

2009 Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse Club Annual Memorial Awards

1) Annual Unsung Hero (The “Mush” Thompson Award) for ongoing contributions to Excelsior Lacrosse (Junior and Majors) annually



George "Mush" Thompson. George, a member of the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, became a life member of the Excelsior Lacrosse Club in 1983. Thompson's lacrosse playing career bridged the transition era, that is the switch from field to box-lacrosse. Not only did Thompson captain the 1930 Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association Brampton Excelsior junior champions, a club which lost only one game, but he also played for the Canadian Mann Cup senior champions of 1930 and 1931. His next Mann Cup came in 1942 as a member of the Mimico-Brampton Combines. During the 1950s, Thompson was active in the Brampton Minor Lacrosse Association and became coach of the Junior Excelsiors in 1956, a team which won four Ontario titles and three consecutive Minto Cup championships, emblematic of Canadian junior lacrosse supremacy.

Recipients: Ros Christie and Mark Evans (2009)

Majors

1) Jimmy Madgett Memorial Award (Most Valuable Player)



Jimmy Madgett. Jimmy Madgett was born in 1898 and played lacrosse in the Malton and Nortonville area (Bramalea and Derry) before coming to assist the Excelsiors as coach in the 1940s. Two of his sons – Carl and Harvey – went on to become prominent Excelsiors in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, Carl later becoming the President of the Canadian Lacrosse Association. Jimmy was the victim of a heart attack following an oldtimers game in 1948 at the age of 51.

Recipients: Josh Sanderson (2009)

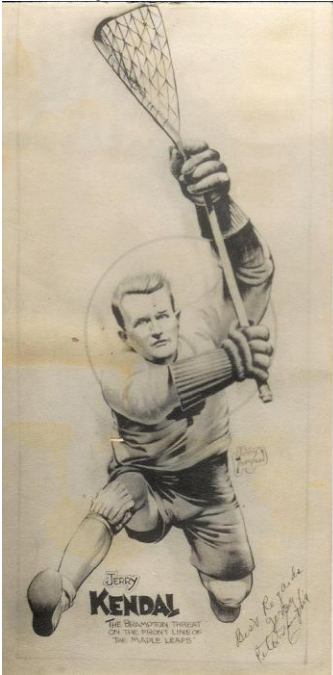
2) Jack Burrell Memorial Award (Most Valuable Defensive Player)



John Alfred "Jack" Burrell. Jack Burrell moved to Brampton with his family at the age of 10 and soon became distinguished as an outstanding athlete in hockey, lacrosse, baseball and track and field. Jack was a member of the Brampton Excelsiors in 1910 when they captured the O.A.L.A. Juvenile Field Lacrosse Championship. Following his very active playing days, Jack turned to officiating in hockey and lacrosse, and soon became recognized as one of the best officials in the Ontario Lacrosse Association. Jack Burrell's love and enthusiasm for sport, in addition to his active involvement in other community groups has been sorely missed since his death in 1969.

Recipients: Sandy Chapman (2009)

3) Jerry Kendall Memorial Award (Leading Scorer)



Gerald "Jerry" Kendall. Jerry Kendall, lacrosse's Golden Jet of the 20s and 30s, played with Brampton Excelsior Ontario Amateur Lacrosse Association Junior, Intermediate and Senior Championship clubs. Kendall was a member of the Excelsior's 1930 Mann Cup Canadian senior lacrosse champions. His career spanned field and box-lacrosse eras and he earned Ontario and Canadian all-star rating. In 1931, Kendall was the first choice of the Toronto Maple Leafs in Canada's first professional box-lacrosse league. As a member of the Leafs, Kendall's name made sports headlines as he was second to Montreal Maroons' Lionel Conacher in league scoring. A member of the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Kendall also excelled as a referee and coach.

Recipients: Josh Sanderson (2009)

4) George Sproule Memorial Award (Unsung Hero)



George Sproule. George Sproule, a member of the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, whose Excelsior playing career spanned 24 years, was the first recipient of the Jim Murphy Memorial Trophy as the most valuable and most sportsmanlike player in the Ontario Association. Sproule first appeared in a Mann Cup final in 1914 when Brampton lost 10-7 to Vancouver Athletics in a two-game total-goal playoff. George played with the Brampton OALA senior champions of 1912, 1913, 1914, 1926, 1930 and 1931. He received the Murphy Memorial Trophy following Brampton Excelsior's 1930 Mann Cup Canadian senior championship win over New Westminster Salmonbellies at Varsity Stadium. His active playing career almost ended when he slipped and broke an ankle while scoring a goal in the second game of the New Westminster series at Varsity Stadium. He did return to play for the Excelsior 1931 Mann Cup champions. He was an outstanding player throughout his career, respected both on and off the field of lacrosse wars.

Recipients: Scott Carnegie (2009)

5) Wayne Thompson Memorial Award (Outstanding Rookie)



Wayne Thompson. With the acceptance of the gutted stick from his Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame father, George (Mush) Thompson, in 1946, it became Wayne's duty to seek excellence in the cherished tradition of the Brampton Excelsiors. For the next 28 years, Wayne, not the biggest of three lacrosse-playing brothers, would distinguish himself in minor, junior, senior and professional ranks. Wayne starred with Brampton's Canadian Junior Lacrosse Minto Cup champion teams coached by his father in 1957, 1958 and 1959. In 1960, Wayne was picked up by the Port Credit Sailors, winners of a Canadian Senior Mann Cup Championship. He played for the Canadian Senior Brampton Mann Cup finalists in 1961 and 1962. Pro lacrosse took Wayne to Montreal Maroons in 1967 and to the Maryland Arrows in 1974. Wayne's induction into Brampton's Sports Hall of Fame gives it its first father-son representation. Following his playing career, Wayne coached the Brampton midget Excelsiors 1976 and the Brampton Junior Excelsiors in 1979.

Recipients: Jordan Coffey (2009)

6) The Bill Wanless Memorial Award (Most Valuable Player in the Playoffs)



Bill Wanless. Bill was raised on a farm north of Brampton, what is now Wanless Drive. He played Jr. lacrosse in Brampton in 1954 and 1955. Following Jr., he played for the Streetsville Intermediates, as Brampton had no Sr. lacrosse at that time. He helped reorganize the Sr. team in Brampton and played for them in the late 1950s and early 1960s, winning the Eastern Canadian Championship in 1961 and 1962. Bill was an excellent two-way player but was particularly recognized for his face-off skills. Bill passed away in 1966, the victim of a traffic accident.

Recipients: Colin Doyle (2009)

7) Brannon Steel Spirit Award



The Brannon Spirit award is presented annually to recognize a player(s) on the team who by words and actions on and off the floor elevate the morale of the team.

Recipients: Sean Holmes (2009)

Jr. A Excelsiors

1) Pete Anthony Memorial Award (Most Valuable Player)



Pete Anthony. A goaltender, Pete played his minor lacrosse in Brampton and started his senior career in Brampton in 1932. He transferred to Orillia in 1934, leading them to three consecutive Mann Cups. Pete then headed west to play for the Salmonbellies in 1936 where he thrilled the fans with his acrobatic style of stopping the ball. He was a fearless player and one of the last to play goal without a face mask.

Recipients: Kyle Rubisch (2009)

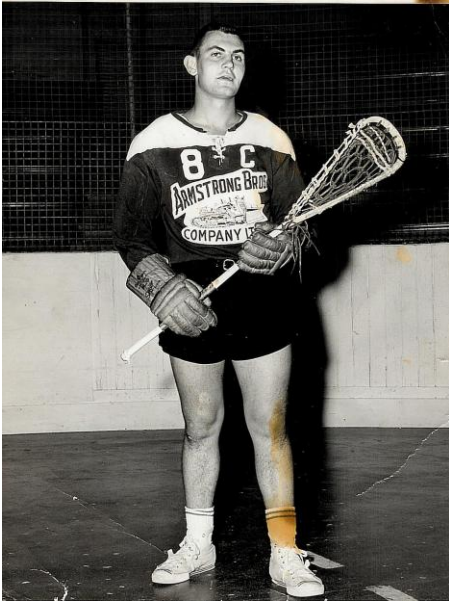
2) Dr. W.W. Bartlett Memorial Award (Most Valuable Defensive Player)



Dr. W. W. Bartlett. Dr. W.W. Bartlett, club physician for the Excelsiors for over 40 years, from the mid '30's until his death in 1979, was an ardent supporter of lacrosse in both field and box-lacrosse eras. He played with Brampton and University of Toronto teams from 1927-1930. Prior to qualified trainers being involved in community sports, Dr. Bartlett attended most games, home and away, and would often be found in the dressing rooms taping ankles and wrists etc. prior to games, from early in the schedule until playoff time, including the Canadian championships of the Excelsiors from 1942-1959. He was inducted as a Builder to the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1979.

Recipients: Kyle Rubisch (2009)

3) John McCauley Memorial Award (Leading Scorer)



John Wesley McCauley. John McCauley, a superb athlete, was to lacrosse what a young Wayne Gretzky was to hockey. At 14, McCauley helped Brampton Excelsiors win their third consecutive Canadian junior lacrosse championship in 1959. McCauley, always an Excelsior, bolstered the Hasting Legionaires and Oshawa Green Gaels in Canadian junior championship marches in 1961 and 1963 respectively. He excelled as a hockey goaltender and began his professional officiating career in 1967, advanced to the National Hockey League in 1970 where he refereed 442 games over 10 seasons. He retired as a result of an eye injury and was named assistant director of officiating in May, 1981. He became director of officiating in 1986, a post he held at the time of his death in June of 1989. For McCauley, lacrosse was always his first love. He was defensive coach of Canada's World Lacrosse champions in 1978. He coached Brampton Excelsiors to a Mann Cup Canadian senior championship in 1980. His senior Excelsiors also won Eastern Canadian titles in 1976, '77, '80 and '81. He guided Brampton peewee Excelsiors to a Canadian championship in 1983.

Recipients: Andrew Potter (2009)

4) John Ford Memorial Award (Unsung Hero)



John Ford. John Ford was best known for his ability, attitude and dedication. He played defence for many championship teams, and earned a number of awards and recognitions for his abilities. John played defence with the Brampton Excelsiors Junior A's and the Brampton Excelsiors Senior A's. The Brampton Excelsiors Junior A team won the 1956 Eastern Championship and the 1957 and 1958 Canadian Championships. The Brampton Excelsiors Senior A team was the 1960 Eastern Finalist and the 1961 and 1962 Canadian Finalist. John received the "Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) All Star", "OLA Most Valuable Player" and "Brampton's Most Valuable Player" Awards while playing for Brampton Excelsiors Junior A teams. John was the second highest Brampton scorer in a playoff series in 1957, in which his team won the Minto Cup. He became a Life Member of the Excelsior Lacrosse Club in 1989.

Recipients: Chris Corbeil (2009)

5) Jim Clevely Memorial Award (Outstanding Rookie)



James Clevely. Jim's background in Lacrosse dated back to 1930, when at the age of 16 he was the team "mascot" for the Brampton Excelsior Jr "A" OLA champions. In 1931 he played with the Brampton Juveniles, who won the Ontario Lacrosse Association Championship. He played for the Brampton Excelsior Senior "A" teams in the O.A.L.A in 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1937. Five years later, in 1942, Clevely's playing career ended and his coaching career began. Clevely's coaching achievements won him three Ontario Championships, one in Midget in 1944 and two in Juvenile in 1945 and 1946. In 1948, he guided the Brampton Junior 'A' team to the Ontario Lacrosse Association finals. He also coached an Intermediate team in Georgetown in the late 1950's. In addition to his twenty-five years of coaching, Clevely's interests expanded to various executive roles. Clevely took an active role as an executive member of the Brampton Minor Lacrosse Association. He advanced through the ranks of the Executive and served a term as President. He also helped the formation of the Lakeshore Lacrosse League, opening the door for competition of Brampton teams in West Toronto.

Recipients: Michael Burke and Steve Fryer (2009)

6) Brian Green Memorial Award (Most Valuable Player in the Playoffs)



Brian Green. Brian played all his minor in Brampton and four years with the Junior ABC's until his untimely death at the age of 20 on October 13, 1967 a victim of a traffic accident. He lived for the game of lacrosse and is remembered for his bursts of speed, sizzling shot and play making ability. Brian's last game, and exhibition contest in Mitchell as the Orangeville-Dufferins played the Junior Excelsiors in a Centennial exhibition series.

Recipients: Steve Fryer (2009)

7) Bruce McClure Memorial Award (Most Sportsmanlike Player)



Bruce McClure. McClure was prominent in lacrosse in Brampton, first as a player and referee, then as an executive, manager and coach, He managed Brampton's Canadian Junior Minto Cup lacrosse champions in 1957, '58 and '59. Bruce coached the Brampton senior Excelsiors to a Mann Cup final in 1961 and the Excelsiors (then Ramblers) lost the Canadian title to Vancouver. Bruce was also a well know local curler, skipping Brampton's Ontario Brier playoff round-robin finalist in 1954, began curling at Brampton's Byng Avenue club in 1927.

Recipients: Andrew Marcoux (2009)