

## ONTARIO LACROSSE MAGAZINE

Ontario Lacrosse Magazine is the primary source of information for Ontario lacrosse players, parents, coaches and officials. Published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall), Ontario Lacrosse Magazine is mailed directly to more than 45,000 members of the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA). Our readers turn to the magazine for the latest lacrosse news, products, trends, insights and expert opinion. All editorial submissions and article queries should be sent to Ron MacSpadyen, editor: ron@ontariolacrosse.com. The views expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the Ontario Lacrosse Association.

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## OLA JUNIOR LEAGUES NAME 2014 AWARD WINNERS

The OLA Junior Leagues recently announced annual award winners in recognition of their outstanding achievements during the 2014 regular season. Congratulations to the following players who distinguished themselves.

### OLA JUNIOR "A" LEAGUE

Jeff Teat of the Brampton Excelsiors captured the Joey Niewendyk Award as the rookie of the year. With 89 points (35g,54a), Teat placed sixth on the league's overall scoring list.

The Bobby Allan award for league scoring leader went to Reilly O'Connor of the Whitby Warriors with 117 points. O'Connor also took home the Jim Veltman Award for the league's most outstanding player.

Leo Stouros of the Six Nations Arrows was honoured with the John "Gus" McCauley Memorial Award as the most outstanding defensive player.

T.J. Sanders of the Barrie Lakeshores brought home the Gaylord Powless Memorial Award for the most sportsmanlike player.

Teammate Daniel Craig was a co-winner of the Dennis McIntosh Memorial Award as the most valuable player. Craig shared that honour with Chris Cloutier of the Kitchener-Waterloo Braves.

Doug Jamieson and Don Alton from the Arrows captured the Robert Melville Memorial Award for goalies with the lowest goals against average. Alton also took home the Sanderson Memorial Award as the most valuable goaltender in the league.

The Jim Bishop Memorial Award for the top coaching staff went to the Braves: head coach, Brian Beisel, and assistant coaches, Corey Hallman, Mark Tinning, Eric Martin and Andrew Watt.

### OLA JUNIOR "B" LEAGUE

Fred Hartley of the Gloucester Griffins took home the most valuable player award (East) after his best season to date. Hartley, with 110 points on the season (61g,49a), finished second in overall league scoring.

Brendon Anger (57g,54a,111pts) of the Windsor Clippers was the league's leading scorer.

Rookie of the year honours were shared by Dawson Theede of the Green Gaels (East) and Brenden Welsh of the Owen Sound North Stars (West).

Welland General Jack Fitzgerald was recognized for his outstanding achievements as the 2014 most valuable player in the West.



Daniel Craig. Photo: Vintage LAX

The most valuable defensive players were Kason Tarbell of Akwesasne (East) and Kyle Issacs of the Six Nations Rebels (West).

Aaron Forster of the Gloucester Griffins (East) and Mike Rybka of the London Blue Devils (West) were recognized as the most sportsmanlike players in the league.

Top coaching honours went to the Griffins (East) and Niagara Thunderhawks (West).

Patrick Pollock and Liam Wynne of the Green Gaels (East) shared the top goaltending award with Martin Chase, Mitch Henhawk, and Briley Miller of the Six Nations (West).

### OLA JUNIOR "C" LEAGUE

Todd Kelloway of the Fergus Thistles shared the most valuable player award (West) with Brandon Perras of the Cornwall Celtics in the East.

Cole McWilliams of the Peterborough Lakers was the leading league scorer with 103 points (30g,73a).

In the goaltending category, Patrick Pollock and Liam Wynne of the Green Gaels (East) along with Martin Chase and Mitch Henhawk of Six Nations (West) were honoured.

Rookies of the year were Kyle Staveley (West) representing the Shelburne Vet's and Derek Lister (East) representing the Cornwall Celtics.

Jordan Dayball of the Wilmot Wild (West) and Conner Primeau of the Celtics (East) were co-winners as most valuable defensive players.

Shelburne's Doug Derbyshire was honoured as the most sportsmanlike player in the West, while David Plots of the Gloucester Griffins received the award in the East.

Top coaching honours went to Shelburne (West) and the Gloucester (East).

## COCKERTON ADDED TO US HALL



Photo: Brett Friedlander

Oshawa native Stan Cockerton has been elected to the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame by the US Lacrosse Board of Directors, and will be honored in a ceremony on Saturday, October 25th at the Grand Lodge in Hunt Valley, Md.

Cockerton is the lone Canadian in the class, having played for the Oshawa Blue Knights for 16 years, and for Team Canada in the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) World Championships in 1978, 1982, and 1990.

In possibly his most memorable moment in the game, he recorded nine points (6g, 3a) in Canada's 17-16 upset victory over Team USA in the 1978 final, including the game winning goal in overtime.

Cockerton was a four-time All-American at North Carolina State University, holding several all-time NCAA Division I records: third with 193 career goals, and 15th in career points with 280. He is an all-time NCAA leader in goals per game average with 4.39, and ranks second in NCAA history in points per game average with 6.36.

Cockerton's No. 15 jersey is one of only four retired in NC State athletic history, marking his significant contribution to the school.

Currently serving as the President of the FIL and Executive Director of the Ontario Lacrosse Association, Cockerton remains heavily involved in the world of lacrosse. Tickets to the ceremony will be available to the public for purchase beginning August 1, and can be found online at [usalacrosse.org/HOF](http://usalacrosse.org/HOF).

## ONTARIO LACROSSE HALL OF FAME ADDS SIX MEMBERS

The Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) recently announced the newest members of the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame (OLHOF) located in St. Catharines, Ontario. The 2014 Inductees are Louis Delisle of Kahnawake, Ted Howe Jr. of St. Catharines, Doug Luey of Whitby, Mike McMillan of Owen Sound, Ray Mortimer of Mimico and Rob Mason of Fergus.

### Louis Delisle – Player/Builder

- He was a star player with Kahnawake's junior and senior teams for many years as well as a respected coach.
- Known for his ability to dash speedily out of traffic to produce a breakaway and unleashing his patented slight sidearm shot, connecting with the utmost top corner of the net.
- Spent many years sharing, his knowledge and love of the game to the youth in his community.
- Louis was either a team captain or assistant from 73-97, team top scorer in 73, 78, 79 & 80 and appeared in 5 Presidents Cups.

### Ted Howe Jr. – Builder

- He started in 1976 as both a Coach and executive member of the Minor Association, active in both the rep and house league level for 20 years.
- President of the St. Catharines Master Lacrosse in 1990, and fulfilled that role until 1996, when he came back as a coach and executive member for the next eight years.
- He is 31-year longstanding member and secretary of the St. Catharines Old Boys Lacrosse Association and continues his involvement with the Old Boys today.
- Executive member and Secretary of the Junior A Athletics presently.
- Continues to be very active in fundraising opportunities for the Jr. A's, the Old Boys Association and the Minor Athletics.
- Received volunteer awards from the City of St. Catharines and recognized by the OLA for over 20 years of service.

### Doug Luey – Builder

- He is the Box Sector Chair on the CLA Board of Directors, and was Vice President of Senior to Major on the OLA Board of Directors for six years.
- Was GM & President of the Green Gaels Jr. B club from 2001-2006 and spent a total of 20 years between Whitby and Oshawa Minor Lacrosse as Coach, President and Vice President.
- Played minor lacrosse in Port Dalhousie during the 70's, graduating to Junior A with

St. Catharines and then Oshawa.

- While coaching Minor in Oshawa he led a group of boys to an OLA Bantam Championship in 1981.
- As President and GM of the Green Gaels Jr. B. team, they won the Founders Cup in 2002 and 2004.
- He also served as the Commissioner of the OLA Junior C League from inception in 2008 and guided it through expansion to its current 18 team league.
- Began the annual tradition of travelling to Prague, Czechoslovakia for the Alex Hrebesky Memorial Box Lacrosse Tournament, and coached his Green Gaels to the championship in 2007 and 2009.
- Life time Member of Whitby Minor Lacrosse Association; he has been a recipient of the OLA Presidents Award. He has been decorated with the CLA Recognition Award for service to the game in 2011, and received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contribution to Lacrosse in 2012.
- Doug is currently a committee member for the CLA 150th Anniversary of Lacrosse for 2017.
- Luey says his favorite moment throughout his outstanding career was travelling to Prague the first time. "It was great to see box lacrosse played internationally. They had played it before, but to see the way it developed in Europe was pretty exciting."

### Mike McMillan – Player

- Began his junior career in 1974 with Mississauga Junior C team, and progressed to the Junior B and Junior A teams during a golden era of lacrosse in Mississauga.
- In his final junior year he amassed 79 goals and 53 assists for a total of 132 points in 29 regular season games.
- Spent his first two seasons in the WLA Sr A league in Vancouver, then returned to Owen Sound where he played Major & Senior B for the next 11 years of his career.
- Member of Pro National Lacrosse League Champion Guelph Power in 1991 and the Brampton Excelsiors.
- In 1992, Mike was an Assistant Coach with the Mann Cup winning Brampton Excelsiors.

- Mike won three consecutive “most points in a season” in 1981-1982-1983 and 1987 with Owen Sound, and was selected MVP in 1981.
- He won the Nations Cup in 1991 with the Guelph Power.
- Remains an active participant in Masters Lacrosse and is the Organizer of the Oakville Masters Team.

#### **Rob Mason – Player**

- Started playing for his hometown of Fergus, capturing three provincial crowns.
- Recipient of the OLA Centennial Award for achieving a 4.0 GAA, the best in the province.
- Played Junior for the Elora Mohawks where they captured the Founders Cup in his rookie year.
- Added to the Whitby Builders Junior A team as a second year goalie where they were silver medalists in the 1977 Minto, losing to a talented Burnaby team 4 games to 2.
- Capped his junior career by being awarded the Weatherhead Trophy as MVP for the Junior A Mohawks.
- His Senior Major career began in 1978, playing 12 seasons with the Fergus Thistles, and two with the Owen Sound Northstars.
- Won five Presidents Cups in total. Four with Fergus (86, 87, 88 & 90) and one with Owen Sound in 1991.
- Part of the Team Ontario team in 1984 that won the Continental Cup and four Claire Levec Trophies, emblematic of Ontario Senior Championships.
- He was an addition to the Peterborough Red Oaks team who won the Mann Cup, all

3 national title events occurred in 3 consecutive years.

- The 1991 Presidents Cup winning team was inducted into the Owen Sound Sports Hall of Fame.
- Received numerous awards during his 14-year career, including the Harry Lumley Award and six Ross Nelson Awards as top goaltender in Ontario Senior Lacrosse.
- Was named to the first ever Canadian National Box Lacrosse National Team in 1985 and won three different international titles, the North American Challenge Cup; the Australian International Festival of Lacrosse and the first ever World Box Lacrosse Club Championship with a 7-6 victory over Team USA at the Philadelphia Spectrum.

#### **Ray Mortimer – Veteran’s Category**

- Began his OLA Senior A Career in 1937 in Orillia, then played in Owen Sound in 1942, and eventually played with the Army in 1943.
- Spent the majority of his goaltending career as a member of the Mimico Mountaineers starting in 1938 to 1952.
- Member of the 1938 Canadian Minto Cup Championship Mimico Mountaineers team.
- Played 14 season of Senior lacrosse with 216 regular season games mainly backstopping a strong Mimico team.
- Ray has been credited by a number of players of that era as one of the 3 greatest goalies along with Bill Whittaker and Moon Wooten.
- He played with or against such notables as Ken Dixon, Gord Gair, Bill Isaacs, Archie Dixon, Pung Morton, and Jim McMahon.

## SENIOR “B” LEAGUE ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Senior “B” Commissioner Sharon McKeachnie recently announced the results of member voting for the annual league awards. Travis Gibbons of the Owen Sound NorthStars and named the Most Valuable Player. Gibbons led the NorthStars in scoring (26g,28a,54pts) and ranked sixth overall in the league. The Most Valuable Defensive Player was Dustin Dunn of the Ennismore James Gang. Along with Dunn, Ennismore was recognized in three other award categories: Coaching Staff of the Year; Best Two-Way Player (Mack O’Brien) and Top Goaltenders (Cole Murray & Ryan Masters).

The Rookie of the Year was Dylan Goddard of the St. Catharines Saints. Teammates Chris Attwood (Top Scorer) and Corey Fowler (Most Sportsmanlike Player) were also 2014 award winners.

Finally, Cory Bomberry of the Six Nations Rivermen received the Harold James Award for dedication to the game.



### FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH NEW LOOK AND NEW LOGO

The eleventh annual Ontario Lacrosse Festival returns to Durham Region August 1st-10th. Sporting a new logo and new series of national championships, the fun kicks off Friday, August 1st with the Harrow/OLA Pee Wee and Gait/OLA Bantam Provincial Championships (see page 18).

New to the Festival this year are national championships for the Bantam, Midget and Junior divisions of female players. Mark the evening of Saturday, August 9th on your calendar as the Festival hosts double-header, national championship gold medal games at Iroquois Park Sports Centre in Whitby. One ticket gets access to both the Midget and Junior championships beginning at 6:30 PM.

For the eleventh consecutive year, Rogers TV will broadcast the national championship games, featuring the familiar broadcast team of Gary Mark (play-by-play) and Rob Dymont (commentary and analysis) calling the action.

Along with the new nationals competition, the Festival introduced an up-dated revision of the Festival logo, originally designed in 2004 by Glenn Ryan of PIX Design Group.

"Having helped launch the concept of the Festival as an event, the new revision places emphasis back on the name of the sport" said Festival Marketing Director Ron MacSpadyen.

This year the Festival welcomes approximately 565 teams, 10,865 players and coaches competing for thirty-four national and provincial titles. Ten-day attendance estimates are near 55,000 including all participants and fans.

Festival Presenting Sponsors are Brine, Gait Lacrosse, Harrow Sports, STX, Under Armour and Warrior.

## LACROSSE SOCIAL MEDIA TAKES OFF: 70% OF OLA CLUBS EMBRACING NEW TECHNOLOGY

Social media is a constantly evolving network, connecting people from all walks of life through similar interests and hobbies.

The Ontario Lacrosse Association has taken advantage of this platform in an effort to reach out to those who love the sport of lacrosse, and create a more informed social network.

“People rely on their information sources such as Twitter and Facebook,” said Matt Doherty, Promotions Director at the OLA. “For some of our audience, it’s the only way to get the message out.”

For the OLA, the decision to create a presence on Facebook and Twitter was made as a part of the effort to raise awareness of the sport in Ontario. As a result, Twitter following has grown from approximately 200 followers to 2,537 in two and a half years.

The organization has focused on interacting with associated clubs through each platform and mentioning tournaments or events that their target audience might be interested in.

Doherty has also begun retweeting or sharing information about other clubs, creating an opportunity to connect with fans from smaller organizations.

“I post a lot of stuff that we want to get the word out for,” he said. “We post a lot of scores and news items, everything that ends up on the home page of our website goes on social media.”

As the OLA has solidified its presence on social media, it has begun encouraging associated clubs to get involved in a similar fashion.

The Internet could become a place of promotion and connection for all those involved in the sport, expanding the realm of communication across all of Canada.

Doherty has presented on the subject at the annual OLA spring conference with the expressed intention of creating a base from which to start a social media platform and evolve existing ones.

As a result, almost 70% of Ontario clubs are currently on social media.

With assistance from the OLA, Doherty hopes clubs will continue to discover and evolve through multiple networking platforms.

“We’re giving each club a profile page on the OLA website that promotes four things: their logo, main contact, website and social media pages,” said Doherty. “Those have been really successful because now they’re promoting all facets of their organization.”

The Toronto Beaches Junior “A” Lacrosse Club is one of the most well represented clubs on social media, having introduced themselves to each platform as early as three years ago.

James Tessier, Assistant General Manager for the Toronto Beaches, uses the accounts to promote games and events associated with the club.

He has even involved the players, getting them to retweet or tweet about the club’s events to expand the breadth of their reach.

“I think every team should have strong social media,” said Tessier. “They could really spread across Ontario, and get people knowing what’s going on, and talking to each other on social media. Seeing teams interacting with each other, it makes the experience so much better for people on Twitter, they know the scores and trades and it keeps the news going.”

Because Twitter and Facebook eliminate physical distances, Tessier has even begun a discourse with fans and associations in British Columbia that want to talk lacrosse.

The Whitby Warriors have also created a name for themselves on social media, having amassed almost 850 Twitter followers and 1,000 Facebook friends for a single Junior “A” team.

Heather Matthews runs both accounts, focusing her efforts on posting material related to the organization’s games, their alumni, current players, sponsors and

upcoming events.

“The additional awareness has increased our fan base,” she said. “We are able to promote our team and social media is a great communication tool.”

Colleen Grimes, Vice President of Promotion and Development with the Mimico Minor Lacrosse Club, has also seen the benefit to the sport that comes through the implementation of a social media system.

“The lacrosse world has one common goal— to grow the game of lacrosse, and the hashtag #GrowTheGame has become synonymous with tweets promoting lacrosse all over the world, not just in existing lacrosse communities,” said Grimes. “More and more, lacrosse fans are taking to Twitter to share their opinions, insights and experiences because with the rapid growth of social media, the lacrosse community is more visible than ever.”

Grimes and her club have amassed 1,136 followers on Twitter, and continue to grow interest in their club and the sport by interacting with other clubs and initiatives they believe in.

The club has shown support for current and former lacrosse athletes, including former Canadian World Lacrosse Champion, Kyle Miller’s “Beat It” campaign to help conquer cancer.

“Social media has allowed us to advocate and show our support for causes larger than lacrosse reminding us that through our love for the game we are a part of something much bigger,” said Grimes.

The expansion of the face of lacrosse across borderless outlets has increased the OLA’s ability to reach interested fans, and grow interest in the sport.

Doherty hopes to be able to increase the organization’s interaction with followers in the future, creating a space that allows for learning and conversation.

– By Taylor Craig



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