attention to a baseball story about the 1949 Galt Terriers.

"I read that Goody Rosen had died," said Menary, "and I knew that Rosen had been a member of that storied 1949 Terrier team. His death signalled to me that soon the other players from that team would be gone. I resolved to interview all the players I could and that became my next book project."

It was the thrill of a lifetime geting to know the players and coaches. Soon the research spread to the Brantford Red Sox, which were the Terriers' playoff nemesis that summer. "As a result of this research, Brantford team president Larry Pennell and I became close friends. He was as fine a man as I have ever had the pleasure to know.

As a result of his sportswriting and his involvements in the broader sports community, Menary got to know many of the athletes and builders of those years. He met and interviewed Gordie Howe, and a host of other well-known athletes such as Ben Johnson immediately after the Olympic scandal.

"It was during those early years that I hooked up with Ed Heather and created a list of local athletes for a flashback series. Then, over the next decade, I did research and interviewed those athletes still living, and wrote in-depth feature stories."

Not all his stories were related to sports figures, but the bulk of them were.

They were almost always local stories though. He was a dedicated ally of local athletes and their accomplishments, taking as much time and effort writing about high school athletes and games as he did about university of professional athletes.

"I always strived to put my best writing into these stories," he said. "I was often getting unsolicited feedback about how some stories touched people—a few readers reported they had been moved to tears at something I wrote-and this always motivated me to do my best.

Cambridge and the local community were always at the centre of everything he did. In 1994 Menary served as communications chair for the World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, an event that was hosted by the Canadian Amateur speed Skating Association and Speed Skating Ontario at the new Hespeler Arena's Olympic-sized ice surface.

He won a few newspaper awards for his soortswriting and editing, and for history stories. Later he would return to school and earn a Masters degree in history from the University of Waterloo.

After writing a feature-length story about local longtrack speed skater Kevin Overland setting a world record at the Calgary Olympic Oval, he sent it in to Sports Illustrated. Senior writer Michael Farber called him a couple of times to encourage him to become a speed skating correspondent in Canada for the magazine and wanted to put him in touch with an editor in New York. But he had a young family and was by then working on Terrier Town, so he never followed up.

What he did do was enlist Al Findlay and Cam Allan, both of whom are now members of the Hall, to help form a committee and begin the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame. That was 1996. City of Cambridge commissioner of community services, Jim King, promised Menary that if he got a commity together, the city would give them the upper room in Galt Arena Gardens, which was being renovated at the time.

"We were completely enthused about the project and spent the next few years recruiting committe members and helping to get the Hall off the ground. After many years, Al and Cam, who were long retired, left. I've stayed on all these years."

He considers the committee members through the years-there have been more than

60 members-friends, and credits them with sustaining and growing the Hall and keeping it relevant through the years.

"Those early years with Cam and Al and our first committees were special times because we were building something and we were totally commit ted to it." He continues to devote countless hours

to the Hall, but it's been a passionthat has

decades. "It's been so much fun, and hard muse that I might have written more books time commitment the Sports Hall takes. But so many great people over the years has been e great pleasure of my life, in addition to my writing and painting."

Still, he's writen several books, including Terrier Town, which won Honourable Mention

at the Foreword Magazine book of the year awards in Chicago in 2004. The winning entry was a newly-published book by the late Mark Twain and American writer Lee Nelson called Huck Finn & Tom Sawyer Among the Indians. Some of the other books have been the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame book, the Great Trees

of Canada, Gordie Howe: A Year in Galt. The River and the Railroad, Brothers of the Wind, and Frederick Douglass in Galt. He's hoping to finish his latest book in 2024 about the 100-year history of Galt Arena.

Menary has been honoured over the years to receive a Bernice Adams Award, the Don and Benita Rope Sports Contributor Award. In 2023 one of his paintings was selected for the juried art show at the Cambridge Art Gallery.





lasted nearly three

work, and I often

were it not for the

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the great pleasure of my life, in



Join us for our Annual Charity "Reunion" Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Brookfield Golf Club

1:00 PM shotgun start!



Only \$160 includes golf, cart, steak dinner, men's and women's prizes, and men's and women's trophies.



Live and silent auction! 50/50 Draw! Texas Mickey Draw!

Featuring Kelly Rudney, 2023 ULD Women's Long Drive World Champion hitting balls for charity.



A tradition of lots of fun!!!!!!

Put in a 4some, or a 2some or a single. We'll pair you up!

Golfer Name	Phone	Email	Amount
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Sponsor a hole for \$100!

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CAMBRIDGE Sports Hall of Fame

Annual Charity Fundraising Golf Tournament Saturday May 25, 2024 at Brookfield Golf Club

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CAMBRIDGE

Sports Hall of Fame





















MATHEW McCARTHY

bridge Turbos ringette players Meghan Pittaway (left), Jenn Wakefield, Vanessa Cowlen and Jackie Gaudet will represent Canada a d ringette championships in Finland next week.

Team Canada Turbo charged

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almost a year and had stopped skating. "I just went down to the rink for a visit, and Kerry called me over to ask if I'd like to try out with Becky," remembers Mark.

Becky is also a singles skater, and skales an additional ten hours per week doing figures and free skating. In 1978 she had her most successful year when she made it to the Canadian Figure Skating Champe



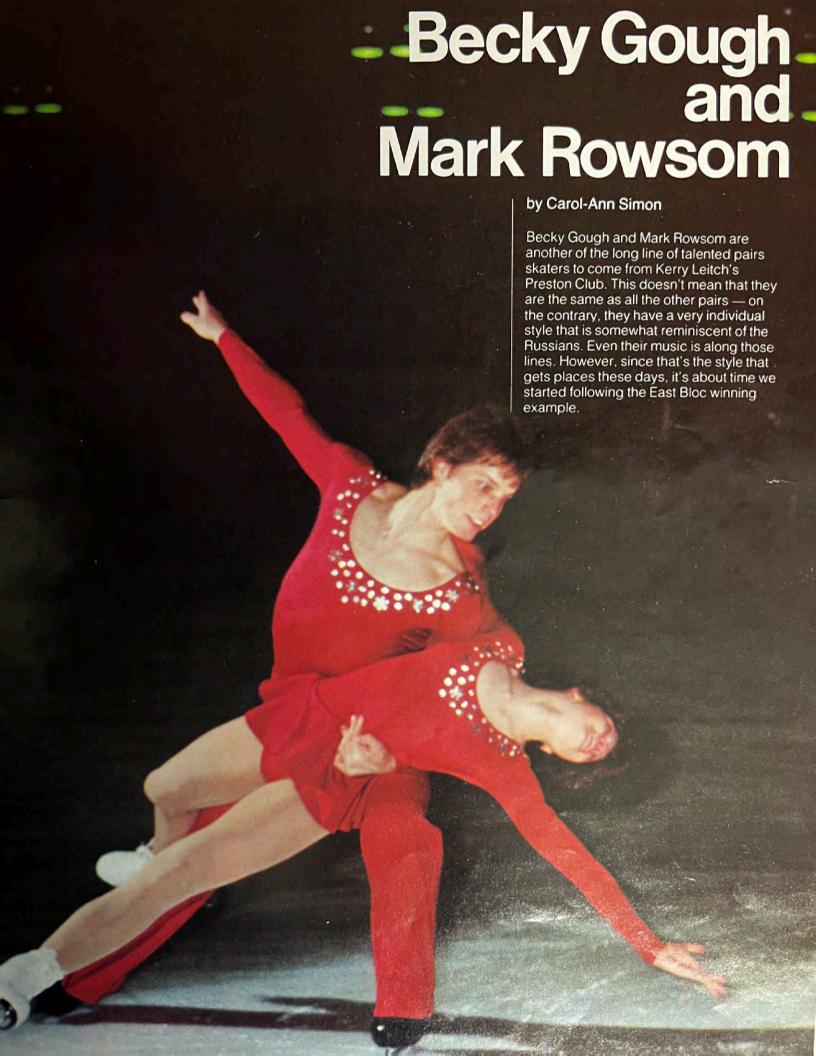
Gaudets are golden

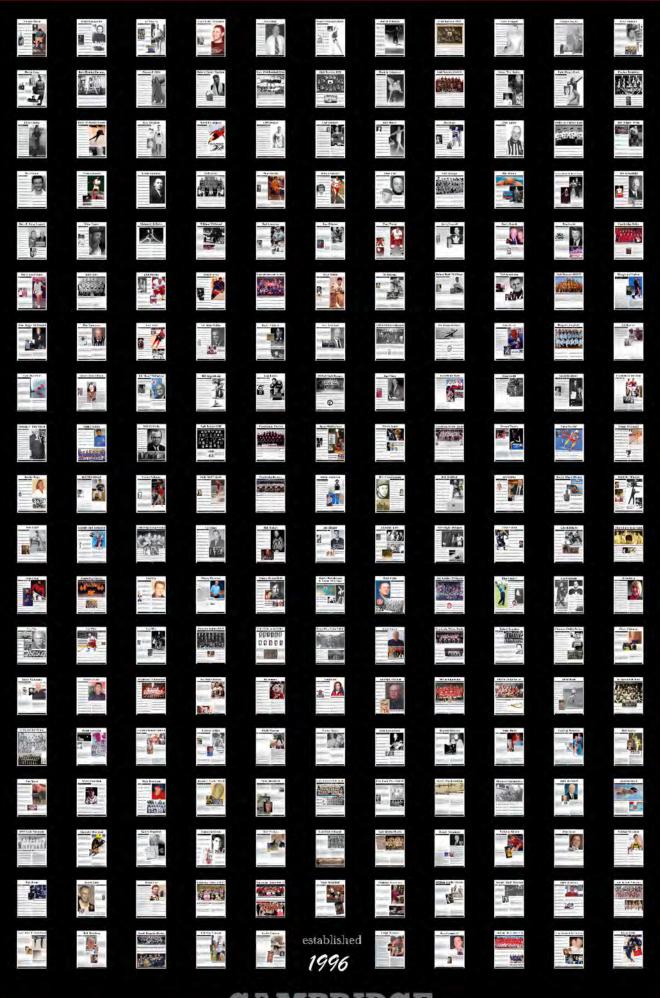
Jenn (left) and Jackie Gaudet returned from the Canadian Ringette Championships on the weekend sporting gold medals after Ontario defeated Alberta 4-3 in overtime in the finals. Jackie assisted on Jodi Jensen's winning goal, while Jenn did her part by scoring the overtime marker in the semifinals against British Columbia.



FILE PHOTO

RETURN TO GOLD: Jackie Gaudet tries to dance through a pair of Lac St. Louis players last season. The Turbos' captain will be wearing the "C" for Canada as the team tries to win gold at the worlds for first time since 2002.





CAMBRIDGE

2023 Special Recognition



This recognition is presented, with appreciation, to:

Al and Linda Robertson

For their longtime "behind-the-scenes" efforts on behalf of the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame



Date

CSHF Chair Gary Hedges

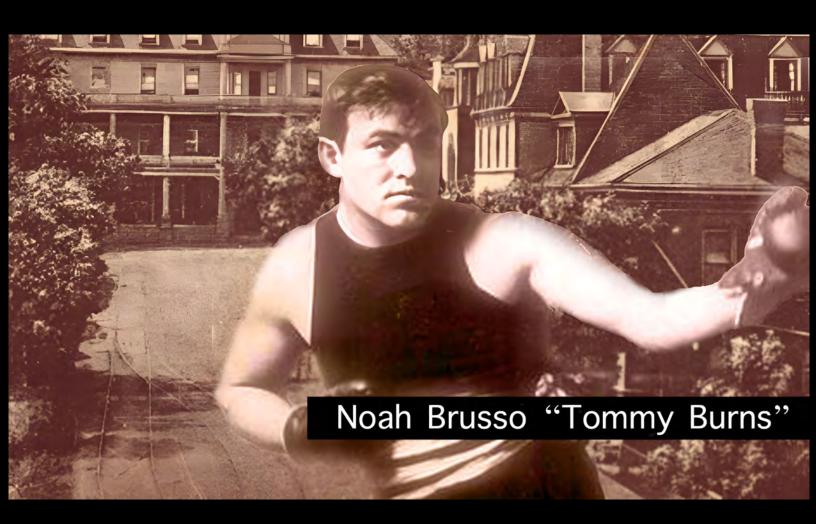
May 6, 2023











CAMBRIDGE

Sports Hall of Fame





Dave Menary, back row, third from left, and the University of Waterloo Men's varsity volleyball team, 1978-79

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Reporter photo by Robert Wilson

MARK ROWSOM and Becky Gough are Tim Turow finalists for the second year in a row.

Consistent skating performers

Over the past three years, Becky Gough and Mark Rowsom have been a consistently competitive figure skating pair wherever they have performed — nationally and internationally.

Along the way, they have also risen from second place in the Canadian novice championships (1978) to within striking distance of becoming the top Canadian duo.

Rowsom and Gough are presently ranked third in that department, behind the defending champions, Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini of Toronto, and Preston Figure Skating Club

team-mates Lorri Baier and Lloyd Eisler.

They also share another distinction with Eisier and Baier — both couples are among the finalists for 1981 Cambridge athlete-of-theyear. The winner of that honor and the Tim Turow Award that accompanies it will be announced November 5 at the annual city sports banquet.

For Gough, a 16-year-old student at Glenview Secondary School, and Rowsom, a 22-year old who attends the University of Waterloo, this marks the second year in succession they have been chosen one of the finalists for the award.

Like most serious skaters, the last few years have imposed a rather unconventional lifestyle on Gough and Rowsom.

The availability of ice time and coaching constantly demands a very flexible schedule at school. As well, their sport requires substantial financial sacrifice from their parents. Both see the latter as a key ingredient—something for which they can only say thank you at present, and work hard to justify.

Rowsom, a music major at

Waterloo, hopes to pursue a singing career in classical music after leaving skating and university.

The younger Gough says, ''I'll probably teach (skating). I'd like to try to pay back some of what my parents have given me."

Tickets for the banquet at the Galt Newfoundland Club are available through Community Services, 73 Water St. N. (623-1340), from members of the banquet committee, or from any of the following outlets; Bank of Montreal Main St. branch, Donaldson Travel, Stager Real Estate or Gamblis's Esso.





GOUGH, ROWSOM FINISH SECOND

PRAGUE (Reuter) -Becky Gough, 15, and Mark Rowsom, 21, of the Preston Figure Skating Club finished in second place at Prague Skate, an international figure skating competition held here yesterday.

Gough and Rowsom, with 3.2 points, were well back of the winning East German team of Birgit Lorenz and Knut Schubert who had 1.4 points.



Third place went to a pair from the host country Czechoslovakia.

Josef Sabovcik of Czechoslovakia edged Daniel Beland of Montreal to win the men's singles title. His victory helped Czechoslovakia win the team championship. They had six points, one better than Canada. The Soviet Union was third with 10, followed by Japan, 17, and Australia and Poland, 18 each.

The Glace Bay, N.S. dance pair of Gina Aucoin, 21, and Peter Ponikau, 19, placed third with six points. Yelana Garanina and Igor Zavozin of E the Soviet Union won the competition with two points, followed by Jana Berankova and Jan Bartak of Czechoslovakia with four

points.

Canada did not send a woman skater to the competition and the United States Figure Skating Association, citing financial reasons, boycotted the event.

The competition is one of



and Jackie Gaudet left for Regina yesterday to join Gloucester, representing Team Ontario in the 20 nampionships. Action at the tournament got underway today.

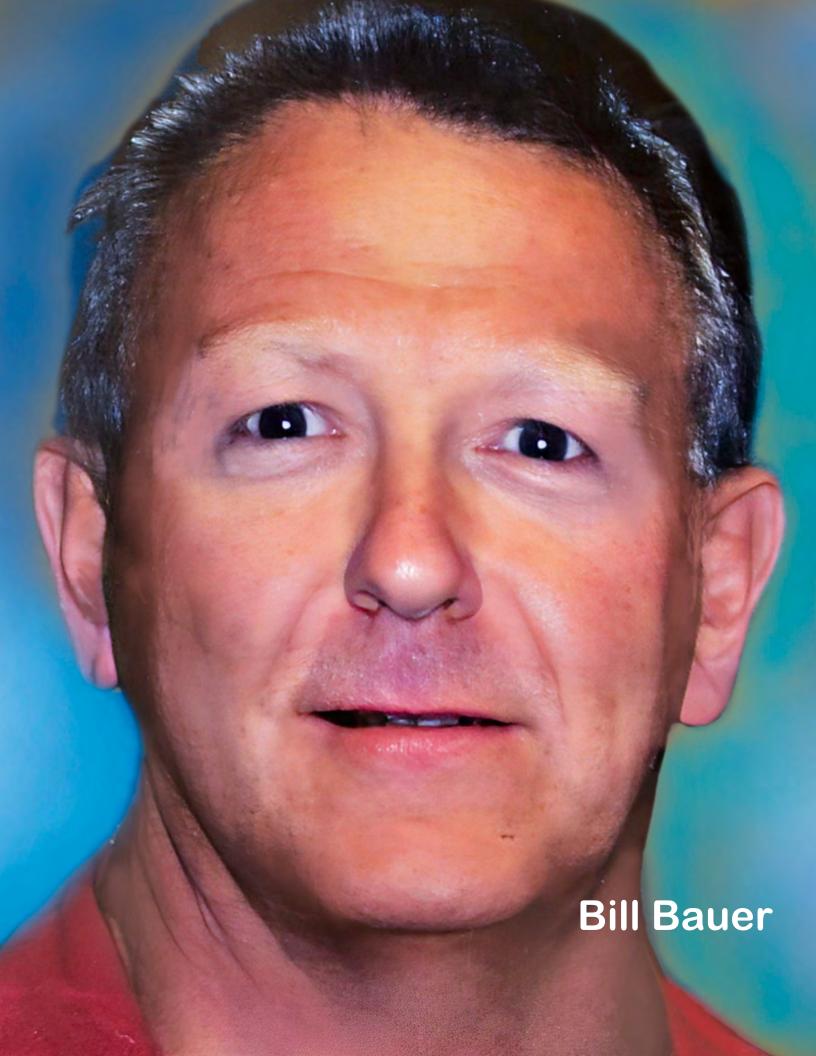
Gaudets trying to pture fourth nation itle in Saskatchewar



Jackie Brown

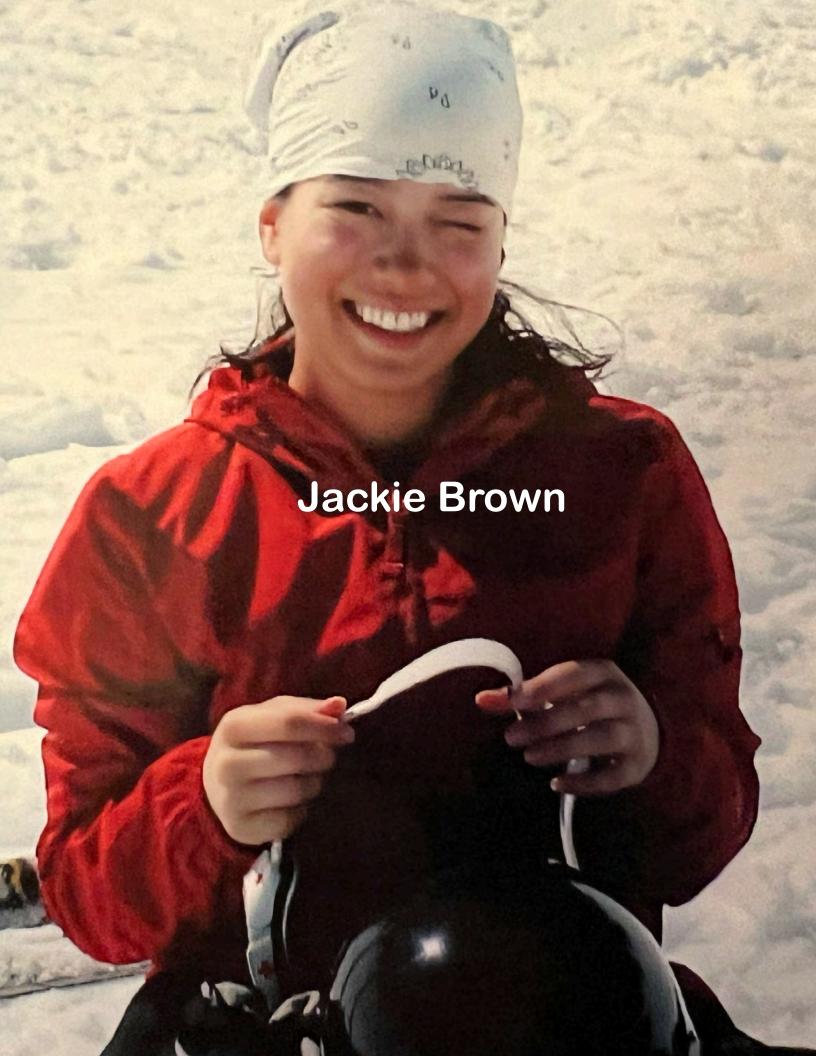




















Join us for our Annual Charity "Reunion" Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 25, 2024 at Brookfield Golf Club

1:00 PM shotgun start!



Only \$160 includes golf, cart, steak dinner, men's and women's prizes, and men's and women's trophies.



Live and silent auction! 50/50 Draw! Texas Mickey Draw!

Featuring Kelly Rudney, 2023 ULD Women's Long Drive World Champion hitting balls for charity.



A tradition of lots of fun!!!!!!

Put in a 4some, or a 2some or a single. We'll pair you up!

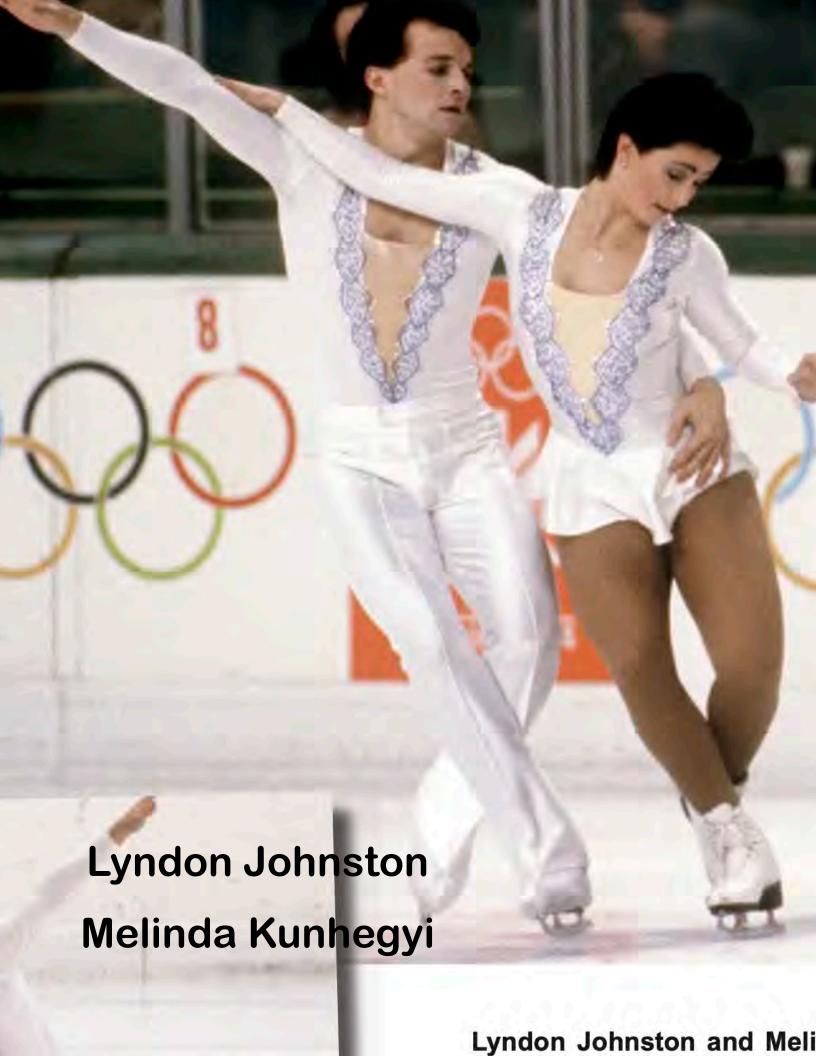
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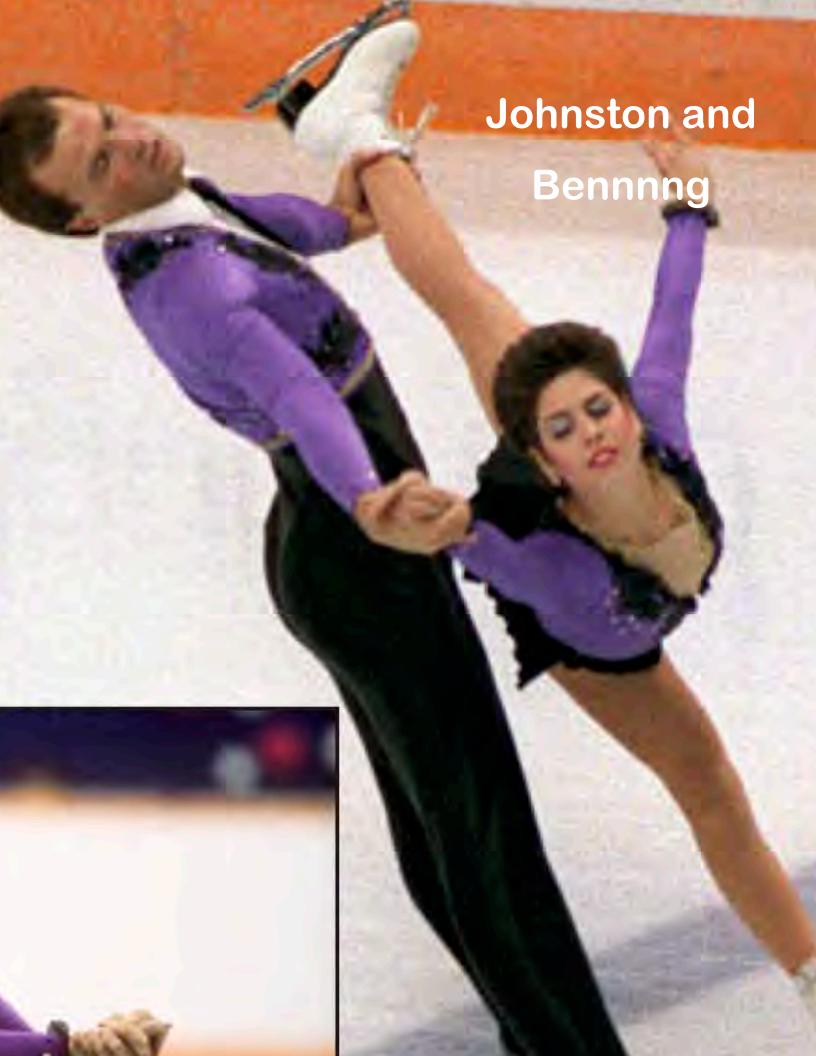
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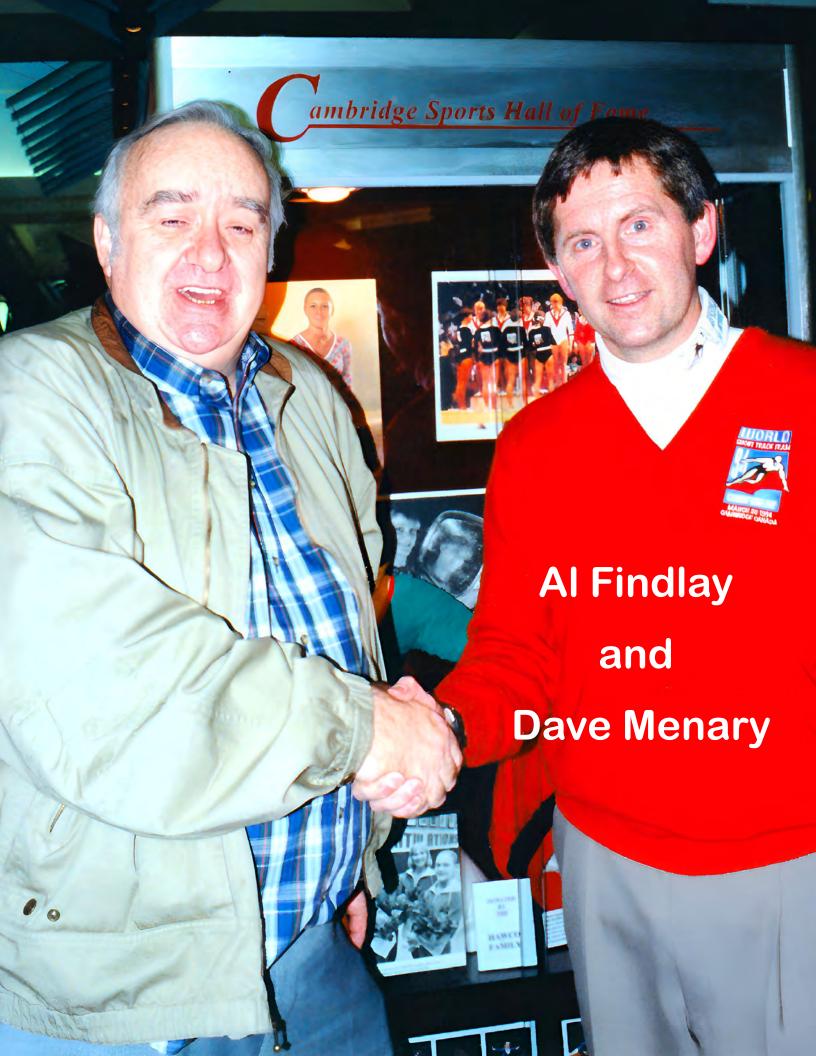
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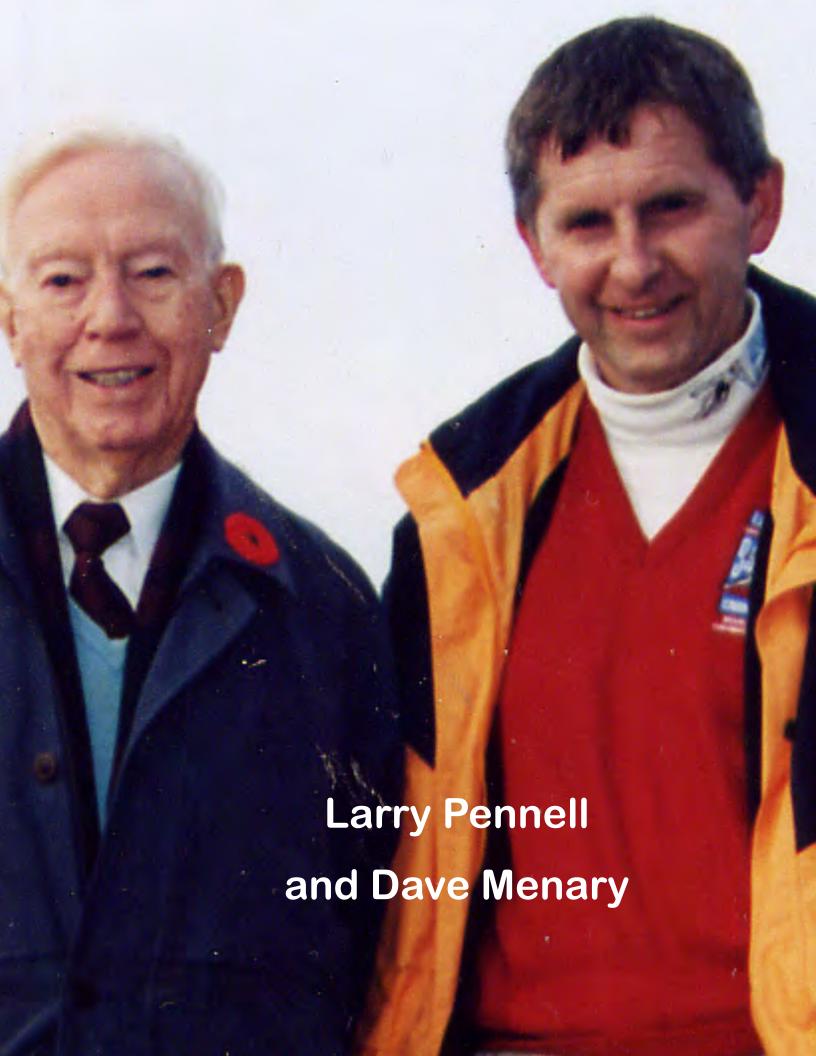














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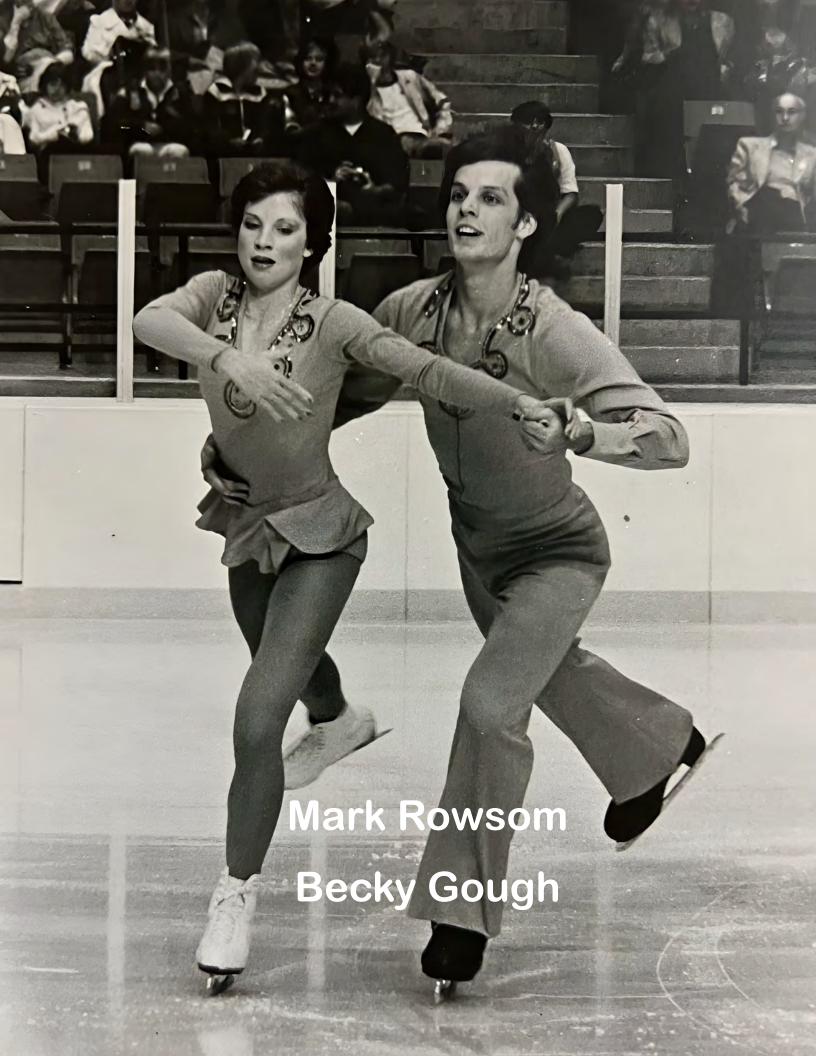
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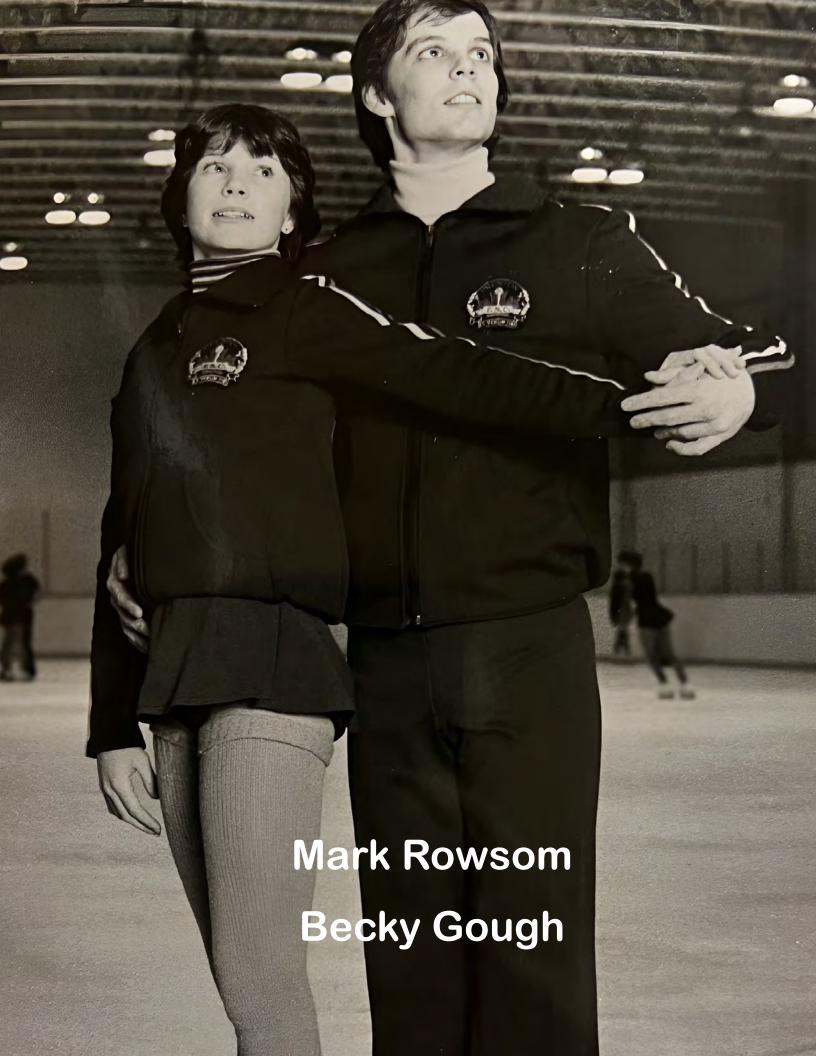
















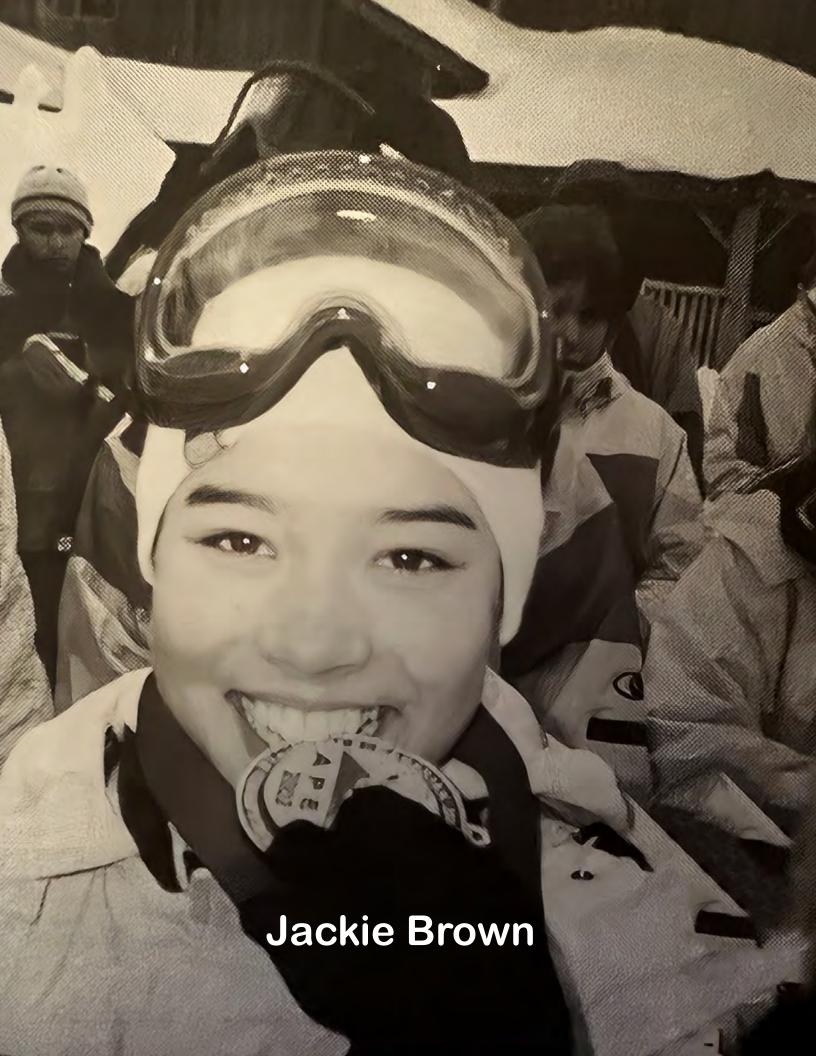


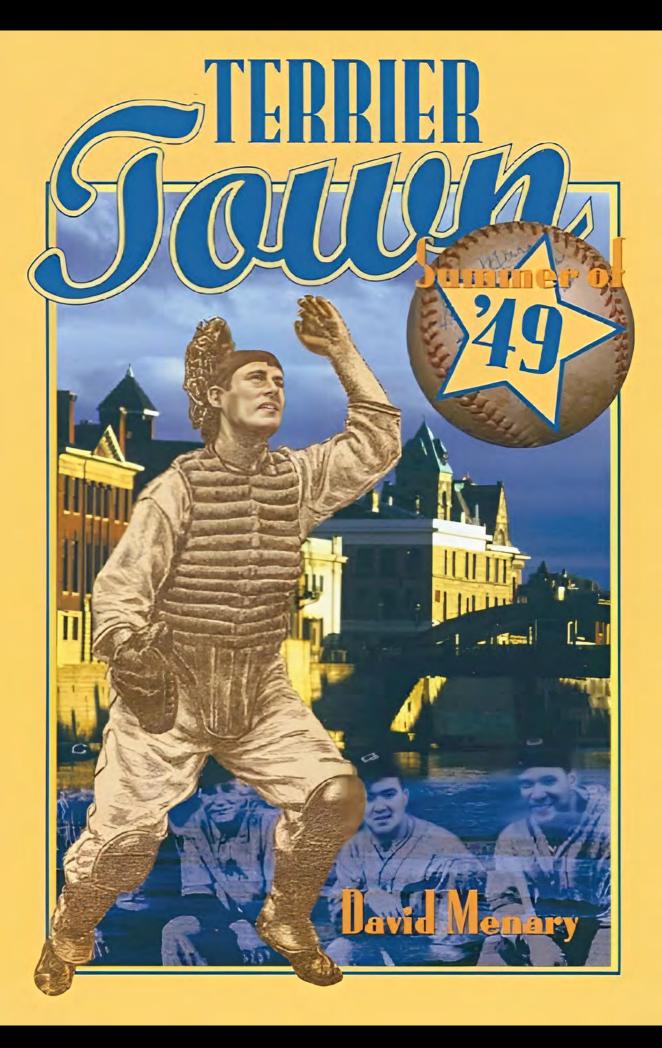
CAMBRIDGE Sports Hall of Fame

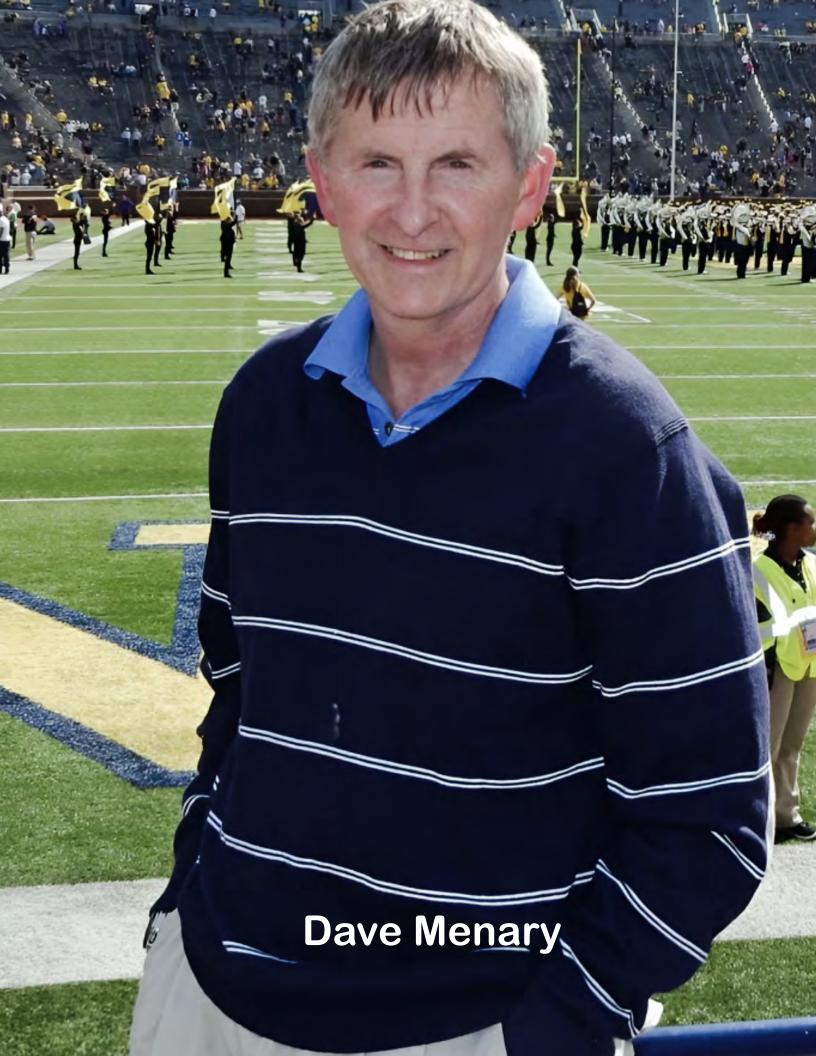
2023 Induction Ceremony

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 1 P.M. CAMBRIDGE CENTRE

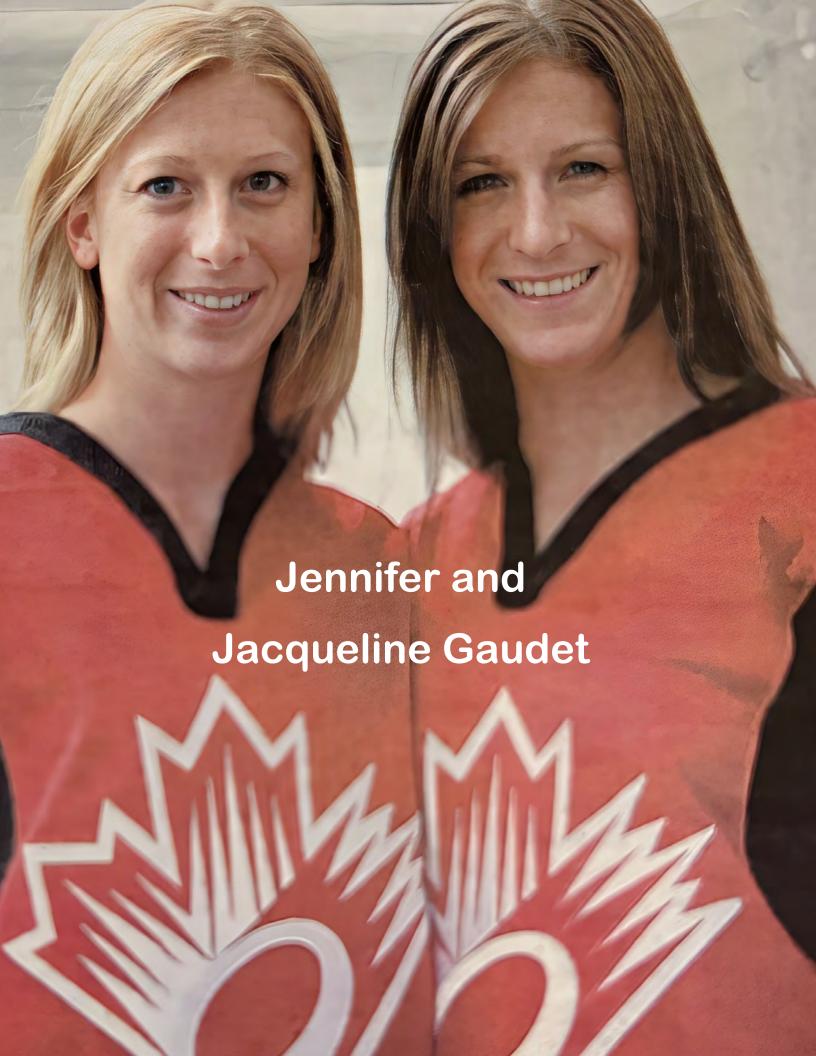


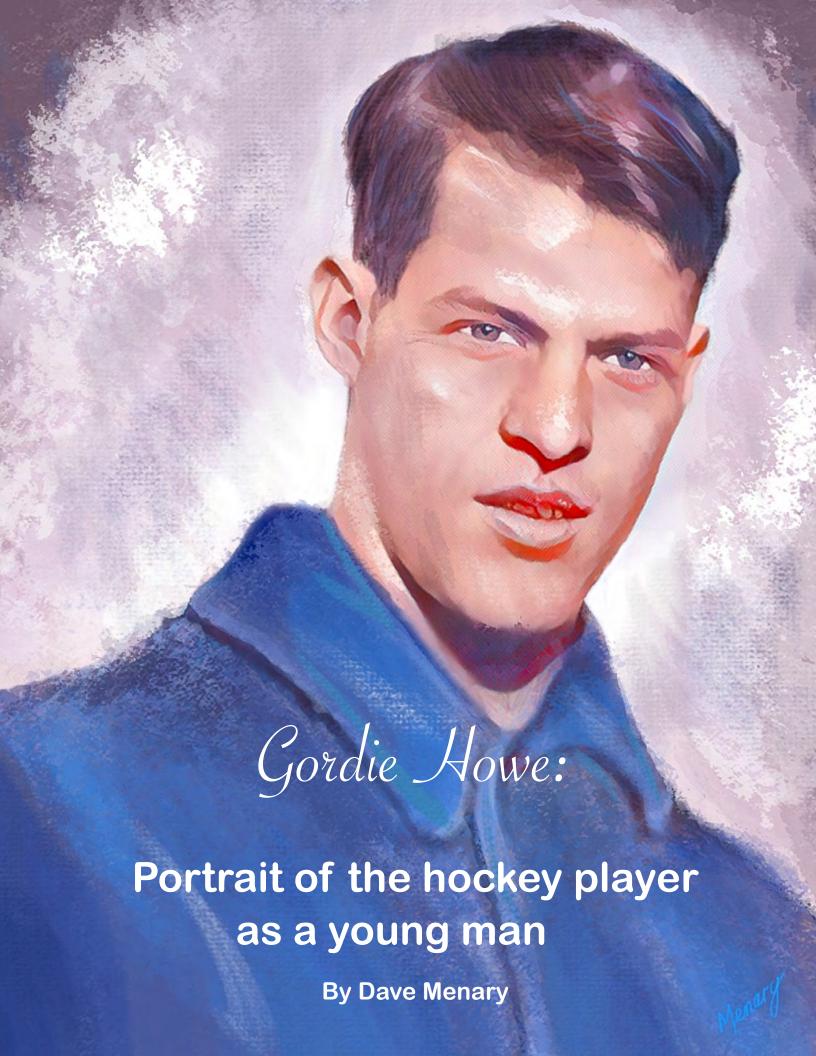














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SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 1 P.M. CAMBRIDGE CENTRE