

**To: Members of City Council**

**From: Woodstock Recreation Advisory Committee (WRAC)**

**Re: Woodstock Sports Wall of Fame 2025**

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**AIM**

To seek Council's consideration of nominees for induction into the 2025 Woodstock Sports Wall of Fame.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Woodstock's Sports Wall of Fame was introduced at the Opening Ceremony of the twin-pad arena, now known as Reeves Community Complex, in 1996. Over the years, many athletes, teams, and builders of sport have been recognized, along with several from the historic category, which even includes inductees from before 1900. Lifetime Achievement and Special Recognition are two (2) categories added in recent years to assist in honouring noteworthy accolades of today, and Lifetime for an impressive resume accumulated over many years. Therefore, there are now seven (7) categories, and based on the quality of submissions and the timing of conducting an induction ceremony every other year, it is possible to have 8 or more honourees.

**COMMENTS**

The deadline for the public to submit applications for 2025 was March 31. The Woodstock Recreation Advisory Committee (WRAC) reviewed the new nominations and some previous on-file submissions at the WRAC meeting of April 8. Below is a list of those recommended by the WRAC for the ceremony planned for Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, at the Goff Gym at Reeves Community Complex.

**Female Athlete**

Janet Thompson

- High school teacher, coach and meet convener, but significantly also an athlete who continues to compete into her 70s. Her athletes have competed at OFSAA in Nordic skiing, cross-country running and track. Her athletic resume includes international triathlons - 2<sup>nd</sup> place in June of 2022 in the 70-74 age group at the World Age Group Championships in Montreal; 1<sup>st</sup> in 2023 in Spain (1,500-metre swim, 40-km bike and 10-km run).
- She has more than 40 years of experience on the winter trails - Canadian Ski Marathon in Quebec (2-day, 180 km).
- Volunteer convener with Kids Du in Woodstock for ages 3 – 13.

**Male Athlete**

Kevin Bruder

- Slo-pitch star from Woodstock with many national championships as a member of different teams - 3 national gold medals, 5 national silvers, 2 national bronze, 3 Ontario golds, and 4 Ontario silver medals; all from the years 1997 – 2021. Bruder has been named a tournament all-star and all-Canadian.
- On the 2011 Team Ontario, Bruder went 25/39 with a .641 avg, including 4 HRs and 11 RBIs at nationals, scoring 20 runs in 10 games. The 2016 Ontario Orioles won nationals on a team that also included Ron Nadalin and Curtis Neabel.

**Team**

Silver Tankard Ontario Champions

- In 1963, a Woodstock Curling Club team of Bill Astle and Dave Mitchell (skips), Peter Julian and Osmond 'Ozzy' Evans (thirds), Mark Gasparatto and Jim Schwandt (seconds), and Jim Keith and Dr. Gord Brown (leads) won the provincial title in curling eights.
- The format changed in 2022, with today's competition featuring four men and four women.
- Woodstock Curling Centre says this event dates back to 1875.

**Builder of Sport**

Bill Arthurs

- Woodstock Soccer Club long-time coach, executive member, and volunteer groundskeeper.
- Began coaching lacrosse in 1974, but after that league folded, he began coaching his 3 children in minor soccer and continued for 30 years – both house league and travel teams. In 1995, it was calculated that he won his 200th game, and by the time he retired from coaching soccer, he had more than 300 victories and many tournaments and league trophies.
- As a member of the Navy Club, he organized curling bonspiels for more than 20 years. Today, he and his wife Gerrie are still groundskeepers at the Navy Club. Competing and coached in many other sports ranging from broomball to shuffleboard to dragon boat racing.

**Historic**

Bob McMillan

- McMillan was an outstanding baseball player, including receiving an invitation to a Brooklyn Dodgers tryout in the 1950s. He was a pitcher and hitter with skills developed playing for the Elmer Cuthbert juvenile and junior Flat Tires in the early 1950s, throwing a no-hitter versus the Galt Terriers.
- McMillan passed away on May 4, 2007.

**Bun Brewster**

- Provincial, national and international competitor in badminton for almost 4 decades. Bernard Edward Brewster's first top results were in 1938, winning singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles at the Oxford finals. Brewster was a provincial finalist in men's doubles with George Thorpe 4 times in the 1950s, and won the Western Ontario titles 9 times consecutively. In 1961, Brewster and Thorpe had the best record in Thomas Cup Trials but were not selected to represent Canada.
- Bun Brewster passed away in 2005.

**Lifetime Achievement****Jim Stevens**

- Figure skating judge, volunteer, coach, executive, event convener and any other role he could assist with in Woodstock Skating and other levels of regional competition.
- Earned Western Ontario Sectionals outstanding service award (1994), WOS officials award of excellence (2017), Skate Canada volunteer award of excellence (2005), HOME (Huron Oxford Middlesex Elgin) Region outstanding dedication and time commitment, and naturally past chair of the Woodstock Skating Club board. Stevens was on the Skate Canada officials team, which created a new scoring system, especially for Ice Dance routines in competition.
- Beginning in 1950, he was a WSC competitor.

**Special Recognition****Kyla Rodrigue**

- Rodrigue won OFSAA gold for WCI in 2019 in the 100-metre sprint for developmentally delayed runners. The Ontario high school championships were at the University of Guelph, and Rodrigue won the finals in 13.64 seconds, winning by 1 second (a Beamsville runner was 2<sup>nd</sup> at 14.62). Rodrigue also won TVRA, WOSSA (holds meet record at 13.44) and the OFSAA West Regionals gold medals.
- In 2018, she won silver at OFSAA at York University. In earlier Junior age years, Rodrigue had won gold and silver. Is also a WCI Steve Coad Hall of Fame winner in 2025.

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Woodstock City Council approves the induction of the following individuals at the 2025 Sports Wall of Fame ceremony:

- Female Athlete: Janet Thompson
- Male Athlete: Kevin Bruder
- Team: Silver Tankard Ontario Champions
- Builder of Sport: Bill Arthurs

- Historic: Bob McMillan & Bun Brewster
- Lifetime Achievement: Jim Stevens; and,
- Special Recognition: Kyla Rodrigue.

*Authored by: Mark Schadenberg, City Councillor*

*Approved by: Woodstock Recreation Advisory Committee*