



## **BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2009 INDUCTEES**

### **ATHLETE CATEGORY**

#### **LORI BOWDEN – Triathlon**

In terms of sheer world championship results, Victoria's Lori Bowden is one of the most outstanding Canadian athletes of the past twenty years. Plain and simple. You need not go any further than look across her yearly placings against the best international triathletes on the planet over an eight year period beginning in 1996: 8<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>. And when you consider that Bowden competed at the Ironman distance (3.8-km swim, 180-km cycle, 42.2-km marathon run), it makes her achievements seem all the more remarkable. Besides winning five Canadian championships, she also won titles in Hawaii, Australia, and Austria. At one point, Bowden owned the second-fastest women's time ever for an Ironman event—8:51:22—and was one of only five women to break the nine-hour mark. In total, she won twelve Ironman championships over the course of her career, leaving her among the greatest female triathletes of all time.

#### **CAROL HUYNH – Wrestling**

The latest international success to emerge from Mike Jones' Burnaby Mountain wrestling factory, Hazelton's Carol Huynh (appropriately pronounced "win") won Canada's first gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the country's first-ever gold in women's wrestling. In an upset victory over the reigning world champion Chiharu Icho of Japan, Huynh's victory in the 48-kg freestyle weight class injected a much-needed jolt of hope and celebration into a Canadian public grown frustrated with a lacklustre first week for Canadian athletes in Beijing. Prior to Beijing, Huynh had built an outstanding international resume as BC's finest female wrestler ever. Her impressive results include three world championship medals (bronze, 2000; silver, 2001; bronze, 2005), 2007 Pan American Games gold medallist, and eight-time Canadian champion.

#### **CHRIS LOSETH – Horse Racing**

One of the greatest Canadian jockeys of all-time, Chris Loseth's name needs no introduction in the world of horse racing. Riding 3668 career winners and the first jockey to win Sovereign Awards as both Canada's leading apprentice in 1976 and outstanding jockey in 1984, Loseth managed many "firsts" throughout his remarkable career. Growing up in Fort Nelson, few could have predicted the young boy who idolized Johnny Longden would ride mounts over the course of his career that earned more than \$32 million. Eight times he finished as the leading jockey at Hastings Park and he remains the all-time leading rider at his home track. Then there was the evening of April 19, 1984. Loseth won eight of ten races that night at Hastings to grab a share of the both North American and world records for most wins on a single race card, earning him a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. In 2001, he was awarded the Avelino Gomez Award for significant contributions to Canadian horse racing.

## **PAUL PARNELL – Lacrosse**

For a team with such revered traditions on the West Coast, few have left a more indelible mark on senior lacrosse than Paul Parnell in his 15 seasons with the New Westminster Salmonbellies. If the Salmonbellies, with 26 Mann Cup championships in 108 years, are the Montreal Canadiens of lacrosse, then few would dispute that Parnell is the Jean Beliveau of his sport. Consider the evidence. In 75 seasons of senior box lacrosse in BC (1933-2007), Parnell stood 2<sup>nd</sup> in games played, 587; 1<sup>st</sup> in goals, 921; 3<sup>rd</sup> in assists, 880; and 2<sup>nd</sup> in points, 1801. Twelve times he was named an All-Star, seven times on the first team. He played in nine Mann Cups winning six titles and two MVP awards. One of those MVP years (1972), he was also the Salmonbellies' playing coach and won the coach of the year. When he retired in 1975, he held 23 WLA longevity and scoring records; a quarter century later, he still held or shared 13. Quite simply, he could collectively score, defend, lead, coach, and play better than any other player of his generation. In 1980, he was inducted into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

## **LARRY WALKER – Baseball**

Perhaps the greatest of the 1990s Maple Ridge triumvirate (Cam Neely and Greg Moore being the others) that caused many to ask what was in the water north of the Fraser, Larry Walker's 17 seasons in the major leagues remains the benchmark for Canadian ballplayers. Patrolling the outfield for Montreal, Colorado, and St. Louis, Walker fused blanket fielding with a monster bat for one of the most tantalizing combinations in the majors. Frequent injuries robbed his impressive career statistics of even further lustre, but his .313 average and 383 home runs still give him Cooperstown consideration. His career season came in 1997, when he hit .366 along with 49 home runs, 130 runs batted in, and 33 stolen bases to win the National League MVP, the first Canadian ever awarded this honour. The season also earned him the Lou Marsh Award as Canada's outstanding athlete. Other career highlights include five All-Star selections, seven Gold Glove Awards, and three Silver Slugger Awards.



## **TEAM CATEGORY**

### **2008 CANADIAN OLYMPIC MEN'S ROWING EIGHTS**

With their training base on Victoria's Elk Lake and five of eight members BC natives, the 2008 Canadian Olympic Men's Rowing Eights had a distinctly British Columbian flavour. The crew's ultimate triumph was years in the making. As the gold-medal favourites heading into the 2004 Olympics, the team finished fifth. The next four years of numbing training sessions were devoted to making amends for this result. Undefeated through 2006 and 2007, as the reigning 2007 world champions, the Canuck crew was again the favourite going into the Beijing Olympics. This time redemption was served up golden. Advancing to the final after a dominant semi-final win, the men's eight led from the gun and never relinquished the lead winning in a time of 5:23.89 to give Canada its second gold medal of the 2008 Olympics.

*Team Members:* Ben Rutledge, Kevin Light, Malcolm Howard, Dominic Seiterle, Kyle Hamilton, Andrew Byrnes, Jake Wetzel, Adam Kreek, Brian Price.

## **BUILDER CATEGORY**

### **SOHEN GILL – Lacrosse**

After nearly six decades of involvement in BC lacrosse as a player, coach, manager, administrator, and official, Burnaby's Sohen Gill has literally seen and done it all. The first Indo-Canadian lacrosse player in western Canada and possibly the first in the entire country, Gill played eight seasons of senior lacrosse for Burnaby, Victoria, Vancouver, and Coquitlam. In 1970, he entered the coaching and managing ranks first in Burnaby, before bouncing around a handful of other lower mainland clubs over the next thirty years. His first term as WLA commissioner began in 1987 and he currently serves as both the WLA commissioner and BCLA president. He has organized 13 national championship tournaments to date and chaired a myriad of lacrosse committees. From Mann Cups to Minto Cups to coaching his six-year-old grandson's lacrosse team, there is very little Gill will not do for his beloved game. His efforts were recognized in 2005 with induction into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

### **LES MCDONALD – Triathlon**

As the founding father of modern triathlon, it's no stretch to credit much of the sport's recent popularity and growth worldwide to North Vancouver's Les McDonald. McDonald was involved with triathlon in Canada from the very beginning, both as a competitor and administrator. In 1983, he worked with a group of locals to establish the British Columbia Triathlon Association, as well as some of the earliest triathlon events held in BC. He was a founding member of the Canadian Triathlon Federation, today known as Triathlon Canada, and served as the organization's president from 1984-1996. At the request of IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, McDonald served on the working committee to establish triathlon's international federation. The result? The International Triathlon Union, formed in 1989 and ran for many years out of McDonald's North Vancouver home. In 1993, triathlon was added to the Olympic schedule and became a full-fledged medal sport for the first time at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. McDonald remains the ITU's one and only president to this day.



## **PIONEER CATEGORY**

### **Vancouver Dueck Powerglides Wheelchair Basketball Team**

A strong argument can be made that the remarkable international success of Canada's men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams in recent years has its roots in BC with the Vancouver Dueck Powerglides. Wheelchair basketball was established in scattered pockets of the US, but was largely unknown in BC prior to 1950 when Doug Mowat, Stan Stronge, Jim Mackie, and Walter Schmidt formed the Powerglides to give people with disabilities an opportunity to play the game here. The early years were as much about building a sturdy foundation of players as educating the rest of the province about the game. One of only two Canadian wheelchair basketball teams at the time, the Powerglides toured the Pacific Northwest playing teams of able-bodied players and amassed a record of 74 wins and one loss over a period of four seasons. In 1970, the team evolved into the Vancouver Cable Cars where legendary players Eugene Reimer, Peter Colistro, and Rick Hansen had the opportunity to leave their marks on the game.

## **MEDIA CATEGORY**

### **Archie McDonald**

For forty years a fixture in the *Vancouver Sun's* sports department, Archie McDonald is remembered for some of the most versatile, balanced, and eloquent sportswriting ever written in BC. A genuine honesty and sensitivity characterized his work, making him one of the most respected individuals in his profession. McDonald started in 1957 as an eager young reporter covering inter-city lacrosse and UBC sports before branching off into various local beats and international events including four Olympics and three Kentucky Derbys. Early on, working beside the likes of Jack Richards, Denny Boyd, and Dick Beddoes allowed him to learn and refine his craft until he, too, was considered one of the masters, perhaps the last of the great Canadian columnists who cut their teeth on horse racing. Horse racing remained particularly close to his heart and often resulted in his best work. In 1980, he was honoured with a National Newspaper Award and later two Sovereign Awards for horse racing articles. In 1990, he was inducted into the BC Horse Racing Hall of Fame as a builder.