

10th Anniversary



2019 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame
Induction Dinner

The Gates on Roblin
Proud 7 time host of
the Annual Manitoba Rugby
Hall of Fame
Induction Dinner!

The Gates on Roblin, just minutes from the western edge of Winnipeg, boasts a beautifully landscaped seven-acre estate. Our amenities include a 200-seat fine dining restaurant, and a 400-guest state-of-the-art Ballroom. Along with our elegantly appointed Lounge, and the best riverside deck, we also offer several private dining rooms all nestled in a lush country setting.



Come home to The Gates! We provide world-class services, spectacular local cuisine, and unparalleled facilities to meet your every need.

The Gates on Roblin is truly a secret hideaway from the hustle and bustle of the City. It's a great place to sit back, relax and recharge in our cozy Lounge, or in any one of our comfortable dining areas. We would like to personally invite you to see what we have to offer, so please visit us soon by making online reservations through our website, www.thegatesonroblin.com.

The Gates on Roblin has you covered for all your entertaining requirements, whether on-site or off-site in your home or office. Our team of chefs have created each menu with a flair of creativity and a touch of the unexpected. We will tempt your palate with our signature dishes. Flavours will burst in your mouth whether you are sampling our Silver Tray Service at an off-site Cocktail Reception, enjoying our Plated Service at a corporate function in our Ballroom, or dining at our weekly Sunday Brunch. Please visit our website to view our complete range of services.



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ON ROBLIN

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T 204.224.2837 • F 204.885.6991

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame





Playing the Game in Manitoba since 1879!¹

2019 is the 140th Anniversary of rugby (union) in Manitoba and the 10th Anniversary of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.

Rugby Union Football was first played on the Canadian prairies in the late 1870's. The first club in Manitoba, the Winnipeg Rugby Football Club, was organized in 1879. By 1885, there were enough teams to have a fixtures list. The Manitoba Rugby Union was first founded in 1892. The North West Mounted Police apparently played the game as well; as did various universities and athletic clubs. And, at one time there was a team in Brandon formed by Art Ross (of NHL fame). The New Zealand All Blacks actually spent a week in Winnipeg in the early 1900's - playing friendlies and conducting clinics. The First World War brought an end to prairie rugby. In the post-war years Canadian football began to develop and draw potential players away from rugby.

In spite of these setbacks, a new wave of British immigrants fueled a revitalization of the game in Manitoba in the mid-twenties. In 1928 Winnipeg had eight teams; North Kildonan All Blacks, Grain Exchange, the Garrison, Hebrews, Wanderers, Collegians, Marlboros and Sherburn Athletic.

By 1939, the beginning of the Second World War, rugby was once again dead in Manitoba. During the war, Commonwealth air force trainees played the game at Gimli (including, as legend has it, an aspiring Welsh actor named Richard Burton). In 1944, a touring Australian Services team played an exhibition match against a New Zealand services team at Osborne Stadium. That was the end of rugby until 1949 when the game was once again reborn. It flourished until 1955, when, with the closing of the NATO training program, most of the players left and rugby in Manitoba ceased to exist. In 1960 a group of rugby diehards started a club called the Winnipeg Rugby Club (later to become the Wanderers) and it was to be the only club in Winnipeg until the Wasps were formed in 1965.

Manitoba's modern era of rugby began in 1965 as the Manitoba Rugby Union (renamed Rugby Manitoba in 1997) was reformed, with Dery Newton as President.

As the years passed, the number of Canadians playing the game increased and the survival of rugby was no longer dependent on the waves of immigration. In 1973 the game became truly Canadian as a Schools program was reintroduced. Rugby within the schools system now has close to fifty teams competing for the provincial championships. The game continues to grow across Manitoba including youth, schools and club.

Also in 1973, Llanelli - the Welsh rugby champions, played the Manitoba Selects at Winnipeg Stadium in front of a paid crowd of about 10,000. Manitoba also introduced the 7's variation of rugby in Canada - led by such individuals as Dr. Robert Pringle (MRU President and Chairman of the Physics Department at the University of Manitoba), and the Wasps in the late 60's and 70's. Interestingly, wheelchair rugby (originally murderball) combines the rules of rugby, volleyball, basketball, hockey and football; was started in Manitoba in 1977; and is now a Paralympic sport.

Maple Grove Rugby Park with five full-sized fields, the clubhouse and change facility became the focal point of rugby when it was opened in 1985. With the upgrades and renovations (first in 2003), MGRP remains one of the premier facilities for club rugby in Canada. Manitoba-hosted internationals at MGRP have included the Can-Am Game and a New Zealand "A" test in the 1990's and the Canada Rugby Cup tournament in 2000 which featured the world's top four women's teams from - New Zealand, England, Canada and the United States.

In 1998, the Manitoba Buffalo entered the Rugby Canada Super League, what was a truly national league for senior men with 14 teams. Rugby Manitoba hosted the first-ever National Rugby Championship Festival in 2003 featuring five age grade competitions, 29 teams and nearly 1,000 participants. The Festival was the largest single-sport event ever held in Manitoba, including a banquet for 1,000 at the Winnipeg Arena. And, nearly ~13.7 tons of produce was donated to Winnipeg Harvest, due to a partnership initiative with Rugby Manitoba and Peak-of-the-Market.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame inducted its first Honoured Members in 2010. The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, led by a volunteer committee, is an independent organization and is at arm's length from Rugby Manitoba. Proceeds from the annual Induction Dinners are made available to the local rugby community across Manitoba to support facility development, enhancements and upgrades.

It is not an easy path to induction as an Honoured Member. Nominations received from the rugby community are screened, reviewed and researched by a Sub-Committee of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, selected recommendations for induction are ratified by the Board of Director of Rugby Manitoba, and then approved by the Rugby Hall of Fame Committee for induction.

With the five new Honoured Members in 2019; a total of 63 Players, Teams, Officials, Builders and Pioneers have been recognized for their notable achievements and contributions to the game in Manitoba, Canada and internationally. **Congratulations to all!**

¹

Based on an article by Ray Hoemsen from Rugby Manitoba's IN TOUCH, Issue No. 27, June 2004.



10th Anniversary

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Honourable Members

PIONEER

- Ian Williams 2010
- Albert Shepherdson 2010
- Jim Platt 2011
- Robert Pringle 2014
- John Whyte 2015
- John Walton 2016
- Derry Newton 2018

BUILDER

- Dwight Evans 2010
- MGRP Founders Committee 2010
- John Reilly 2010
- Gilles Roy 2010
- Bob Elder 2011
- Art Logan 2011
- Gary MacDonald 2011
- Ken Pearn 2011
- Glenys MacKenzie 2012
- Don Pincock 2012
- Peter Press 2013
- Jim Feasby 2014
- Rick Romsa 2015
- Rob St. Germain 2016
- WASP Women's Athletic Association 2016
- St. Paul's High School Rugby Program 2016
- Don Innes 2017
- Jim (Pops) Russell 2017
- Karen Rhoda 2018
- Peter Nolan 2018

OFFICIAL

- Ken Adams 2010
- Dave Barnes 2011
- Mike Brown 2012
- Gary Nicholson 2012
- Ray Skett 2012
- Wilf Erichsen 2013
- T. Colin Gibbs 2013
- Guy McKim 2014
- Paul Harland 2015
- Bill Zubrack 2018

PLAYER / TEAM

- Larry DeBooy 2010
- Corinne Enns 2010
- Winnipeg Rugby Football Club (Winnipeg Blue Bombers) 2010
- Val Gompf 2011
- Neville Rhoda 2011
- SNAFU Rugby Tournament 2011
- 1994 Manitoba U17 Boys Provincial Team 2012
- Riley Barkman 2013
- Saracens RFC Men's Premiership Championship Team 1979-86 2013
- Brian Erichsen 2014
- Brent Tomchuk 2014
- 1996 Manitoba U19 Jr Women's Provincial Team, National Champions 2014
- Brenda Treleaven 2015
- 1997 Manitoba Sr. Men's Tier II National Championship Team 2015
- Jeff Harrison 2016
- Angela Ploegman 2016
- 1972-1975 Saracens Rugby Football Club - 1st Division Men's Team 2016
- Andrew Jackson 2017
- Mandy Marchak 2017
- St. John's High School Rugby Team 2017
- Lou Furlan 2018

Introduction

2019 Inductees

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Friday, October 19, 2019

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame celebrates our 10th anniversary and the history of the sport of Rugby in Manitoba, recognizing those that have significantly contributed to the game and its development.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Sub Committee recommended a number of Inductees, 5 of whom were subsequently ratified by Rugby Manitoba and approved by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee for Induction in 2019.

The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2019 Inductees are truly worthy representatives as Honoured Members of the Hall of Fame and we are proud to be recognizing their accomplishments and contributions to the game of Rugby in Manitoba.

BUILDER

- **Arleigh Mackenzie**
- Sturgeon Creek Rowdies
Rugby Football Club
- **Randy Dilk**
- Assassins Rugby Football Club

PLAYER

- **Shannon Ploegman Smith**
- Wanderers Rugby Football Club
- **Brian "Benji" Marchak**
- Saracens Rugby Football Club
- **Sidney Roberts**
- Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Football Club



10th Anniversary



Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame

To: **Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame 2019 Inductees**

From: **Ray Hoemsen**
Chairman, Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee

On behalf of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee, I would like to congratulate and welcome the 2019 inductees to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame as Honoured Members.

2019 is the tenth year since the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame was established to honour those individuals and groups that have made a significant and valuable contribution to the game, which has been played in Manitoba now for 140 years.

It is not an easy path to induction as an Honoured Member. Nominations received from the rugby community are screened, reviewed, and researched by a Sub-Committee of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, selected recommendations for induction are ratified by the Board of Directors of Rugby Manitoba, and then approved by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee for induction.

Whether you are a Player or Builder; you have all made outstanding and significant contributions to rugby locally, nationally and/or internationally. As Honoured Members you have been distinguished by your peers for your notable achievements on or off the pitch, inspiring all involved in the game.

We truly thank you for your dedication to Rugby!

Sincerely,

Ray Hoemsen, P. Eng.
Chairman, MRHOF
www.manitobarugbyhalloffame.com



September 19, 2019

Dear Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame inductees,

Congratulations to all the reward recipients and the Hall of Fame inductees in Rugby Manitoba's tenth year of honoring and celebrating those who have helped shape the Manitoba and Canadian Rugby communities!

It is an incredible honor to be recognized by your peers and community. To enter a Hall of Fame is always a particularly special honor. Thank you for all the contributions you have made to rugby in Manitoba and Canada.

Congratulations to Shannon Ploegman Smith (Wanderers Rugby Football Club), Benji Marchak (Saracens Rugby Football Club), Sid Roberts (Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Football Club), Arleigh Mackenzie (Sturgeon Creek Rugby Football Club) and Randy Dilk (Assassins Rugby Football Club) on your induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame! May your legacy inspire others to keep growing the game and sharing the joy rugby brings to all who participate in and share its values.

Have a fantastic night!

Yours truly,

Tim Powers
Chairman, Rugby Canada

Allen Vansen
Chief Executive Officer, Rugby Canada

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info@rugby.ca



10th Anniversary



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of all Manitobans, I am pleased to welcome those attending the 2019 Annual Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner.

It is often said that sport is a metaphor for life; that the immense commitment required to succeed in sport, and the obstacles encountered along the way, prepares athletes for the many challenges they will experience throughout their lives. It compels you to confront your weaknesses and by doing so, makes you stronger.

The five individuals being inducted into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame tonight - Randy Dilk, Arleigh Mackenzie, Benji Marchak, Shannon Ploegman Smith and Sid Roberts - are tremendous examples of the achievement that comes from commitment and hard work. They have each earned their place in our province's sport history, joining many others who have achieved success and contributed to the growth of sport in Manitoba.

I join all Manitobans in congratulating tonight's inductees, and in thanking the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame for continuing to recognize excellence in sport throughout our province.

The Honourable Brian Pallister



Mayor's Message

A warm welcome and greetings to everyone attending the 2019 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Dinner celebrating the sport and builders of Manitoba Rugby. It's a milestone year, with the Hall of Fame celebrating its 10th Anniversary – congratulations!

This prestigious gathering will recognize some of Manitoba Rugby's finest:

- Arleigh Mackenzie (Builder)
- Shannon Ploegman Smith (Player)
- Randy Dilk (Builder)
- Benji Marchak (Player)
- Sid Roberts (Player)

Congratulations to all of this year's inductees to the Hall of Fame. Your significant accomplishments to advance the sport of rugby in Manitoba are certainly deserving of this special honour bestowed today! Many of you will have cherished memories of team mates and the many lessons learned on the field of play, while few will remember final scores or games won or lost. You have all showed remarkable leadership and commitment to your sport, where your inspirational mantra is that, "The only Pain in Rugby is Regret."

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, I want to recognize the work of the organizers and volunteers who support the activities of the Rugby Hall of Fame and make events like this possible. And of course, I am delighted to extend my best wishes to all the inductees, their family and friends who have advanced the sport in our province.

Warmly,

Mayor Brian Bowman,
City of Winnipeg



10th Anniversary



On behalf of Sport Manitoba, I'd like to congratulate this year's well-deserving slate of inductees at the 10th annual induction dinner for the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, which comes at a special and exciting time as we also celebrate the 140th anniversary of the game of rugby in Manitoba.

Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is an accomplishment to be celebrated, and one you should be deeply proud of. You have made a significant contribution to rugby in our province and will continue to shape the sport, as the next generation of players, teams, builders, coaches and volunteers remember your outstanding achievements.

It is my pleasure to recognize and acknowledge the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame's class of 2019. The mark you have left will forever be a part of Manitoba's rich sport heritage. Thank you for your dedication and the remarkable influence you've had on sport in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hnatiuk".

Jeff Hnatiuk
President & CEO





David L.W. Wilson
President
Maple Grove Rugby Park
90 Frobisher Road
Winnipeg, MB
R2N 3Z1

To:

Randy Dilk – Assassins Rugby Football Club
Arleigh Mackenzie - Sturgeon Creek Rugby Football Club
Brian "Benji" Marchak - Saracens Rugby Football Club
Shannon Ploegman Smith - Wanderers Rugby Football Club
Sid Roberts - Winnipeg Wasps Rugby Football Club

Esteemed inductees to the Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame

Congratulations,

As a 2019 inductee you are part of a rare and quite talented group indeed. Each of you has achieved significant milestones on City, Provincial and indeed National stages. Your foot (and boot) prints are indelibly stamped on playing fields throughout the country.

Maple Grove Rugby Park has been the focal point for our sport for more than three decades. Although years pass, the stories continue to be told of your exploits, successes and challenges met.

Randy, Arleigh, Benji, Shannon and Sid, the part you have, and continue to play in the growth, development, and betterment of our sport on and off the field is truly inspiring. Each of you have provided a positive influence to the sport and Rugby clubs throughout the years and your continued contributions are noted every time I make my way out to Maple Grove. The success of our park as well as our sport is tied directly to the contributions of each of the 2019 Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame inductees, and we thank you.

The Executive and the entire Board of Directors Maple Grove Rugby Park extends their warmest congratulations on your appointment to The Rugby Manitoba Hall of Fame.

Yours in Rugby

Dave Wilson
President

Kerry Peterson
Vice President, Internal

Colin Fraser
Vice President, External

Christian "Coco" Schelander
Secretary



10th Anniversary



A Message from the Minister

A warm welcome to all members, organizers and guests of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame, as you gather for your tenth annual hall of fame induction dinner.

This is truly an evening of celebration in our province's rugby community. Tonight, your organization celebrates 10 years of recognizing those who have made significant and valuable contributions to rugby in Manitoba. I congratulate Rugby Manitoba for its continued efforts in honouring the best and brightest in your sport, and for staging such a marvelous evening.

Incredibly, it has been 140 years since our province's first rugby club – the Winnipeg Rugby Football Club – was established. Over generations and across backgrounds, rugby has helped bring Manitobans together through thrilling competition on the rugby pitch. We applaud the players, coaches, officials and fans who have contributed to this sport's great success.

Tonight, we honour a new group of inductees, who, through their skill and determination, have earned their place in this prestigious hall of fame. Their success is an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations to this year's hall of famers for setting the highest standards of athletic and organizational achievement. Your hard work and commitment to the sport of rugby enriches our province's amateur sports scene and encourages all of us to pursue our dreams.

I wish you all continued success and a wonderful evening.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Cox".

Honourable Cathy Cox
Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage





September 2019

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the newest inductees into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame in this, your 10th year of inductions.

Manitoba enjoys a rich variety of sport and the sport of rugby is one of its oldest and most venerable as you celebrate its 140th year in this province. The athletes, builders and teams that make up that history deserve to be celebrated and your organization is to be commended for its efforts.

Our mandate is to preserve Manitoba's sport heritage and we are proud to see the hardworking volunteers of the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame celebrate their sport history. Once again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Treloar".

Jason Treloar, Board Chair



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Funding Partner



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*Congratulations on your induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Arleigh!
We are all so proud you have called our club home for the last 25 years!*



@STURGEONCREEKROWDIES

Arleigh Mackenzie - Builder

Well known and well respected by all across every spectrum of the rugby community, **Arleigh Mackenzie** has been involved in the sport both on and off the field for over 27 years and has proven to be an indispensable component.

Arleigh started playing rugby at Kelvin High School in 1992 and in 1994 joined the Sturgeon Creek Rowdies RFC playing in the Colts League until 1996 and continuing on to this day with the Rowdies leading their women's team to several provincial titles over the years. Representing Manitoba, Arleigh played for the Junior (U-19) Girls Provincial Team in 1994 and in 1995 (serving as co-captain), and starting in 1995 remained a mainstay player on the Manitoba Sr. Women's Provincial Team until 2008, winning the tier 2 Women's Championship in 1995.

On the coaching side of the game, Arleigh has been successful having had a number of her young players over the years identified for various Manitoba Provincial Team and Rugby Canada programs. Arleigh started out as a co-coach in 1995 and has served as head coach of the Kelvin High School Girl's team since 1996 winning a number of City Championships as well as two Provincial Championship titles in that capacity. In addition to completing her NCCP Level 3 Coaching studies, Arleigh was instrumental in starting the girl's rugby program at Shaftsbury High School serving as their coach in 1997 and 1998, she assisted with the start up of the girl's rugby program at Tech Voc school in 2016, was head coach of the Manitoba Under 23 Women's Team in 2009, served as Manager of the Under 18 Girls program, and was identified as a finalist for the Coaching Manitoba - Coach of the Year award in 2006.

As if playing and coaching were not enough, Arleigh has been prolific in other areas of the game as well. As a member of the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees, she has served several terms in the positions of Development Officer, Secretary and Treasurer, has been certified as a Senior Referee Match Official and also designated a World Rugby Educator Level 1 for Match Officials.



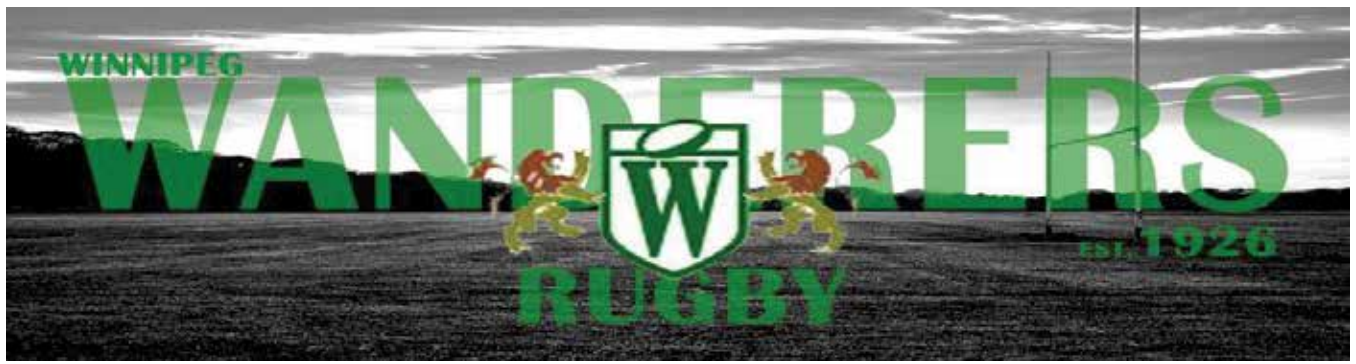
2019 Inductee

As an administrator, Arleigh has served several terms on the Rowdies RFC executive in every capacity excluding club President. In addition she served as the Rugby Manitoba Women's Rugby Division secretary from 1997 to 1999, the Rugby Manitoba V.P. League Competition - Women's & Rural Program from 2000 to 2003, and was tasked the responsibility of developing the Rugby Manitoba schedule of league fixtures/games for over 20 years, concluding that assignment in 2018.

Player, coach, administrator, volunteer, Arleigh's passion for the game, its growth and development at all levels knows no bounds. Her contributions to the sport in Manitoba are without question significant and the rugby community looks forward to her continued contributions in the future.



10th Anniversary



Congratulations to **Shannon Ploegman Smith** on her induction into the **Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame**.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions and dedication to the Wanderers RFC and Rugby Manitoba. We are truly proud of all your accomplishments!

Sincere congratulations to all of the 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees.



Wanderers.ca



Wanderers Rugby Club - Winnipeg



@wpgwanderersrfc



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Integrity, Dedication, Experience!

That's what it takes to reach the top!

A special congratulations to **Shannon Ploegman Smith, Arleigh Mackenzie & Randy Dilk** on your induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and to all the 2019 inductees.

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Shannon Ploegman Smith - Player

Inducted to the Wanderers' RFC Hall of Fame in 2016, **Shannon Ploegman Smith** is one of those few Manitoba rugby athletes that have experienced an illustrious playing career at the club, provincial and national team levels earning 2 caps representing Canada in international competition and 2 points in match play.

Just out of high school, Shannon began her 11 year playing career in 1991 with the Wanderers (Women) Rugby Football Club retiring from the game in 2001 due to injury. In her very first year of play she was named the Wanderers Rookie of the Year, and for the next ten years after that she served as the women's team Captain or co-Captain and was awarded the club's Most Valuable Player (MVP) or co- MVP in each of those years. Representing Manitoba, Shannon played Provincial Team rugby for nine years, beginning in her 1991 rookie year and co-captained the team for two.

For seven years between 1995 and 2001 Shannon was long listed to play for Canada. In 1996 she was named as Canada Cup (Edmonton) Non Travelling Reserve; was selected for and attended the Rugby Canada Elite Athlete Development Camps in 1996 (Victoria) and 1997 (Toronto); was selected for and attended the Rugby Canada National Senior Women's Team Camps in 1996 (Vancouver), 1997 (Calgary) 1998 (Shawinigan Lake) and 2000 (Edmonton); as well as the Rugby Canada Commonwealth Centre for Sport Development Camp in Shawinigan Lake again in 1998.

In 1997 Shannon was chosen to represent Canada 'A' in an international match against USA U23 in Toronto playing the position of fly-half and was again honoured with a selection to represent Canada in 2001 on an overseas tour to play Wales 'A' where she both subbed and played at the outside centre position scoring a kick for goal.



2019 Inductee

In addition to her playing career, Shannon was active in the sport in other areas as well where she coached the Wanderers Women's Rugby and Colts teams and the St. Mary's Academy and Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute high school girls' teams and served between 1995 and 1998 as her club's Fundraising Coordinator and as the Women's Rugby Division Development Coordinator for Rugby Manitoba.

Since her retirement from the game Shannon continues to be involved in a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, volleyball, hockey, badminton, track & field and serving in a variety of capacities including coach (24 years), manager, treasurer or whatever capacity she is called upon to do in her desire to provide good quality programs for the development of young athletes; a truly deserving candidate for induction to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.



10th Anniversary

The Assassins RFC would like to congratulate
MR. RANDY DILK
on his well deserved induction into
the **Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.**

TOUGHNESS, CHARACTER & TRADITION.
ASSASSINS RFC



Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



Randy Dilk - Builder

There are those in Manitoba rugby who have made a significant contribution to or have attained a degree of excellence in a particular field of endeavour within our sport, some who have accomplished both, but few that have made both a significant contribution to and attained a degree of excellence in a number of fields of endeavour. Player, coach, referee, **Randy Dilk** is one of those few.

After playing rugby at Churchill High School where he garnered the award as Best Forward in 1979, Randy continued his foray in the sport when he started playing with the Assassins Rugby Football Club in 1980. Awarded Rookie of the Year, Randy continued playing for the Assassins retiring from full time league play in 2004 and during that time was honoured as a five time recipient of the club's Best Back 1st Division award and a six time recipient of the club's Most Valuable Player award, a distinction not currently held by any other player in club history. In addition to his club playing activities, Randy represented his province playing for the Mb. Sr. Men's Provincial Team in 1984, 1992, 1993 and 1995 and was awarded co-recipient Best Back in 1993 for his exploits.

After a few years of playing, Randy turned his attention to the coaching ranks at the High School, Club and Provincial Team levels. At the High School level, looking to aid the recruitment efforts of the Assassins RFC, Randy was to co-coach at Churchill High School from 1988 to 1991 winning the Provincial 11 Aside Championship in 1988 and the Provincial 15 Aside Championship in 1989. At the Club level, Randy coached the Assassins RFC in varying capacities along with Brent Tomchuk and Jim Russell from 1993 – 2003 helping guide the club to 17 various 1st and/or 2nd Division Provincial and/or League Championship titles during those years. Provincially, Randy co-coached the 1997 U-17 Boys team, co-coached the 2005 edition of the Mb. Sr. Men's team and then later, along with co-coaches Rick Romsa, Brent Tomchuk and Jim Russell, helped resurrect after a 5 year hiatus from provincial completion, the Mb. Sr. Men's program in 2013 and serving in that capacity until 2017.

As if playing and coaching were not enough, Randy undertook to complete the troika of on field endeavours by embracing the ranks of the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees. Randy began refereeing in 2001 continuing on in that capacity to this day, refereeing hundreds of high school, league and representative rugby games throughout. A hallmark of his refereeing was his teaching approach, first pointing out and then allowing players the opportunity to correct their transgressions and thereby allowing the game to flow. Rising in the ranks as a highly sought after and



2019 Inductee

respected game official in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and south of the border, Randy was to referee ten Manitoba Provincial Championship games (7 - Men's 1st Div., 2 - Women's 1st Div. and 1 - Men's 2nd Div.) between 2004 and 2014. Other highlights emblematic of his stature as a referee included the National Festival Canada U-17 Boys Possibles/Probables game in 2006, the 2009 Sr. Women's Super League game, the 2011 U-21 Men's Super League game and the Saskatchewan Sr. Men's Provincial Final and the Prairies U-21 Men's Championship games in 2013.

Off the field, Randy continued with other contributions to the game. From 1987 to 1998 he served as a Member at Large in charge of recruitment for the Assassins RFC, served as his club's Vice President in 2000 and 2001, was a founding member of the Friends of Rugby and continuing on as committee member until 2012, and has served 3 years as Vice President of the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees and 7 years as that organization's Game Allocator.

All in all, a truly impressive body of work for one individual and worthy of Hall of Fame induction.



10th Anniversary

A proud history of champions!

The Saracens' Rugby Club would like to salute

Brian "Benji" Marchak

along with a special congratulations to all the 2019 Hall of Fame inductees.

You are all champions of Rugby in Manitoba.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1968 Saracens RFC
1969 Saracens RFC
1972 Saracens RFC
1973 Saracens RFC
1974 Saracens RFC
1975 Saracens RFC

1979 Saracens RFC
1980 Saracens RFC
1981 Saracens RFC
1982 Saracens RFC
1983 Saracens RFC

1984 Saracens RFC
1985 Saracens RFC
1986 Saracens RFC
1988 Saracens RFC
1990 Saracens RFC
1992 Saracens RFC



www.saracensrugby.ca

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



Brian "Benji" Marchak - Player

While his playing career proved to be a relatively short one - ten years - no matter where he played, Manitoba, across Canada, in England and New Zealand, Brian never failed to impress upon the knowledgeable Rugby enthusiast his prowess and aptitude for the game.

A graduate of the St. John's High School Rugby program, Brian represented Manitoba in the inaugural Under 20 Canadian Junior Championships and for an additional two years thereafter before he went on to represent Manitoba at the Senior Men's level for several years as a loose forward.

Having graduated from St. John's High School the year the school toured England in 1977, Benji (as he was better known) travelled with his alma mater team and served in the role of manager. While there he managed to play two games in Gosport where he scored a total of six tries and proved to be such a standout on the field that he was asked if he would stay and play for the County U-20 All Star Team in the Four Regions English competition.

Following a two year hiatus from the game in pursuit of his vocation as a fire fighter, Brian rejoined the Saracens RFC in 1980 and returned to the Manitoba Sr. Men's provincial team fold. Brian played for the Saracens from 1980 to 1984 and was both the recipient of the club's Most Valuable Player award and selected to the Rugby Manitoba All Star team in each of those five years. In 1980, Brian was a member of the Saracen touring team that travelled to New Zealand where he played all six games on the tour and was awarded man of the match in the second game against Palmerston North. In Wellington, playing against 1st division Poneke (rugby) Football Club, he so impressed the club coaches and their executive they requested he stay and play in Wellington and to try out for their National Provincial Competition team, offering him a guarantee of employment as a fire fighter if he were to do so.

Brian was instrumental in the Manitoba Sr. Men's upset of Alberta in 1980, and due to his play in this and future Western Canada Senior Men's competitions, Brian was invited to Western Canadian All Star camps in 1981, 1982, and 1983. During the 1981 all star camp in Victoria, it was suggested to Brian by the coaches that if he were to move to BC he would be a strong consideration as the starting open side flanker for the Canadian National Team. As with the offers to play in Gosport England, and Wellington New Zealand, Brian graciously declined this opportunity, stating that if he were to make the Canadian National Team he would prefer to do so from Manitoba.



2019 Inductee

Brian continued to play provincially until 1984 when his rising status as a Winnipeg fire fighter necessitated a hiatus from the game. He returned to play for the Saracens in the late eighties and showed an aptitude for coaching too, successfully leading the Saracens' RFC to their last two Premier Provincial Championship titles in 1990 and 1992.

In 1980 Brian served as Rugby Manitoba's Coaching Co-ordinator. Following a conference in Ottawa, it was decided by Rugby Canada and Rugby Manitoba to start a coaching certification program for Manitoba. For the next two years Brian worked with the National Coaches Co-ordinator Mike Luke to design the program for Manitoba and throughout the early eighties Brian hosted and ran the Coaches Certificate Program in Manitoba.

Remarkably fit (something he worked extremely hard at), courageous and an extremely gifted athlete, Brian passionately applied his attributes and skills with a zeal, a willingness and a keenness second to none. These along with his astute analysis and understanding of the game, particularly as it related to his position at open side flanker, were to cause few opposing standoffs the opportunity to thrive in the game when he was on the field.



10th Anniversary



WASPS RUGBY



The Winnipeg Wasps would like to congratulate **Sid Roberts** on his induction into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame. Since his arrival to the club in 1991, he has gone on to represent the Wasps and Manitoba, as both a player and coach, leading to his selection to play for Canada at the international level. His dedication and contributions to our club and the sport of rugby in the province, have helped elevate every program with which he has been involved. *Thank you and well done Sid*, as you take your place amongst Manitoba's rugby greats!

Black and Gold Forever

Congratulations to the **STAND OUT** 2019 Inductees to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



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Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



Sidney Roberts - Player

Sid started playing rugby at an early age for his home town club Rangiora, located south of Christchurch, NZ. There he played representative rugby at an early age, first for North Canterbury U-12s on the wing and later U-16s at the fly-half position before joining the army cadets in pursuit of more learning opportunities in life and rugby.

Following his army years, Sid spent time travelling throughout Australia and the United Kingdom mostly in search of rugby opportunities to further develop his skills. Life circumstances were to bring him to Winnipeg in 1991 where a chance reference to rugby in a local newspaper caught his eye and brought him to a tent at the Festival de Voyageur. Here he found something close to the game of rugby going on, but certainly not what he was used to. And so began a 30 year career in Manitoba that was storied and varied at many different levels that would ultimately take him to a date playing for Canada.

Sid was a special player who found success in many environments, displaying his passion for the game of rugby, the people associated with the game, the structure and culture of the sport. He was always looking for new ways to grow and learn and was interested in raising his level of play as well as others. Frustrated at times with the lack of provincial representative opportunities and a desire to increase the quality of play in the province, Sid saw a void that he would work to fix. Choosing 7's rugby as the medium, he created the Buffalo 7's Program, secured funding and internet searched tournament possibilities so that the Sr. Men could play quality rugby against high-level opponents. These efforts were to result in the team travelling to a number of tournaments including the Stampede 7's in Calgary and to Chicago in 2008 where the team captured 1st place defeating the U.S. National 7's Champion - Chicago Lions.

Sid played most of his career at the fly-half/stand-off position filling a role suited to his skill set and game analysis. From this position he controlled play either with his boot or through his hands, crafting attacks to opponents' weaknesses or creating scoring opportunities to explore. During his 30 year career with the Winnipeg Wasps RFC, Sid played in sixteen 1st Division Provincial finals winning 10 1st Division Provincial Championships. He also played provincial representative rugby for nine years with the Tier II Buffalo and later with the Canada Super League Buffalo. Sid captained the 1997 Tier II Championship Team and earned a Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in the Canadian Rugby Super League. Following his MVP selection, Sid was invited to attend the Canada World Cup Training Squad in 1999, including a selection for a match with Canada vs. British Columbia. Later Sid was invited to play with Canada in the Dubai 7's competition, and following this, was selected to play for Canada again in the Canada Classics (Old Boys) vs. USA Classics held in Saskatchewan.



2019 Inductee

A Certified Level 3 Coach, Sid's passion for the game and desire to make a difference led him to help, coach or mentor other programs and clubs in the union. These programs were to include St. John's Ravenscourt School, the MB U-17 and U-16 Boy's, Provincial Sr. Men's and Women's, and clubs such as the Wasps, Wanderers, Saracens, Brumbies and the Wasps Women.

In all of these roles and environments, Sid displayed his characteristic desire and continual drive to raise the level of play and create positive changes. Emblematic of Sid's ingenuity in the pursuit of new ideas to bring back to Winnipeg and improve the level of play, was his being granted permission on a visit home to attend four Canterbury Crusaders (NZ) training session practices where he was able to discuss game structure, patterns of play and tactics with Crusaders' management.

From a Festival de Voyageur Snow 7's tent to M.G.R.P. isn't that far apart, but a lot of rugby was packed into almost 30 years. It sounds right for a Hall of Fame player.



10th Anniversary

Congratulations to all of the 2019 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Inductees

The **Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees** would like to give special congratulations to our members being inducted this year.

Arleigh Mackenzie

As a World Rugby Referee Educator, Arleigh has helped to train and encourage new referees in Manitoba and Canada, providing a positive example for other women considering refereeing. As one of Manitoba's long-term female officials, despite her many other responsibilities to the game, she is always available when a referee is needed.

Thank you, Arleigh.

Randy Dilk

MARR would like to recognize and commend Randy on his many years of officiating at a high level, helping to raise the standard of referees in the province. He has supported and encouraged many young officials and has helped to create connections across Canada and into the United States, building a positive reputation for referees from Manitoba.

Thank you, Randy.





CONGRATS TO THE 2019 INDUCTEES



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10th Anniversary

1879 2019



RUGBY MANITOBA

Celebrating 140 years of Rugby in Manitoba

Friends of Rugby Manitoba,

On behalf of the Rugby Community of Manitoba, we would like to thank both the esteemed inductees and Friends of Rugby for their contributions to the great game of Rugby in Manitoba.

We are the torchbearers for 140 years of tradition, and the contributions of those honoured are what has kept the rugby flame burning through all these years.

We look forward to continuing working with you to build on and ensure that our game thrives in Manitoba into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Byrnes'.

On behalf of The Rugby Community of Manitoba

145 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg MB • rugby.mb.ca

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame





September 18th 2019

Dear honorees and guests

On behalf of all Rugby Manitoba I would like to extend our congratulations to all of the inductees into the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame for 2019.

In order to be considered for induction, an individual must have demonstrated extraordinary contributions, skills, abilities and passion for the game of rugby. That has never been more apparent than with this year's inductees. Whether it is great prowess in playing the game, being a builder of the game we love to play or officiating that game at some of the highest levels, these inductees are truly worthy of these accolades for their contributions and commitments they will be receiving today.

Rugby in Manitoba has a very rich history through the years and these individuals are rightfully being honored for their parts within it. With the future looking bright for where rugby is going, I cannot wait to see many more years of inductees who are so lucky to be given the great honor of being inducted to the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame.

Again, congratulations to all of you on this honor today.

Sincerely,

Ilian Ashcroft
President, Rugby Manitoba



10th Anniversary

Congratulations to all the 2019 Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Inductees and all of it's honoured members!



Lou Furlan

204 791-9971
lou@loufurlan.ca



**Celebrating
10 years
of
cheers!**



Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame



Our Vision.

To support the growth and development of all aspects of the sport of Rugby in Manitoba.



Our Objectives.

1. Work to help establish, restore and sustain connections among Rugby Alumni.
2. Financially and morally support and improve the game of Rugby at all levels of play.
3. Identify males and females with standout athletic ability and provide financial support that will widen their opportunity to play at an elite level.
4. To provide a financial vehicle for patrons and friends of Rugby to assist in the growth and development of Rugby in Manitoba.
5. To support programs that will increase the number of players and build community awareness for the sport of Rugby.
6. Support events that restore and strengthen the relationship between Rugby Alumni and the current community based clubs involved with Rugby in Manitoba.
7. To provide additional financial support for programs not currently funded at a provincial level that improve the quality of play and skill levels for players, coaches and referees.
8. To continue to support and enhance Maple Grove Rugby Park as one of Canada's premier facilities.



10th Anniversary

Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Induction Guidelines

Purpose

- To celebrate the history of the sport of Rugby in Manitoba by recognizing those whom have significantly contributed to the Game.

Categories

- Player/Team
- Official (Referees, Coaches, Managers and Non-coaching Staff)
- Builder (Administrators, Media, Patrons, and Volunteers and multiple category contributors)
- Pioneer (contributions should, but not necessarily, be prior to 1975)

General Criteria

- Nominees should have been involved in Rugby for at least 20 years and have contributed significantly to the sport of rugby in Manitoba.
- Player nominees should have been retired for at least three years from a national or provincial team program.
- Nominees may be recognized posthumously.
- Nominees may be considered while holding elected office at the provincial, national or international rugby board level.
- Nominees will not be considered for induction while serving on the Manitoba Rugby Hall Of Fame Committee in the following positions: Committee Chair, Sub-Committee Chairs and Induction Sub-Committee – Nominations Coordinator and Selections Jury members.

Nomination Procedure

- Nominations are to be submitted using the MRHOF Nomination Form. The form can be found at and submitted directly from the MRHOF website.
- Nominations will be acknowledged as submitted upon their receipt.
- The Nominator may be asked by the Induction Sub-Committee Nomination Coordinator to provide additional information and/or documentation concerning the Nominee in support of the nomination.
- Nominations for induction are valid for a period of three years (once a nominee is deemed eligible).
- Nominations not recommended for induction within the three year period of nomination validity may be re-nominated; otherwise Nominations recommended for induction stand in perpetuity.

Selection Process

- Nominations will be considered by the Induction Sub-Committee and any subsequent recommendations for induction are subject to ratification by the Rugby Manitoba Executive and final approval by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee.
- Criteria for evaluation should include:
 - Accomplishments
 - Honours received
 - Involvement with the game
 - Overall career
 - Recognition of their contribution(s) by club, union and community (local, national and/or international).
- Inductees recommended for induction by the Induction Sub-Committee, approved by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee and ratified by the Rugby Manitoba Executive will be announced in late spring/early summer, prior to their induction in the fall.

Number of Inductees

- Maximum of five (5) inductees annually.

Timelines

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • Nomination Receipt | Ongoing all year |
| • Nomination Research | Ongoing all year |
| • Nomination Evaluation | End April |
| • Nomination Recommendation | Mid May |
| • Nomination Ratification | End May |
| • Nomination Approval | Mid June |
| • Nomination Announcement | End June |
| • Nomination Induction | Mid October |

Removal

- If an inductee brings the Game in disrepute, including by a criminal action, the Selection Committee will review the situation and make a recommendation for retention or removal, conditional upon the approval of the Rugby Manitoba Board (not only the Executive).

Induction Sub-committee

- Chairman (appointed by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee).
- Nomination Coordinator - appointed by the Induction Sub-committee Chairman
- Selections Jury Members (4 minimum) - appointed by the Induction Sub-committee Chairman and approved by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee, shall consist of at least:
 - One past president of a Manitoba Rugby Club currently in good standing.
 - One past president of either Rugby Manitoba, Maple Grove Rugby Park, or the Manitoba Association of Rugby Referees.
 - Two Alumni Representatives - former players or officials (one male, one female) – retired from on field game activities for a period of five years.

Revision

- These Guidelines are subject to revision by the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame Committee, who will provide a copy of the revised Guidelines to Rugby Manitoba.

Relationship between the Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame and Rugby Manitoba

- The Manitoba Rugby Hall of Fame is an independent organization, and is at arms-length from Rugby Manitoba, with no reporting relationship (other than for informational and liaison purposes) to Rugby Manitoba.

www.manitobarugbyhalloffame.com

www.manitobarugbyhalloffame.com/nomination-form.html

Thank You

2019 MANITOBA RUGBY HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:

Committee Chair:

Committee Vice-chair
Recording Secretary
Communications Coordinator

Finance Sub-Committee Chair

Treasurer
Sponsorship Coordinator

Induction Dinner Event Sub-Committee Chair

Venue/Catering/Beverages Coordinator
Tickets/Invitations Coordinator
Program/MC/Agenda/Dinner Coordinator

Exhibit Sub-Committee Chair

Archivist
Inductee Displays and Dinner Displays Coordinator
Web Site Coordinator
Inductee Memento Coordinator

Induction Sub-Committee Co-Chairs

Nominations Coordinator/s
Selections Jury Members

• Ray Hoemsen

- Vacant
- Jim Feasby
- Jim Russell

• Bill Forbes

- Bill Forbes
- Gary Macdonald

• Linda Romsa

- Rick Romsa
- Jose Orellana
- Linda Romsa

• Glenys Mackenzie

- Glenys Mackenzie
- Glenys Mackenzie
- Rob St. Germain
- Rick Romsa

• Larry Cherrett

- Larry Cherrett

- Val Gompf
- Paul Harland
- Guy McKim

• Wilf Erichsen

- Wilf Erichsen

- Gary Nicholson
- Brad Oswald



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- All the Advertisers who made this program so special.



10th Anniversary

We are at **63**
great new friends...
and still counting!

The Friends of Rugby
would like to congratulate all five inductees
in today's ceremonies.

