

Sports



Participants at the first Jim Kyte Hockey School (1986)

Courtesy of Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (Toronto, Ont.)

During the past two centuries, deaf Canadians have participated in athletic activities in increasing numbers. Most began their involvement in sports while attending residential schools for the deaf, where they competed against other deaf students. Upon completing their education, many of these athletes wanted to continue with sports, but were unable to find deaf teams to join because so few existed, especially in the early days of the Canadian Deaf communities. As a result, many ended their athletic “careers” after finishing school and became spectators. However, as organizations of deaf Canadians became larger and stronger, especially in the larger cities, a few clubs and association were able to form their own sports teams.

The Deaf community’s involvement in sports has often reflected society’s social mores. Until the latter part of the 20th

century, participation in athletic events (especially on a professional or semi-professional level) was the domain of the male gender. Females may have occasionally joined in such activities as footraces at community picnics (competing against other females in the same age bracket), but women were not encouraged to pursue sports as a physical or social outlet or as a profession. Physical exercise classes at school were primarily designed to allow young ladies (dressed in appropriately modest attire, of course) to get some fresh air and learn to move gracefully. After they left school, however, these young women were no longer encouraged to exercise publicly or form athletic teams. Men, on the other hand, could continue their enjoyment of sports with society’s approval.

In the late 1800s and early-to-mid 1900s, it was unusual for



The Manitoba School for the Deaf hockey team, 1907 champions of the Central Juvenile League

The Silent Echo/Gallaudet University Archives

Back row (left to right): R. Edgecombe (centre), Percy R. Gainer (cover point), Charles White (spare).

Middle row (left to right): Duncan Skinner (goal), Edward Pilgrim (point), W. Partridge (manager), John Ulrich (left wing).

Front row (left to right): Benjamin Wallace (right wing), Walter Molisky (rover).



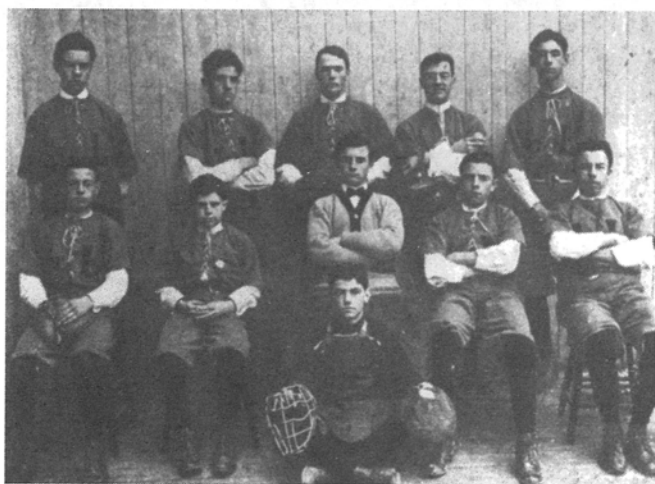
Ontario School for the Deaf football team, 1913

From the private collection of Anne E. McKercher (Milton, Ont.)

Back row (left to right): Asa Forrester (full back), Thomas H. Brown (right forward), Absalom Martin (centre), James Green (half back).

Middle row (left to right): Charles R. Ford (goal), W.S. Minns (manager/supervisor of boys), William Nurse (coach/storekeeper and associate supervisor), Wesley McAdam (left forward, captain), Charles P. Dorschner (right forward).

Front row (left to right): Edward T. Payne (half back), Edward Hughes (full back), Peter McDougall (left forward), Harold Tait (half back).



1909 baseball club (Balle au camp Club Saint-Louis [Québec])

L'Ami des Sourds-Muets/Gallaudet University Archives

deaf athletes to be acquired by hearing teams. The few who did were singled out by the media, often with phrases like “he’s deaf, but he can skate” (or throw, or run, or whatever the sport). It is relatively easy to obtain information on the career highlights of these media stars; information on the lives of several appear in this chapter. As more and more deaf leagues were established, the number of deaf athletes competing on amateur levels increased, as did the number of deaf coaches. However, because these people were “ordinary” citizens, rather than the darlings of the media, documented information on their lives and involvement in sports has been more difficult to find. The sheer numbers of deaf Canadians participating in sports today prevents including more than a few in this book.

Athletics has played a significant role in the Deaf community over the years.¹ Whether engaged in solitary pursuit of individual goals or sharing the camaraderie of team sports, deaf Canadians have shown the world that they have “come to play.”

Amateur Ice Hockey

Chester B. Brown

Some of Canada’s earliest known and recognized deaf athletes could be found on the ice, continuing to sharpen the skills they first acquired on residential school rinks. A few played on all-hearing teams. For example, when four senior-calibre (hearing) teams from Marysville, Saint John, St. Stephen, and Fredericton formed the New Brunswick Hockey League during the 1902-1903 season, the Saint John Mohawks needed a goalie. To fill this gap in its roster, the team — former champions of the Saint John Hockey League from 1889 to 1902 — secured Chester Berry Brown (b. Aug. 18, 1883; d. Feb. 26, 1940) from a local junior amateur hockey league. An all-round deaf athlete, Brown was often singled out by local newspapers as a star.

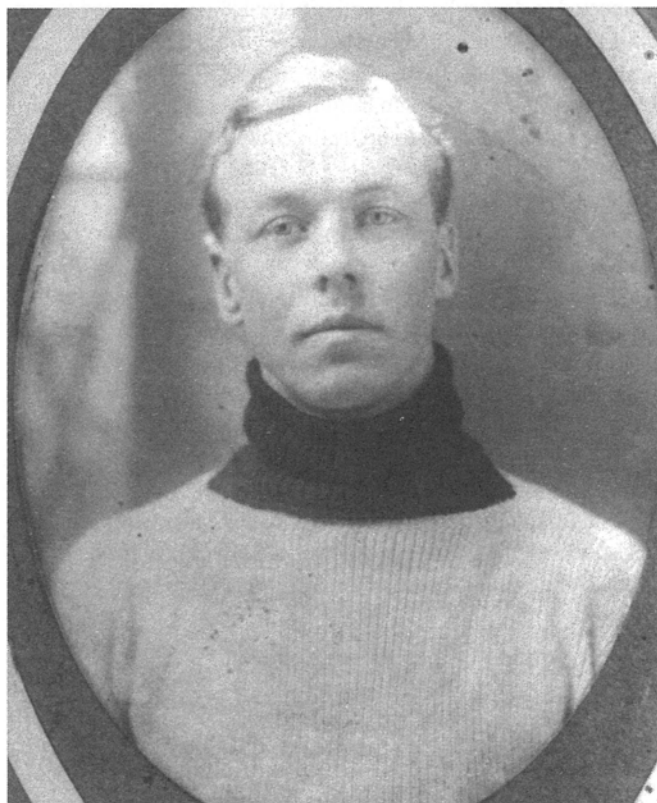
Brown was born in Saint John, N.B. and educated at the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec (1890-1893) and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. (1893-1901). (His hearing father, James Harvey Brown, was a well-known city tea merchant and the person who brought criminal charges against the Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb that led to its closure

in June 1902.) Although the younger Brown retired after only one season with the Saint John Mohawks, he remained active in other sports, such as track and field. He was called “the pride of the deaf in St. John.”² When the New Brunswick Deaf-Mute Association (now the Eastern Canada Association of the Deaf) was formed in 1904, he held the position of first vice-president for a year (1904-1905).

In October 1909, Brown married Beatrice Emma MacLean (b. Apr. 30, 1885; d. Apr. 9, 1974), a native of Chipman, N.B., who was deafened from “La Grippe” at the age of seven. She first attended a local public school and then went on to the Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Halifax, N.S. (1900-1902), and the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn. (1902-1906). She later worked as assistant matron at the New Brunswick School for the Deaf in Lancaster (now part of Saint John). She was described as “a staunch supporter of the Canadian Association of the Deaf and was named to its list of honorary directors.”³ In later years, the couple resided in Springfield, Mass. (1911-1913), Saint John (1913-1932), and Schenectady, N.Y. (1932-1940).

Alexander Lobsinger

A prominent semi-professional ice hockey player in Canada in the early 1900s, Alexander “Moose” Lobsinger (b. July 20, 1888; d. Oct. 9, 1973) was born in Mildmay, Ont. He was totally deafened by measles when he was 21 months old, and later attended the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville (1896-1906).



“Moose” Lobsinger in 1914

Courtesy of Boundary Museum Society (Grand Forks, B.C.)

While there, he learned the printing trade. By all accounts, he was the first student in the school’s history to be awarded a medal for good conduct.⁴

In 1905, while Lobsinger was still in school, he was wooed by the Junior Ontario Hockey Association. He declined the first invitation to try out for the team, preferring to concentrate on his studies. The association then repeated the offer, and this time Lobsinger accepted. He played in the junior series at Belleville for the 1905-1906 season. He then went on to play with the following Ontario ice hockey teams: the University of Toronto team for one season (1906-1907); the Berlin (later renamed Kitchener) team for two seasons (1907-1908 and 1908-1909); and the Parry Sound team for one season (1909-1910), when it won the northern championship.

It is not known what Lobsinger did during the 1910-1911 season. In 1911, he moved to Saskatchewan to play on teams in the southern division of the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey League (Weyburn [1911-1912] and the Moose Jaw Robin Hoods [1912-1913]). Lobsinger broke into the semi-professional ranks when he was acquired by the Grand Forks Hockey Club of the British Columbia Boundary League in early December 1913. Described as a “crack hockey player,” he assisted his team in winning the 1914 championship of the Boundary League.⁵ He eventually turned down two professional contract offers with the Patricks of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association (PCHA), the same league that had acquired another deaf player, John (Jack) Ulrich, in 1911.

In May 1914, Lobsinger moved to Ottawa, Ont. where he worked as a pressman on the *Canada Gazette*, a Government Printing Bureau publication. In the summers, he played for the Ottawa Shamrocks lacrosse team and was one of its best defensemen. Lobsinger tried out for the “Ottawas,” a team in the Ottawa National Hockey Association, but after he had attended a couple of practices without receiving a contract offer, he quit in December 1914.⁶ From this point on, no records have been found to indicate that Lobsinger played ice hockey on any other professional or amateur teams in Canada.

On November 18, 1914, Lobsinger married Anetta Lyllavett Johnston (b. Feb. 1, 1889; d. Sept. 2, 1977), a graduate of the Ontario Institution (1896-1906). They settled in Detroit, Mich. in the early 1920s, where he worked as a printer, beginning with the L. Smith Paper Goods Company (1921). Later, he was responsible for the printing department of the Bank of Detroit, and he ended his career with the *Detroit News* (1956). He served as an officer for Detroit Division No. 2 of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, and was very active in the Detroit Association of the Deaf, which presented Lobsinger and his wife with a “handsome bridge lamp” in “appreciation of their faithful and efficient service.”⁷ The Lobsingers are buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery (Section 39, Lot 275) in Detroit, Mich.

John T. Walter

In addition to recruiting Lobsinger, the Grand Forks Hockey Club of the British Columbia Boundary League obtained John “Ira” Thomas Walter (b. Aug. 2, 1890; d. July 29, 1954). Walter was deafened at the age of three from spinal

meningitis, and attended the Ontario Institution (1897-1906). At home on the ice, he participated in the speedskating championship of Ontario that took place in Toronto on January 28, 1905.⁸ He joined the Grand Forks team in 1913, playing the position of goalkeeper. After a few weeks, however, he was traded to the Fernie, B.C. team. After 1906, no other information can be found about Walter's ice hockey career. He died in Detroit in 1954.

Thomas Wood

This deaf goaltender was another familiar face to deaf sports enthusiasts in the early 1920s. Wood (b. Apr. 8, 1902; d. Nov. 13, 1986) was deafened at the age of two from whooping cough and scarlet fever, and attended the Manitoba School for the Deaf in Winnipeg for nine years (1912-1921). He was signed by the Province A.A.A. Bluebirds Ice Hockey Club while working as a printer in Vancouver following his graduation. On February 11, 1922, *The Daily Province* of Vancouver, B.C. published a story about the team, which had won the 1921-1922 Intermediate Amateur Hockey Championship. Of the eight photographs of the individual players, the first in the long line-up was that of Wood, the team's only deaf player, who tended goal for the undisputed champions. "His opponents could not find room enough to slip the disc [puck] past the husky goalie oftener [sic] enough to carry off games."⁹

Wood played only one season with the Bluebirds before leaving Canada to attend Gallaudet College for a year (1922-1923). He remained in Washington, D.C. and worked for 25 years in the United States' Government Printing Office. On October 2, 1924, he married Edna Maude Hughes (b. Apr. 25, 1902; d. Mar. 28, 1990) of Enid, Okla., an alumna of the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe (eight years), the Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur (three years), and Gallaudet College (1921-1923). Although he had no formal artistic training, Wood was a skilled craftsman who specialized in carving and sculpting wooden birds and animals. Photographs of his artistic wooden creations appeared on page 153 in the 1981 book, *Deaf Heritage: A Narrative History of Deaf America*, by Jack R. Gannon.

Jeffrey C. Lillie

Following in the footsteps (or ice skates) of these earlier deaf hockey successes is Jeffrey Cameron Lillie (b. Jan. 22, 1976), who started playing hockey at the age of five as a defenseman. His coaches soon moved him to goalie, where he has excelled. Jeff was born in Oshawa, Ont. to deaf parents.¹⁰ He attended the following Ontario schools: Clairlea Public School in Toronto (1980-1981), the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton (1981-1984; 1991-1995), the Metropolitan Toronto School for the Deaf (1984-1990), and Northern Secondary School in Toronto (1990-1991). By the time he was 13, he had played on seven teams in the Agincourt and Toronto areas and was considered "the premier goaltender in Toronto at the peewee level and one of the better ones in Ontario."¹¹

Lillie takes his hockey seriously. "I love that puck.... I am all alone there in the net, an individual facing the moment of truth; the puck and me and nothing else. It is flat and black and when I am



Lillie defending the goal for the Toronto Red Wings of the Metro Toronto Hockey League, Major Peewee division (1990)

Courtesy of Gil Lillie (Scarborough, Ont.)

facing it, the challenge is absolute. But at the same time, I'm part of the team. The team values what I do as I value it."¹² In 1993, at the age of 16, Lillie was ranked by the Ontario Hockey League's Central Scouting Bureau as the number one goalie, and was drafted to play on the Kitchener Rangers of the Junior "A" Ontario Hockey league. His two-year contract began September 1993. However, "remaining connected to deaf culture is a priority for Lillie"; he wanted to continue his schooling at the Ernest C. Drury School rather than transfer to a public school in the Kitchener area.¹³ The team honoured his wishes and released him from his contract. After Lillie became a free agent, he was picked up by the Milton Merchants Provincial Junior "A" team in the Ontario Hockey Association and was able to continue his education at the school in Milton. In March 1995, he was one of the young men chosen to play on the Canadian hockey team at the 13th World Winter Games for the Deaf in Ylläs, Finland (ice hockey was played in Rovaniemi, Finland). Lillie hopes to turn pro and try out for a National Hockey League team some day. As he put it, "Playing goalie is something I love. It's challenging, never the same thing twice. I don't think I could ever leave hockey. I'm hooked."¹⁴ He realizes that he is a role model for younger deaf hockey enthusiasts, and has said, "I want to play hard because I want to show that the deaf can do it. I want to inform everyone that deaf kids are the same as other kids and they can accomplish these goals. It would be great to be known as the first deaf goalie to play pro hockey. I want to prove to the world that I can do it."¹⁵

Hockey Clubs

The Mackay Hockey Club

In 1895, the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in Montréal, Québec, formed an ice hockey club to play against

Walter Molisky, Amateur Ice Hockey Superstar



“Dummy” Molisky in his Garry Hockey Club uniform (Winnipeg, Man.) in 1910

Courtesy of Molisky’s niece, Josie Williams (Regina, Sask.)

Walter Molisky (b. May 31, 1888; d. July 9, 1972) was one of the superstars in the amateur ice hockey world. As a member of the Victoria Hockey Club in Regina, Sask., he is believed to be the first deaf amateur ice hockey player to skate for a team of national calibre. Hockey lovers best remember him for the major role he played when his team won the Allan Cup (symbol of the Canadian Senior Amateur Ice Hockey Championship) in 1914.

A native of Poland, Molisky was born profoundly deaf. His family immigrated to Canada sometime during the 1890s and settled in Regina. He was educated at home for the first 11 years of his life and then attended the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Winnipeg (1899-1908). He had two deaf sisters, Mary (b. 1884; d. 1961) and Cecilia (b. Nov. 22, 1906;

d. June 26, 1928) — the latter was a pupil at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Regina for one year (1915-1916) and then entered her brother’s alma mater in Winnipeg as Pupil No. 535 (1918-1924).

Molisky’s hockey career began humbly. As a boy living in Regina, he spent his evenings playing on corner lots under the street lights. Tin cans and other hard objects substituted for real pucks. While attending the Manitoba Institution, he seized every opportunity to play on the small rink behind the school building. Teachers remember him skipping dinner to head to the rink for extra practice. Even then, he was beginning to perfect the “razzle-dazzle style of rushing and deceptive stick-handling and scoring prowess” for which he was to become famous.¹⁶ It was said that three-quarters of the inter-school ice hockey games won by the Manitoba Institution were due to Molisky’s skills and those of teammate, John Ulrich (who later turned professional).

When he left the Manitoba Institution in May 1908, Molisky continued his ice hockey career for three seasons (1908-1911) with the Garry Hockey Club in Winnipeg, the team that won the Winnipeg Intermediate Hockey League in 1910. The Victoria Hockey Club in Regina, Sask. acquired him as a “rover-centre” for the 1911-1912 season. His hearing teammates gave him his nickname, “Dummy” Molisky. The newspapers called him the “Speed Wonder of the West.”¹⁷ In the early part of 1914, Molisky’s team, the Regina Victorias, won both the Patton Cup and the Van Valkenburg Cup of the Senior Amateur Hockey League in the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba). Then they played their way to the famous Allan Cup series, where their first challenger was the Winnipeg Monarchs, the cup holder for three consecutive years (1911-1913). The odds were heavily in favour of the Winnipeg team. However, a former Winnipegger who witnessed that game recalled that

Dummy Molisky’s tiny size and baffling zigzag rushes were too much for them.... When Dummy started away on his famous corkscrew rushes he seldom moved his head to right or to left to pass the puck. He had an uncanny gift of just looking out from the corner of his eye. He even knew if anyone was stealthily catching up on him from behind. To pass the puck or just to shoot the puck right into the net was a matter of perfect timing and instinct with Dummy.¹⁸

The Regina Victorias defeated the Winnipeg Monarchs with a score of 5-4. Molisky’s team then had to defend the Allan Cup against the Grand Mere team of Québec. As had happened many times in the past, the diminutive Molisky, the lightest man on his team, was pit-

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The Mackay Hockey Club (1905)

The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives

First row: Gordon Staniforth (rover); Frank Foster (goalkeeper); W. Paterson (centre).

Second row: A.I. Roman (committee); L. Paterson (honourary secretary); G. Brethour (point captain); E.L. Judah (president); W.W. Roman (vice-president).

Back row: Jas. McPhee (rover point); S. Waters (forward); W. Foster (forward); F. Waters (committee).

the hearing intermediate teams in and around the city. This team was called "The Mackays." The school's superintendent, Harriet Elizabeth (née McGann) Ashcroft, always made sure refreshments were served to the players after each game.²⁰ At the end of the 1904-1905 season, the club announced that a cup called "The Mackay Hockey Cup" would be purchased next season. The team challenged any deaf hockey clubs in Canada and the United States to compete for this trophy.²¹ However, no

records have been found to indicate whether or not the cup was actually purchased or the games played.

The Beaver Hockey Team, Montréal

The Beaver Hockey Team of Montréal is believed to be the first and only all-deaf amateur ice hockey team ever to win the championship of the Spalding League (in 1913).

The team was formed in 1900, a time in which there was an abundance of deaf hockey players in the area. The movement to form the ice hockey team was led by a Mr. G. Paterson, who urged all interested players "to put their shoulders to the wheel and show the hearing public what the Deaf could do on the field of sport."²² During its first decade, officials of the Beaver Hockey Club were unsuccessful in entering their team in an amateur league, due to financial difficulties. It was not until the 1911-1912 hockey season that they finally secured permission to play in the Spalding League. The all-deaf team then sprang into prominence by winning the league championship in 1913. The championship team, captained by H. Armstrong, featured the following players: C. Siegler (goal); H. Carter (point); H. Upton (cover-point); G. Paterson (rover); H. Armstrong (centre); G. Staniforth (left wing); M. Kaufman (right wing); and P. Arcand (spare). The club's president was William Spiers.

In 1914, the Beavers played in Section B of the Art Ross League. At the beginning of the 1915 season, the team applied to play in the Senior Art Ross League, Section A; once accepted into that division, they competed on Monday evenings at the Mount Royal rink. The 1915 season was very unsuccessful (the team placed fifth out of six teams), and several of the "old-timers" expressed doubts that they would play again the following year. No other information could be found on the Beaver Hockey Team following its 1915 season.

Walter Molisky ... cont'd

ted against a much heavier centre. According to newspaper accounts, this uneven match-up made little difference to his performance. Molisky "succeeded in stealing the puck from his opponent many times and the way he would emerge from a mix-up hugging the puck was nothing short of sensational."¹⁹ Playing perhaps the best game of his career, he scored three out of six goals against the Grand Mere team's four goals, and helped establish the Regina Victorias as the first Western Canadian team to capture and defend the coveted Allan Cup. Following that historic series, the press declared Molisky the hero of the game. The City of Regina showed its recognition of his excellence by awarding him a gold watch, and the Regina newspaper office, where he worked as a printer, presented him with a special gift.

Rheumatism ended Molisky's participation as an active team member of the Victoria Hockey Club in Regina. Nevertheless, he continued his ice hockey career as a coach of the Regina Patricia Hockey Team (1918-1919) in the

Junior Amateur Hockey League. His team of all-hearing players won the Abbott Memorial and Corbeau Cups (awarded for the Junior Amateur Hockey Championships of Western Canada and Saskatchewan) in 1919. They went on to the Canadian Junior Amateur Hockey Championships that year, but were defeated by a stronger Toronto team.

The travel associated with being a hockey player had an additional reward for Molisky. Not only was he able to continue participating in the excitement of amateur ice hockey, but his trips back and forth across Canada allowed him to make frequent stops in major cities, especially Winnipeg, and to maintain contact with his former schoolmates and friends. For the rest of his life, Molisky (who never married) continued to support the "Regina Pats" of the Regina Patricia Hockey Club, the team he had once proudly coached. He attended almost every home game after his retirement from coaching in 1919 until his death in Regina in the summer of 1972. ■

Professional Ice Hockey

John (Jack) Ulrich, First Deaf Professional Ice Hockey Player

John (Jack) Ulrich (b. Jan. 18, 1890; d. Oct. 23, 1927) was well known in professional ice hockey circles as the first deaf player ever to break into the ranks of the National Hockey League. Born in the province of Wolznieu, Russia, Ulrich's profound hearing loss was discovered when he was six months old. In 1901, his family immigrated to Canada and settled on a farm in Plumas, Man., near Winnipeg. A year later, Ulrich was sent to Detroit, Mich. to attend the Lutheran School for the Deaf for one year (1902-1903). When his parents found out about the Manitoba Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in Winnipeg, he was transferred there. Ulrich's interest in ice hockey started



"Silent" Ulrich

The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives

at a small rink behind the Manitoba Institution while he was a student (1903-1909). His Manitoba team won the juvenile league honours in 1907. The following season he was elected captain of the team. Later, he and a deaf schoolmate, Walter Molisky, played with the Garry Hockey Club in Winnipeg, the team that won the Winnipeg Intermediate Hockey League in 1910. Ulrich remained with them for two seasons (1909-1911).

Although small in stature, Ulrich's skillful skating and magnificent stick-handling attracted the attention of scouts in the Pacific Coast Hockey League (PCHL). During the 1911-1912 season, he was acquired as a spare by the Millionaires, a Vancouver, B.C. team. His deafness earned him the nickname "Silent Ulrich." During the 1912-1913 season, Ulrich was traded to the Victoria, B.C. Aristocrats because there was no longer any place for him with the Vancouver team, even as spare. Ten days later, on December 27, 1912, the Aristocrats played against the Millionaires, his former team. His moment of glory came when, after 14 minutes, 15 seconds of thrilling overtime play, Ulrich quickly skated across the rink with the puck and sent it in a long shot into the opponent's net for the deciding goal.²³

The following excerpt appeared in *The Times* the next day:

Unable to hear the applause which greeted his shot that won last night's game for Victoria, and responding to the congratulations which were showered upon him by his team mates and friends, Jack Ulrich, the deaf member of Victoria's hockey squad, was the hero of the big win over Vancouver. In the dressing room after the game he was given the best treatment, and from a lowly spare, Ulrich has risen to the plane of a hero in the eyes of Victoria's hockey fans. "Silent" took the praise as a matter of course, and simply grinned as his team mates endeavored to express their feelings.... It was a strange turn of fate that Ulrich, who wore a Vancouver jersey a week ago, should be the man who scored the goal which set his team mates back into the race for the Paterson Cup and the British Columbia hockey title.²⁴

Two weeks later, on January 9, 1913, nearly 5,000 wildly cheering fans greeted Ulrich's second winning goal against the New Westminster Royals of British Columbia. After nearly 30 minutes of overtime play, he took the puck from behind the opponent's net and poked it in between the goalie's legs. Ulrich was again carried on his teammates' shoulders to the dressing room. The Victoria Aristocrats won the Paterson Cup in the PCHL for two straight seasons (1912-1913 and 1913-1914). Ulrich's team once defeated the Québec Bulldogs, win-

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John (Jack) Ulrich ... cont'd

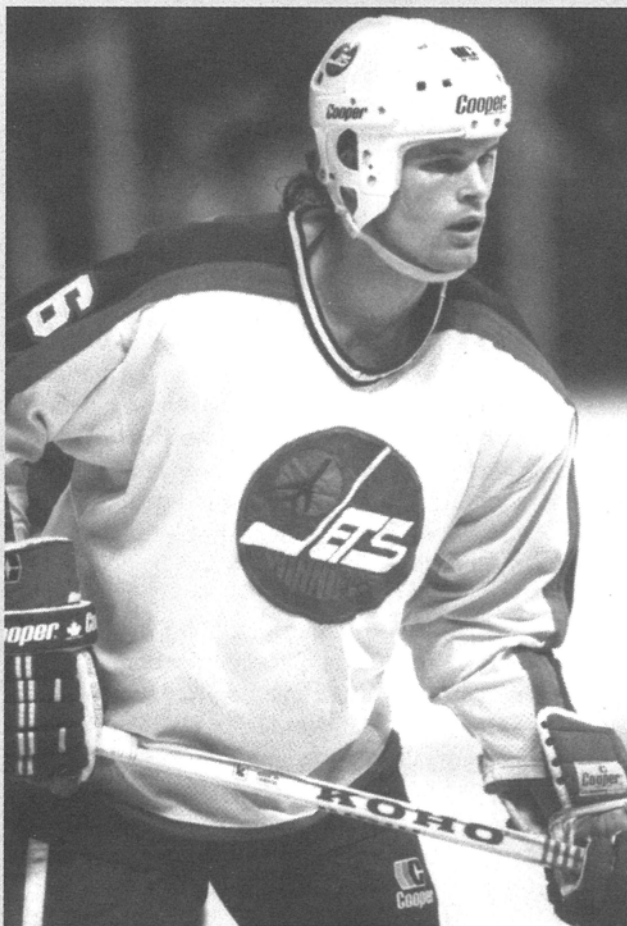
ners of the 1912-1913 Stanley Cup, in challenge series, although there was no official recognition for the win. They also played against the Toronto Blueshirts, winners of the 1913-1914 Stanley Cup, but lost the match.

During the 1914-1915 season, Ulrich was traded to the Montréal Wanderers, who had already won four Stanley Cup titles. He had his first workout with the team on January 9, 1915 and made an excellent impression. He remained with the team for the next two seasons until his career began to wane due to injuries. He retired at the age of 25, but did not give up sports altogether. A news item in the May 1, 1915 edition of *The Echo* noted that Ulrich "is being tried out as a pitcher with the Montreal baseball team [in the International League of Montréal]." ²⁵ He later also tried out with a team in New Brunswick.

On July 29, 1916, at the Toronto home of deaf artist Ambrose Wilcock Mason and his wife, Ulrich married Mabel Agnes McKenzie (b. Oct. 18, 1897; d. Unknown) of

Gaspé Pointe, Québec. Born at Black Cape, Bonaventure County, Québec, Mackenzie entered the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes in 1904 (date of departure unknown). The couple settled at 36 Holly Street in Detroit, Mich., where Ulrich was employed with the Fisher Aviation Company. He later prospered as a cabinet-maker.

In social circles, Ulrich was an active worker and popular leader among the deaf. He was a key figure in the Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Detroit, and served as secretary for Division No. 2 of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (NFSD) (1921-1922). He last saw his former deaf schoolmates and friends when he and his wife attended the Second Triennial Convention of the Western Canada Association of the Deaf in Winnipeg during the summer of 1926. In the summer of 1927, he drove to Denver, Colo. to attend the NFSD Convention as the delegate from the Detroit Division No. 2. In the fall of 1927, when he was only 37 years old, Ulrich died in Detroit from acute appendicitis. ²⁶ ■

James G. Kyte

Kyte, #6, with the Winnipeg Jets

Courtesy of James Gregory Kyte (Winnipeg, Man.)

High-flying defenseman with the Winnipeg Jets (1983-1989), the Pittsburgh Penguins (1989-1991), and the Calgary Flames (1991-1992), James Gregory Kyte (b. Mar. 21, 1964) is the second person with a significant hearing loss to break into the professional ranks of the National Hockey League.

A native of Ottawa, Ont., Kyte's hearing gradually decreased because of congenital auditory nerve degeneration, a condition that also affects his father and four brothers. By 1986, his hearing loss had reached 75 dB in each ear. Nicknamed "Radio Shack" because of the cumbersome auditory equipment he wore before obtaining in-the-ear hearing aids, Kyte began developing his hockey skills on the ice when he was five years old. ²⁷ His performance with the (Ontario) Hawkesbury Hawks won him the 1981 Neilson-Peckett Award for combining academic excellence with hockey ability in the Central Junior Hockey League. Kyte played for two seasons (1981-1982 and 1982-1983) with the Cornwall Royals Junior "A" Hockey Club in the Ontario Hockey League. Although he was drafted by the Winnipeg Jets of the National Hockey League in June of 1982 (1st round, 12th overall), he remained with the Royals for the 1982-1983 season. During that time, he was called up three times to play for the Jets. Kyte, who is six-feet five-inches tall and shoots left-handed, became a regular Jets player at the beginning of the 1983-1984 season.

Playing on a professional team in a sport that demands communication among teammates was a challenge to Kyte at first. As he explained, he compensated by being "very defensive-minded and very much a posi-

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Ice Hockey Training Schools for Deaf Players

The Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association, The Jim Kyte Hockey School, and the Canadian Deaf Ice Hockey Federation

Founded in 1983 and incorporated in 1984, the Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (CHIHA) provides ice hockey instruction and confidence-building opportunities to deaf youth from across the country. Approximately 50 youngsters attend the school every summer. Some go on to play for Canadian teams that compete in international deaf ice hockey competitions. CHIHA's founder is Roy Hysen (b. Dec. 31, 1946), a born-deaf hockey player who was a goalie for the Weston Dodgers and the Whitby Dunlops in the Ontario Junior "B" Hockey League (1964-1969), and back-up goaltender for the Hamilton Red Wings (1964) in the Ontario Junior "A" Hockey League.³¹ Hysen attended public schools, graduating in 1969. One of his two daughters (Angela Tamara) is also deaf.

Hysen's involvement with Canadian deaf ice hockey teams covers more than 20 years. In 1974, he was recruited by the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (now the Canadian Deaf Sports Association) to train and coach Canadian ice hockey players for the 1975 World Winter Games for the Deaf (WWGD), held in Lake Placid, N.Y. The Canadians beat the American team (the only other entry) in the first ice hockey exhibition games ever held at the WWGD. This event marked Hysen's entry into coaching and managing national deaf hockey teams that compete on an international level. There was no official ice hockey tournament held at the 1979 or 1983 World Winter Games. As general manager of the Canadian team, Hysen was present at the 1983 games in Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy to find out why hockey had been cancelled, and to ensure that it would be played at the 1987 games in Norway (but unfortunately, it was not until 1991 that ice hockey was once again an official entry in the winter games). In 1991, Hysen was both coach and manager for Canada's entry in the WWGD in Banff, Alta. His interest in hockey was not limited to Canadian players, however. Largely because of Hysen's

efforts, the Russian team was able to compete in the 1991 WWGD as well.³² Hysen was general manager of the Canadian team that won second place at the 1995 World Winter Games for the Deaf in Ylläs, Finland (ice hockey was played in Rovaniemi, Finland).

Hysen also established the Canadian Deaf Ice Hockey Federation — (the first sports organization affiliated with the Canadian Deaf Sports Association to be given full voting privileges [July 1992]). The purpose of the CDIHF was to better prepare deaf Canadian skaters for international games.³³ This federation selects and trains hockey players to represent Canada in international tournaments, including the World Winter Games. Hysen was instrumental in arranging the Canada/Czechoslovakia Ice Hockey Invitational Tournament, held November 1986 in Brno and Jhлива, Czechoslovakia. His team received official recognition from the Canadian Deaf Sports Association to represent Canada in the tournament. Twenty-six players tried out for the coveted team slots; 19 were chosen for the trip. The Canadian team won the gold medal. In September 1987, the Canadian Deaf Sports Association sent Hysen to the Soviet Union to negotiate with the Central Board of the Russian Society of the Deaf to set up a goodwill sports tournament between the two countries. As a result, Moscow was chosen to host the first Deaf Ice Hockey Invitational in April 1989. Czechoslovakia also sent a team to the tournament, which was held in Voroenji, a town south of Moscow. The Russian team won first place, with the Canadians coming in second, and the Czechs third.³⁴

Hysen played an important role in the founding of another Canadian hockey school for deaf children. In 1984, the American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) (founded in part by National Hockey League Hall of Famer Stan Mikita of the Chicago Black Hawks), invited Hysen to serve as a goaltender instructor at its summer hockey school. There, he met Jim Kyte, a fellow Canadian and the second deaf person to play in the National Hockey League (NHL). After two summers, these two men — together with Paul Pellman, a hearing lawyer active in the Toronto Deaf community — set up a similar school in Canada. Relying on Hysen's coaching experience and Kyte's high profile, the Jim Kyte Summer Hockey School for the Hearing Impaired was founded in 1986 under the auspices of the Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association. The first week-long session, held that summer in

James G. Kyte... cont'd

tional player. I know where I'm supposed to be at all times and so do the other guys on the team."²⁸ He also used the polished glass surrounding the rink as a mirror to keep track of what was happening behind his back. He wore a helmet designed to accommodate his hearing aids, which sometimes shorted out from perspiration. When that happened, Kyte would dry them off with a hair dryer during intermission.²⁹

In addition to playing the sport, Kyte has also been involved in helping other deaf hockey enthusiasts. At

one time he was president of the Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association. He also co-founded the Jim Kyte Hockey School for the Hearing Impaired. In 1992, he went from the Calgary Flames to the Salt Lake City (Utah) team of the International Hockey League, and then was picked up by the Ottawa Senators during the 1992-1993 season. During his NHL career, Kyte played in 523 regular season games, scoring 14 goals and 37 assists. He also played in 31 playoff games. His success echoes his personal philosophy: "If you want something badly enough and put your mind to it, there's nothing in this world you cannot do."³⁰ ■

Toronto, attracted 27 deaf girls and boys between the ages of seven and 17. Some had come from as far away as Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories. They learned skating, shooting, passing, positional play, and other aspects of the game. In addition to the regular instructors, NHL stars also visited the camp to join in classes and offer demonstrations. Sign language interpreters made all events accessible to the participants.

A parting of the ways occurred between Kyte and Hysen in 1987. Hysen continued the Canadian Hearing Impaired Hockey Association school, while Kyte set up his school in Winnipeg. Both are now successful ventures, each training an average of 50 youngsters every summer.

In November 1988, Hysen was presented with the Ontario Office for Disabled Persons' Community Action Award, reportedly the first time a deaf person had received this honour. He has been president of the Canadian Deaf Ice Hockey Federation since 1987.

Speedskaters

Farley G. Kellett

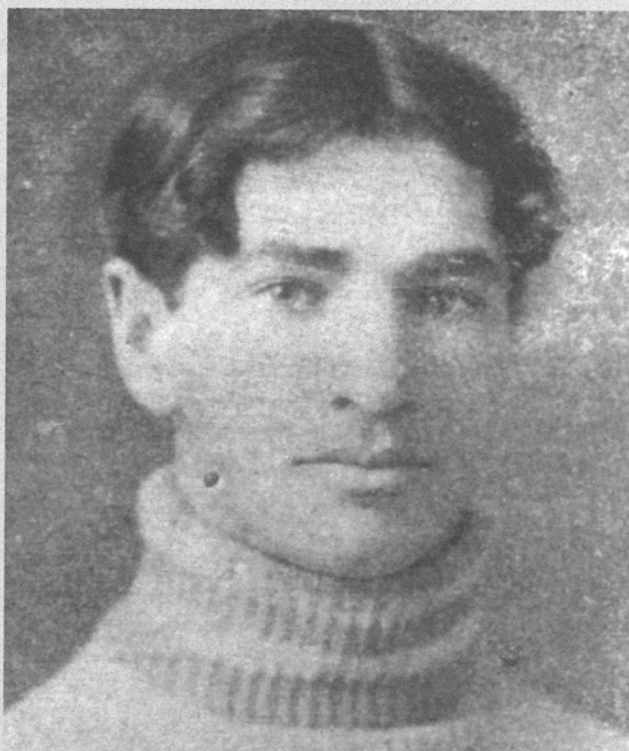
Award-winning speedskater, Farley George Kellett (b. Feb. 18, 1960) has competed in such cities as New York, Amsterdam, Oslo, and Innsbruck, bringing home to Canada



Kellett in action (1983)

Courtesy of Farley G. Kellett (Saskatoon, Sask.)

“Canada’s Greatest All-Round Deaf Performer in Sports”



John Edward Crough (b. Dec. 27, 1880; d. Oct. 14, 1967) was a deaf Canadian athlete in the early 1900s who set records in several different sports and was awarded many championship trophies and medals. He was born on a farm in Ennismore, an Ontario village located on the banks of the Otonabee River in the county of Peterborough. On a hot summer day in 1884, while helping his father tend cattle, he was suddenly seized with an attack of “worm fever.” He became totally deaf as a result.³⁵ This was a heavy blow to his parents, who tried in vain to restore their son’s hearing, taking him to various medical experts in Montréal and Québec City. On September 12, 1888, after all attempts at a cure had failed, Crough was sent to the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1888-1897).

Following graduation, Crough spent seven months working as a printer for the *Peterborough Examiner*, a newspaper in Peterborough, Ont. Next, he went into the carpet weaving business, but soon lost interest in this field. He then moved to Perth, Ont., where he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway in the construction department. Restless again, he decided to quit his job and head out west “in quest of broader fields of activity.”³⁶

John Edward Crough

The Silent Worker/Gallaudet University Archives

(Continued)

both medals and recognition. Born profoundly deaf in Humboldt, Sask., Kellett attended the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf (1965-1979) in Saskatoon, where he became interested in skating. He originally wanted to play hockey, but was discouraged by his parents, who felt that this sport was too rough. So 10-year-old Kellett joined the Saskatoon Lions Speedskating Club in 1970 — a decision that had significant impact on his life. Although he was awkward at first, Kellett “showed a competitive interest from the beginning.”⁴⁷ Over the next five years, his skill as a speedskater progressed at a rapid pace. By 1975, when he was only 15 years old, Kellett and fellow deaf speedskater, Norma Jean Taylor (see below), were invited to represent Canada at the 8th World Winter Games for the Deaf (WWGD) in Lake Placid, N.Y. Kellett won two bronze plaques in this (his first) international competition.

Speedskating is a sport that is well suited to deaf people, because often the coach’s instructions are transmitted via hand signals. For most deaf skaters, such manual communication is second nature. Kellett has had hearing coaches during his career as a speedskater, primarily Dave Nase, the Saskatoon Lions coach. The major obstacle for deaf speedskaters — knowing when the starting gun has been fired — can be overcome by using a flashing light or an arm signal from a starter standing on the sidelines.

Dedicated to his sport, Kellett maintained a rigorous year-round training schedule — jogging, cycling, running, working

with weights, and using special roller skates to simulate speedskating on dry land. In October 1982, he travelled to Inzell, West Germany for an intensive two-month training session with the national training team. Continuing in international competition, Kellett represented Canada at the 1983 WWGD in Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy, winning three gold medals in the 500-, 1,500-, and 3,000-metre events. In 1987, he skated in the WWGD competitions in Oslo, Norway, winning three gold medals and one silver.

Kellett is also well known in the hearing speedskating world. In the 1976 Canadian Outdoor Championships, he set a record in the 1,000-metre event. In 1979, he won a bronze medal and third place overall in the Canada vs. China competitions, and later that year won a gold medal in the 500-metre event at the Canada Winter Games, crossing the finish line in 43.10 seconds. In 1982, he competed in the Western Regional Outdoor Championship and won another gold medal. Kellett was chosen to carry the torch in Saskatoon on January 18, 1988, the 63rd day of the cross-Canada Olympic Torch Relay leading to the 15th Winter Olympic Games (hearing) held in Calgary, Alta. In 1991, he began preparing for the 12th WWGD in Banff, Alta. To train properly for this event, he quit his job in Saskatoon (which had an outdoor skating rink) and moved to Calgary to train on its indoor rink. At this WWGD event, the 30-year-old skater won a silver medal in the 500-metre event and a bronze in the 1,000-metre trials. Now a businessman in

“Canada’s Greatest All-Round Deaf Performer in Sports” ... cont’d

He travelled beyond the Canadian Rockies to the west coast and landed a job in the dangerous powder mills in Nelson, B.C., where he worked for 11 months. While there, his fame as an athlete began to spread. He joined Nelson’s senior football team and became one of its best players, leading the team to the 1900 championship of the Kootenay District. He also played for the Nelson ice hockey team, which won the local championship.³⁷

When the powder mills shut down, Crough returned to Ontario. He settled in Toronto and soon was playing on the Wellesley ice hockey team and the Scots football team (which once clinched the intermediate championship of Ontario). A few months after arriving in Toronto, Crough returned to Peterborough, where he got a job working in the moulding department at the Canada General Electric Company. He joined the Peterborough ice hockey team in the Ontario Hockey Association and soon was its star player, demonstrating his talents when his team won the championship in 1902. He was a key player on the town’s YMCA football team as well, and helped it capture the Midland District Association championship. He also helped the Peterborough Rugby team win the Rugby Supremacy of the county.

In 1903, Crough moved back to Toronto, where he obtained work at the James Robertson Brass

Manufacturing Company. Continuing his involvement in sports, he played cover-point on the company’s ice hockey team, which won both the Love Cup and the Manufacturers’ Association of Toronto championship that winter. He was also a valuable acquisition to (and once popular captain of) the city’s deaf-mute football team.³⁸

Crough was on the senior Tigers football team of Hamilton, Ont. when it became the 1904 Senior Champions of the Ontario Rugby Football Union. Four years later, in the spring of 1908, he won the 145-pound championship at the Peterborough Wrestling Bout. His other sports triumphs that year include his role as captain of the Peterborough Quakers’ Football club, which won the Midland District Association Championship for the second time. Two years later, at a meet under the auspices of the YMCA, he won the all-round 1910 wrestling championship of Peterborough.

Crough obviously liked to keep on the move. He went out west again in 1909 and was reported to be “doing exceedingly fine in North Battleford, Saskatchewan where he has taken up a homestead. He contemplates residing in the golden wheat field permanently.”³⁹ However, by the summer of 1910, Crough had moved on to Winnipeg, Man., where he worked as a brass finisher. His name appeared in the sports section of the Winnipeg city newspapers from time to time. He played for the St.

(Continued)

Saskatoon, he markets such environmental products as water and air systems.

Norma-Jean Taylor

Former Miss Deaf Saskatchewan and champion speedskater, Norma-Jean Taylor (b. Apr. 13, 1960) combines poise, personality, and athletic ability. Born profoundly deaf in North Battleford, Sask., she attended the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Saskatoon (1966-1977), skating with fellow classmate, Farley George Kellett. She then transferred to a local school for her final two years, graduating in 1979 from Holy Cross High School. Her post-secondary studies were at Gallaudet College (1980-1985), where she received her B.A. in elementary education.

Taylor once considered a career in figure skating, and skated daily “for fun” in a schoolyard next to her home. Her speedskating career began when she joined the Saskatoon Lion’s Speedskating Club in 1971. She rapidly gained skill under the coaching at the club and soon was ready for competitive skating against both deaf and hearing speedskaters. In March 1974, Taylor took four medals at the Saskatchewan Winter Games in North Battleford (three silvers in the 400-, 500-, and 800-metre events, and a bronze in the 200-metre race). At the 1974-1975 Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Junior Women Indoor championships, she broke previous speed records in the 400-metre and 1,000-metre classes. Despite the fact that speedskating was an “unofficial category” in 1975 at the 8th World Winter Games for the Deaf in Lake Placid, Taylor competed and won the 500-, 1,000-, and 1,500-metre events in the Ladies World

“Canada’s Greatest All-Round Deaf Performer in Sports” ... cont’d



The 1903 Toronto Deaf Mutes' football team

From the private collection of Anne E. McKercher (Milton, Ont.) / Photo Credit: Farmer Bros. Photo

Back row (left to right): Herbert W. Roberts (secretary), Frank E. Harris, William J. Gray, John S. Bartley, William R. Watt, N.A. McGillivray (treasurer)

Middle row (left to right): Eugene McCarthy, William Lightfoot (vice president), E.C. Pickard (president), John E. Crough, George W. Reeves (manager), J. Riddick

Front row (left to right): Frederick Terrell, William Grey (captain), N. O'Neil

John’s Rugby team in 1910, was middle wing for the Conservative Tigers Senior rugby football team of the Manitoba Rugby Football Union (1913), and was involved in association football, ice hockey, lacrosse, baseball, and basketball. According to one account, Crough’s abilities on the rugby field were astounding. “Rugby is one of the most difficult games that a deaf person can engage in on account of the plays being based entirely on signals, but despite the fact that he cannot hear the numbers called, Crough manages to know what play is being put in operation and seldom if

ever makes a mistake.”⁴⁰ The same article described Crough as having “an alert brain and a pair of keen eyes [that] enable him to participate in the ‘trick’ plays with as much skill as a player possessing all his faculties.”⁴¹

In late 1913, it was reported that Crough had “gone into the restaurant business on Notre Dame Ave., near the corner of Portage” in Winnipeg.⁴² His business must not have worked out, however, because he is reported to have moved back to Peterborough, Ont. in mid-1914. The *Peterborough Examiner* of that year announced that he was playing on the local All Saint’s football team for the Hall Cup and championship of Peterborough games. A year after the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918), Crough successfully enlisted in the Home Guards and was stationed in Toronto. While there, he demonstrated his prowess with guns while in shooting practice.

Following the war, Crough worked for one year at the Ford Motor Company of Canada automobile factory in Windsor (1917-1918). Then he moved to Toronto, where he first worked at an aeroplane factory, earning 75 cents an hour as a toolmaker, and afterwards at the Goodyear Rubber Company.⁴³ On February 18, 1919, he married Drusilla Mabel Buchan (b. Dec. 27, 1896; d. June 30, 1979) at Toronto’s St. Helen’s Roman Catholic Church.⁴⁴ His new wife was no stranger to Ontario’s Deaf community, having received her education at Crough’s alma mater, the Belleville school (1904-1915). The couple remained in Toronto for the first three months of their marriage and then made the city of Windsor their permanent home. Crough returned to work at the Ford factory as a brass finisher and retired 32 years later (on September 26, 1951).⁴⁵

In addition to being a long-time active member of the Ontario Association of the Deaf, Crough served as local chairman responsible for entertaining the delegates at the 19th Biennial Convention of the OAD in Windsor (June 30-July 5, 1926). Still competing athletically in his old age, Crough was 74 when he entered the Ontario Bowling Association of the Deaf’s annual tournament.⁴⁶ He died at the age of 87 in Windsor. ■



Norma-Jean Taylor in 1976

Courtesy of Norma-Jean Taylor (Toronto, Ont.)

Championship. At the 1976 Canadian Indoor speedskating championships held in Kitchener, Ont., she won a silver and bronze medal, again broke a speed record in the 1,000-metre event, and finished third overall in the Junior Girls category. In 1979, this talented skater was chosen to carry the flag for the Saskatchewan delegation at the Canadian Winter Games in Brandon, Man. The following year, her skating speed earned her a first place overall in the Indoor Saskatchewan Championship meet and fourth-place ranking overall in the North American Indoor Speedskating Championship.

Taylor's athletic abilities were not limited to the ice, however. She was named the Saskatoon high school cross country running champion in 1977, and competed in two Jeux Canada Games in cycling, winning the 1978 28-miles-and-over provincial championship. In one of her cycling competitions, she won the Saskatchewan 10-mile championship "by one minute and 29 seconds ... [with] a flat tire for part of the race."⁴⁸ Her strong sense of competition also led to her to the title of first-runner-up in the 1982 Miss Deaf Canada Pageant, held in Toronto, Ont.

In 1987, Taylor began working for the Canadian Hearing Society in Toronto as senior instructor in the minimal languages skills program. Three years later, she became the coordinator of the college preparation program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at George Brown College. She has been active with the Toronto Deaf community, and served one term as vice-president (1991-1992) of the Ontario Association of the Deaf. She also serves on several task forces related to interpreting and deaf education. Although Taylor no longer skates competitively, she enjoys recreational rollerblading. She cur-

rently serves as chairperson of the Deaf Education Centre at George Brown College (the first, and so far only, deaf chairperson in the provincial college system). The Centre offers "academic upgrading for Deaf and hard of hearing adults, college preparation programs, continuing education courses, pre-teaching and remediation services, in-class interpreting and notetaking," and a program called "Deaf Futures."⁴⁹

Martial Arts

Dawn J. Birley, Teenage Expert in Martial Arts

Just before her 10th birthday, Dawn Jani Birley (b. Nov. 30, 1977) of Regina, Sask., received her first degree black belt certificate in tae-kwon-do, a Korean martial arts. She has since set an impressive record during her career. Birley was born profoundly deaf to deaf parents, Dale Edward (b. May 6, 1952) and Susan Gail (née Huchcroft) Birley (b. Apr. 5, 1951).⁵⁰ She has a younger deaf sister, Jodi Lynn (b. Apr. 29, 1980), who also participates in the sport.

When she was almost eight years old, Birley became attracted to tae-kwon-do after seeing it on television. She began taking lessons at Master Sung Ju Kim's Tae Kwon Do Academy in Regina in October 1985. Beginning with a white belt, she rose rapidly through the ranks and successfully passed her first degree black belt in the spring of 1987. By 1988, she was sparring with the boys in her classes, because — as her coach put it — "it's getting to the point where no girls will fight her anymore."⁵¹

Birley has had considerable success in tae-kwon-do. In 1989, she won first in sparring and second in forms, Girls 11-15, at the 1989 World Tae-Kwon-Do Federation Can-Am Games, held in Winnipeg (April 22). The next year, she had six first-place finishes in competitions and one second-place award.⁵² In 1991, she won gold or silver in three competitions: gold in sparring and silver in patterns at the Western Canadian (World TKD Federation) TKD Championships, Edmonton (February); silver in sparring at the 1991 World Tae-Kwon-Do Federation Can-Am Games, Winnipeg (April); and gold in sparring and silver in patterns at the Western Canada Championships, Calgary (June). In 1991, the Saskatchewan Deaf Sports Association named Birley "deaf female athlete of the year" for her accomplishments in tae-kwon-do.

During the first six months of 1992, Birley continued her winning streak. She entered seven competitions, placing either first or second in all but one — at the World TKDF National Team Trials, held in Toronto on May 16-18, she placed third in women's sparring. The trials were held to determine team members for the 1992 Summer Olympic Games (hearing) in Barcelona, Spain; Birley's showing was not high enough to earn her an Olympic berth.⁵³ During the week of July 19, 1992, she was chosen as "Athlete of the Week" by the Regina *Sun* newspaper. And in 1994, she remained undefeated in all international and Canadian competitions. She won two gold medals in the National Trials in Edmonton (June 25-26) (one in 2nd



Ten-year-old Birley demonstrates her technique (1988)

Photo credit: Patrick Pettit, Regina Leader-Post/Courtesy of Susan Birley (Regina, Sask.)

Dan Female Poomse and the other in welter weight sparring), and was given the M.V.P. award (the first time in the history of Canadian taekwon-do competitions that a female competitor has won this award).

This martial arts expert was a student at Thom Collegiate, a hearing school in Regina, where she played forward on the senior girls basketball team (she was named a Regina Intercollegiate Basketball League all-star in 1994). She plans to continue with her involvement in taekwon-do, and hopes to reach Olympic level in time for the 1996 games in Atlanta, Ga. "If I don't attain that goal, I still will be able to defend myself very well. I want to encourage more interest in taekwon do in the deaf community and get more people involved in the sport."⁵⁴ Meanwhile, Birley and her father teach at a taekwon-do school in Lumsden, a town north of Regina. In March 1995, she was the only deaf competitor representing Canada at the Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina. She is now working toward her fourth-degree black belt certificate, and preparing for the Olympic Games in Australia in the year 2000.

Skiing

Ernest A. Marwick

Canada's only deaf athlete to participate at the 4th World Winter Games for the Deaf in 1959 was Ernest Alvin Marwick (b. Apr. 1, 1920; d. Nov. 14, 1986) of Vancouver, B.C.⁵⁵ Profoundly deaf since birth, he was a 1937 graduate of the British Columbia School for the Deaf. Marwick was an avid skier for many years after leaving school. In the 1940s, he often participated against hearing competitors at annual ski tournaments near Vancouver, such as the Viskie Ski Classic at Hollyburn (now Cypress Bowl), the DePencier and Northland Downhill events at Mount Seymour, the Typee Flying Skis, and the Giant Slalom at Grouse Mountain (an event sponsored by *The Sun*, a Vancouver newspaper). In 1950, at Mount Baker near Bellingham, Wash., Marwick won third place in the giant slalom (group B). Two years later at Mount Seymour near North Vancouver, he captured first place in the open slalom. He was the only deaf skier to take part in these two events.

Marwick paid his own way to the 4th WWGD events, which were held in Montana-Vermala, Switzerland (1959). The 39-year-old skier placed third in the ski-jump and fourth (out of 27 skiers) in the special slalom event. Unfortunately, because Canada had no affiliation with the Comité International des Sports Silencieux (CISS) at that time, Marwick's achievements could not be officially recorded in the final standings.



Marwick at Montana-Vermala, Switzerland in 1959

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)

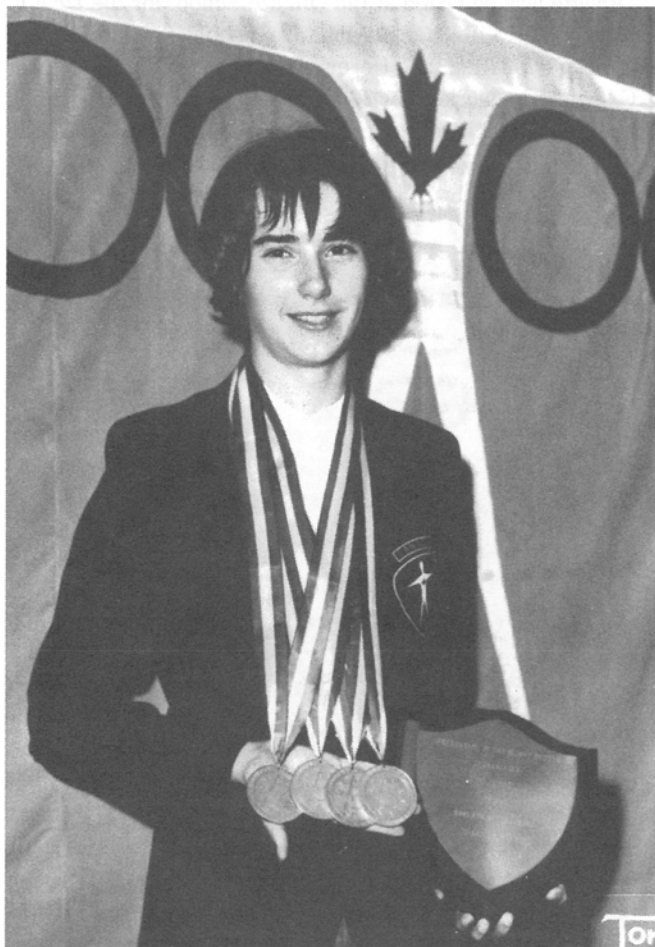
Four years later, in 1963, Marwick officially represented Canada at the 5th World Winter Games for the Deaf in Are, Sweden, and finished ninth in the special slalom event. After the games, he travelled around Europe for a while before returning home to Canada. In 1981, the World Games for the Deaf Organizing Committee of the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (now the Canadian Deaf Sports Association) established the Ernest A. Marwick Award in his honour. Each year it is presented to Canada's best deaf male Athlete of the Year.

Swimming

Jo-Anne M. Robinson

Jo-Anne Marie Robinson (b. Nov. 22, 1949) of Vancouver, B.C. is considered one of the best all-around deaf female swimmers in the world. Deaf at birth from an unknown cause, she attended Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf in her hometown (1953-1967), Gallaudet College (B.Sc., 1967-1972), the University of British Columbia Teacher of the Deaf Training Program (1972-1973), and Western Maryland College (M.Ed., 1975-1976).

Robinson developed an interest in swimming at Jericho Hill Provincial School when its 20-foot by 60-foot indoor pool



Robinson with her four 1965 IGD gold medals
Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)

opened in 1957. From 1958 to 1964, she trained under the guidance of Dean Aspinall, a hearing resident instructor who, in 1954, swam for Canada at the British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games). When the Jericho Hill Swimming Club was formed in 1959, Robinson and her team demonstrated their prowess in competitive swimming against many strong hearing teams in the province. In 1965, the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (FSSC) selected her to swim on the Canadian Swimming Team at the 10th International (Summer) Games for the Deaf (renamed World Games for the Deaf in 1969) in Washington, D.C. Robinson won gold medals and set new world records in the following events: 100-metre freestyle (1:12.00), 400-metre freestyle (5:50.20), 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay (5:10.70), and 4 x 100-metre medley relay (6:00.10). Based on her outstanding international performance, Robinson became the FSSC's first recipient of the Guy Gosselin Award as Canada's best deaf athlete of the year (1965). She also won a civic medal from the city of Vancouver that year.

In 1967, Robinson broke her own 1965 world record in the 100-metre freestyle at the USA National Swimming and Diving Championships, held in Philadelphia, Pa. (Her new world record was set at 1:11.20.) A year later she improved her timing to 1:08.10 at a swim meet in Hayward, Calif., where she also set new world records for the 400-metre freestyle (5:22.50) and the 800-metre freestyle (11:30.20). At the 11th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (August 1969), Robinson won a gold medal when her new time of 1:06.70 broke her 1968 world record in the 100-metre freestyle event. Her other winnings at the 1969 Games included a gold in the 400-metre freestyle (5:12.40); a silver in the 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay (4:54.00); a silver in the 4 x 100-metre medley relay (5:42.30); and a bronze in the 200-metre individual medley (2:53.60). Robinson's competitive swimming career came to a close in late 1969 when she decided to retire to pursue her studies at Gallaudet. The Guy Gosselin Award as Canada's best deaf athlete of the year was presented to Robinson by the FSSC for the second time that year.

Since 1973, she has been employed as a teacher at the Alberta School for the Deaf in Edmonton. Her enthusiasm for deaf sports did not cease with her retirement from active swimming, however. To name a few of her many positions in sports organizations, Robinson was a delegate to the Canadian Sports Organization for the Disabled (1979-1983); vice-president (1979-1982) and president (1982-1984) of the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (FSSC); and the first Canadian ever elected to the governing body of the Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS), serving two terms (1985-1989 and 1989-1993). Her other accomplishments included winning the Alberta Achievement Award (1986) and becoming a finalist in the Air Canada Amateur Sports Executive of the Year Award (1987).⁵⁶ She co-edited *Coaching Deaf Athletes* (1987), the first manual ever published to assist hearing coaches who train deaf athletes. In 1989, the CISS presented her with its bronze medalion in recognition of her service in international deaf sports as technical delegate in swimming on the CISS Board since 1969. In her honour, the Jo-Anne M. Robinson award was established in 1984 by the World Games for the Deaf Organizing

Committee of the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (now the Canadian Deaf Sports Association). It is presented annually to Canada's best deaf female Athlete of the Year. Robinson was also vice-chairperson for the historic, Canadian-sponsored 12th World Winter Games for the Deaf (February 28 to March 8, 1991), which was held in Banff, Alta.

Youthful Swimmers: Lark Lorraine Johnson and Cheryl Lynn Hayes

Lark Lorraine Johnson of Winnipeg (b. Mar. 16, 1957) turned tragedy into triumph following a bus accident that could have ended her swimming career at the tender age of 13. When she was 12 and a student at the Manitoba School for the Deaf (1965-1974), she competed in the World Summer Games for the Deaf in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1969) and was the youngest swimmer in her events. Despite her youth, she came away with three silver medals (200-metre breaststroke, and two relays — medley and freestyle). During the early 1970s, her record speed in the 100-metre butterfly event topped other deaf swimmers in Canada. However, in 1970 at the age of 13, she was seriously injured while boarding a bus en route to her daily swim practice with the Winnipeg Cardinals. Her arm caught in the door and she fell under the bus's wheels, which crushed her legs. The accident left her with two broken ankles, a broken thigh bone, extensive damage to one knee, and heavy damage to her skin. Her condition was listed as critical for a few days, while doctors tried to save a damaged kidney. Then they told her parents that she might never walk or swim again. The doctors did not count on the spirit of this young girl, however. Following 104 days in the hospital, 10 operations, and 100 square inches of grafted skin, Johnson was in the pool again two days after she left the hospital. Her first competitive swimming match following the accident occurred in 1973 at the 12th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Malmo, Sweden, where she won a bronze medal. She stopped swimming competitively in 1974. Married and later divorced, she has worked as a payroll supervisor for the past 10 years at the Pace Setter Sportswear factory in Winnipeg. Her deaf daughter (Sarah Anne Hrycenko) and hearing son (Jordan Luke Hrycenko) are following in their mother's athletic footsteps. Sarah Anne speedskates, curls, and plays basketball. Jordan has already competed in an "A" level swim meet through the local swim club.

Saskatoon swimmer Cheryl Lynn Hayes (b. Dec. 18, 1958) entered the water at the age of four and began her competitive swimming five years later. A student at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf (1961-1977), she was a member of the Saskatoon Kinsmen Goldfin Swimming Club and competed with both hearing and deaf swimmers. Competitive swimming places heavy demands on a young athlete. In Hayes' case, practice occurred seven days a week for at least two hours each day. On average, she covered at least 27 kilometres each week in the water. This devotion paid off in medals for the young swimmer. In 1973, she won a silver and a bronze at the world championship swimming competition for the deaf in Sweden. In 1975, she won five medals at the Pan-American Games for the

Deaf in Maracaibo, Venezuela (gold medals in the 100-metre freestyle, 100-metre backstroke, 100-metre breaststroke, and 100-metre butterfly, and a silver in the 200-metre backstroke). 1977 was an exciting year for Hayes. At the 13th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Bucharest, Romania, she captured four medals (two silver and two bronze). Also that year, at the age of 18, she began two years of study at Alberta College in Edmonton to finish her high school diploma. And in October, she had the honour of attending a reception for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, who were in Ottawa for the opening of Parliament. On August 20, 1983, Hayes married Harry David Sherriff, who received his education at the Alberta School for the Deaf in Edmonton (1959-1966). The couple live in Edmonton with their two hearing children.

J.J. Douglas Rivette, Marathon Swimmer

Joseph James Douglas Rivette (b. Apr. 10, 1909; d. Sept. 18, 1986) is believed to be the first deaf Canadian to try marathon swimming. He was inspired by the exploits of a hearing 16-year-old Toronto girl — marathon swimmer Marilyn Bell — who was the first person to successfully swim Lake Ontario. (She accomplished this feat in 1954 during a 21-hour, 52-kilometre swim between Youngstown, N.Y. and Toronto.)

Rivette was educated at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1915-1922) and Manitoba School for the Deaf in Winnipeg (1922-1923).⁵⁷ He eventually settled in Vancouver, B.C., where he worked for 30 years as a printer for the Pacific Press Ltd. Upon his retirement, he was presented with a plaque



Rivette at age 70 in 1980

Photo credit: Greg Osadchuk/The Province (Vancouver, B.C.)

with the following words inscribed *in the manual alphabet*: “Doug Rivette retires May 31, 1974. Congratulations from Pacific Press Chapell.”⁵⁸ After learning that Bell had conquered Lake Ontario — something that “experienced lake sailors said was impossible” — Rivette decided to try his hand at marathon swimming as well.⁵⁹ His attempts took place in the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (seven times) and the Strait of Georgia near the Pacific coast of British Columbia. He was beaten every time — not by competitors, but by pain. He often suffered leg cramps, and one time he swam through a school of jellyfish. During what he had decided would be his final attempt (August 13, 1958), the tide pushed him eight kilometres off target on the 47-kilometre Nanaimo-Vancouver route. Rivette had an explanation for that unsuccessful try: “I weighed 230 pounds then.... I was so fat I floated off course like a cork.... I wasn’t tired but the tide beat me.”⁶⁰ Twenty-two years later, Rivette, then 70 years of age, staged his comeback to marathon swimming. As he put it, “Everyone is entitled to succeed when one gives his best.... I want to show that a deaf swimmer can do as well, regardless of age, as anyone else.”⁶¹ In July 1980, he lowered himself into the cold waters at Horseshoe Bay, near Vancouver, and swam towards Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Unfortunately, he had to be pulled out of the water several kilometres from his destination because of leg cramps. Rivette then retired from marathon swimming to spend his time playing chess and engaging in other, less strenuous activities.

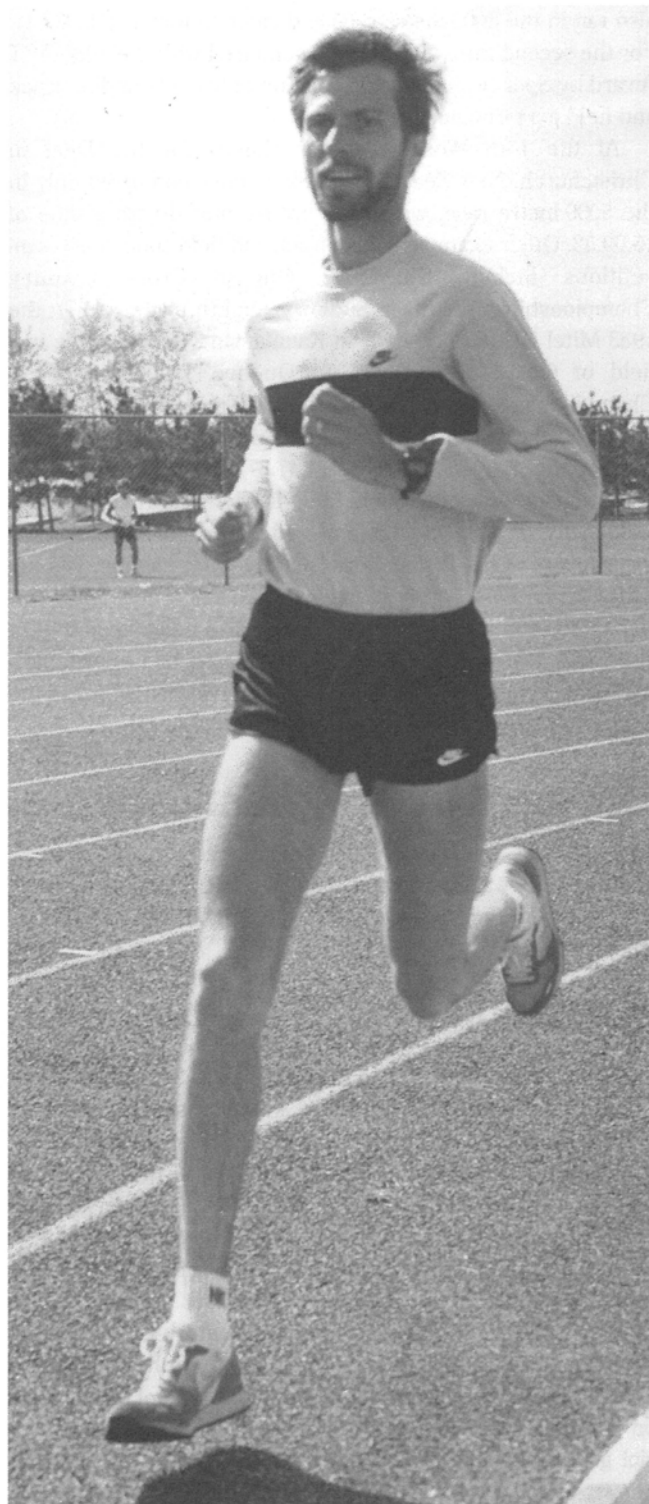
Track and Field

Paul J. Landry

Besides being one of Canada’s top male stars in middle- and long-distance running, Paul Joseph Landry (b. Mar. 24, 1954) of Ottawa, Ont. is the only born-deaf athlete to compete in those categories. He ran in the national and provincial championships for 10 years (1976-1986), and represented Canada at the World Summer Games for the Deaf five times (1973, 1977, 1981, 1985, and 1989). Born in Sarnia, Ont., Landry attended the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville, Ont. (1960-1974), where he developed a passion for track. In 1973, a year before he graduated, he was recruited to compete in the 400-metre, 800-metre, and 4 x 100-metre relay races at the 12th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Malmo, Sweden. Pulled muscles during the competition prevented him from winning any medals. In November 1974, Landry joined the Ottawa Kinsmen Harriers, a hearing track and field club. He trained under Bill Arnold, a hearing Canadian National coach, for 15 years (1974-1989). In 1975, he travelled to Maracaibo, Venezuela to compete with the Canadian team at the Pan American Games for the Deaf, and won in the following events: 800-metre (gold), 1500-metre (silver), and 400-metre (bronze). His next challenge was at the 13th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Bucharest, Romania in 1977. Although he broke a new world record (1:52.7), Landry missed winning a bronze in the 800-metre event by 1/100 of a second, and came in sixth (3:59.2) in the 1500-metre category. The media later awarded

him the 1977 ACT Award from Sport Canada for his outstanding performance in Romania.

Landry went through three months of rigorous training before the 14th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Cologne, West Germany in 1981. His hard work paid off when he won a silver medal in the 1500-metre race (3:56.7). He was just a few 100ths of a second behind gold-medal-winner Timo Karvonen



Landry in training (1985)

Courtesy of Paul J. Landry (Ottawa, Ont.)

of Finland. Landry came in fifth (1:55.72) in the 800-metre race. In 1982, he was presented with the Ernest A. Marwick Award by the Canadian Deaf Sports Association in recognition of his outstanding performance in track and field.

Los Angeles, Calif. was the site for the 15th World Summer Games for the Deaf in 1985. Landry's long-held dream of winning a gold medal was realized in the 1500-metre race (3:53.41 — a new world record), a first for Canada in track and field. He also ran in the 5000-metre race and came in fourth (15:03.51). For the second time, Landry was honoured with the 1986 ACT Award by Sport Canada in recognition of his outstanding track and field performance.

At the 16th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1989, Landry competed only in the 5000-metre race, winning a bronze medal with a time of 15:09.52. Other examples of his track and field (non-deaf) competitions include the 1982 Ontario Cross Country Championships (12-km) in Sudbury (eighth place, 40:27); the 1983 Mitel 10-km Road Race in Kanata, Ont. (fourth place in a field of 600, 30:43); the 1984 Québec Track and Field Championships (third place in the 1500-metre race, 3:50.33); the 1985 All Comers Track and Field Meet in Ottawa (personal best in the 5000-metre race, 14:41.87); and the 1986 High Performance Track and Field Meet in Montréal (third place in 1500-metre race, 3:50.4). Landry credits much of his success to the support of his British-born hearing wife, Pauline. His job with Canada Post Corporation as Ottawa's first deaf letter carrier (a position he has had since 1975) also helps keep him fit and ready to run more races.⁶² He has also had a local park named in his honour.⁶³ Landry is truly "... a man who has the distinction of belonging to the elite who *are* the race."⁶⁴

Cross-Country Walkers

Two deaf Canadians have demonstrated their physical endurance by walking across Canada. One even made a round-trip trek from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic coast and back again.

Georges Serre

Georges Serre (b. Oct. 11, 1906; d. Jan. 24, 1936), a deaf French Canadian, twice set out to walk across Canada in the 1930s. Born to Albini and Eva (née Paquette) Serre in Montréal, Québec, Serre was a student at the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets (1917-1922). He then apprenticed in shoemaking for a time before getting a job in a Montréal shoe store owned by a fellow alumnus. For several years, Serre had yearned to travel by foot across Canada. Finally in 1932, he decided to take an adventurous, cross-country hike from Montréal to Vancouver, B.C. After he reached his destination, he visited the British Columbia School for the Deaf on November 15, 1932, and worked for a while for the provincial government, in the highway repair department. It is not known whether he walked back to Montréal or returned by train.

A brief description of his experiences can be found in the

following translation of his December 18, 1932 letter (from Vancouver) to the editor of *L'Ami des Sourds-Muets* in Montréal. He wrote:

Dear Editor:

I am writing you to say that I have walked 3,345 miles from Montréal to Vancouver. I'm not tired and I am very well. I understand that walking is very good for one's health. I have travelled through high mountains, one was 13,000 feet and took me 4 days. I admired Banff, Lake Louise, Field, Revelstoke, and many other places. I saw Fraser Valley and the prairies, a Grizzly Bear and Gray Bear. There are gold mines, but also a lot of snow and cold. I worked for the government of British Columbia, fixing roads. I hope to travel up to Dawson, Yukon where there is a lot of gold.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Father the Director, the religious (brothers), and to the deaf-mutes of Montréal.

*Georges Serre*⁶⁵

In early January 1936, Serre left Montréal again for his second cross-country trek to the West Coast. After covering about 900 kilometres, he was struck and killed by a Canadian Pacific locomotive some 120 kilometres west of Sudbury, Ont.

James P. Terrion, Jr. and the "Silent Walk" Across Canada

On November 24, 1990, James (Jim) Patrick Terrion, Jr. (b. Nov. 22, 1960), completed a monumental 9,917.7-kilometre trek across Canada and back. Walking for 10 months through freezing temperatures, bitter wind, heavy rain, dense fog, and sweltering heat, he travelled through all 10 Canadian provinces.

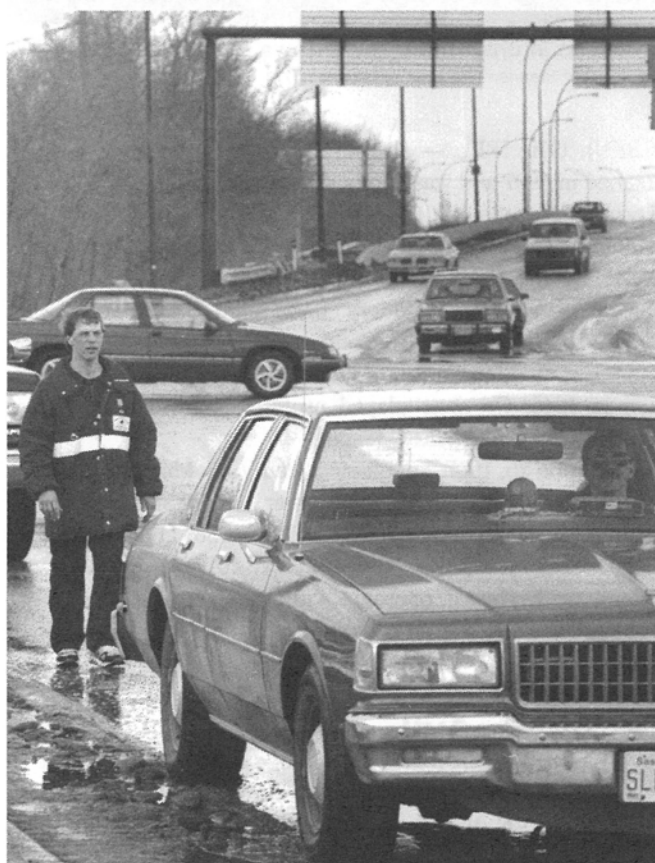
Terrion is the born-deaf son of James Patrick Terrion Sr. and Faye (née Trudeau) Terrion. His parents, older sister, and younger brother are hearing. Terrion attended Facey Hall School and Annunciation School in Prince Rupert, B.C. before entering the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf in Vancouver (1973-1980). After completing school, he worked in Prince Rupert as a carpenter and caretaker. In recognition of his model home building skills, he was awarded a silver medal by the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, and a gold medal by the British Columbia Cultural Society of the Deaf.

For years, Terrion had been a familiar sight walking along his hometown streets in Prince Rupert, where he averaged 23 kilometres per day. In fact, from the time he began keeping records in 1977 to the beginning of "Silent Walk '90," he had already logged a total of 64,260 kilometres, the equivalent of walking around the world one and one-half times. Besides walking, his other interests include watching videos and bowling (he has a 203 average).

Terrion was inspired by Canadian Terrance (Terry) Stanley Fox (b. July 28, 1958; d. June 28, 1981), the one-legged runner from Port Coquitlam, B.C. Fox's cross-country "Marathon of Hope" to raise money for cancer research began in Newfoundland on April 12, 1980. Unfortunately, the cancer

which had cost him his leg also spread to his lungs, and he was forced to quit his run in Thunder Bay, Ont. on September 1, 1980. Like Fox, Terrion dreamed of crossing Canada and back by foot to call attention to the needs of a special group — deaf Canadians — whom, he felt, are often treated as less than first-class citizens in the country. He also hoped to raise at least \$150,000 to be given to the Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA) to train future deaf athletes and to help them participate in the 12th World Winter Games for the Deaf (held February 28 through March 18, 1991 in Banff, Alta.). Terrion's walk also marked the 75th anniversary of the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf (1915-1990), his alma mater.

Terrion was accompanied on his trek by Gordon John Rattray (b. Nov. 9, 1950) of Vancouver, a hard-of-hearing computer software technician and alumnus of Gallaudet College (B.A., 1971-1977). Rattray served as interpreter and driver of their mobile "home-away-from-home." The rig consisted of a fifth-wheel recreational vehicle donated by Travelaire Trailer Canada of Red Deer, Alta., pulled by a truck donated by Skeena Cellulose, Inc. of Prince Rupert. Donated computer equipment connected to a cellular telephone permitted Terrion and Rattray to stay in touch with family and friends through Disability Information Services of Canada (DISC), an electronic-mail network. The RV also contained a fax machine for sending instant messages home. "Silent Walk '90" was sponsored by the Canadian Deaf Sports Association in Victoria, B.C. and coordinated by Marolyn Reiten-Stevens of the CDSA.



Terrion entering Saskatoon with police escort

Photo Credit: Grey Pender, Saskatoon Star-Phoenix

On February 5, 1990, Terrion's trek began on the steps of the provincial legislature building in Edmonton, Alta. (the province hosting the 12th World Winter Games for the Deaf in Banff). Cheered on by students from the Alberta School for the Deaf, Terrion left Edmonton and travelled along Highway 16 through such towns as Lloydminster, Alta., and Maidstone and North Battleford, Sask. When he reached Saskatoon, he was greeted by students from the R.J.D. Williams Provincial School for the Deaf. From Saskatoon, he walked along Rt. 11 to Regina, where he picked up Highway 1. He then walked through such towns as Qu'Appelle, Wolseley, Grenfell, Moosomin (all in Saskatchewan), and Brandon, Man., arriving in Winnipeg on March 16.

Terrion flew from Winnipeg to London, Ont., to avoid a winter snowstorm, but made up the distances that were flown by taking side trips to as many towns as possible during his walk to Toronto and on to Québec City. Terrion usually started his day at 7:00 a.m. and finished about 5:00 p.m., averaging about 40 kilometres each day in the winter months and 50 to 60 kilometres daily during the summer. Rattray drove behind the athlete in the RV at a leisurely 6 kilometres per hour. Along the route, generous people donated meals, lodging, fuel, and groceries. During the winter months, Terrion walked in temperatures as low as -36°C . Although he was bundled in layers of winter clothes and wore a ski mask, he still experienced mild frostbite, freezing of the knee joints, and facial burns from the sun, cold, and wind. On Valentine's Day, he faced a wind-chill of -56°C . On March 24th, a month and a half into the walk, Terrion had reached Kitchener, Ont. In an interview there, he told reporters:

Sometimes it was minus 30°, minus 40° in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Ice formed on my eyebrows and I got a little bit of frostbite on my face.... But the people are always friendly. I am having a good time. It is a challenge, but I know I will do it. I walk again tomorrow, whether it is sleet, snow, wind, or rain. I am not finished yet, there is more challenge ahead.⁶⁶

In Belleville, Ont. he stayed overnight at the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf and visited with the students. He then pushed on toward Nova Scotia. After resting two weeks in the Halifax area, Terrion boarded a ferry for Newfoundland, arriving in St. John's on May 22. He collected a bottle of Atlantic Ocean water from the same spot where Terry Fox, his hero, had dipped his artificial leg at the start of his Marathon of Hope a decade earlier. The next day, Terrion turned around and began his walk back home.

The return walk started from the Kilometre Zero marker in St. John's, Nfld. Terrion then travelled to the Trans-Canada Highway in front of St. John's city hall (which was also the starting point for Terry Fox's walk). He walked all around Newfoundland, ferried across to Nova Scotia, hiked through New Brunswick, ferried to Prince Edward Island — where he celebrated Canada Day — and then went back to New Brunswick. On July 14, he crossed the Québec border on his way toward Ontario, Manitoba, and the prairies of Saskatchewan. Fall found him crossing the mountain ranges of

Alberta and pushing on to Vancouver, Victoria, and Prince Rupert — home! Terrion reached the west coast on November 15, 1990, stopping in Beacon Hill Park in Victoria at the western terminus of the Trans-Canada Highway near the British Columbia legislature. After greeting the crowd, he walked a few more metres and poured his bottle of Atlantic Ocean water into the Pacific, signifying that he had succeeded in walking from ocean to ocean. After resting a week, he walked the final 140 kilometres from Terrance (in near-blizzard conditions) to Prince Rupert, spending his 30th birthday on the Terrace-Rupert highway. He received a lavish hero's welcome in Prince Rupert on November 24, 1990. The 10-month trek burned up only three pairs of walking shoes. With his arrival in Prince Rupert, Terrion had logged a total of 71,707 kilometres since he started keeping records in September 1977.

Ratray, who had accompanied Terrion since he began on "Silent Walk '90," left the expedition after they arrived in Golden, B.C. For seven days a week, working 12-to-14-hour days, Ratray had driven the RV, written and submitted reports of Terrion's progress to newspapers, served as trainer and nutritionist, performed maintenance on the pickup and trailer, navigated, sent out advance publicity and promotional information, and acted as sign language interpreter. On October 22, Jeff Edgar, a deaf friend of Terrion's from the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf in Vancouver, replaced an exhausted Ratray as driver. Donald McCarthy of Edmonton, a deaf teacher, and James Bowman of Calgary, a hearing man, also helped, while Ratray returned to Vancouver and co-ordinated the remainder of the walk.

Terrion hoped that his cross-country trek would be one step in closing the division between the deaf and hearing worlds. Terrion said, "I would like hearing people to learn sign language so they can communicate with the deaf. There also needs to be much better education for the deaf and more research into deafness."⁶⁷ Despite the fact that he did not reach his financial goal — partly due to a lack of national media coverage — his efforts did result in an increased awareness of deaf people and their abilities among the Canadian public. Terrion attended the 12th World Winter Games for the Deaf as a spectator, walking from Banff to Canmore to help open the games. At the Gala Performance on March 2, 1991, the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf presented Terrion with a plaque and a bronzed walking shoe in honour of his accomplishments. Future goals for Terrion include walking from New York to Los Angeles, which he estimates would take about three months. He may then tackle an around-the-world jaunt.

Rugby/Football

Stephen Graziano

Beginning in the 1940s, there have been a few deaf athletes who have played in the professional ranks of Canadian football. Stephen Graziano (b. July 1, 1921), a graduate of the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1930-1941), was recruited to play in Eastern Canada's Interprovincial Rugby Football Union



Graziano in uniform for the Ottawa Combines (1943)

Courtesy of Stephen Graziano (Ottawa, Ont.)

(IRFU). (The IRFU — also known as the "Big Four" — was formed in 1907 and was composed of the Hamilton Tigers, the Toronto Argonauts, the Ottawa Rough Riders, and the Montreal Alouettes.)⁶⁸ He started out with the Gladstones (1941) in the Ottawa Junior City Football League and then moved up to the Rough Riders (1942) in the Ottawa Senior City Football League, and the Combines (1943) and the Trojans (1944) in the Ontario Rugby Football Union. For one full season in 1945, Graziano played professionally for the Ottawa Rough Riders in the IRFU league.

On June 25, 1947, he married Jean Viola McLaren (b. Mar. 18, 1921) of Stonewall, Man., a former student at the Manitoba School for the Deaf in Winnipeg (1928-1936) and the Ontario School (1936-1939). For 29 years (1948-1977), Graziano was a monotype keyboard operator with the federal Government Printing Bureau. He and his wife are long-time residents of Ottawa, Ont.

Melvin A. Aull

Another deaf player for the Ottawa Rough Riders was Melvin Andrew Aull (b. Dec. 23, 1928), a native of Hamilton, Ont., who had become deaf at the age of 13 from spinal meningitis. Shortly after losing his hearing, he enrolled in the Ontario School for the Deaf classes that met in Hamilton (1942-1945 —



Aull in his Hamilton Tigers uniform (1948)

Courtesy of Mel Aull (Etobicoke, Ont.)

this was during the time when the school in Belleville was taken over by the air force and classes were set up in different sites in the province). After attending school there for three years, Aull enrolled in a local technical school and played rugby (football) on the school's team. His coach from high school encouraged him to practice with the Hamilton Tigers Football Club.⁶⁹ After attending one practice, he decided the other players were so big that he would not have a chance of making the team. Later that evening, however, the team manager came to his house and asked him to come back to practice with the team one more time. Aull made the team and played on its junior club a short time before moving to the senior team.

When Aull started his career with the Hamilton Tigers, he first played in an offensive position. He found it difficult to time his moves with the snap of the ball, however, so he was shifted to a defensive spot. Aull was with the Tiger-Cats for three years (the 1948 through 1950 seasons). Practice was held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., so most of the team members also held part-time or full-time jobs during the day. Aull's pay was usually \$50 per game; if he didn't play, he wasn't paid. After the 1950 season, Aull changed teams. During the 1951 and 1952 seasons, he played "inside wing for the Ottawa Rough Riders rugby [football] team, [1951] winners of the Grey Cup, Canada's highest rugby award."⁷⁰ He depended on his lipreading skills to follow instructions, and was considered a "steady, quick-thinking player with a gift for diagnosing his opponents' plays."⁷¹ A fellow player described him this way:

When Mel came to the Rough Riders ... he was not given much of a chance to make the team by the players because of his deafness. But that attitude changed after the very first scrimmage. He was a defensive guard and he had more sensitivity to movement than any defensive player in the league. He was the fastest man off the mark of anyone I've ever seen then or since.... He was a big, tough kid who gave a pound and expected one in return and got it. He beat out some pretty good ball players. He had to. I have nothing but the greatest respect for Mel Aull.⁷²

Aull was traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders for the 1953 and 1954 seasons, his most lucrative years in football (he earned a total of \$3,500 for 1954). During a game in Vancouver, B.C., he dislocated his shoulder for a second time, despite wearing a special harness and having his arm chained to his body to restrict its movement. After this injury, he decided to retire. However, he did give football one more try: "... in '55 I went to Ottawa's camp again to give it a shot and wrecked my shoulder on the first day of scrimmages. I quit for good."⁷³ He was 26 years old.

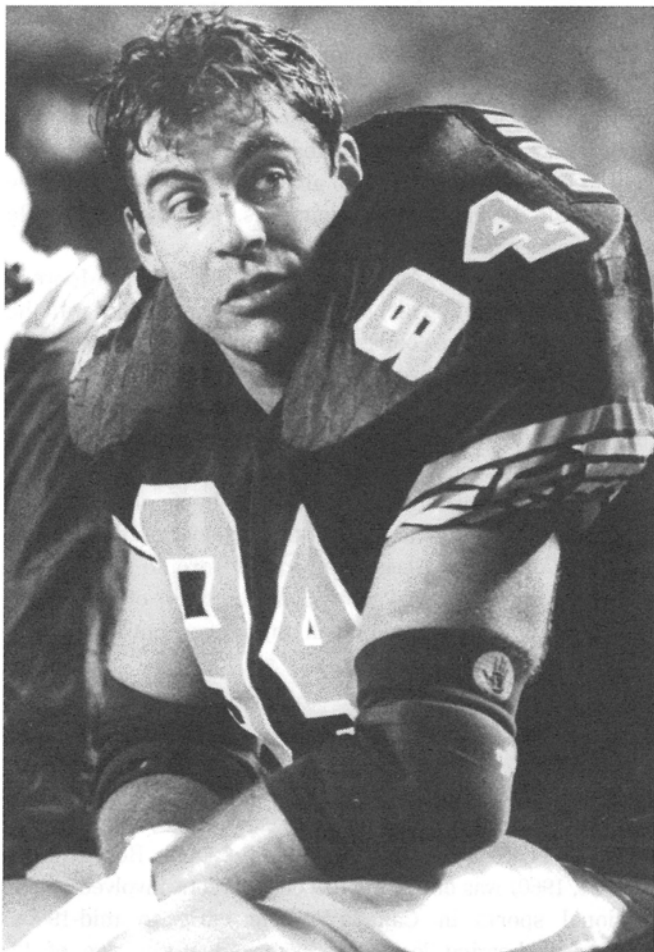
On April 10, 1950, Aull married Kathleen ("Kit") Moore, a hearing woman he had met in Ottawa while he was still with the Hamilton Tigers. The couple, who now live in Etobicoke (a section of Toronto), had five children. After retiring from football, Aull put his training in drafting to good use in his next career (despite his technical school teachers' claims that he could not handle courses such as drafting and mechanics because he was deaf). For a few years, he was employed by an aircraft manufacturer in the Toronto area. After the factory closed, he took a job with Consumers Glass Company of Toronto (1956-1992). When he retired, he was supervisor (foreman) of his department. Aull is not playing football any longer, but he stays in shape by swimming every day.

Michel D. Bourgeau

Playing defensive tackle for the Ottawa Rough Riders (1984-1989), and later for the Edmonton Eskimos (1989-1994) in the Canadian Football League (CFL), Michel Denis Bourgeau (b. June 28, 1960) was one of the few deaf persons involved in professional sports in Canada in the early to mid-1990s. Bourgeau's hearing loss was diagnosed at the age of 12. Progressive deafness runs in his father's side of the family; Bourgeau is said to be totally deaf in one ear and partially deaf in the other. He wears hearing aids in both ears, but removed them when he was playing football. On the field, he read lips and watched the ball and other players carefully. Bourgeau explained that "sometimes I'll have the linebacker repeat the call.... I'll grab him by the face mask, put his face next to mine, and say, 'What was the call?'"⁷⁴ Defensive players, as opposed to those on the offensive squad, do not have to rely on their quarterback's cadence, so deaf defensive players have one less challenge to face on the field.

A Montréal native, Bourgeau received his education at the Séminaire de la très Sainte-Trinité in Saint-Basile, Québec (1972-1978), and Collège André-Grasset in Montréal (1978-1980). As a student, he relied on lipreading and wore hearing

aids. A four-year football scholarship at Boise State University in Idaho enabled him to complete his studies in business administration (B.A., 1980-1984). In his freshman year, Bourgeau's team won the division I-AA national championship, and he was picked as the "Broncos Newcomer of the Year." Bourgeau (who is six feet, five inches in height and weighs 270 pounds) became captain of the varsity team for the 1982-1983 season, was twice voted All-Big Sky tackle, and won the school's Defensive Player of the Year award in 1983. In January 1990, he was inducted into the Boise State Athletic Hall of Fame.



Bourgeau, wearing no. 94 as an Edmonton Eskimo (1990)

Photo Credit: Terry Elniski (Edmonton, Alta.)

Bourgeau paid a price for his college fame, however. He suffered major injuries playing for the Broncos, and ultimately had surgery four times — once on a shoulder and three times on his knees. Successful rehabilitation kept him a professional football prospect, and in June 1984, he signed a three-year contract with a one-year option with the Ottawa Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League (CFL). During off-seasons, he has pursued a master's degree in business administration at Carleton University in Ottawa. On May 19, 1984, Bourgeau married Jill Garner, a hearing woman from Sun Valley, Idaho. They have two children — a son, Lucas, and a daughter, Lauren, both hearing.

Bourgeau was active with the Capital Regional Centre for the Hearing Impaired in Ottawa, serving on the board of directors, and has given presentations to deaf children and adults upon request. When he was not playing in the nose tackle position for the Eskimos, he sold computer systems, a job he pursued in the off-season, both in Ottawa and Edmonton. On May 28, 1994, Bourgeau announced his retirement from football, after 10 years as a professional player.

Daniel M. Zawada, Junior League Football

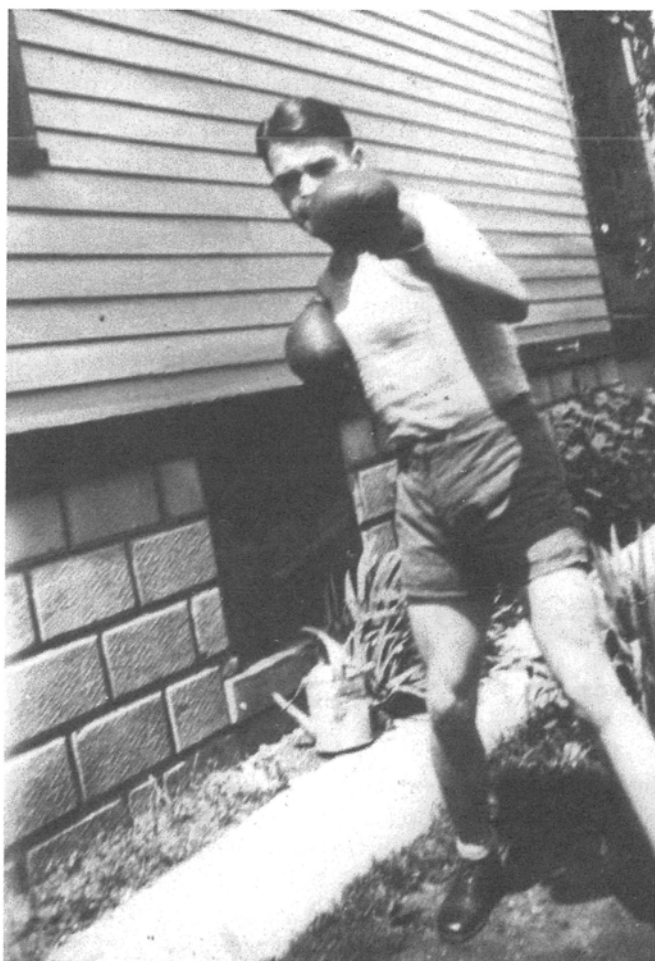
Daniel Michael Zawada (b. Oct. 9, 1953) was the only deaf member of the Edmonton Huskies, a football team in the Alberta Junior Football League (AJFL). Born in Edmonton, Alta. to hearing parents, he lost his hearing at the age of 16 months due to spinal meningitis. He attended the Alberta School for the Deaf (1957-1974) and played five years on the school's team. While he was still in high school there, Zawada signed a five-year contract (1970-1975) with the Huskies. His coaches praised their new defensive tackle, calling him "one heck of a football player... he made his position [on the team] because he's the best player we have there."⁷⁵ Some of his coaches and teammates studied sign language so they could better communicate with him.

Zawada left the team in 1974, the same year he graduated from the Alberta School. His contract would have automatically expired the next year because of league regulations prohibiting players over the age of 22. He then enrolled at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. to study science. During his stay on campus, he played football for two seasons, and received a bachelor of science degree in 1982. After leaving Gallaudet, Zawada returned to his hometown and worked as a residence counsellor at his alma mater, then as a jeweller for nine months. He spent the next four years employed as a fireplace technician. Zawada has also worked as a sign language instructor, and hopes to take up the jeweller's trade.

Boxing

Kenneth G. Andrews

During the Depression of the 1930s, Kenneth George Andrews (b. Feb. 10, 1911; d. Aug. 31, 1993), a deaf amateur boxer in the province of Ontario, fought a total of 60 bouts. His career in fisticuffs included 44 or 45 wins, 10 losses, and the rest "draws." He was noted for his "straight punching and uncanny speed."⁷⁶ Born in Windsor, Ont., Andrews became deaf from spinal meningitis at the age of four years. He attended the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1917-1928), where he first became interested in boxing at the age of 14. After learning the basics from his schoolmates, he went into training and continued a steady daily routine of skipping, running, punching, and exercising. In 1928, Andrews was transferred to a day school for deaf children in Detroit, Mich. He commuted by streetcar and ferry from his home in Windsor.



Kenny Andrews at 15 years of age (1926)

Courtesy of Dorothy M. (née Meeke) Andrews (Windsor Ont.)

After classes were finished in the afternoon, he would go to the Mohawk Boxing Club in Detroit to train. He also joined the Border Cities Boxing Club in Windsor (then Walkerville), Ont.

Andrews' first real fight was in 1929 in the Windsor arena when he was 18 years old and in the lightweight division. He knocked out his opponent in the first round. Having proved himself to be a hard-hitting adversary in the ring, Andrews went on to fight many matches in the Ontario towns and cities of Wheatley, Kingsville, Leamington, Harrow, and Windsor, as well as across the border in Detroit. He travelled with his hearing brother, Stewart, who acted as his manager. As time went on, he moved into the welterweight and then the middleweight category. According to Tony C. Unitas, president of the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame in Toronto, "Kenny" Andrews, as he was called, competed in the shortest match of his career in 1930. In the little town of Harrow, he knocked out Dan Charlebois, a French-Canadian boxer from Comber, Ont., a mere seven seconds after the opening bell.⁷⁷

During the difficult years of the Depression, Andrews' father (Walter) could no longer afford to pay the tuition, street-car, and ferry fares for his son to attend the Detroit day school from Windsor. Just four months before he would have graduated in 1930, he was forced to leave school and find a job. Andrews worked in various positions in the tobacco industry;

one job paid only 10 cents per hour plus a meal. In 1935, he began working as an assembler at the Chrysler Corporation plant in Windsor for 53 cents per hour. He remained at that job (but not at that pay) until his retirement in June 1971.

The highlight of Andrews' boxing career was in 1937. In a tournament at the Olympia Auditorium in Windsor, Andrews won the Golden Gloves title in the middleweight division. He was hailed as a "most promising fighter."⁷⁸ However, he retired from his boxing career the next year following his marriage to Dorothy Mary Meeke (b. Mar. 14, 1917), a deaf woman who had attended the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville for one year (1930-1931). The couple settled in Windsor.

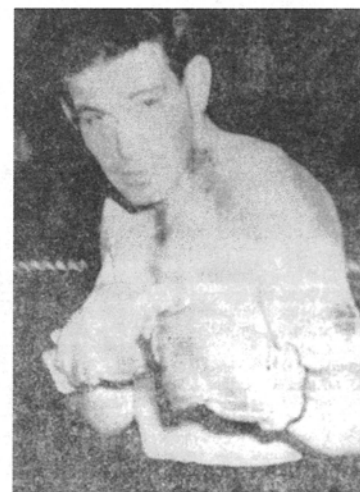
Chester S. Orr

Another deaf Canadian boxer, Chester Stewart Orr (b. Feb. 1, 1919; d. Dec. 6, 1980) was a popular welterweight fighter in the 1940s. Born in Calgary, Alta., he was totally deafened from measles and whooping cough at 12 months of age. Orr attended the Manitoba School for the Deaf (1927-1936) in Winnipeg.

In 1943, he left Calgary for Vancouver, B.C., where he worked by day as a die cutter at the Canada Box Factory, and trained by night at Eagletime Boxing Club. It was there that he learned the finer points of boxing from his hearing coaches, Tommy Maher and Arnold Bertram. On Saturday evening, February 17, 1945, at the Pro-Rec Gym in Vancouver, Orr faced a tough hearing opponent in the welterweight final during the Golden Glove tournament (a boxing competition sponsored by *The Vancouver Sun* newspaper). Before a howling, packed fight throng, he took plenty of punishment from his rival in the first two rounds, but returned in a two-fisted attack and won the Golden Gloves of 1945.⁷⁹

Orr's short-lived boxing career ended when he became Vancouver's 249th victim of polio on November 1, 1952.⁸⁰ While he was confined to an iron lung at Vancouver General Hospital, his 30-year-old deaf wife, the former Mary Louise Tompkins, died (on April 3, 1953) while giving birth to their third child. In memory of his wife, Orr named the surviving baby girl Mary Louise.

After two years in the hospital, Orr was released and spent the rest of his life confined to a wheelchair. He spent 18 months in rehabilitation and slowly regained the use of his hands. In preparation to returning to his job as a die cutter at a box factory, he had an operation on his right hand to transplant muscles from his fingers and wrist to his right thumb so he could operate the tools of his trade. The operation was successful,



Chester Orr, boxing's Golden Boy of 1945

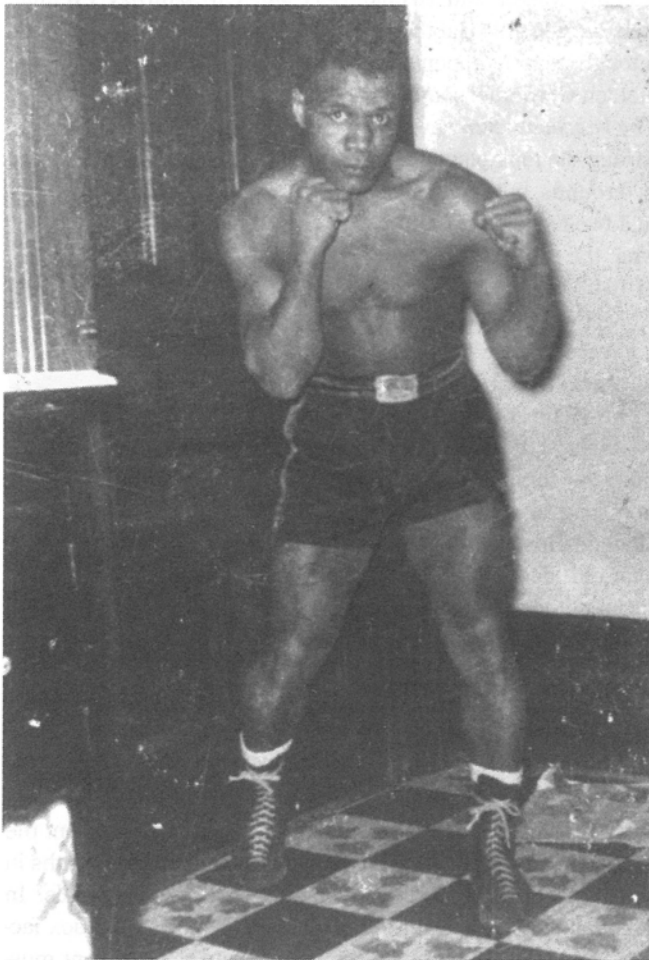
The Province (Vancouver, B.C.)

and Orr returned to work at the Canada Box Factory in Vancouver. Although his fingers grew tired quickly and he had to use a brace to keep his head up while he worked, Orr was pleased to be earning a living again. When asked how he could be so cheerful considering all he had been through, Orr replied, "There are a lot of people worse off than I am."⁸¹

Osborne Farrell

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, Osborne "Ossie" Farrell (b. Feb. 19, 1926) was a prominent deaf light-heavy-weight boxer in the province of Nova Scotia. Born in Halifax, N.S. in the section called Africville, Farrell became profoundly deaf from an unknown disease when he was three years old. He was a graduate of the School for the Deaf in Halifax (1935-1945). Described as "almost a dwarf" in stature (five feet, six inches in height) with broad shoulders and long arms, he had his first professional bout against Kid Ray in a Halifax ring in June 1947.⁸² Two years later, on October 21, 1949, Farrell won the Maritime middleweight championship by knocking out Ace McCloskey, the title holder, in the first two minutes and 29 seconds of the first round.

One night in 1950, he was beaten badly in a bout. In the examining room, his doctor discovered that he was extremely



"Ossie" Farrell in 1949

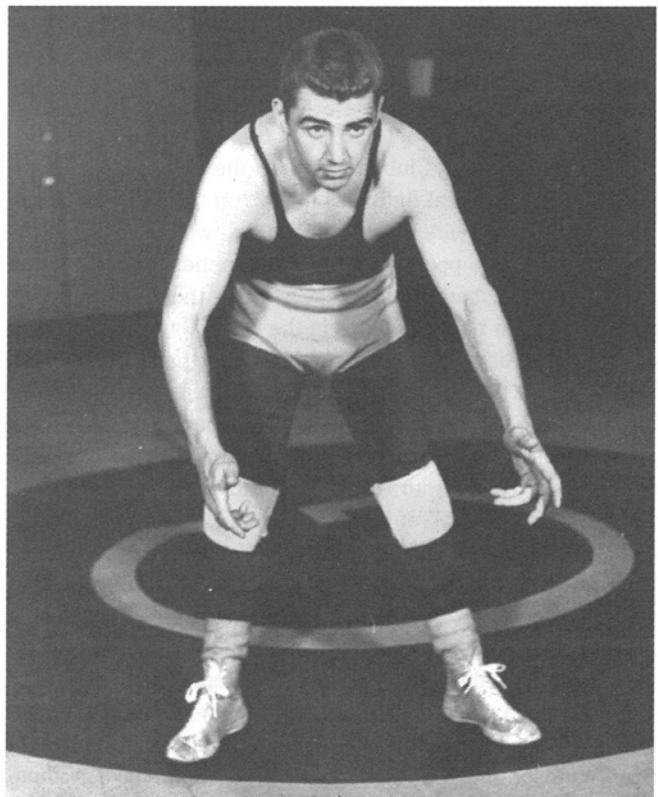
Nova Scotian Black Boxers: Reunion and Remembrance Night/Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia (Dartmouth, N.S.)

vulnerable to punches to the head, and Farrell was told bluntly to hang up his boxing gloves "or else" — which he did, but only temporarily. A short time later, Farrell chose to ignore his doctor's warnings and returned to the ring. His boxing record totalled 31 professional fights, including his last bout with Verne Stephenson in 1954. He won 11 of his fights by knock-outs and lost four the same way. He fought doggedly against such ring rivals as Roy Wouters, Arnold Fleiger, Freddie Wilson, Archie (Bear) Hannigan, Yvon Durelle, Billy Landry, Billy Fifield, Ace McCloskey, Kid Border, Charlie Peck (most of them twice), and faced Coby McCluskey in the ring three times. Throughout his boxing career in the Maritimes, Farrell was always a crowd-pleaser. He was a recognized Maritime middleweight champ and is one of the boxers profiled in the publication *Nova Scotian Black Boxers Reunion and Remembrance Night*, published in 1988 by the Black Cultural Centre of Nova Scotia.

Wrestling

Joseph P.A. Sevigny

The only deaf athlete to represent Canada at the 9th International (Summer) Games for the Deaf in Helsinki, Finland in 1961 was Joseph Pierre Alphonse Sevigny (b. Oct. 27, 1938). Born in Beaupré, Québec, he became deaf at the age of five after attacks of mumps and measles. He attended the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1945-1947 and 1949-1955) and the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets



Sevigny in his Gallaudet wrestling garb

Courtesy of Joseph Pierre Alphonse Sevigny (Romney, W.Va.)

(1947-1949), both in Montréal.⁸³ During his years at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. (1955-1961), Sevigny was an all-around athlete and four-letter man in varsity football, wrestling, cross-country, and track and field. Frank Turk, a deaf wrestling coach there, recognized his potential contribution to college athletics and encouraged Sevigny to participate in wrestling events at international games for the deaf.

Under ordinary circumstances, Sevigny (as a Canadian citizen) would have registered for the International Games under the auspices of a Canadian organization, such as the Canadian Athletic Association of the Deaf (CAAD). However, the CAAD was not active at that time, and Sevigny was unaware of its existence. Instead, the Gallaudet Athletic Department registered Sevigny to represent Canada at the International Games in August of 1961. He was trained by Turk and travelled with the American athletes to Helsinki, Finland. Sevigny won a silver medal in the 82-kg Greco-Roman category and a bronze medal in the 82-kg freestyle category. His trip was sponsored in part by the Mackay Homecraft Studio, a workshop and salesroom of the Mackay School in downtown Montréal. Woven merchandise such as scarves, kerchiefs, luncheon cloths, men's ties, and other items made by deaf girls at the Mackay Institution were sold to finance his participation at the International Games.

In his junior year at Gallaudet College (1959-1960), Sevigny received an invitation to try out for the Toronto Argonauts of the CFL following his graduation. However, because he was in training for the International Games, he declined this invitation. Sevigny graduated in 1961 with a bachelor of science degree in physical education, and later received a master of education degree from Western Maryland College in Westminster (1987). After he became a teacher in 1961 at the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney, Sevigny was contacted by the Montreal Alouettes of the CFL. The team was interested in signing him as a player for the 1962 season. Although he participated in the Alouettes' training camp in July of 1962, Sevigny left after one week, choosing instead to pursue his career as a teacher. He continues to be employed at the West Virginia School, from which his deaf wife (the former Christie Lane Clayton) graduated in 1968. Sevigny has been an American citizen since December 1, 1967.

Coaching

Gerald R. Griffore

A native of Chatham, Ont., Gerald Roger Griffore (b. May 8, 1938) was raised on Dover Township Farm. He became deaf at the age of four when he contracted measles and then spinal meningitis. He later attended the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville (1944-1958). Griffore first became interested in sports at the age of 12 after watching professional baseball (the Tigers) and hockey games on television. While attending school in Belleville, he played basketball, football, hockey, softball, and badminton. He also participated in volleyball, track and field, soccer, and recreational hockey. Following gradua-

tion, Griffore continued to play hockey and softball, but had to join a hearing league in Chatham because there were no deaf leagues available at that time. In 1960, he began a career as a Union Gas meter repairman, which culminated when he retired in August 1995. In 1968, he married Judy Leora Lerg (b. Dec. 2, 1941), a deaf woman from Michigan. The couple has three hearing children.

Griffore is well-known in the Deaf community. He served on the board of the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) — Windsor Region for seven years (1979-1986), and has been a member of the Windsor-Chatham Catholic Society (ICDA-52) since 1960. Before he began his years of coaching hearing teams, Griffore participated in athletic events himself. After he returned from the 1965 Central Athletic Association of the Deaf (CAAD) basketball tournament in Detroit, Griffore decided to do something about the lack of teams for deaf residents of Ontario. First, he set up the first Ontario Slo-Pitch Deaf Tournament at Woodstock, held on August 28, 1965. Three teams competed in the first tournament. Now more than 15 teams compete in this annual event.

In 1964, he formed the first amateur deaf sports organization in Ontario, which was known as the Western Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf (WOAAD). Team members competed in both the CAAD basketball and softball tournaments. The WOAAD became the Ontario Sports Council of Organizations of the Deaf (OSCOD) in 1966 and eventually became the Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf (OAAD). In 1974, it was changed again to the Ontario Silent Sports Federation (OSSF), and is known today as the Ontario Deaf Sports Association (ODSA). Griffore served as president of the OAAD from 1972-1974. He was also vice-president of the OSCOD (1969-1970) and was a sports writer for a magazine published by the OAAD. On September 20, 1975, the OSSF awarded him a plaque in recognition of 10 years of service in the area of deaf sports.

Griffore was involved in amateur hockey for more than 20 years. He played on his company team from 1968-1978. He also started a deaf hockey team in Western Ontario in 1968. He arranged the first annual hockey tournament for deaf teams in Ontario, which took place on February 15, 1969 in Hespeler. Four teams competed in this inaugural event. In 1972, he organized and coached an American team that competed in the Toronto Annual Deaf Invitational Hockey Tournament. The team consisted of seven American and five Canadians "borrowed" from other teams. In 1973, he established a hockey team for the Chatham-Windsor area.

Griffore became involved in coaching hearing athletes in 1985, when his two daughters began participating in softball and ringette.⁸⁴ His daughter, Jennifer, was a member of the Rockwell Tween Lions, a hearing girls' ringette team in Chatham. Griffore was asked to serve as coach. Most of the time, he used a chalkboard and drawings to teach plays to the skaters, although his daughter occasionally interpreted questions from her teammates. During the next three years, the team won four gold medals, two Christmas Ringette Tourney titles, the Pickering Invitational Ringette Crown, two silver medals in the Western Regional Finals, and a silver and two

bronze medals in the Talbot Trail Ringette League. In 1989 and 1990, he served as assistant coach for his younger daughter's team, which won a silver medal in the Talbot Trail Junior division, gold in the 1990 Christmas Ringette Tourney, and silver at the 1991 Guelph Invitational Ringette Tournament. In 1990, he was also assistant coach for the Moose Lodge Juniors, a championship team from Chatham.

About the same time that Griffore began coaching ringette, he also became involved in softball, coaching the Atom Girls Softball house league division team (1986-1987). In 1988, he co-chaired the 1988 Invitational Girls Softball Tournament in Chatham, and in 1989 was an assistant coach for the girls' local Bantam travel team (14- and 15-year-olds). In 1990, he became head coach of the Chatham Midget Girls Fastball Team (17- and 18-year-olds) and brought the team to a first place finish in the Kent County Girls Fastball League. In 1989, Griffore was elected to the board of the Chatham Minor Girls Softball Association, serving as vice-president. He continues to serve on the board and is also the statistician for the Chatham Ringette Association Board. His involvement in coaching the youth of Ontario continues to this day. Griffore is the author of a 1992 booklet entitled *The Legend of Gerald Griffore and His Deaf Friends*.

Baseball Umpire

Nick W. Bochanesky

Canada's only deaf baseball umpire, Nick William Bochanesky (b. Dec. 19, 1921) lost his hearing at the age of six months when — according to him — a fall in a bathtub caused both of his ear drums to rupture. Raised on a farm in Andrew, Alta., Bochanesky attended the Manitoba School for the Deaf (1930-1940) in Winnipeg. After leaving the school at age 19, he worked as a carpenter, cabinet maker, and a furniture finisher. But his real passion was baseball, and he has dedicated his life to serving as umpire for amateur baseball at Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.

Bochanesky started officiating in Edmonton in 1938 and became a full-time umpire for senior men's games in 1946. He attended Alberta's first umpire school in 1947, and the following year joined the newly formed Alberta Baseball Umpires Association. When this organization dissolved in 1975, Bochanesky became a member of the Baseball Umpires of Alberta.

Bochanesky's wife, the former Nettie Lois Noble (b. Feb. 20, 1930) of Lethbridge, Alta., attended public schools in Peace River, Alta. (1936-1946) and the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf in Saskatoon (1946-1949). The Bochaneskys married on July 8, 1950 and have five children. In his more than 50 years in baseball, Bochanesky has umpired almost 5,000 games at Edmonton-area ball parks, often "umpiring every night of the week... and tournaments on the weekends...."⁸⁵ He is considered "a damned good umpire" by many of the fans, coaches, and players.⁸⁶ His deafness provides him the advantage of not being distracted by the fans' catcalls. However, he would often



Bochanesky in uniform (1987)

The Edmonton Journal/Photo reproduction credit: Chun Louie and Joan K. Schlub, Gallaudet University Photo Services (Washington, D.C.)

try to explain to young players what they were doing wrong. "He'd always take the time to work with the young players.... He'll make the call and then call time and go and explain by pointing what the pitcher has done wrong and why he got the call he did. No one else does that."⁸⁷

In August 1985, when Fort Saskatchewan hosted the Western Canadian Midget Championship, Bochanesky was chosen to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Umpire-in-chief for the Fort Saskatchewan Minor Baseball Association, he was runner-up in 1986 for the Carling O'Keefe Award of Merit, which is awarded to the person who contributes the most to baseball in the Province of Alberta. Nominated again the next year, Bochanesky won this prestigious award in 1987.⁸⁸ Unlike

many of his old umpire friends who have “quit and quit and quit,” Bochanesky was still umpiring in 1994 at the age of 73.⁸⁹ He plans to continue officiating at ball fields as long as his health will permit.

Sports Promoter

William H.J. McGovern

Described as a man with “a stalwart, dignified bearing,” William Hugh Joseph McGovern (b. May 19, 1904) is regarded as a champion of deaf rights, as well as one of several pioneers in the establishment of organizations for and by the deaf in his home province of Ontario.⁹⁰ However, his greatest contribution to the Deaf community may be his enthusiasm for sports, and his years of dedicated service to improving competitive and recreational activities for Canada’s deaf athletes.

Profoundly deaf since birth, McGovern was the second of three children. His younger sister, Elizabeth Mary (b. May 25, 1909; d. Mar. 31, 1977), was also deaf and attended the Ontario School for the Deaf (1919-1927). McGovern and his parents managed to communicate by using “home-made signs and gestures,” until a new world opened to him when he was admitted to the Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Belleville (1911-1923).⁹¹ During his years at the school, he developed strong leadership and athletic abilities that led him to become a legend in later years. He helped initiate a house league for softball and ice hockey within the school, and in his senior year (1922-1923) captained the school’s ice hockey team to its first championship in the Belleville Hockey League. His first paid job was as supervisor of boys at Belleville, while still a student there himself (1923). Following a year at Toronto Central Technical College (1924-1925), McGovern worked as a pressman for several companies in Toronto and Chatham. His first take-home pay in 1925 at Superior Novelty Specialities Company in Toronto was \$13 per week.

On a train trip to Windsor, Ontario in 1926, McGovern met Hazel Mae Humphrey (b. Sept. 4, 1899; d. Aug. 18, 1976) of London, Ont., a 1919 graduate of his alma mater. On Labour Day, September 4, 1927 (without first telling their families about their plans), the couple was quietly married in the bride’s hometown. After the ceremony was over, then the newlyweds told their families what they had done. In 1928, McGovern returned to Toronto where he obtained part-time employment as a postal helper at the Union Station Terminal “A” Post Office. After he passed the civil service examination a short time later, his position became full-time, but it was not until January 1937 that McGovern was reclassified as a permanent, full-time postal clerk. Even after passing all of the required tests in later years, McGovern was often turned down for promotions by the Post Office Rating Board because, in their own words, “William is deaf.”⁹² As a result, he held the position of postal clerk until his voluntary retirement in August 1966. Throughout the years, McGovern continued to participate in the sports he enjoyed. He played softball in the Senior



W.H. (Bill) McGovern in the 1940s

Courtesy of William H.J. McGovern (Toronto, Ont.)

Chatham [hearing] League (shortstop and pitcher) and was on the softball and ice hockey teams for the Toronto Post Office. His hockey team, known as the Post Office Intermediates, won the championship in its first admission to the Intermediate Industries Hockey League in 1931.

In an effort to promote more sports activities for deaf people in the Toronto area, McGovern founded the Silent Athletic Club in 1929, an organization that was incorporated in 1937 as the Toronto Association of the Deaf. From 1929 to 1937, he was president of the original organization, and then again from 1937 to 1946 when the name was officially changed. McGovern’s involvement in deaf sports came from a love of athletics and a firm belief in its value: “Athletic involvement is one of the greatest confidence and personality builders, and that deaf people must be allowed full access to its benefits.”⁹³

McGovern was also active in non-sports-related organizations that served deaf people. For example, he was vice-president of the Toronto Catholic Association of the Deaf (1924-1927). He also served as president of that organization after the name was changed to the St. Francis de Sales Deaf Society. He was one of the first elected officers of the International Catholic Deaf Association (Canadian treasurer, 1949-1953), a member of the Ontario Association of the Deaf since 1924 and its president for four years (1962-1966), and a member of the provincial board of directors of the Canadian Association of the Deaf (1950-1953) and of the Canadian Hearing Society (1963-1985). In 1964, McGovern was appointed to represent the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario in the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (later renamed the Canadian Deaf Sports Association).

He was instrumental in raising funds and obtaining federal grants that allowed a Canadian contingent of highly rated deaf athletes to officially participate — for the first time — in the

10th International Games for the Deaf held in Washington, D.C. in 1965. He eventually served as the Federation's national president for 12 years (1966-1978). During his term of office, he managed to raise enough funds for Canadian teams to compete in Yugoslavia (1969), Sweden (1973), and Venezuela (1975).

McGovern has received numerous honours. He was presented with the Distinguished Service award by the Canadian Association of the Deaf in 1974, and was inducted into the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf's Hall of Fame in 1978. His life was the subject of a documentary by TVOntario entitled "Not One of the Crowd," which was aired October 29, 1981 as part of the International Year of Disabled Persons programming. In 1984, Jeanne-Mathilde Sauvé, Canada's first female governor general (1984-1990), presented McGovern with a plaque from the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada in appreciation for his long and faithful service to deaf sports in Canada. And on September 29, 1991, the Peel branch of the Canadian Hearing Society in Mississauga, Ont. named its new library in

his honour. McGovern, a resident of the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf in Toronto, was present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

World Games for the Deaf

In the early 1920s, a small group of European deaf men — under the leadership of Eugene Rubens-Alcais (b. Mar. 7, 1884; d. Mar. 7, 1963) of Paris, France — banded together to form an organization known as "Comité International des Sports Silencieux" (International Committee of Silent Sports or CISS for short). They felt strongly that deaf athletes in every country should have the opportunity to participate in international sports competitions similar to the Olympic Games (which are held every four years).

The first International Games for the Deaf (renamed World Games for the Deaf in 1969) were held in Paris, France on August 10-17, 1924. Since then, summer games have been held



The Canadian team of deaf athletes at the start of the 1965 IGD Games

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)



Canada's basketball team, winners of the bronze medal at the 1965 IGD Games

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)

Back row (left to right): George G. Stothart (Alta.), Clifton F. Carbin (Ont.), Donald E. Kitson (Alta.), David McDole (B.C.), Michael Mooney (Ont.), Gilbert C. Lillie (Ont.), Ralph Melnyk (Alta.), Alexander M. Brodie, manager (B.C.).

Front row (left to right): William R. Bain (B.C.), Marshall Danyluk (Alta.), Ross Lawrence (Alta.), David Sullivan (B.C.), James L. Kvarnberg (Alta.).

every four years in the following cities: Amsterdam, Holland (1928); Nuremberg, Germany (1931); London, England (1935); Stockholm, Sweden (1939); Copenhagen, Denmark (1949); Brussels, Belgium (1953); Milan, Italy (1957); Helsinki, Finland (1961); Washington, D.C., USA (1965); Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1969); Malmo, Sweden (1973); Bucharest, Rumania (1977); Cologne, West Germany (1981); Los Angeles, Calif., USA (1985); Christchurch, New Zealand (1989); and Sofia, Bulgaria (1993). No games were held during the early to middle 1940s due to World War II.

The 15th Congress of the CISS admitted Canada as a member in 1959, raising the number of affiliated nations to 33.⁹⁴ There are now 64 full-member nations. Canadian participation in international summer sports began officially in 1961. The first and only athlete representing Canada that year was Pierre Sevigny of Beaupré, Québec, who brought home two medals in wrestling.

The Winter Games had their beginning in 1949, when a proposal submitted by Heinrich Prochazka of Austria to institute a quadrennial event in winter sports for the deaf was approved at the 10th Congress of the CISS. The first World Winter Games for the Deaf were held in Seefeld, Austria (January 26-30, 1949). Other Winter Games have been held in Oslo, Norway (1953); Oberammergau, West Germany (1955); Montana-Vermala, Switzerland (1959); Are, Sweden (1963); Berchtesgaden, West Germany (1967); Adelboden, Switzerland (1971); Lake Placid, N.Y., USA (1975); Meribel, France (1979); Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy (1983); Oslo, Norway (1987); Banff, Alta. (1991); and Ylläs, Finland (1995). Canada first participated in international winter sports at the 4th World Winter Games for the Deaf in 1959. Ernest Alvin Marwick of Vancouver, B.C. was the first and only athlete sent that year to represent Canada. He competed in the special slalom and ski-jump events.

Today, the CISS is recognized as a world authority on deaf sports by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). CISS changed its original name to "Comité International des Sports



Canadian swimmers proudly show their 1965 IGD medals

The Deaf American/Gallaudet University Archives

Left to right: Patricia Fraser, Linda Heavener, Gail Penner, Marlene Larsen, Jo-Anne Robinson, and Judy Bennett.



Canadian Women's Swimming Team — the "Foursome" — at the 1977 WGD in Bucharest, Romania

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)

Left to right: Theresa Helm (B.C.), Shannon Brophy (Alta.), Cheryl Hayes (Sask.), and Laurie Kiselich (B.C.).

des Sourds" (International Committee of Sports for the Deaf) in 1979. Jo-Anne Marie Robinson, Canada's outstanding female swimmer at the World Summer Games for the Deaf in 1965 and 1969, became the first Canadian ever appointed to the CISS board of directors (she served one term, 1985-1989).

Canada Hosts the World Winter Games

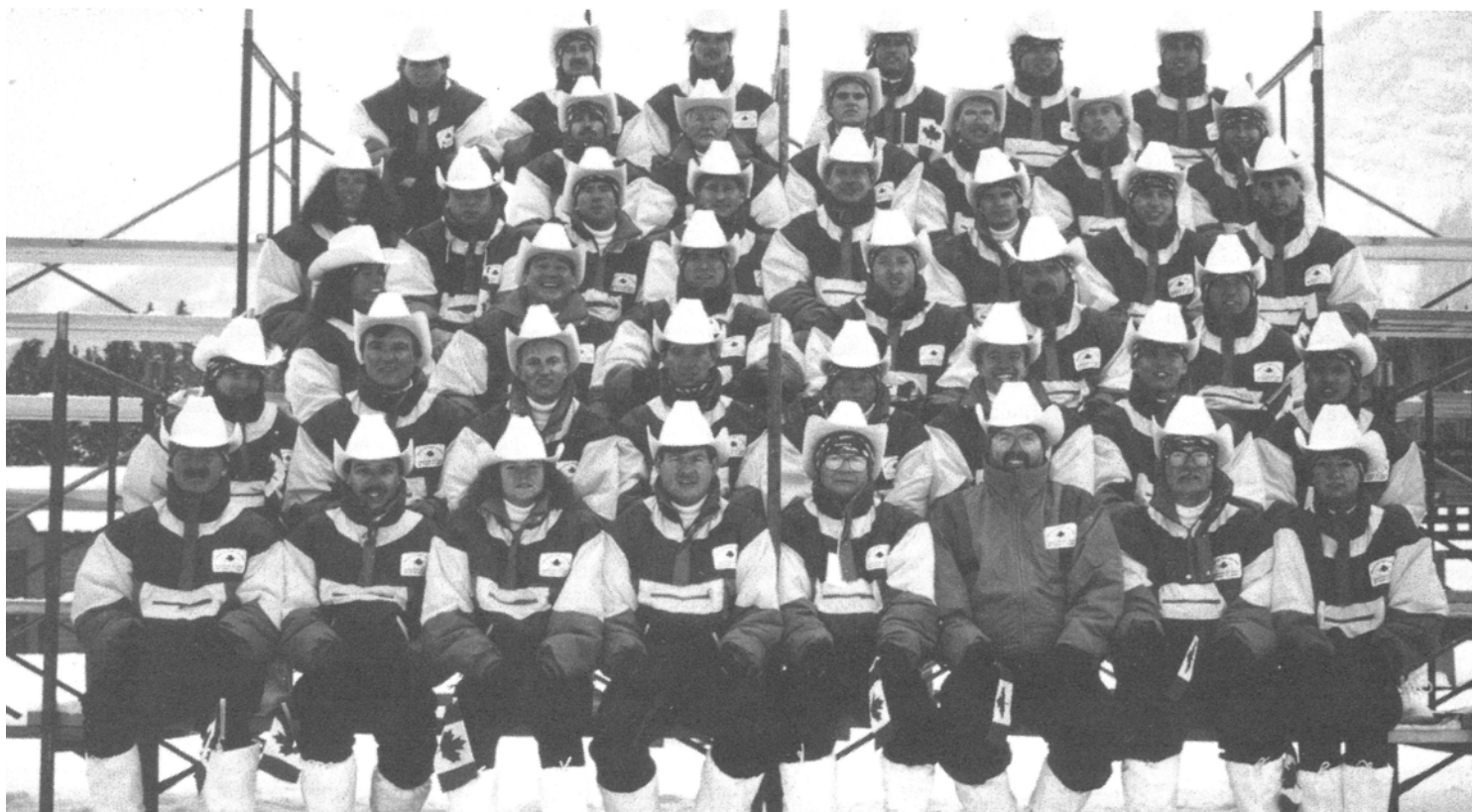
Canada hosted a World Winter Games for the Deaf for the first time in 1991. Approximately 350 deaf athletes from 16 countries gathered in Banff, Alta., during the 12th WWGD, held February 28th through March 8th. The games were sanctioned by the Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS), the Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA), and the Alberta Deaf Sports Association (ADSA). A hearing man, Richard Wayne Letourneau of Edmonton, Alta., was chairperson for the WWG Canada Organizing Committee. The partici-



CANADIAN DEAF NATIONAL TEAM
15th World Summer Games For The Deaf
Los Angeles, California July 10 - 20, 1985

Front row: A. Edwards, J. Custeau, B. Belley, B. Arnold, S. Warren, J. Dlugos, D. Nunn, C. Rohinsky, L. Burdick, D. Webb, J. Lapiak, H. McDonald, C. Jamieson, T. Leinster, J. Musso, M. Hargreaves, A. Hawkins, R. Fergus.
 Second Row: S. McFayden, R. Scholefield, G. Zimmer, R. Gagne, J. Cranswick, G. Warren, E. Warren, M. Parkes, L. Charest, S. Ephrom, R. Tedesco, M. Richards, L. McIntyre, L. Hughes, R. Smith, L. Lelievre, B. Ife, D. Lim, F. Adomaitis.
 Third Row: R. Dziwenka, B. Gregory, D. McCarthy, P. Landry, R. Bernard, W. Briere, G. Malkowski, C. Gent, J. Gow, J. Meunier, A. Brenner, D. Moncrieffe, K. Hornick, G. Hartman, B. Morin, J. Lemon, J. Robinson, H. Bressler, D. Barrieras.
 Fourth Row: R. Richer, I. Turbide, T. Gardiner, R. Luinenburg, T. Forsythe, V. Maxwell, S. Westerlund, E. Greene, J. Edgar, S. Fitzgerald, G. Cleeve, Z. Grobelski, W. Wilson, B. Johnson, G. Lane, W. Goulet, R. Ladyszewski, L. Johannsen.

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)



The Canadian team at the 1991 WWGD, Banff, Alta.

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association — WGD Organizing Committee (Ottawa, Ont.)

Front Row (left to right): Farley Kellet (Sask.), Marco Spain (Québec), Danielle Rousseau (Québec), Terry Gardiner (B.C.), Bruce Jack (Man.), Gerald Richardson (Ont.), Donald McCarthy (Alta.), Cheryl Winter (B.C.).

Second Row (left to right): Mark Kusiak (Sask.), Richard Ladyszewsky (Ont.), Bob Irving (Québec), Bernard Belley (Québec), Francois Careau (Québec), Ken Irving (Québec), Yann Lehoux (Québec), Vincent Wong (Alta.).

Third Row (left to right): Robin Mackie (Alta.), Barrie Elliott (Ont.), Don Vetter (Sask.), Todd Owen (Ont.), Jim Ealey (Ont.), Marty Rabu (Man.).

Fourth Row (left to right): Marjorie Cameron Ward (B.C.), Roy Hysen (Ont.), Michael Duguay (Québec), Derwin Becker (Sask.), Rich Beck (Sask.), David Rollings (Ont.), Marc Deschamps (Ont.), Dave Wright (Ont.). **Fifth Row (left to right):** Claude Pottier (Québec), Ted Munson (Ont.), Charles Fecteau (Québec), Ken Hoffman (Sask.), Shawn Hosler (Alta.), Brian Snider (Ont.).

Back Row (left to right): Chris McCafferty, Jr. (Ont.), Remi Maltais (Québec), Dennis Bryant (Alta.), Kent Wall (Man.), Murray Kyte (Ont.), Mark Couture (Ont.).



This medal, designed by Grant Robertson, a deaf artist in Edmonton, Alta., features a snowflake composed of Canadian maple leaves. Each leaf represents one of the six major events held at the 1991 WWGD.

Courtesy of Jo-Anne Robinson (Edmonton, Alta.)

pating countries were Austria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USSR, the United States, and Yugoslavia. The six major sports events — ice hockey, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, slalom skiing, giant slalom skiing, and speedskating — took place in different sites throughout the area. For example, ice hockey was played at the Nordic Center, the slaloms were held at the Mt. Norquay Resort, and the cross-country skiing at the Canmore Nordic Centre. International spectators and athletes also had an opportunity to watch curling demonstrations, hosted by the Alberta Deaf Curling Association, during the 13th Annual Canadian Deaf Curling Championships (March 2 to 9).

A World Winter Games newsletter called *The Snowflake* was published and distributed each morning to the international athletes and spectators. Its editor was Charmaine C. Letourneau of Edmonton, Alta. (a deaf cousin of the WWG Canada Organizing Committee chairperson). Her staff included Jim Swanson (layout editor); David G. Mason, Ange D'Agui, Tom Emmens, Marilyn Hooper, Sherah Bodie, and Dee Dee Kay (writers); Julie Lytle and Lois McIntyre (word processors); Charmaine C. Letourneau, David G. Mason, and Valerie Salkeld (photographers); Rod McCutcheon and Steve Petrinack (production). Of the staff, only Letourneau, Mason, Lytle, and McIntyre were deaf. *The Snowflake*, a four-page, newspaper style newsletter, contained editorials, schedules of competitions, articles, and photographs of the people and events.

Athletic Associations

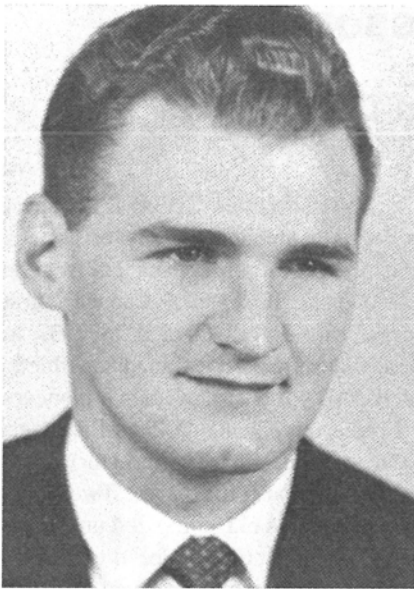
The Canadian Deaf Sports Association

The Canadian Deaf Sports Association (CDSA) is the latest reincarnation of the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (FSSC, 1963-1985) and its predecessor, the Canadian Athletic Association of the Deaf (CAAD, 1957-1963). Canada's first national deaf sports organization was formed in 1957 in Vancouver, B.C. Known at that time as the Canadian Athletic Association of the Deaf (CAAD), the organization's pioneers were Alexander Mutter Brodie (president), William Bain (secretary/treasurer) and Ernest Alvin Marwick (director) — all deaf residents from the greater Vancouver area. Two years later in 1959, Marwick, then 39 years old, competed unofficially at the 4th International (Winter) Games for the Deaf in Montana-Vermala, Switzerland. During his stay there, the 15th Congress of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf/Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS) was held, and Canada was admitted as its 33rd affiliated nation.

The CAAD was not widely known in the Canadian Deaf community at that time, and it gradually disappeared from the sports scene. In late 1960, Ronald Denis Fee (b. Dec. 19, 1936), an ardent deaf sportsman residing in Sherbrooke, Québec, learned of a Canadian athlete (Joseph Pierre Alphonse Sevigny of Beaupré, Québec) who was in need of help. Sevigny, a student at Gallaudet College (1955-1961), trained with the United States wrestling team for the 9th International (Summer) Games for the Deaf in Helsinki, Finland (1961) because he had no support from Canadian deaf sports organizations. Fee felt that it was an embarrassment for a Canadian to be associated with an American team. He thought it was time for Canada to once again support its deaf athletes. Fee learned that the 10th International Games for the Deaf (renamed the World Games for the Deaf in 1969) were being held in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1965; he saw this as an opportunity to do something about the situation. He financed a trip from Montréal to Vancouver to meet with some of the individuals previously involved in the CAAD to determine the reasons why this group was no longer actively involved in deaf sports ("insufficient finance" was one reason for the group's inactivity).⁹⁵

Fee realized that one individual working alone could not undertake the revitalization of interest in deaf sports, so he recruited another fellow deaf sportsman, Guy Gosselin (b. Feb. 3, 1932; d. Feb. 20, 1965) of Montréal. They saw the upcoming International Games as an opportunity for deaf Canadian athletes to participate in international competitions once again. Together with a few other supporters, Fee and Gosselin formed the Federation of the Silent Sports of Canada/La Federation des Sports Silencieux du Canada (FSSC) in 1964.⁹⁶ Canada's enthusiasm in international deaf sports was beginning to revive.

The founding board of directors of the FSSC consisted of Gosselin (president), Fee (first vice-president), Guy Hamel of Montréal (second vice-president), Paul Archand of Montréal



Ronald D. Fee (1965)

F.S.C. Silent Olympic Trials/Photo reproduction credit: Burlington Camera Ltd. (Burlington, Ont.)

(general manager of sports), Irénée Turbide of Montréal (Eastern Canada representative), William Hugh McGovern of Weston, Ont. (Central Canada representative), and Eric Rhys Cardinal of Vancouver, B.C. (Western Canada representative). Robert Brière of Saint-Jean, Québec, eventually joined the board as its secretary. All were deaf except for

Cardinal. When they applied for affiliation with the CISS, however, they learned that the CAAD was still recognized as the official organization representing Canadian deaf athletes, despite its inactivity. Because the CISS would recognize only one organization from each country, the CAAD agreed to dissolve to resolve the conflict. In this way, the FSSC became the officially recognized national deaf sports organizational body in Canada.

Four months after the 10th International (Summer) Games for the Deaf, the FSSC held its first national congress in Montréal (October 9-11, 1965). Financial and sports reports were submitted by the original groups of officers, who also shared their “ups and downs” in sending the first contingent of deaf athletes to the international sporting scene in Washington, D.C. Most of the officers and their provincial representatives were re-elected to the board for another two years, and began planning for the next IGD event in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1969).

On February 10, 1986, FSSC’s name was officially changed to the Canadian Deaf Sports Association/Association des Sourds des Sports du Canada (CDSA/ASSC). Each province has an affiliate organization belonging to the CDSA. As a result

Guy Gosselin, FSSC’s First President



Guy Gosselin

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)

One of the founders of the Federation of the Silent Sports of Canada/La Fédération des Sports Silencieux du Canada (FSSC) was Guy Gosselin (b. Feb. 3, 1932; d. Feb. 20, 1965) of Montréal, Québec, who served as the

organization’s first president (1963-1965). Gosselin, deafened in early childhood, came to Canada from Belgium with his hearing Dutch mother and Canadian father in the fall of 1938. He attended the Institution Catholique des Sourds-Muets (1939-1946), and the Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf-Mutes (1946-1947), both in Montréal. He also received his education at the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Mass. (1947-1949). Trained as an artist at the Fashion Art Academy, Sir George William College of Fine Arts, and the Valentine School of Commercial Art (all in Montréal), his paintings were shown in the Toronto and Montréal areas. He was employed in the graphic arts department of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, primarily working on “printed messages and still pictures for TV.”⁹⁷

Gosselin designed FSSC’s logo. The concept was similar to that of the Olympic logo, which is composed of five overlapping circles representing the five continents. The FSSC logo consisted of four circles drawn in a horizontal line, each containing one of the letters of the organization. The figure of a person with outstretched arms appeared between the circles containing the two S’s. The four circles symbolized the senses of sight, touch, smell, and taste. However, Gosselin omitted the fifth circle — which represented the sense of hearing — to symbolize deafness. In true Canadian style, the logo was later printed in white on a red maple leaf. Tragically, Gosselin did not live to see the 10th International Games for the Deaf in Washington, D.C. He was killed in an automobile accident only four and a half months before the 1965 summer games began. He is buried in Montréal’s Côte des Neiges Cemetery. ■

of the name change, the organization's logo had to be re-designed. This was done by Jo-Anne Marie Robinson of Edmonton, Alta. The CDSA logo now consists of two hands ("A" handshapes with thumbs up) making the sign for SPORT (or COMPETITION); between the hands is Canada's red maple leaf.

The Ontario Deaf Sports Association

The Ontario Deaf Sports Association (ODSA), which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, is an example of a provincial affiliate of CDSA. ODSA was started in 1964 as the Western Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf. The name changed in 1966 to the Ontario Sports Council of Organizations of the Deaf, and again in 1973 to the Ontario Athletic Association of the Deaf. Two other name changes took place in 1974 (Ontario Silent Sports Federation) and 1982, when the current name was chosen. Incorporation occurred the following year.

The ODSA has several objectives:

(1) To promote and facilitate the practice of the amateur sports

among the deaf people in Ontario; (2) to select and train, with the help of local clubs, deaf athletes who are seemingly capable of participating in national competitions (i.e., the National Deaf Sports Games) which are sponsored by Canada Deaf Sports Association and also being selected for participating in international competitions (World Games for the Deaf) which are sponsored by the Comite International des Sourds, known as CISS; (3) to encourage the development and affiliation of deaf organizations across Ontario.⁹⁸

ODSA sponsors provincial tournaments throughout the year (for example, they hold a curling championship in January, ball hockey tournament in February, ice hockey tournament biannually in March, darts championship in April, slo-pitch baseball tournament in June, co-ed slo-pitch tournament in September, and a volleyball tournament in November). They also send participants to national events, as well as to international games (which are held every four years). The non-profit organization raises its operating capital through membership fees, donations, fundraising projects, and grants from the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Recreation. Similar sports associations that are affiliated with the Canadian Deaf Sports Association can be found in other provinces as well.