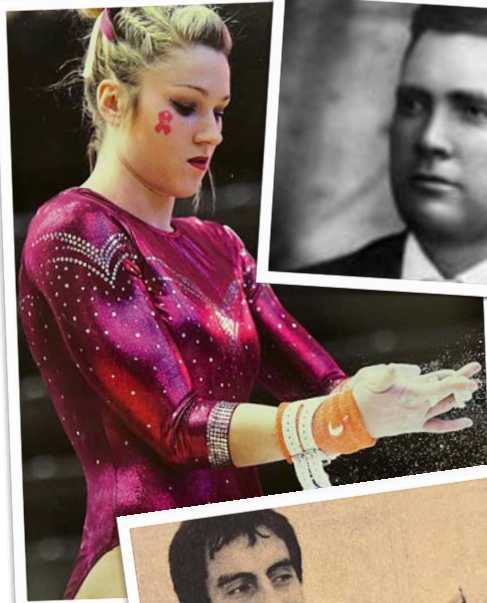


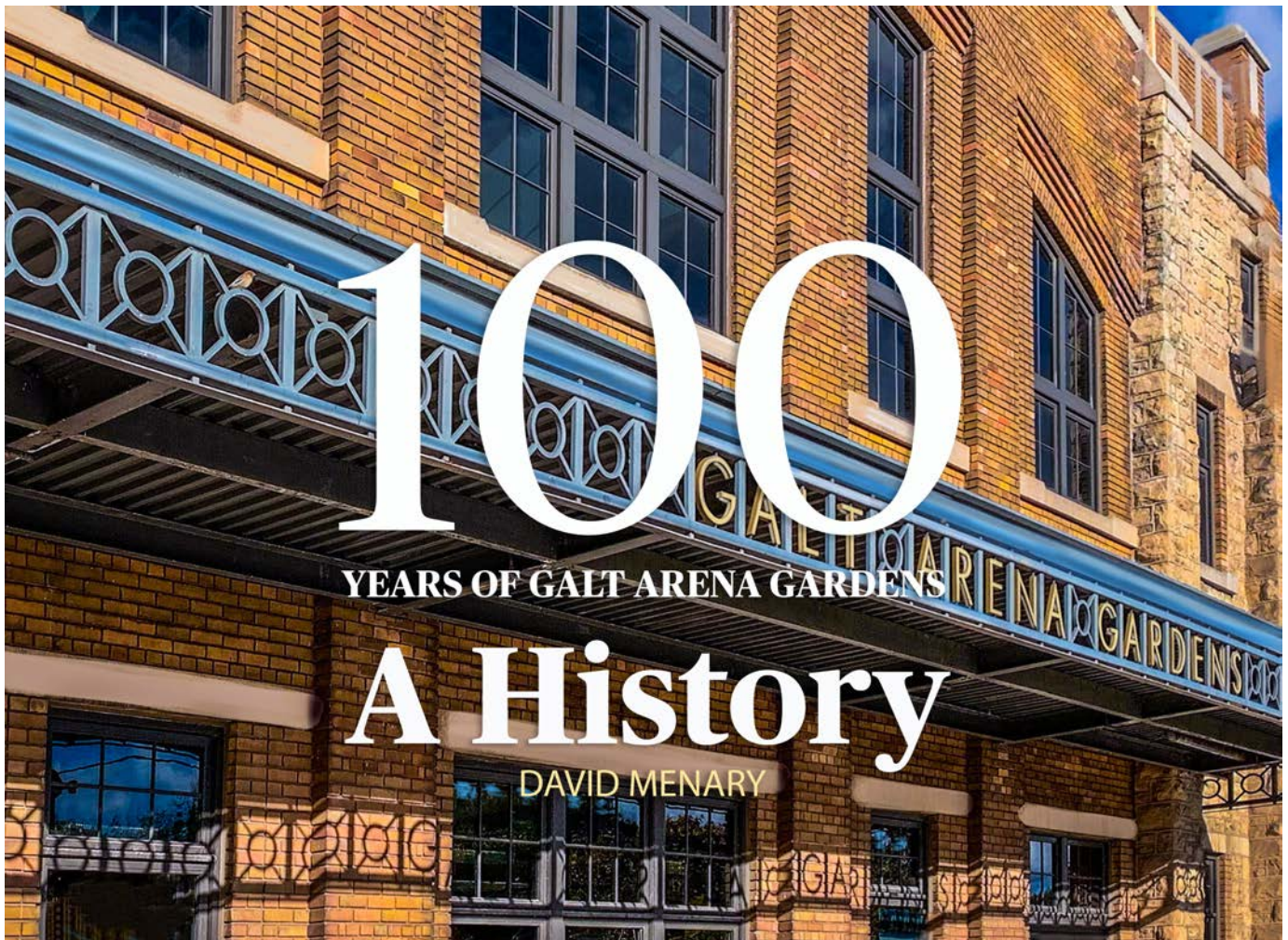
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May 7, 2022

Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame

2022 Induction
Cambridge Centre





Celebrate Galt Arena's 100th on June 18, 2022

New book coming this summer: visit www.ithappenedincambridge.com

Most biographers of Gordie Howe, Terry Sawchuk and Bobby Hull pay scant attention to them having played junior hockey in Cambridge. Nor are they inclined to mention the arena they played and practiced in, Galt Arena Gardens.

But today that arena is celebrated as the oldest continuously operating rink in North America, if not the world. Also known as the Shade Street Arena, Galt's rink was essentially completed by the end of 1921, in time for the home-opener on January 20, 1922, when the Galt Intermediates, reigning Ontario champions, would host the nearby Preston club.

Galt was an industrial Scotch city of 13,000 at the time, presbyterian to its core, and sat on CPR's main line connecting Montreal and Chicago.

Galt Arena, despite some difficult times, has gained prestige with the years. Today, as it celebrates its 100th year (101 if you're really counting), it has endured, somewhat miraculously, when others have not, making it unique not only in Canada and North America, but around the world as one of the oldest hockey rinks still going.

Nearly 4,000 spectators crammed into the arena on that cold January night one hundred years ago to watch the hometown Galt Terriers defeat Preston 5-0. Not only was the contest billed as "the game of the season," but for Brantford architect Frederick Charles Bodley, it was one of his finest hours. The arena was not quite finished, but workers had been going at a feverish pace to get it ready for the opener. Tarpaulins offered modest protection from the Arctic-like air that evening at the west end of the rink, where most of the Preston fans were seated.

The new arena, both architecturally and practically, was considered one of the province's finest ice palaces. It was similar in general appearance to The Arena in Ottawa, where Galt played twice for the Stanley Cup a decade earlier. In those days the hockey season typically began with an exhibition on Christmas Day, and concluded in late March.

The public is invited back to the arena for an all-day celebration on June 18. Check the City of Cambridge website for details.

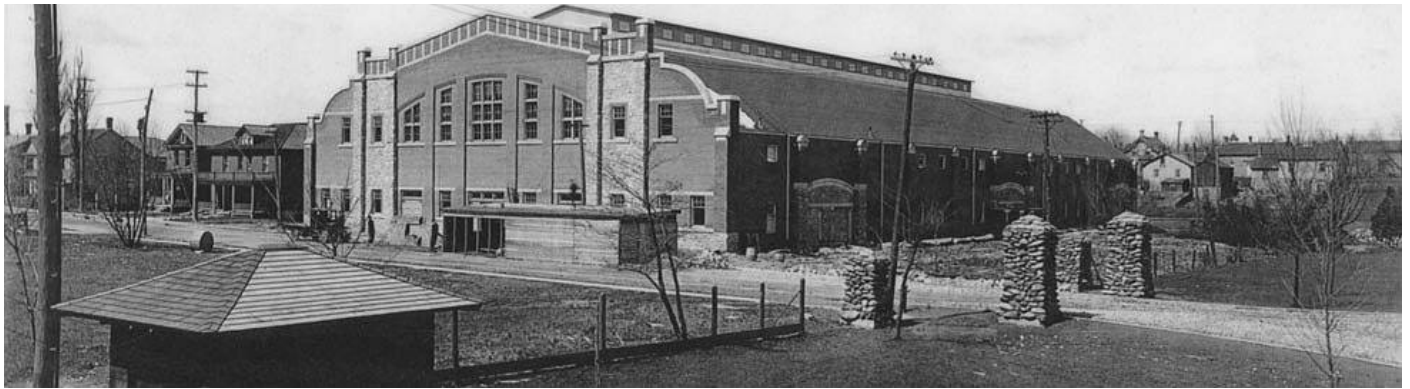
Join us for our annual “Reunion” Golf Tournament May 28 at Brookfield

Since the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame was born in 1996, and from the time of our first induction in 1998, the CSHF committee has comprised volunteers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they worked in new ways to maintain the Hall and ensure our inductees were duly honoured. Last year our induction ceremony was held via ZOOM, which makes this year’s in-person induction at Galt Arena Gardens all the more significant.

We are also looking forward to resuming our annual “Reunion” fundraiser in the form of our golf tournament, to be held May 28, 1 p.m. at Brookfield Golf Club. We welcome everyone to enjoy this fun-filled day. Please register by visiting our website for further details at www.cambridgeshf.com and looking under Events. Cost is only \$130 and includes golf, cart, steak dinner, men’s & women’s prizes and trophies, as well as a \$1,000 USD Hole-in-One contest and a Live and Silent auction and 50/50 Draw! A tradition that's lots of fun! Participants receive a sleeve of CSHF golf balls, a CSHF divot tool and tote bag. So put in a 4some, or a 2some or a single. We’ll pair you up!

You can also call Gary Hedges at 519-240-6962 for additional information.

This year we're celebrating our inductees by holding our induction ceremony at historic Galt Arena Gardens. Nicknamed Shade Street Arena, it turned 100 in January and is believed to be the oldest continuously-operating arena in the world. In addition to the superstars connected with the building, other well-known names like locals Scott Walker and Kirk Maltby played there, as did familiar names like Marty Pavelich and Peter Conacher. Other world-class athletes based there include figure skaters Toller Cranston and Ron Shaver, and Olympic speed skaters Derrick Campbell, and the Overlands—Kevin, Cindy and Amanda.



Galt Arena, circa 1921.

Photo provided by Cambridge Archives

Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame Committee

The 2022 CSHF committee consists of: Chair - Gary Hedges; vice-chair - Bob Howison; Bruce Bevan, Dean Bevan, Jim Cox, Bob McIver, Dave Menary, John Morton, Al Pederson, Paul Ross, John Rothwell, Kurt Walter, Dave Willock, Ted Wilson.

Anne Benedetti

July 06, 1976 -

Anne Benedetti's induction into the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame marks her as one of the few father-daughter combinations—Patti and Don Rope were the first—who have been honoured by the Hall.

"I cannot even express how moving it is to be inducted with my father," said Anne. "I have always strived to walk in his shoes in every way including in his sports career and it is hard to believe that this is actually happening."

Anne, a multi-sport athlete throughout her formative days growing up in Cambridge, was a decorated university athlete while at Western and Queen's.

In her earlier years she excelled in softball, speed skating, basketball and soccer, but only discovered lacrosse while at university.

While in grade school she played basketball with the Kitchener Boys Youth travel team, and during high school she was a point guard for the Cambridge Basketball girls' travel team.

Benedetti not only led her basketball team to the provincial midget title but was twice named to the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* five-person district high school all-star basketball team, an honour she also earned three times during her high school soccer career.

In her six years with Cambridge Basketball she was also named to the provincial Minor and Junior Development Teams which represented the Central West Ontario Region.

She was also a provincial champion short track speed skater, winning her first Ontario title in 1985. In 1986 she skated with Derrick Campbell, and Kevin and Cindy Overland to win the Oktoberfest International Speed Skating Championship in Kitchener.

She followed that up with another provincial short track title in 1987.

It was at Queen's University, where she played varsity basketball, that she discovered lacrosse. Soon it became her favoured sport. From 1998 to 2000 she captained Queen's University and was head player-coach, leading the team to back-to-back OUA titles.

During her first season with the team, in 1998, she was recruited to play for Team Ontario, which she did until 2006.

In 1999, during her final season at Queen's, she was named the Queen's Journal Athlete of the Year. That year she was the league's top scorer, a conference all-star and league MVP.

She also joined Team Canada, where she played seven years (1999-2005) as a mid-fielder.

A role model for young women, in 2000 she was named to the Canadian Association for Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS).

In 2001 she played for Team Canada at the World Cup in England, where her team finished fourth, losing to host England in the bronze medal game.

Following her academic and athletic career at Queen's, she began studies at Western for her law degree, where she was also player-coach for Western's lacrosse team.

Given her background in sport, she was selected to be clerk for the Ad Hoc Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) at the Manchester Commonwealth Games, assisting staff in running the court, and aiding the arbitrators with any legal or procedural questions arising during the Games.

In 2003 she was named Western's outstanding female



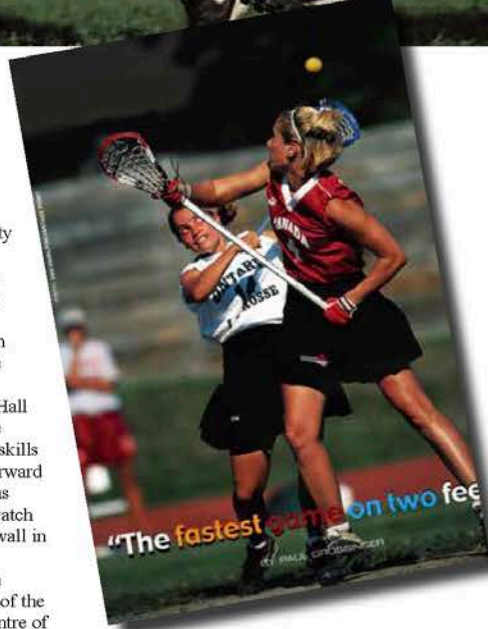
scholar athlete and the following year was invited to study at Oxford University, where she obtained her Master's of Law degree.

That year she joined Oxford's Lacrosse Blues, helping them win the British Home Nationals. She also toured with the British Universities Sports Association National Lacrosse Team and was named player of the year for the Oxford varsity team.

Her contributions to sport, as an athlete at home and abroad, and as a coach and builder, helping to develop lacrosse at a grass-roots level by running lacrosse training and development camps for youth and by officiating lacrosse throughout Ontario, are broad.

Benedetti was named to the Western Mustangs Hall of Fame in 2019. "My time at Western, both in the classroom and on the playing field, taught me the skills and gave me the courage I needed to take leaps forward in my life. The fact that the opportunities that I was given at Western led to a moment where I could watch my children find my picture on the Hall of Fame wall in Alumni Hall still feels like a dream."

As a practicing lawyer in for Goodman's LLP in Toronto, she served for six years on the executive of the Federal Board of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).



Inducted 2022

Madeline Gardiner

January 27, 1995 -

Maddie Gardiner's gymnastics career began at an early age—she was three when she joined the Cambridge Kips—and she loved the sport from the start.

"I just did gymnastics because I thought it was fun," she said.

She tried swimming, but the water was too cold. Ballet was fun, but gymnastics was "cooler," and different from other sports. Gymnastics had the four events or disciplines, "so you got to do something different on each one and there was a different focus on each one. I felt very powerful, I felt like I was flying, but I still felt like I could dance and this was still a 'pretty' sport."

As she grew, her natural ability, not to mention top-notch coaching at the Kips, helped her reach the national team by age 11. She won silver in the vault at the event finals of the Voronin Cup in Russia in December, 2009, and earned bronze in both the bars and floor at the same meet.

At Elite Canada that year she won gold on the beam, and at the Gymnix meet in Montreal the following year, she won gold in the all-around event finals and individual gold in the beam and silver in the bars. At the Canadian Championships two months later, in B.C., she won the all-around silver in the senior division, and then represented Canada in the inaugural World Junior Olympics in Singapore that August.

"Gymnastics combines a lot of fun aspects of different sports together. I liked the challenge of it, that I was always learning new skills, and it was also a very individualized sport."

She never really patterned herself after other gymnasts; she loved the sport for how it made her feel. "I understood that I was never going to do gymnastics like Yvonne Tousek or Crystal Gilmore." She was in the sport for the fun of it. "I just loved doing the gymnastics. I trained hard and worked hard, and Elvira (Saadi) is a wonderful coach and she made me very good."

By the time of the 2012 London Olympics, where she was named an alternate, she was at her peak as a gymnast. She was ecstatic about making the team—"It was quite an honour—but the sport had become more of a job, while the fun aspect seemed to be diminishing."

"When I did go to the Olympics, my high school years were a lot more work than they were fun because at that point you're training 25-30 hours a week." And balancing school with a demanding athletic schedule that involved travelling for weeks at a time. There were trips to Australia, a month in China, a month in Japan, competitions in Singapore, Qatar, and Russia. "So it was less of doing gymnastics for fun and it was almost like it was my job at that point."

She loved travelling with the national team, and there were new cultures to experience.

Her time at GCI, although not the typical high school career, was great. "They (my teachers) were wonderful to me. They were very supportive." As were her parents and family.

Her father was a math teacher at the school and would drive her to practice at lunchtime twice a week. She would stay at the school, it was love at first sight.

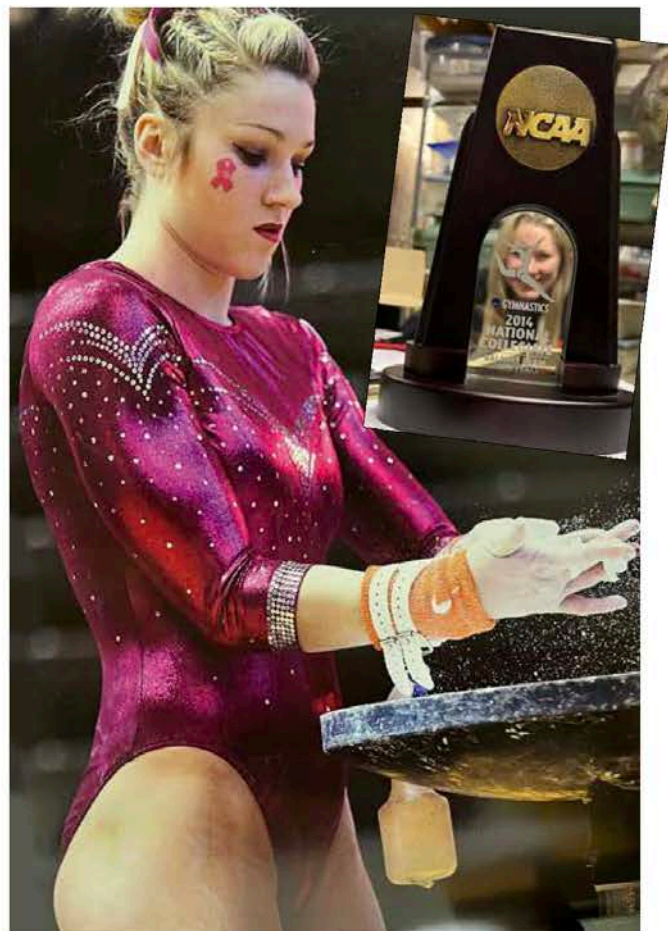
"I did not have a great experience at the Olympics," she noted. "Team Canada is not good to their alternates." As an alternate, she was not allowed into the Olympic Village, even though alternates from other countries were. Years earlier, at the 1992 Albertville Olympics, speed skater Derrick Campbell, an alternate, lived in the Olympic Village and wore the same Olympic uniform and sweats as other team members. For Maddie, she was expected to buy Olympic outfits at the Bay. So there were mixed emotions for her in London.

Shortly afterward, she broke both wrists in the gym, not wearing her wrist braces, and spent eight weeks in casts. But during that time, she realized that although she didn't want to continue in Elite gymnastics, she wasn't ready to give up the sport. She was only 18.

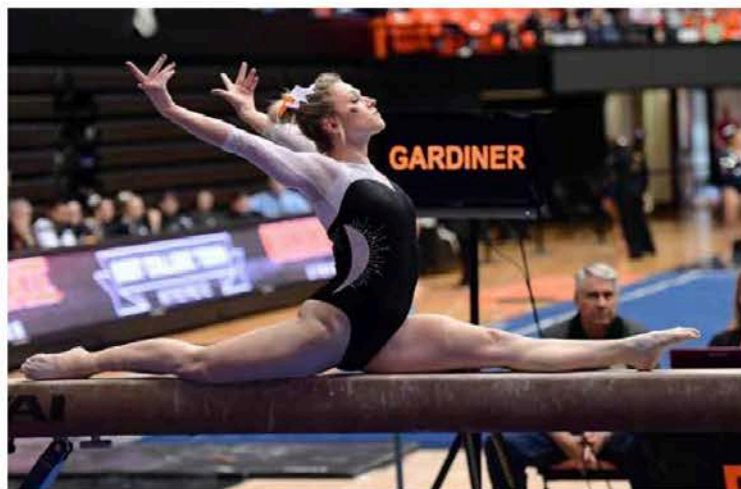
A friend who attended Oregon State University suggested she get in touch with them. After an official visit to the school, it was love at first sight. "I loved the coaches, the girls were lovely, the city was lovely even in January. It was really far away but it didn't matter." Gymnastics became fun again. "I loved college gymnastics and I love Oregon State. It was the best five years of my life at that point." She excelled athletically, but also academically. "I felt valued and felt like I belonged. My very last routine was on the beam at the National Championships in 2017 and I nailed it. My coach gave me a big hug and we were all in tears. It was a fantastic way to end it all."

Her parents visited often, and met up with her when she came east to compete.

There were many high points—twice finishing third in the beam at the nationals and being named female athlete of the year—but it also gave her a good footing for a medical career. After graduating from Oregon State in 2018 she took a fast-track nursing degree at the University of Toronto, graduating in 2020.



Maddie Gardiner had many highlights during her gymnastics career, including being named to the Olympic team in 2012, and being selected Oregon State's female athlete of the year.



Inducted 2022

William Ainslie Melross

November 4, 1886 - April 1944

When oldtimers in the mid-1900s gathered to talk about Galt's greatest athlete, the name Ainslie Melross invariably entered the discussion, right up there with Normie Himes, who was later named Cambridge's athlete of the twentieth century by the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame.

Like Himes, Melross was an all-around athlete, excelling in both hockey and lacrosse, among other things.

Ainslie was the fifth of seven children—his brother James evidently died during the San Francisco earthquake—born to James (1850-1901) and Hannah (Evans 1853-1918) Melross. James was a native of Glasgow, Lanark, Scotland, who ran the "Scotch House" dry goods store on Main Street, which he established in September, 1886, a dozen years after arriving in Canada. The store was two stories in height and situated in the heart of downtown Galt, with a large and well-selected stock of staple and fancy dry goods.

A newspaper article of the day described the store: "In the short time Mr. Melross has been in business in Galt, his trade has wonderfully developed, and now extends throughout the town and surrounding sections of the country, the business comparing favourably with any of the old established houses in town."

A town councillor in Beeton, Ontario, in Simcoe County before coming to Galt, he employed six people.

Ainslie married Florence Graham. Their grandson, Tony Wight, recalls his mother (Ainslie and Florence's daughter Gertrude) talking about Normie Himes with respect and admiration.

Melross first travelled west by rail to Calgary as a teen, forsaking Winnipeg, where his father had wanted him to 'land' and work. Out west he found work as a cowboy and with AlbertaTel, helping establish a network of rural lines.

Eventually he married Florence Graham of Galt and for a time they lived in a house on Memorial Drive by the Bow River, where Gertrude was born. Ainslie played hockey and lacrosse and worked as a cowboy on the famous Bar U Ranch southwest of Calgary.

Years after he returned to Galt, he and Himes ran a footrace against each other in the alley behind Main Street. Himes was then in his prime. Melross was in his forties.

The race drew enough attention to be included in the next issue of the *Reporter*, with the headline 'Normie' Beats Mel.

"The *Reporter* was just in time this morning to see an exciting seventy-five yards sprint between two of Galt's most famous sports, Normie Himes and W.A. Melross, in which the former, in spite of having the advantage of being several years the junior of his opponent, had to extend himself for all he was worth in order to win. The "course" was in the rear lane of Main Street, between Jack Tait's hardware and Sloan's grocery, which owing to the greasy state of the pavement, was the cause of Normie going down on all fours at the first attempt. Jack Tait, who figuratively speaking held the pistol, got the two sprinters off to a good start at the second attempt and they both shot down the lane neck and neck at a terrific speed until close to the finish when Normie put on a burst, which landed him the winner by about one yard, his time being 7 3/4 sec., whilst Mel's was 8 sec."

Melross's daughter Gertrude seems to have taken after her father, being active in a variety of sports, including basketball, tennis, skiing and swimming.

The family attended Knox Galt Presbyterian church, like the Himes family.

Melross starred in lacrosse and hockey in the early days, long before the NHL, when lacrosse was a popular spectator sport in Canada.

In Ainslie's time, the sport was rugged and popular among Canadian boys. Mel left a legacy of stories and feats, wrote *Reporter* sportswriter Stan Markarian.

"Inactivity never appealed to Mel. Before his death at age 57 in 1944, he had crammed into his life other careers such as that of a polo player, hockey player, cowboy, bronco buster, ranch manager and musician."

Gifted as a hockey player, his reputation as a lacrosse player with the Calgary Lacrosse Club, perennial winners of the Western Canadian Professional Lacrosse League, spread across western and eastern Canada from his playing days in the west, "a reputation that has remained indelible in the memories of those who played with him and others who witnessed his wizardry."

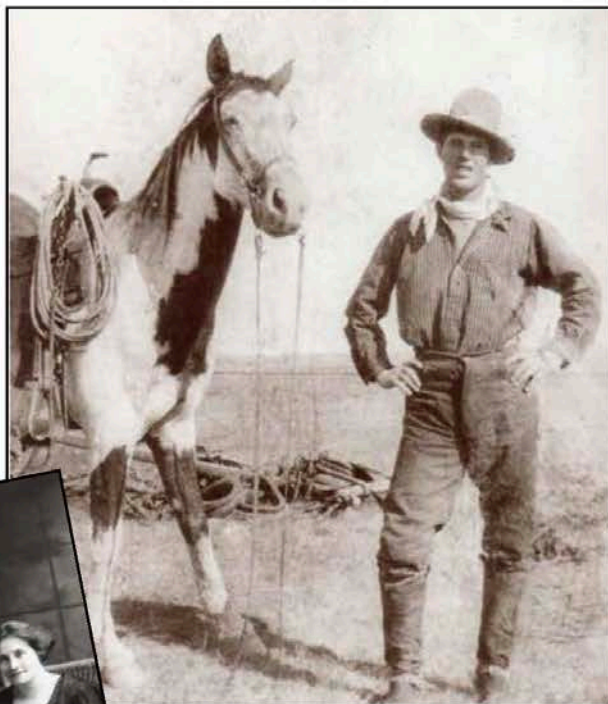
In addition to working at the Bar U, he also spent time as on ranches in B.C. and Montana, and competed at rodeos throughout western Canada and the U.S.

He learned to play polo, a sport introduced by wealthy English ranchers—the Prince of Wales bought the ranch adjacent to the Bar U—and became so good that he toured Canada, the Yukon and Mexico playing on Canada's best teams.

But he also played professional hockey in the winters in Calgary, Medicine Hat, High River and Stettin.

During a hotly contested lacrosse game at Medicine Hat he was severely injured when he took a blow that burst his appendix. The injury almost proved fatal as he developed peritonitis, hovering between life and death. As he recovered, he returned home to Galt.

Once back on his feet, he resumed the sport, playing with the Toronto Lacrosse Club in the Ontario Professional Lacrosse League. But the lure of the west



William Ainslie Melross, top, standing with his horse at the Bar U Ranch southwest of Calgary near High River and Longview, about 1910. At left, Ainslie is at the rear, with his wife Florence Catherine Melross (nee Graham) seated, and Gertrude Elizabeth Melross (later Wight), left, Thomas Graham Melross (VP at the Gore), and front, Joyce Dalzell Melross (later Stone).



called him back and he took a managerial post at the Bar U, and continued his hockey and lacrosse careers.

Following the Great War he returned with his growing family to Galt, settling down to a career in real estate and insurance—he also sold homes in the early days of the Forest Hill Village, which later amalgamated with Toronto—and joined the Hamilton Tigers Lacrosse Club which won the Ontario Professional League title. Among his teammates was Preston's A. Anderson, as well as two others who gained renown in hockey circles—Hap Day, and Carson Cooper, both later inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

In Galt he captained the Galt Amity Hockey Club and was a member of the Galt Kiltie Band and trombonist with the HLI Brass Band. His musical talents took him on tour in Ontario with several dance orchestras, which he later directed.

Back home in Galt, after his professional playing days were done, he played with teams in Kitchener and Hespeler, where his teammates included three future mayors of Hespeler—William S. McVittie, Jack Courtney and Allan Wilford. By then, he was by far the oldest member of the team, but his teammates praised his skills. "He had silver hair but he still was the best player on the team," said McVittie. "He knew how to handle the ball and was an excellent receiver."

But he also mentored the younger players, teaching them how to play. Said Courtney: "He was a super athlete, fast as a greyhound." He was characterized as a player who scored lots of goals but took few penalties. "He loved the game and was a gentleman too."

Another teammate, Lloyd 'Toots' Sudden, said Melross was the hardest working man on the team. "He ran like a deer and few caught him."

He lived at 42 Blenheim Road (formerly the Galt Old Ladies Home) after having resided on Melville Street during the Depression, where his daughters Gertrude and Joyce shared a single pair of dancing shoes and utilized their baking skills door to door to help the family survive. Once, when a deer escaped from the old animal pens at Galt's Victoria Park, not far from the Melross home on Blenheim, Melross was able to use his cowboy skills to good advantage, lassoing the stray deer.

Years later, when his son Graham was on a business trip to his birthplace in Calgary, an elderly man remarked that he once knew "a fantastic lacrosse player named Ainslie Melross. Perchance, are you related?"

Melross, one of the city's greatest athletes, is buried with his wife at Mount View.

Inducted 2022

Joseph 'Josh' Wayper

Oct. 8, 1858 - Dec. 2, 1915

'Josh' Wayper was a longtime and well-known Hespeler resident and hotel owner, but his biggest claim to fame was his skill as a marksman.

Born in Durham, England, in 1858, he later owned the Queen's Hotel in Hespeler where his many shooting trophies and stuffed animals were displayed. He was also a co-founder of the Hespeler Gun Club, formed in 1883, and was active in the club for many years.

Wayper and his father—Joseph Wayper (Sr.), who was born February 14, 1824 at Hamsterley, Durham, England—were hotel keepers at Hespeler's Queens Hotel, at the corner of Queen and Guelph Road.

Winfield Brewster, who wrote several books chronicling local history, noted that the Waypers arrived in Hespeler from a hotel at Guelph Junction on the Grand Trunk Railway. Before that, they ran an establishment "east of Elora in the country."

Brewster tells a good yarn regarding a goat owned by Wayper wandering along one spring morning when Christian Pabst, who was supervising construction of the Queen's Hotel, was sitting back in his chair leaning against the bar wall reading his newspaper when he dozed off. "Just then came along Wayper's goat (which) grabbed the paper out of his hands," and sped away up on top of a stone pile out back, where the goat proceeded to eat the paper "amid the imprecations of the old gentleman in his native German."

Around the time the Waypers arrived in the Hespeler area, it was common for young men to enlist in volunteer infantry units.

Rifle-shooting had long been popular in British North America and was encouraged by the government of Canada in the years following Confederation. Shooting matches were social events; they were fun and competitive, and were also seen as manly and patriotic.

The Dominion Rifle Association held its first national championship in 1868, but even before this, the National Rifle Association of England had invited British North American teams to compete at its annual championships, first at Wimbledon Common and, after 1890, at Bisley Common.

Canada's federal government funded a national team to compete in England from 1872 through the turn of the century.

By 1869, two years after Confederation—Hespeler's population was 767 in 1867—a drill shed and rifle ranges had been erected at present-day Milling Road, leading to the formation of local shooting associations and annual shooting competitions. Wayper excelled in these shooting matches and together with other local sharpshooters Peter Jardine, John W. Gilchrist and John Limpert, represented Canada at the National Rifle Association matches in England.

In those early years the first shooting range was on the northwest corner of Fishermill and Guelph Avenue, where shooters fired at iron plates on the hillside; the plates were painted white with a black bullseye and rings.

Wayper's Queen's Hotel has a long history, and appears as "The Tavern Lot" on a plan dated 1846, before the Waypers arrived in the area. From 1866-68 Stephen Flynn ran the hotel, followed by Michael Haller from 1868-1871, John Fields (1872-73) and James Baker (1874-86), who called it "The Baker House." It was after this that the Waypers took over.

Josh's father died May 1, 1904 at the Queen's Hotel, while his mother, Hannah Wilson, who was born Christmas day 1824 in Durham, died January 28, 1909, in Hespeler. The two were married at Weardale in Durham County in the autumn of 1845.

Setting up in the hotel business at a place like Hespeler was not without its



Josh Wayper

difficulties in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Anywhere alcohol was served, whether it be at a barn-raising or at a tavern, fights and disagreements were not uncommon.

On a December night in 1894 a drunken man named Jim Crane drove his wagon and team of horses into mill pond above Holm's Mill. They all perished. Wayper was charged and convicted for his part in allowing the deceased to drink to excess. Substantial damages were awarded to the destitute Crane family—there were three girls and a boy in addition to Mrs. Crane. Wayper was ordered to pay her \$300 in damages, while the other hotel proprietor, Thomas Hunt, was ordered to pay \$600.

Following this, hotel proprietors were careful to restrict the flow of alcohol consumed by their customers.

Shortly before this incident, Wayper founded the Hespeler Gun Club—it was formed in 1883—and was an active member for many years. The Hespeler Rifle Association was dissolved following the First World War. The Hespeler Gun Club was discontinued in the 1960s.

In 1896, Hespeler's four-man team, led by Wayper, won the Ontario championship, breaking 94 of 100 clay pigeons. In 1901, Wayper was Canadian wing shooting champion, killing 199 of 200 live pigeons to equal the world record. He was also a three-time Canadian trapshooting champion and won the Ontario championship gold medal several times.

In addition to local shooting matches, some of the top marksmen would attend the annual matches in Toronto and Ottawa, and then the best among them would represent Canada at the National Rifle Association matches in England. Wayper was a member of the Canadian team that went to England for the Bisley competition. Over the course of his career, Wayper also won many minor events.

Wayper was an active hunter; his hunting exploits were often reported in local newspapers, along with social news. On one occasion Wayper and Tremayne, also of Hespeler, along with Mr. Homuth of Preston, Dr. A.C. Jones of Kilbride, and B. Brown of Carlisle, all members of the Hespeler club, hunted on the Moon River in Muskoka, having arrived there from Penetanguishene. Despite Wayper's skill as a marksman they had poor luck with the deer on that outing, bagging only three, "but they more than made up for this by their success with rarer game." Dr. Jones killed a bear, as did Wayper, while Brown killed a wolf.

Wayper will be forever associated with Hespeler, but so too with nearby Puslinch Lake, where he owned several cottages. In an April 12, 1907 story appearing in the Galt Reporter, Wayper was described as having made preparations for the erection of his own large summer hotel. Over the years Wayper participated in several pigeon shooting matches at the lake in the winters. After the match the losing side treated the winning party to supper at the hotel.

Josh Wayper, an Anglican, died in 1915 and is buried in Hespeler's New Hope Cemetery.



Inducted 2022

John Hancock

November 26, 1950 -

Some towns and cities are known for their athletes, but a strong argument can be made that Preston High School seemed to be a breeding ground for sports broadcasters.

John Hancock is one of several prominent locals who established a long career in broadcast journalism.

"My dream since childhood was to do play-by-play for hockey and baseball," he said. "I always did play-by-play during the street hockey games I played with my friends on Highland Park in Preston."

Born in Galt, Hancock grew up in Preston and attended Preston High School, where he would later be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

For Hancock, his career with CBC was a dream come true. After high school he attended the broadcast journalism program at Conestoga College and eventually went on to work for CBC, where he covered every Olympic Games from 1980 onward. The Athens Games in 2004, marking the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympiad, was his ninth Games.

Although he was born at the advent of the television era, from an early age he had an affinity for sports broadcasting.

"I also used to hit stones out into the water with a baseball bat while at our rented cottage in New Liskeard pretending it was a baseball game."

Hancock would write down all the names of the ball players on a piece of paper at his side as he hit the stones into the lake. "The farther I hit them, the bigger the hit; home runs were the most difficult. Most kids liked swimming, I liked hitting stones into the water like I was a batter hitting pitches."

When at Conestoga, he made his entry into the profession that would become his life's work.

"My earliest foray into broadcasting was at the age of 19 providing some colour commentary for Galt Hornets senior hockey games with CKCO sportscaster Bill Inkol."

Another PHS graduate, who, like Hancock before him, studied radio and television arts at Conestoga—Randy Steinman—was also helped along the way by Inkol.

"It was great working with Bill during my first few months at Conestoga College. I approached Bill about helping him with his broadcast of the Hornets games in 1970/71, the year they won their second Allan Cup."

At college he was sports director for the college station CKER, and gained experience with Central Ontario Television (CKCO-CKKW-CFCA) in radio operations, then began two years in news and sports. That's when he began doing colour commentary of OHA Senior games with Inkol. He also did newsroom election coverage, wrote commercials and did on-air news and sports. He also gained experience, while at college, with CBC Toronto, as well as with Junior A hockey games in Kitchener.

"My first full-time job in broadcasting after graduating from Conestoga in 1973 was as an all-night host of a country and western show simulcast on Kitchener radio stations CKKW/CFCA." He lasted until Christmas. "I didn't know a lot about country music (and didn't like it). I remember the first song I played, *Try a Little Kindness* by Glen Campbell. I used to get into trouble with the programmers for deviating from country to rock or other genres."

From 1972 to 1978 he worked at private radio stations in Hamilton, London, Kingston and Wingham as news reporter, editor, sportscaster and sports director. This included Kingston's CKLC Radio, where he began a regular phone-in sports talk show with guests like Harry Sinden and Montreal Expo VP and GM Jim Fanning. During that time he also wrote a weekly sports column for the Kingston weekly paper.

In 1978 Hancock began with CBC National News and Sports in Toronto, where he also prepared an investigative report on the Olympic installations at Lake Placid, which was broadcast on The World at Six.

In 1979 he covered the World Speed Skating Championships in Quebec City for CBC National Sports.

In March 1980 Hancock joined CBC Radio 940 and Montreal's sports team where he began as sports commentator on Daybreak and Quebec A.M. He also contributed features to other radio and TV programs, and was to have been part of the CBC Radio team covering the 1980 Moscow Olympics, which were boycotted by Canada and several other western nations including the USA.

His first Olympic experience was earlier that year when he covered the Lake Placid Winter Games in New York. In 1984 he worked the Los Angeles Olympics, and in 1988 covered both the Calgary Winter Games and the Seoul Summer Games, where local runner Doug Consiglio competed, and where Ben Johnson gained notoriety.

In 1996 Hancock co-hosted CBC Radio's coverage of the Atlanta Olympics. "I called play-by-play of the gold medal won by Canada's Donovan Bailey in the 100 metres race at Atlanta," he recalled. "An under-10-second play-by-play. Nerve wracking!"

He was a reporter and host at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics in which locals Luke Sauder, Kevin and Cindy Overland and Derrick Campbell, all competed.

Like most broadcasters, Hancock's job was not to make the news, but report it, though he turned the tables on at least one occasion when he made national headlines.

Hancock typically delivered his cross-country sports report from Halifax, and he and CBC Ottawa's morning show host, John Lacharity, were engaged in some friendly banter when Hancock's home studio phone rang.

Hancock interrupted his live sports report to Ottawa to take the call. His listeners waited 17 seconds for the call to end before Hancock resumed his report.

Lacharity was caught off guard when the call occurred at 8:55 a.m., while they were live. "Frankly, I wasn't sure what the heck was going on," said Lacharity later.

Hancock took the call, while live on air, and chatted amiably with his caller, CBC Calgary sportscaster Tom Spear.

Lacharity asked Hancock what had just happened when Spear and Hancock's conversation ended.

Hancock explained who the caller was, and apologized, before resuming his report as if nothing had happened.



Later Hancock said he didn't know what all the fuss was about, explaining he always left his studio phone on in case late-breaking news came in. He delivered 20 sports reports within the span of four and a half hours without the aid of any assistants, excepting a lone technician in Toronto.

He said it was only the second time in his career that his phone had gone off during a live broadcast, and besides, he added, listeners don't like to listen to sportscasters who just deliver the scores.

"The odd time I do crazy things," he said. "You've got to provide colour. I think they like to hear things a little different. It was a moment of levity."

"John has a wonderful sense of play," said Lacharity, "and he manages—in ways I can't quite explain—to weave this ...seamlessly into what actually is a pretty credible sportscast."

There have been many highs throughout Hancock's lengthy career. "My biggest thrill was calling the play-by-play on CBC Radio nationally for the gold medal hockey games for Canada's men and women at the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002." Canada won gold in both games.

"I was so nervous before the games, I thought I was going to be sick."

Other highlights included calling Gataen Boucher's Olympic races in speedskating at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary near the end of his career.

At CBC he had the opportunity to work some international baseball.

He's had a varied and successful career. "I was always very proud of being nominated for an ACTRA award in the 1980's, not for any particular story, but for the work I did every day."

He won the first award given to a reporter/broadcaster for coverage of university sports in Canada, and was also honoured by Mount St Vincent University in Halifax with an award for coverage of university sports in Nova Scotia.

He got the chance to travel with the Montreal Canadiens to their training camp in the fall of 1989, going to Moscow, Sweden and Latvia. "I got to see where Canada beat the Soviets in Game 8 of the summit series at Luzhniki Palace of Sports in Moscow."

During that sojourn, the Canadiens played an exhibition game against Red Army. "The fans started throwing bottles at the players after a Montreal player flattened a Soviet player," he recalled. "I remember filing a story from Red Square in 1989 while on that trip about the unrest of the people in Moscow and how they wanted change. This was just before the fall of

communism."

That was 33 years before the current Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Apart from his sportscasting career, he enjoys jazz and blues music. "Montreal pianist Oliver Jones remains a close friend of my wife Roberta, my daughter Lauren and me."

Jones used to accompany him to Montreal Expos games in the early 1980's and sit in the press box. "He said it was his dream to play the national anthem at an Expos game. I approached the team and they made it happen soon after."

He wrote a piece of music in 1983 called "Lovely Lauren," dedicated to his daughter who later started her career in broadcasting when she produced a national jazz show on CBC radio.

"Lauren (daughter) and I also did a two-hour national radio special for a New Year's Day show on CBC called *Raised on Jazz*." She was just 19 at the time.

In the spring of 2022 Hancock is still going strong.

"I still love going in every day and talking to hosts on morning shows across Canada. It's a great way to make a living."

Hancock is being inducted to the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame in the same year that Galt Arena, where he got his start doing colour commentary, turns 100. "I remember how good this team (Hornets) was and how enjoyable it was to call the games. The playoffs were a long grind; I only did home games with Bill but it was a good start to a sports career that is now nearly 50 years old and counting."

Inducted 2022

Cambridge Great White Sharks

Cheer Sport Sharks World Champions 2018, 2019



The Cambridge Great White Sharks from 2018, winners of the world championship. Below: Coach Ali Moffatt, middle, is flanked by Kiana Horchover, left, Jennifer Power, Alicia Jantzi and Sarah Schlotzhauer, each of whom has been on all four world championship Sharks teams (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019). *Record* photo, top, and *Times* photo, bottom.

In 2014 the Cambridge Sharks cheerleading team, coached by Ali Moffatt, Lora Jordan and Alana Potter, made history by winning a world championship and becoming the first international team to win the prestigious Level 5 competition.

They captured a second world title the following year.

In 2018 and 2019 they made more history, winning back-to-back world titles in the all-girl level 5 division with a score of 143.9 out of 150—the highest recorded for any of the teams in all divisions at the competition—while their Grey Reefs squad won silver at the championships, held in Orlando, Florida.

"I think the Great Whites kind of put us on the map and now all the other teams, the strength that we've shown top to bottom in our worlds program, has definitely kept us there and made a name for our Cheer Sport Sharks," Moffatt told *Times* sports editor Bill Doucet.

Alicia Jantzi, Kiana Horchover, Jennifer Power and Sarah Schlotzhauer have been members of all four world championships teams from Cambridge.

During the competition at the Walt Disney World Resort, the Great Whites received a surprise visit from honorary Great White member Jenna Dowers, a North Carolina youngster who earlier met the team at their training facility in Cambridge as part of a Make-A-Wish request. The Sharks gained wide-renown during a Netflix series.

When the Great Whites captured the gold globe, Dowers was sized for her worlds' ring.



The team seemed poised for a run at the world title in 2018 after finishing second the previous year and then going undefeated in Canada and with a win at the NCAA All Star Nationals in Dallas, TX. Team member Emily Westerfelt was quoted in the *Record* after winning the 2018 world title, describing the feeling as "indescribable." She added: "It feels as if your entire dreams have come true and that you have been working so hard for this moment."

In 2019 the Cambridge Cheer Sport Sharks sent five teams to the World Cheerleading Championships.

Inducted 2022

Lorri Baier & Lloyd Eisler

When Mitchell's Lorri Baier and Seaforth's Lloyd Eisler were first paired together in 1973, the two were so young that they would not hold hands, as Eisler recalls, "because I was afraid of Lorri."

"We grew up together," said Baier. They began skating together under Kerry Leitch at the Preston Figure Skating Club when they were nine. The two were exactly the same weight and Lloyd was unable to lift Lorri above his head.

"When we won the Canadian Championships at the Novice Level we had one overhead lift and a HUGE throw—a double axel which was pretty amazing back then for such young skaters."

The following year in Junior they had to do the required lift standing still at the beginning of their program because Lloyd was still not strong enough to lift Lorri.

"That all changed in one year when I grew 10 inches and gained about 60 lbs.," recalled Lloyd, who eventually became known throughout the figure skating world for his lifts.

"When we started skating together I didn't know what we were in for," said Lorri, "but as the time went on, I found I really enjoyed the athletic, thrilling part of pair skating. Herb was a great partner because it was really easy for us to be in unison."

In 1978 Baier and Eisler were silver medalists in Junior Pairs competition at the Canadian Figure Skating Championships. That same year Lorri's sister Sherri Baier and partner Robin Cowan won the national championships. Both partners skated singles as well as pairs in the early years, with Baier winning the Novice Canadian championship one year, and went to the World Juniors as a singles skater.

A year after earning silver at the Canadian Junior Pairs Championships, Baier and Eisler won gold at the Canadian championships in 1979 and went on to win bronze at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships.

"I very much remember our first Senior Championships in 1980," said Eisler, "and we skated amazing, but came second, and it was disappointing because many people thought we should have won and we would have gone to the 1980 Olympics. This event was in Kitchener so very close to home and all our family was there to watch."

They were second to Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini.

They followed their silver at the senior pairs championships by winning gold in England and silver at their final World Junior Figure Skating Championships.

Also in 1981 they finished ninth at the World Pairs Figure Skating Championships and earned a Cambridge athlete of the year nomination once again.

"Lorri was the strongest female pair skater—both physically and mentally—that I trained," said Leitch, who coached a number of Canadian and international medalists through one of the most distinguished coaching careers in Canadian history.

But Lloyd, whose nickname was Herb, was also a rare skater. "He was the best competitor and performer under pressure that I taught," said Leitch.

Leitch likens the ups and downs of pairs figure skating to a marriage. "Lorri was the boss of the team and as in any successful marriage, Lorri made Herb think he was the boss but everyone knew the obvious."

Lloyd agrees. "Lorri was always incredibly creative and seemed to be the glue that kept our team together," said Eisler. "I was more of the bull in a china shop type of skater."

Together they spent many hours driving back and forth from Seaforth and Mitchell to Preston to skate under coach Leitch. "That's where most, and sometimes all, of our homework was done, in the car." They travelled a lot of miles back and forth from Mitchell to Preston. Lloyd turned 16 first, and got his license, and then Lorri got hers and that took some of the load off their parents.

Together, they invented a pair spin called the Herbie/Lorri spin, which happened by accident.

"I was working with them on a pair spin," recalled Leitch, "and Herb was experiencing great difficulty doing the position I wanted. He kept saying that it would be easier to grab her around the waist and go into a sit spin which I pointed out was impossible and he quickly proved me wrong and the new spin was invented."

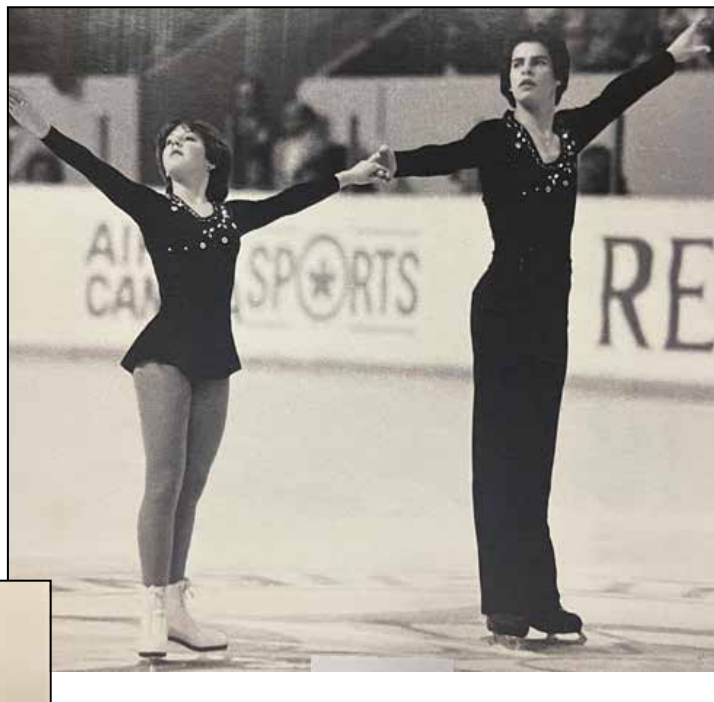
Lloyd recalled Lorri as being "the one with the very level head and one to always question why things needed to be done."

They were also the first team in the world to perform back-to-back Throw Double Axels in a competition.

Leitch coached a string of highly successful pairs skaters, including Lorri's older sister, Sherri Baier (Phelan) and Robin Cowan, who won the Canadian novice pairs title in 1975, then won the Canadian Juniors the following year, also capturing the World Junior Pairs title. In 1977 Paul Mills and Josie France (Jamieson) burst on the international scene capturing the junior world title.

It was through Sherri that Lorri started skating at Preston. "I was always just tagging along with mum and Sherri," recalled Lorri.

Lorri and Herb had success from an early age, and although they skated together for a



Lorri Baier and Lloyd Eisler



decade, their time together as a pairs team, said Eisler, came too soon. "We finished our career in Copenhagen at the World Championships in 1982. It was a tough thing because I always thought we would continue skating forever, but nothing lasts forever." Lorri, said Eisler, "always had bigger aspirations than just skating."

Their families had become close, and given that they lived not far apart, they did a lot of things together. "And the towns of Seaforth and Mitchell were so incredibly supportive," said Eisler. "It was home for us. We always lived there until we retired. And Lorri's parents, Donna and Murray, "were great people and always

there for us."

After Lorri retired, Lloyd continued to skate, and two years later, with his new partner Katherina Matousek, finished 10th at the Worlds, while Preston teammates Cynthia Coull and Mark Rowsom were ninth. Eisler and Matousek finished eighth at the 1984 Olympics while Melinda Kunhegyi and Lyndon Johnston were 12th.

Eisler and Matousek continued to improve, capturing a bronze medal at Worlds in 1985. Preston teammates Coull and Rowsom finished skating together with a bronze medal at the 1986 World Championships.

Lorri, after retiring, went on to have a highly successful teaching and coaching career in Denmark and later in Canada.

Lloyd continued his pairs skating success—after skating with Kathy Matousek—he paired finally with Isabel Brasseur. The pair won bronze medals at both the 1992 and 1994 Olympics and were the 1993 world champions.

After almost half a century since they began skating together, both the New Jersey-based Lloyd, who is married to actress Kristy Swanson and operates one of the premier power skating schools for hockey players in the USA, and Lorri, who lives in Kitchener, remain good friends.

Inducted 2022

Bob Howison

September 7, 1954 -

Growing up in Windsor, Ontario, Bob Howison attended Walkerville Collegiate where he played football and basketball, as well as track and field.

"I didn't play many sports when I was younger," he recalls, but it was in senior public and high school when he began a lifelong attachment to sport. It's been a part of his life ever since.

After graduating from high school in 1972, Howison went to the University of Western Ontario to take science, in preparation for entering Western's dentistry school.

"I always wanted to be a dentist from at least Grade 9. I have no idea why, but from that day forward, that's what I wanted to do."

He enjoyed his years at Western. In high school he was selected to attend the Athletic Leadership Camp at Lake Couchiching, and he made many friends, one of whom—an Oshawa native named George—he chanced upon at the start of a physics class during his freshman year at Western.

That chance encounter nurtured what has become a lifelong friendship. It also set the stage for his participation in basketball, which has lasted decades. The two began playing intramural basketball, as well as with the London city league and even at lunchtime pickup games in the UCC. They had lots of fun and along the way, won several intramural championships. "We view ourselves as sort of legendary now," he says. The team was called the Bnorks.

The entire group is still closeknit, getting together a few times a year to play golf and watch NCAA basketball.

After two years at Western, Howison was accepted into dentistry, graduating in 1978. "It was tough, but I liked it all, and I never had any regrets."

It was chance that brought him to Cambridge. Dentistry offered him the opportunity to be self-employed, and after seeing Kitchener a few times during Oktoberfest, he had a desire to return to the area. It was not too distant from his family cottage, but he heard that the local dentistry market was crowded.

"At that time dental sales reps would take you around to various places and in turn, you bought your equipment from them."

And so, in the fall of 1977, Howison's final year, Ken Croney took Bob under his wing for a few visits. He was legendary in the dental field and seemingly knew everyone. "He brought me down to Galt and we visited Dave Ridsdale and Gary Ramsey. And it happened that the dental building on George Street had an opening.

Local dentists were very welcoming, and he liked what he saw, including the old architecture. He opened his practice in the summer of 1978. He also contacted Len Bates to find out about local basketball programs. That led to playing with Mike Kilpatrick and in 1979 he played and coached Can-Amara for the first time.

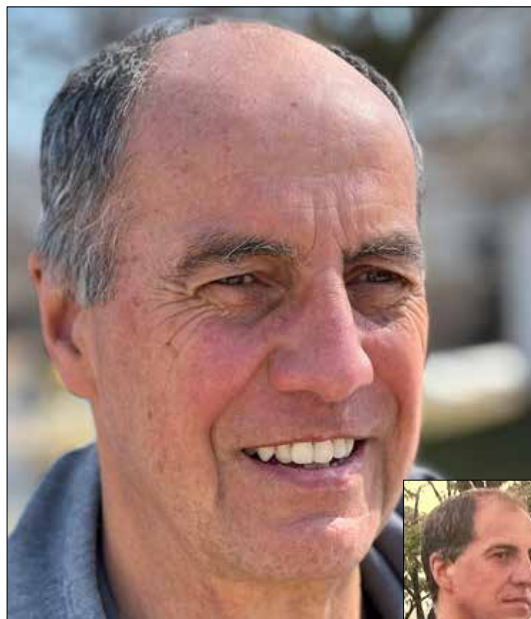
"Through that I met Jim Baird, and when Jim began Cambridge Basketball, I helped with that." That led to becoming a convenor for basketball at Can-Amara, and then he became a sport coordinator, and eventually became the first non-Rotarian chair of Can-Amara. The Games owe their origins largely to Rotary and the City of Galt. Howison remained with the Can-Amara committee until the Games ended in 2006 after 35 years.

"I thought Can-Amara was wonderful. I hadn't been exposed to anything like that in Windsor, so it was a whole new experience. And from a basketball point of view, it was a perfect opportunity for kids and their parents to have a summertime activity—it was only \$15 and you got a shirt out of it and a trip to Saginaw—and you met other kids and practised twice a week. It was a great activity and very affordable. At the organizing level it was a lot of fun. The Cambridge committee always got along. We all knew each other. If there was a problem in a sport area, there was a person the committee knew they could talk to."

The beauty for Howison, as it was for many, was that Can-Amara not only introduced him to American counterparts, but also to others in Cambridge and in Saginaw that he likely would never have met.

The surprising thing about Can-Amara, said Howison, was that he figured Cambridge would never be competitive with athletes in the U.S. "Growing up in Windsor, I thought the States had way better athletes than we had."

He admits he was very wrong. But what he also saw was that weaknesses in some sports, on either side of the border, were quickly offset by the international competition. Track and field became stronger in Cambridge, for instance, and soccer became stronger in Saginaw Townships.



Bob Howison was the youngest ever chair of the Can-Amara Games (below with three-year-old son John). In addition to Can-Amara, he was heavily involved with Cambridge Basketball and with the YMCA, among his many community activities.



"I think Can-Amara helped develop minor sports, like basketball, partly because it was able to run more year round."

Given recent political developments in the U.S. with the growing political divide, Howison has thought more than once that these times could benefit from a goodwill style of games like Can-Amara.

Howison served two terms as Can-Amara chair, but maintains it didn't matter who was chair because "Can-Amara was such a well-run machine it could have run itself."

In 1990 Howison moved his dental office to The Mall at the top of Main Street, where he remained for the next 25 years, before moving one final time to Ainslie Street.

As Howison became further involved in the community, and as his practice grew, he also joined the YMCA board, another offshoot from his Can-Amara connections with John Hinde and Dave Carse. His time with the YMCA board coincided with a marked increase in membership and the fitness boom. Before joining the board, he got involved in a committee that was looking to move the Y from its Queen's Square location, where it had been since 1914, to a new location on Hespeler Road. He was enlisted to chair the fundraising committee, and was joined by other capable people like Tom Watson. "Tom was great," said Howison. "A very big help."

Howison's time in Cambridge, which has now been the better part of his life, has been punctuated by gratitude and, he never fails to note, luck. "I always felt I was very lucky to

be surrounded by great people who were very helpful and were a great asset. He mentions people like Lynn Woeller, Frank Leblanc, Dave Young, Dave Carse and Jim Harding as being a few of those people. There were many more who surrounded him along the way.

Once he had children, they became involved in local sport, but they also got enlisted in many of their father's activities. Eventually Howison became president of Cambridge Basketball. Years later, when his daughter went away to university, she remarked: "Y'know dad, I was at this event and I was thinking afterwards when I got up and left that it was probably the first time in my life when I've been at something and I didn't have to fold up tables and chairs."

Much of Howison's contributions to Can-Amara, the Y and to Cambridge Basketball, among other things, came in the evenings, but not always.

"Being married to Janice made it very easy because she worked in the office and people knew that if they were talking to Janice it was the same as talking to me."

Howison retired in 2019, 41 years after opening his practice in Cambridge. But long before that, he got involved with the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame and is the current vice-chair. He also became involved in affordable housing. All his activities have provided him the opportunity to meet people.

"I loved meeting and interacting with people as a dentist. People would come in and they'd have areas of expertise that I knew nothing about, and so if you get them talking about something they know, I learn something from it. I got exposed to all kinds of things—for instance, companies in town that made stuff I didn't know about."

In 2003 Howison was presented with the Don and Benita Rope sports contributor award

After more than 40 years in Cambridge, Howison has become an indelible part of the community.

In those 40 years he has been a player and coach, and has served as chair of Can-Amara, chair of the Cambridge Sports Awards Dinner, president of the

YMCA board, chair of the Arthur White Sports bursary, vice-chair of the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame, president of Cambridge Basketball, and is a member of the Fair Play and Discipline Committee for Basketball Ontario.

Howison opened his practice June 1, 1978, and counts himself lucky for all that has happened in the years since. Residents of Cambridge didn't know what they were getting on that June day, but that day was also a lucky day for the city.

Inducted 2022

