



Induction Ceremony

2018

Event Sponsored by:



History

To recognize and celebrate the people who have contributed to Petawawa's rich heritage and lasting legacy, the Petawawa Town Council supported the development of a Petawawa Sports and Entertainment Hall of Fame in spring 2017. This endeavour will provide the Town of Petawawa with an opportunity to celebrate past achievement in the areas of sports and entertainment and build a legacy of excellence for the future.

Mission

To honour, celebrate, preserve and share the outstanding achievements and contributions of those who have brought recognition to the Town of Petawawa through sport and entertainment. The PSEHOF will recognize athletes (individuals and teams), entertainers (individuals or groups) and builders (non-athletes and other contributors) who have:

- Made significant and/or outstanding and/or defining and/or exceptional achievements and/or contributions to sport, athletics or entertainment as an athlete, an entertainer or a builder
- Achieved outstanding and extraordinary success in Canada or as a Canadian competing or performing abroad
- Made an outstanding and extraordinary contribution to sports or entertainment other than as a competitor

Goal

"Inspire the youth of Petawawa to excel in sports and entertainment and strive to achieve their goals in all aspects of life."

Future

The current Board of Directors is actively seeking new volunteers for the Hall of Fame Committee and the Nomination Committee as we begin preparations for the next class of inductees in June 2020. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Gary Serviss at serviss@cogeco.ca or 613-687-0021

Schedule of Events

6:00 - Doors Open

6:00 - 7:00 - Cocktails + Hors D'oeuvres

7:00 - 9:00 - Ceremony Begins

1. Opening Remarks - Sean Chase

2. Emcee - Hec Clouthier

3. Greetings from Bob Sweet, Mayor of Petawawa

4. Video Presentation

5. Induction of Class of 2018:

Ray Sheppard

Sports - NHL Player - Plaque presented by Patrick Maher

Fred Molson

Builder - Plaque presented by Keith Paterson

Willard Mohns

Builder - Plaque presented by Dickie Mohns

Accepted on behalf of Willard by son Tom Mohns

Joshua Hopkins

Entertainment - Opera - Plaque presented by Kevin Nieman

Accepted on behalf of Joshua by his mother Dale Tapp

Roy Giesebrecht

Sports - NHL Player - Plaque presented by Hec Clouthier

Plaque accepted on behalf of Roy by Donny Giesebrecht

Jason Blaine McEwen

Entertainment - Country Music - Plaque presented by Murray Rutz

6. Conclusion of Ceremony

7. Unveiling of Plaques at the Wall of Fame

8. 9:00 - 10:00 Guests Mingle upstairs



Ray Sheppard

Sports - NHL Player

Born in Pembroke on May 27, 1966, Ray Sheppard was raised in a military family attending several Base Petawawa schools including General Lake, Rivercrest and Pinecrest. As a youth, he played seven years of minor hockey with the Petawawa Patriots winning the Peewee International Silver Stick championship. The six-foot winger graduated to the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) recording 150 goals and 130 assists in 180 games in three seasons with the Cornwall Royals. He was subsequently awarded the Red Tilson trophy as the league's MVP and named to the OHL All-Star Team in 1985-86. In 1984, he was selected 60th overall by the Buffalo Sabres in the NHL entry draft. In his NHL debut season, Sheppard made an impact with 38 goals and 27 assists earning him a spot on the 1988 NHL All Rookie Team and second in balloting for the Calder Trophy. The Sabres traded him to the New York Rangers in 1990 where he scored 24 goals in 59 games. As a free agent, he signed with Detroit in 1991-92 where he played for five seasons. It was with the Red Wings that Sheppard recorded his best professional season statistically scoring 52 goals and 41 assists for 93 points during 1993-94. The following year, he was traded to the San Jose Sharks for Igor Larionov. After less than a season, he was traded to the Florida Panthers where he played for the next three seasons. In 1998, Sheppard was sent to the Carolina Hurricanes at the trade deadline for Kirk McLean. The following year, he signed as an unrestricted free agent with the Florida Panthers, retiring from the NHL in 2000. Sheppard played 817 career NHL games, scoring 357 goals and 300 assists for 657 points. He played in two Stanley Cup finals, in 1995 with Detroit and 1996 with Florida. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Panthers Alumni Association. In 2017, Ray Sheppard returned to his hockey roots as part of the Rogers Hometown Hockey celebration on New Year's Day at the Petawawa Civic Centre.



Fred Molson

Builder

In the late 1950s, Fred Molson envisioned folks young and old skiing down the bluffs of the ancient shoreline of the prehistoric Champlain Sea. To that end, he opened up the Petawawa Ski Hill on Laurentian Drive in the winter of 1958-59. Molson bought the property from Edward Malkin for \$3,500, who had already partially developed a ski hill there, including the rope tow. Molson worked hard to clear the land of trees, brush and stumps to create a trail down the hill. He operated the rope tow using a modified truck making the journey for skiers up the 120-foot vertical slope last only eight seconds. The Petawawa Ski Club was officially established in 1960. For the next 50 years, Fred Molson ran the hill, which became affectionately known as “Mount Molson,” grooming the run, operating the lift and providing general maintenance. When the hill first opened an old chicken coop was renovated to be used as a warm-up shack “chalet”. It was replaced by a real chalet in the late 1960s. Other modifications were made over the years. The rope tow was replaced by a Poma lift. Because of Molson's efforts the hill has produced nationally and internationally recognized racers, coaches and instructors within the ski industry, while thousands of area kids have learned and gained a passion for skiing. Throughout his years of devotion to the sport and keeping the hill a community institution, his wife, Edna, has been a full-time supporter of Fred's endeavours, spending many years herself working at the hill, along with the support of their son Brian. Molson has been recognized by elite members of Alpine Canada for his long dedication to the sport of skiing. Today, he continues to volunteer with the Petawawa Ski Club Committee as an advisor. It should be noted that Fred Molson's motives were never for financial gain. He did this for the children, the love of the sport and love of the community of Petawawa that he lived in.



Willard Mohns

Builder

Willard Henry Mohns was born on January 31st, 1920. Serving in the Second World War, Mohns brought his passion for sports by playing fastball for the Canadian Army team in England which won the championship in 1942. Returning to his native Petawawa in 1945, Mohns joined the Petawawa Indians winning numerous championships in the North Renfrew Baseball League and advancing to the provincial finals. He was a prolific hockey player and one of the original members of the Petawawa Silver Kings Oldtimers. Mohns sought to provide recreational opportunities for youth and adults in the area. In the 1950s, he coached baseball and devoted his time to building a community ball field. With a dedicated group of volunteers, he went on to transform a gravel pit off Victoria Street into what is known today as the "Indian Diamond." He also started a minor baseball league known as Quad Town. Being elected to municipal office in 1961, Mohns sat on the first Petawawa Village council. One of his lifelong dreams was to provide a safe community swimming hole along the Petawawa River. In 1967, he spearheaded an effort to secure federal government grants to develop the Catwalk, which is today Centennial Park and the centrepiece of the Millennium Trail. In the 1970s, Mohns played a leadership role in getting provincial funding for an ice arena. When the Village and Township of Petawawa agreed on a joint venture, a parcel of land on the Leeder Homestead was selected. Mohns put a down payment on the property with his own money to ensure the arena had a future site. It was later called the Petawawa Civic Centre. His vision and energy has given Petawawa residents past, present and future with three iconic recreation facilities. Willard Mohns passed away on April 2nd, 2001 in his 82nd year.



Joshua Hopkins

Entertainment - Opera

Joshua was born in Toronto but raised in Petawawa from the age of two. Joshua Hopkins attended Pineview Public school and was a graduate of General Panet High School in 1996. He spent ten years as a clarinetist in the Petawawa Legion Band and composed the "Centennial Park March" for the grand opening of Centennial Park in Petawawa. His first big role was being cast as Curly in the Pembroke Musical Society's production of Oklahoma in 1995. Completing his master's degree at Montreal's McGill University in 2003, he furthered his training with the Houston Grand Opera studio. In 2004, Hopkins made his Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall. Since then the acclaimed baritone has enjoyed international success performing with the world's great symphonies including New York, Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, Washington, Lisbon, Hamburg, Amsterdam and Oslo. In 2009, he made his New York City Metropolitan Opera debut as Ping in "Turandot." In 2012, he appeared in "The Met: Live in HD" which was broadcast live to movie theatres in 35 countries. Hopkins has recorded recital discs with the ATMA Classique label as well as recitals for CBC Radio's Jeunes Artistes program. He has won several prestigious awards including first place in the 2002 Julián Gayarre International Singing Competition, the 2005 Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition, the 2006 ARD Musikwettbewerb in Munich, Germany, the 2006 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award and the Verbier Festival Academy's 2008 Prix d'Honneur. His 2015-2016 season included a return to Lyric Opera of Chicago as Mercutio in "Romeo et Juliette." In the 2016-2017 season, Hopkins returned to the Houston Grand Opera as Harry Bailey in the world-premier of "It's a Wonderful Life." In the summer of 2018, Joshua will be performing in New York City's Central Park in the Metropolitan Opera's summer opera series as well as starring in the Barber of Seville in the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York. Joshua Hopkins was once chosen by OPERA NEWS as one of 25 artists poised to break out and become a major force in the coming decade with the publication declaring he has "...a glistening, malleable baritone of exceptional beauty, and...the technique to exploit its full range of expressive possibilities from comic bluster to melting beauty."



Roy Giesebrecht

Sports - NHL Player

Hailing from one of Petawawa's founding families, Roy Giesebrecht was born in 1917 to Eugene and Bertha Giesebrecht. Roy and four of his brothers shared the same passion for hockey while playing for the Pembroke Lumber Kings. His junior career began at the age of 16 with the Ottawa St. Malachy's of the Ottawa City Junior Hockey League (OCJHL), with whom he played for the 1933–34 season, skating in 15 games and scoring 6 goals and 11 assists for 17 points. The following season, he divided his time between the OCJHL's Ottawa Senators, the Lumber Kings and the Pembroke Falcons of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association. In 1938, Giesebrecht began his professional career with the Pittsburgh Hornets, farm team of the Detroit Red Wings in the International-American Hockey League. That December 1938 he was called up to play for the Red Wings being placed on a line with Syd Howe. In his NHL debut, Giesebrecht scored three goals in the first period earning him the nickname "the Hat Trick Kid of Detroit." Throughout the remaining 28 games of the season, he scored 10 goals and 10 assists. NHL coaches considered him one of the league's most promising rookies. His second season saw him tally four goals and seven assists before Detroit sent him down to the Indianapolis Capitals. He was back for the 1940-41 season. In the playoffs, Giesebrecht scored the game-winning goal in sudden-death overtime to help eliminate the Chicago Black Hawks and send the Red Wings to the Stanley Cup finals. Detroit was ultimately defeated by Boston. His professional career was soon derailed by world events, however. In 1942, Giesebrecht left the Red Wings to fight in the Second World War. Landing at Normandy with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division a month after D-Day, he saw action in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. After the war, Giesebrecht turned down an offer from coach Jack Adams to return to Detroit opting to work for the family's storied business in Petawawa. He continued playing hockey with the Senior Pembroke Lumber Kings serving as team captain and a top scorer until 1952. Over time, he became something of a hockey icon in the community. His NHL career consisted of 135 games in which the centreman recorded 27 goals and 51 assists for a total of 78 points. Roy Giesebrecht passed away on Dec. 27, 2006 at the age of 89.



Jason Blaine McEwen

Entertainment - Country Music

Born on April 19, 1980, Jason Blaine McEwen spent his first six years growing up in Petawawa. Following his father's passion for music, Jason began playing guitar at age nine. In high school, he joined a band and played his first gig at the Air Force Club in Pembroke. After graduating from Fellowes High School in 1998, he studied business at Algonquin College, where he began to write songs. In 2002, he entered and won Project Discovery, a talent search sponsored by Country Music Television (CMT). The prize was the production of one song and video to be aired on CMT. The release of his first single, "That's What I Do" followed. In 2005, the talented musician released his first independently-produced album, "While We Were Waiting." In addition to the title song, the album spawned three top 20 singles and Top 10 CMT videos including "Heartache Like Mine" and "What I Can't Forget." He subsequently moved to Nashville to produce his next album, "Make My Move" in 2008 which enjoyed national success with several CMT Top 20 hits. In 2012, Jason won the Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) Award for Single of the Year for "They Don't Make Them Like That Anymore," which he wrote for his grandfather. In addition he received CCMA nominations for Male Artist, Songwriter and Producer. During his prolific career, Jason has played the mainstage at every major festival in the country including Boots and Hearts, Country Thunder, Big Valley Jamboree and Cavendish Beach Music Festival. Jason has shared the stage with such country greats as Dierks Bentley, Rascal Flatts and Tim McGraw. Despite his phenomenal success in the music industry, Jason has never forgotten his Ottawa Valley roots. In 2013, he established the Jason Blaine Charitable Fund. For the past five years, he has hosted an annual charity concert and golf tournament which has raised more than \$300,000. Algonquin College's Waterfront Campus, the Pembroke-Petawawa District Community Foundation and the Pembroke and Area Boys' and Girls' Clubs are among the many community projects and organizations who have benefited from his generous philanthropy. In 2017, he released a six-song EP with the Canadian indie label Wax Records. The lead single, "Born To Love" recently became Blaine's 16th top 20 hit. His latest single, "Boy with a Guitar" is currently climbing the charts. On New Year's Day 2017, Jason Blaine returned to Petawawa to perform at the Rogers Hometown Hockey broadcast. He and his wife, Amy, currently reside in Hendersonville, Tennessee with their four children.

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