The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame is proud to announce the 2024 Class of Honoured Members. The Inductees will be celebrated on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at CanadInns Polo Park. Ticket information will be posted online at www.mbhockeyhalloffame.ca

Players:

Duvie Wescott

Winnipeg's Duvie Westcott has enjoyed success at every level of hockey that he has played. After winning a Winnipeg High School title with St. Paul's, he leveraged his excellent play with the MJHL Winnipeg South Blues into a spot with the University of Alaska/Anchorage.

The following year he'd move to the USHL and win a Clark Cup championship with the Omaha Lancers before returning to the WCHA with St. Cloud University. After 2 years with St. Cloud and a WCHA title and an all-star selection in 2001, Westcott was signed by Columbus as an undrafted free agent on 10 May 2001.

He'd spend over 6 seasons with the Blue Jackets, playing in 201 career NHL games, scoring eleven goals and 45 assists for 56 points while compiling 299 penalty minutes. During the NHL lockout, he played in Finland.

After the 2008 season, Westcott headed for Europe to sign a one-year contract with Dinamo Riga of the Kontinental Hockey League. The following season he signed a one-year contract with Dinamo Minsk of the KHL.

In 2009, he'd win a Spengler Cup and earn an all-star selection for Canada, before moving to the Swiss National League A for the following two seasons, playing with the ZSC Lions and Kloten Flyers.

In 2012, Duvie Westcott joined the Hamburg Freezers of the German DEL league for 3 seasons, retiring in 2015.

Laurie Langrell
After winning a title with his hometown Warren Bantams, Laurie Langrell wanted to make the trek into Winnipeg every chance he could to play the best hockey he could find.

The tall and athletic Langrell started out as a defenceman. A rare talent at the time, he was a defenceman that could score in an era when coaches frowned on their defence venturing beyond the opponents blueline.

Making the jump to Junior in 1956 with the Winnipeg Barons of the MJHL, he'd become a member of the Winnipeg Braves and league all-star, as a forward the following year. In 1958/59 Langrell was again a league all-star and the Braves leading scorer with 42 goals, including a six-goal game in his 63 points.

Playing on the 'L Line' with Bobby Leiter and Al LeBlanc the Braves captured the MJHL title. Hitting the road, the Braves would knock off Fort William Canadiens and the Edmonton Oil Kings to win the west. In the 1959 Memorial Cup final the Braves would meet the Eastern champion Peterborough Petes, coached by 25 year-old Scotty Bowman.

After losing game one, Langrell's three straight 2-goal games helped propel the Winnipeg Braves to the series win and the national junior crown.

During his pro career from 1959/60 until 1965/66, he played a season in the EHL and then headed to the IHL with St. Paul, Minneapolis, Port Huron and Des Moines. Langrell also had short stints in the WHL with the Winnipeg Warriors and the Seattle Totems.

Following his pro career, he played for the Warren Mercurys in Intermediate C, then the Selkirk Fishermen in the Manitoba senior league, and then was the playing-coach for Morden in the Southeastern League.

Langrell coached the St. James Canadians of the MJHL in 1971/72 and 1972/73. He is also an Honoured member of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame.

Shane Hnidy
Rising up through the Neepawa minor hockey program, Shane Hnidy would have a brief stop with Neepawa Natives of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League before joining the Swift Current Broncos of the Western Hockey League as a 15-year-old.

The Broncos would switch the rugged Hnidy to defense where he quickly established himself as one of the league's most reliable defenders.

Traded to the Prince Albert Raiders in 1992, his exceptional play continued and he was selected by the Buffalo Sabres in the 7th round (173rd overall) of the 1994 NHL Entry Draft. After turning professional in 1996, he honed his skills in the minors for 4 years with St. John's, Baton Rouge, Grand Rapids and Cincinnati, before a trade to the NHL Ottawa Senators launched his NHL career.

Hnidy would play 550 games in the NHL along with 40 more playoff matches with Ottawa, Anaheim, Atlanta, Nashville and Boston, winning a Stanley Cup in 2011 as a member of the Bruins. He would have his day with the Stanley Cup on August 18, 2011, before officially retiring on August 31, 2011.

Hnidy would return to hockey in a broadcasting role, first with the Winnipeg Jets and then with the Vegas Golden Knights. He continues to give back to his home town of Neepawa with the annual Shane Hnidy Golf Tournament, a significant fund raiser for the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation.

Brad Maxwell

Brandon's Brad Maxwell grew up around the hockey rinks of his father Ron's playing and coaching career. He quickly took to the game and developed into an exceptional puck-moving defender.

His talents brought him to the attention of legendary coach Ernie "Punch" Maclean of the WHL New Westminster Bruins. Playing with the Bruins from 1974-77, he'd be a key part of their 1977 Memorial Cup before being selected by the Minnesota North Stars in the first round (No. 7) of the 1977 NHL Draft.

Other than 2 games played in the minors, his entire pro career was spent in the NHL where he played 613 regular-season games between 1977-87 with the North Stars, Quebec Nordiques, Toronto Maple Leafs, Vancouver Canucks and New York Rangers. He would finish his career back in Minnesota with 17 games in 1986/87. He played another 79 games in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, and was a key contributor for the North Stars in their run to the 1981 Final, when they lost the best-of-7 series in five games to the New York Islanders.

Maxwell had 368 points (98 goals, 270 assists) in the NHL, amassing 1,292 penalty minutes. He added 61 points (12 goals, 49 assists) and 178 penalty minutes in the postseason. He would suit up for Canada three times in the IIHF World Championship, in 1978, 1979 and 1982.

Maxwell's most productive NHL season offensively was in 1983/84, when he had 73 points (19 goals, 54 assists) and an NHL career-high 225 minutes in penalties during his lone All-Star season.

Brad Maxwell passed away on September 3, 2023.

Russ Romaniuk

Growing up in Transcona, Russ Romaniuk was a multi-sport athlete, excelling in baseball, football, golf and hockey.

Joining the MJHL St. Boniface Saints, his Rookie-of-the-Year and league all-star honours from a 46-goal season would help Romaniuk earn a scholarship with the WCHA University of North Dakota.
He'd continue his goal production in the WCHA. By 1988, his goal scoring skills had caught the attention of the NHL Winnipeg Jets who selected him with the 31st pick of the NHL draft.

He'd remain in North Dakota for 2 more years, and in 1990/91 he produced 40 goals and 28 assists in just 39 games and was selected for the 1990/91 All-WCHA First Team and WCHA All-Tournament Team.

Turning pro with the Jets in 1991, Romaniuk would spend 4 years with his hometown Jets before a 1995 trade to the Philadelphia Flyers. His stay in Philadelphia was brief and he returned to Manitoba to join the IHL Moose before a trade sent him to Long Beach Ice Dogs. He'd follow up 2 very successful years with the Las Vegas Thunder with his first season in Europe with Nuermberg Ice Tigers of the German DEL League.

After a brief return to Houston of the IHL, he headed to Italy for one season followed by a 4-year stint in British hockey. During his career Romaniuk also had 2 tours with the Canadian National Team.

Russ Romaniuk would retire after his 14th pro season in 2005.

Teams:

Southeast Prairie Thunder 2011-2012 Allan Cup Champions
Evey year, Senior hockey teams in pursuit of the Allan Cup map a plan to pursue Canada's national 'AAA' amateur crown. Across Canada, an endless schedule of fundraising, scheduling, marketing, and most importantly finding the talent to fill out their roster takes place. The list of contenders from provincial playdowns is eventually narrowed and provincial representatives declared.

Originating in Grunthal, MB before relocating to Steinbach, MB the Southwest Prairie Thunder had claimed the Manitoba Senior title 5 times between 2007-2012, making their first appearance at Canada's national senior 'AAA' championship in 2009 in Steinbach. The Prairie Thunder would battle their way to the final, losing 4-3 in double overtime to the Bentley Generals.

The team would come up short again in 2010 and 2011, but in 2012, General Manager Marv Kornelson had put together his strongest team ever, including a last-minute signing of former NHLer Terry Yake.

In Lloydminster, Saskatchewan the Prairie Thunder rolled through the Rosetown Red Wings 2-1 and Grand Falls-Windsor Cataracts (Nfld) 5-2 in tournament play, then hammered Grand Falls again in the semi-finals 7-2.

Meeting Rosetown in the 2012 Allan Cup final, the teams were locked at 1-1 after 40 minutes. After 3 years of heartbreak, the Thunder weren't to be denied, scoring 3 goals in the 3rd to capture Canada's top amateur hockey crown, the Allan Cup.

Cartwright Clippers (Dynasty) (1986-92)
The Cartwright Clippers formed in 1979 with the intention of providing local players the opportunity to play in the competitive South West Hockey League.

In 1986, the Clippers would knock off the defending champion St. Andrews Aces and then the Spectrum Sportsmen to claim their first SWHL title. After a loss to the eventual champion Sportsmen in 1987, the Clippers would sail off on an impressive run of another 5 straight SWHL titles.

In 1988, the Clippers would come from behind in their series with the Boissevain Border Kings and claim their 2nd title.

The Elkhorn Canadians would extend the Clippers in the 1989 SWHL final to seven games but the cup

would return to Cartwright

In 1990, the Elkhorn Canadians met again in the SWHL final and once again the Clippers wore the crown.

In 1991, the Clippers would need 7 games to eliminate the Elkorn Canadians in an exciting SWHL semi-final series. Taking on the Boissevain Border Kings, the Clippers would fall behind in games 2-1 before taking the title with 3 straight wins.

After sweeping the Minnedosa Bombers 4 straight in the 1992 SWHL semis, the Cartwright Clippers met the Boissevain Border Kings for the championship final. Despite taking a 2-1 series lead, the Border Kings would flip the table and take 3 straight to end the Cartwright Clippers remarkable run.

With help from nearby Baldur, the Cartwright Clippers have long prided themselves in the fact that they were put together with a mostly home-grown squad every year.

Builders:

Harvey Bolton
Its safe to say that Harvey Bolton has a lot of mileage under him. The long-time Manitoba hockey official has worked in Northern Manitoba for over 50 years travelling thousands of miles to referee countless hockey games.

Following in the skate tracks of his father, a former on-ice official, Harvey Bolton first started refereeing hockey games in 1972. Bolton called his first games for the "Tom Thumb rink" at the Whitney Forum - a smaller rink located in the building's basement.

He would continue refereeing in Flin Flon, then later in Dauphin and Thompson after moving away. He would become Thompson's referee-in-chief in 1977 and in the 1980s, the Referee-in-Chief of the Norman Regional Minor Hockey Association, a position he still holds.

After moving back to Flin Flon in 1982, he worked SJHL and MJHL games, and play-offs including ANAVET Cup finals. He was also on the Hockey Manitoba Provincial Development Committee and a game supervisor. He has participated and organized top-level referee clinics and International events. He served as an officiating supervisor for the 2001 National Junior A Championship in Flin Flon and the 2002 World U-17 Hockey Challenge, held in Manitoba.

While no longer a full-time referee, he continues to serve in an off-ice capacity. He has worked tirelessly in leading training sessions and working countless games as an officiating supervisor, including international high-level tournaments, junior championships and other major events. He takes great pride in recommending officials for advancement and assignments to work Regional, National and International events.

In 2003, Harvey was honoured by Hockey Manitoba with the Frank Mckinnon Outstanding Volunteer Award. Harvey was Hockey Manitoba's Referee-in-Chief for five years (1997-2002. Most recently, Harvey has served as Norman's Regional Referee Coordinator (2017-present). Harvey was the Referee-in-Chief for Flin Flon Minor Hockey on three separate occasions and spent time as Thompson Minor Hockey's Referee-in-Chief for four seasons (1987-1991

Wayne Deschouwer
Born in Holland, MB and raised in Mariapolis, Manitoba, Wayne Deschouwer's involvement in hockey and many other sports covered nearly 6 decades as a player, coach, manager and administrator. After playing senior hockey at the age of 16 with the Somerset Flyers and eventually the Holland Rockets, he moved to Gladstone, MB where he was instrumental in establishing the Gladstone Senior Lakers.

Putting in many hours as a player/manager, he'd eventually hang his skates up at the age of 38. In addition to his duties with the senior club, he was President of the Gladstone Arena, and found time to coach the local midget AA club to a Provincial Championship.

Upon moving to Winnipeg in 1994, Wayne became involved with the Charleswood Hawks of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League (MMJHL). As their General Manager and eventually their President, he built the Hawks into a strong volunteer-driven organization with the emphasis on developing and supporting the young athletes who made up the team. Under his guidance, the Hawks enjoyed a phenomenal run of success winning 13 league titles and became the blueprint for teams to succeed.

In addition to his involvement with the MMJHL Hawks, Wayne was the President of the Tiger Hills Senior Hockey League and held the post for 23 years. Under his guidance, the league blossomed from 5 teams to 13 and the league has thrived under his tutelage.

His accomplishments and unselfish commitment have made him a recipient of many community service awards, Wayne Deschouwer received the 2011/12 Hockey Manitoba Volunteer of the Year award for special individuals that have made extraordinary contributions to the game.

Jack Mckenzie
Jack Mckenzie began volunteering to coach playground hockey in River Heights during the early 1960s. He became a familiar face around River Heights community centre mentoring many young athletes.

He became aware that upon graduation from Juvenile hockey, the only opportunity players had to continue playing competitively was in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. For some players, the practice and travel schedule commitment of Junior hockey, coupled with school studies, was too much to handle.

Together with teams from Fort Garry, Charleswood, and Stonewall, and soon to be joined by teams from Portage la Prairie and St. James, a Junior 'B' league was formed with Jack as President. This new league would be designed to provide players an opportunity to manage their school schedules and play in a competitive league.

For the next 6 years as President, he worked with a dedicated group of volunteers in establishing the new league. He also handled scheduling, chaired league meetings, handled suspensions, public relations and worked towards growing the league. Unwilling to bend to pressure from the MJHL to become farm teams, the new league thumbed its nose at the MAHA, toyed with rules and allowed its teams to carry overage players that first year.

Unable to come to an agreement with the CAHA and MAHA, the new 'outlaw' league became the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League. Through his efforts, Jack Mckenzie gave thousands of young athletes an opportunity to stay in the game, and watched the league grow across the city.

Today, the MMJHL consists of 10 teams across Winnipeg and in rural Manitoba.

Media:

Kelly Moore
Kelly Moore began his broadcasting career in 1976 at CFVR in Abbotsford, B.C. and by the fall of that year was hired as a sports reporter by NL Broadcasting in Kamloops, B.C., where he would also do the play-by-play of the WHL Kamloops Blazer games for 10 years, which included calling the Blazer's first-ever Memorial Cup title in 1992.

In 1994, after 18 years in Kamloops, an opportunity came up to put his name in for a job with the NHL 1.0 Winnipeg Jets on CBC. He was selected from a group of more than 80 applicants to step into the chair as the radio voice of the 1.0 Winnipeg Jets on CJOB.

After the Jets departure in 1995, Moore would call the first 10 seasons of the IHL/AHL Manitoba Moose. During his 10 years as Moose play-by-play man, Moore was named International Hockey League Broadcaster of the Year on two different occasions (1997, 1999). In 2006, he was named the radio winner of the James H. Ellery Memorial Award as the top radio broadcaster in the American Hockey League.

In the spring of 2006 Kelly accepted the challenge of helping to launch a brand new radio station in Kamloops with the company he had worked for prior to coming to Winnipeg. However, in 2011, the Atlanta Thrashers moved to Winnipeg and he accepted an offer to coordinate CJOB's hockey coverage. He would make his NHL radio debut in January, 1995. In 1999, he was thrilled to provide play-by-play for the World Junior tournament in Winnipeg.

His professional approach is much admired, as is his objectivity in his play-by-play, According to many in the game of hockey, both AHL and NHL, his preparation for games was unmatched.

Now in his sixth different decade of working in radio, he now heads up the CJOB Sports Department in addition to serving as the Game Night Host on Winnipeg Jets broadcasts in addition to serving as master of ceremonies at many charitable events.

Officials:

Paul Krestanowich
Born in Winnipeg and raised in River Heights, Paul Krestanowich's involvement in hockey spans over five decades, as a player, official, coach, and administrator.

After playing his minor hockey at River Heights CC and Sir John Franklin CC, Paul played for the Charleswood Hawks of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League (MMJHL) from 1989 - 1991 while officiated minor hockey as a sideline.

Deciding his refereeing and school offered better options than playing, he embarked on a 21-year career as a certified Hockey Manitoba Official.

Serving as Referee-in-Chief of the Assiniboine Park Hockey Association (APHA) starting in 1987, he held the post until 1991 when he became a Hockey Manitoba Referee Supervisor for the next 10 years. He also served as a referee/linesman in the Western Hockey League from 1991-2001.

Attaining his Level 6 Official ranking, he was a referee/linesman in the International Hockey League and American Hockey League between 1996-2004. He worked multiple Team Canada matches as an IIHF sanctioned referee between 1995-1998. He was Senior Referee for Canada West University hockey and was assigned the gold medal game at the 1997 World University Games in Chonju, Korea.

In addition to his refereeing assignments, Krestanowich has coached minor hockey at all levels from Initiation to AA to high school hockey. He's been a key administrator at the River Heights/Corydon Community Club and puts his Economics degree to work, looking after the budgeting, sponsorship and other paperwork for the community club hockey program.

He has been the House League Hockey Tournament Chair from 2008 - present, Vice President of Ops/tryouts in APHA from 2011 - 2014, and played an important role in creating the Corydon CC Timbits manual (modeled after Calgary) and implementing Long Term Player Development (LTPD) principles within the Initiation hockey program in 2010. All Initiation teams within APHA adopted the LTPD program in 2012, and been a driving force behind skill development and respect for everyone in the game.

Grassroots:

Laurent Kerbrat

Throughout Manitoba, the hockey rink is the heart of every community in winter. Its pulse kept up by the efforts put in through long hours of work, mostly by volunteers.

All the residents of St. Laurent and its neighbouring towns would agree that for 35 years, without the efforts of "the hockey man", there would not be any ice and no hockey.

St. Laurent, MB's Laurent Kerbrat is a true profile of the spirit of dedication and community engagement. His lifetime love for hockey impacted the entire community after he became involved with making sure the natural ice in St. Laurent was always ready.

When he stepped into the role of ice-maker, there was never any doubt that the local area kids were going to be playing hockey every winter. St. Laurent was one of the few remaining rinks in Manitoba with natural ice. For 35 years, when the temperature dropped to the right level, he would take up a second residence at the rink to get the rink ready for the kid's hockey season.

Over several days, he'd bunk in the rink every night, waking up every few hours to give the rink a flood. Once the ice was ready, the doors to the rink opened, and he'd keep one eye on the ice while sharpening skates, refereeing, driving teams to games, nursing bumps and bruises, and providing heartfelt support for each child.

He always made sure that no child was left out if they could not afford hockey fees or needed equipment, often dipping into his own pocket to make sure they got out on the ice and enjoyed the game.

In 2008, Laurent Kerbrat was presented the RBC Local Hockey Leader Award at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.

Laurent Kerbrat passed away on July 28, 2020.

Veterans

Ed Reigle

Born in Winnipeg in 1924, Ed Reigle was a graduate of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. His pro career began with the Indianapolis Capitals in the AHL in 1944. While the bulk of his career was spent in the minor leagues, he did earn a spot on the NHL's Boston Bruins for 17 games during the 1950/51 season.

He'd return to finish out his minor-pro career in the AHL over the next 4 seasons before finishing his playing career with two years as playing-coach of the Senior North Bay Trappers. While an active player, Reigle also refereed games, including the 1952 and 1956 Winter Olympics.

In 1957, he was offered a unique coaching opportunity. Hockey was undergoing a change in Europe at the time, as teams were rapidly improving. In order to keep up, Sweden wanted to organize its game similar to Canada. Reigle took on the job of Director of the Ice Hockey Association of Sweden and its 1300 teams, and would turn Sweden into a hockey force.

Criss-crossing the country, he held clinics and organized Sweden's minor hockey programs while enthusiastically spreading the gospel on how to play the game the Canadian way, with emphasis on backchecking, forechecking and hitting.

He left Sweden after the 1960 Olympics. Returning to Europe in 1962, he'd coach in Switzerland and win a Swiss Cup title in 1965 with SC Bern. Reigle would move to West Germany in 1966 to guide the West German National team to the World Championships in 1967 and the Winter Olympics in 1968.

After coaching junior in Oshawa in 1970/71 he was out of the game until 1970 when he led EHC Biel-Bienne to the 1981 Swiss NLA title.

Reigle's work in Sweden was much admired. In 1962, Sweden won the world title in Colorado Springs. Head coach Arne Stromberg, who had been Reigle's assistant, had his gold medal cut in half and presented half to Ed Reigle for what he had done for Swedish hockey.

Hal Winkler
Born on March 20, 1892 in Gretna, Manitoba, Hal Winkler started his career in Manitoba in 1913 with the Winnipegs of the Manitoba Senior League.

Winkler would play five seasons in the Manitoba Senior League for three teams including the Winnipeg Ypres who made an appearance in the 1917/18 Allan Cup, before moving west to spend time with Brandon of the MSL, then turn pro with Moose Jaw and Saskatoon of the WCHL.

After the 1920/21 season he'd be traded to the Edmonton Eskimos and his play would take them to two WCHL titles. Despite Winkler's heroics the team would lose the 1923 Stanley Cup final to the Ottawa Senators.

In 1924, Winkler would be traded to Calgary for cash and in 1926 found himself heading east to become the first goaltender of the expansion New York Rangers. The Rangers would send him to Boston shortly after in a cash transaction on January 17, 1927.

Winkler's play would take the Bruins to the 1927 Stanley Cup final but the Bruins would fall to the Ottawa Senators in a rough series.

In the 1927/28 season, Winkler would record 15 shutouts in 44 games for the Bruins. Today's NHL season is almost double what it was in 1927/28, and Winkler's record remains tied for 2nd for most shutouts in a single NHL season.

Hal Winkler's success had come too late in his career. Teams only carried one goalie in that era and despite having played every game in goal for Boston and finishing with the third best wins and goal against average, plus leading the league in shutouts, he found himself in the minor leagues with the Minneapolis Millers for the 1928/29 American Hockey Association season. Replaced by a younger talent, he'd miss out on the Bruins 1929 Stanley Cup win.

Even though he had played the whole 1928/29 season in the minors with the Minneapolis Millers, Hal Winkler's name was added to the 1929 Boston Bruins on the Stanley Cup when it was redone in 1957/58.

He would retire from the game after the 1931 season and return to Winnipeg where he would operate a mink ranch in Charleswood for many years. Hal Winkler passed away in Winnipeg at the age of 62.

Nominations for the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame come from the public. If you would like to submit and individual or team for consideration, please go to the MBHHF website at; www.mbhockeyhalloffame.ca and download our nomination forms.