

Penetanguishene



SPORTS HALL OF FAME

11th annual Induction Dinner & Ceremony



Inside

Chairperson's Message	Page 2
Trillium gives a boost	Page 2
A community centre history	Page 3
It started with Vince.	Page 3
The Inductees.	Pages 4, 5 & 6
Remembering John	Page 6
Honouring Bingo volunteers	Page 6
Timeline & past inductees	Pages 7 & 8



Hall of Fame Committee

The 2007 Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame committee. Back row, left to right: Waxy Gregoire, Denis O'Leary, Chris McConnell, Roy Patenaude, Trent Maracle. Front row, left to right: Gilles Charlebois, Bert Mason, Vince Moreau (Past Chairman), Pat Quigley, David Dupuis (Chairman), Greg St.Amant. Missing from the photo is Ron Marchildon.

Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame: Induction Dinner & Ceremony

A Boost from the Ontario Trillium Foundation

Santa came early for the Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame on Friday, Dec. 15th, 2006, as Simcoe-North M.P.P. Garfield Dunlop announced to a packed hall at the Penetanguishene Arena three area Trillium grants — one of which was coming to the Sports Hall of Fame.

The two-year \$134,600 grant will enable the Sports Hall of Fame to bring the interior of their new hall to life with display cases, new displays boards and material, office equipment and supplies, enlarge photographs, exhibit supplies, archival and conservation supplies and to hire curatorial, archival and collections management staff.



As well, the money will allow the hall to create a database, research and update its inductee files, copy and

enlarge photographs, video tape interviews with living inductees or the families of deceased members, and create a professional video for educational and promotional purposes.

“This Trillium Grant is a dream come true for us, because it enables us to our goals in regards to the display, research and museum aspects of our Sports Hall of Fame and to really bring it to life, and most importantly to care for and properly display our sports history,” stated long-time Board member Bert Mason. “It is the icing on the cake!”

The Sports Hall of Fame committee greatly and sincerely thanks and acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation!

Chairperson's Message

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you to the Official Opening and this 11th Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner and Ceremony.

We are 20 years young! It is an even more exciting time because after 11 years of fund-raising the opening of the new Sports Hall of Fame has arrived!

With the induction of this year's nominees, the Hall will now total 51 athletes, builders and teams who have been recognized for their great contribution to sport in our town.

Our newest inductees; builders Mate Lichtenberg, Reg McConkey and Ken St.Amant are being joined by athletes Alvin Robillard and Jamie Mayer. Their contributions and accomplishments have brought fame and glory to our town, provincially and nationally.

As always, I welcome back many past honoured members, and/or their families. We hope you enjoy yourself this evening as you may recall the night held in your honour not too long ago.

I am especially proud of the present Hall of Fame Committee and also past members whose hard work and perseverance has brought us to this glorious moment in our hall's history.

A special thanks to the Bingo fund-raisers whose efforts have been diligent and unselfish. This new Sports Hall of Fame is as much theirs as anyone's!

In many ways, this is their night as well.

A final thanks to Schadebo Showcases, curator Stephanie Meeuwse, graphic designer Mark Harrison, and Mike Cillis of SunSport Signs for helping develop our new home!

Last but not least, a very special thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, whose substantial two-year grant has allowed us to bring the Sports Hall of Fame and the town's rich sporting legacy to life like never before.

Welcome all and enjoy the evening's festivities.

**Yours truly,
David Dupuis**



Mayor Dubeau and members of the Penetanguishene Town Council extend a sincere thank you to the Sports Hall of Fame Committee and the Sports Hall of Fame Fundraising Committee for their diligent work and effort over the past years.

We thank and congratulate you for this wonderful addition to our community.

Visit us online at www.penetanguishene.ca

Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame: Induction Dinner & Ceremony

A history of our community centers

Ice pads and community centers were vitally important to any small community.

Our town has had a long tradition of ice rinks and centers.

Besides the bay and the various open air rinks, George Dube built a covered natural ice rink just below Owen St. near the present curling club in 1894. This rink was used for skating, curling and hockey.

At this time there was also the Courtemanche rink located up by the present day tennis courts.

In 1896 the C. Beck Lumber Company built a large skating rink on Main St. near the present day Sewage Treatment plant.

In 1909, it was enlarged on each side to accommodate four sheets of curling ice.

This arena was eventually replaced by a large tin-covered arena near the present-day Breweries Retail built by

“Hac” Osbourne. This structure had modern dressing rooms above which were located beautiful hardwood badminton courts.

On the north side were a few sheets for curling. This arena — which boasted the largest natural ice north of Toronto in its day — unfortunately burned to the ground on April 22nd, 1946.

The present Memorial Arena was commenced in the fall of 1952 with a strong core of volunteers.

Despite the delaying wrath of Mother Nature that twice blew down her new trusses and the north block wall once, the volunteers persevered and she was completed and proudly opened in 1954.

She became the hub for hockey, curling and figure skating.

This arena was expanded in 1982 by a large addition that included a modern ice plant, six large dressing rooms, an

enclosed lobby, large and small banquet halls with wash-rooms, bar and kitchen facilities on the upper floor.

The 2006 arena expansion added a new front to the arena and added some styling elements and made the building more practical. A 4,000-square-foot lobby and many other improvements — such as a new pro shop, new manager’s office, a new staff room, new ladies washroom, expanded men’s washroom, enlarged lobby, storage room, a new board room, direct lobby access to the elevator, new hydro, gas and water feeds and a new 1,600-square-foot Sports Hall of Fame.

With the Memorial Arena and Community Center now meeting and updated 2007 Building and construction codes, the most used building in the town is set to continue to serve the citizens of Penetanguishene for many, many decades to come.

It all started with Vince

Former mayor played a big part in local sports — and a big part in developing the Hall of Fame

When a group was formed in 1986 to examine starting a sports hall of fame for Penetanguishene, former mayor Vince Moreau was the logical choice to be the first chairman.

He had developed an early love of sports and had always been actively involved either as a participant, organizer, executive or spectator.

He played on the Penetanguishene juveniles in 1941-42 when they captured the All-Ontario Championship.

From 1947 through to 1950, he was a member of the Spencer Foundry Rangers Intermediates.

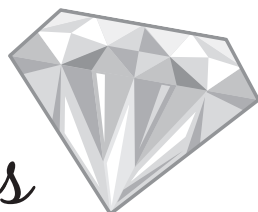
He was an avid and talented baseball player, curler and golfer, where he often represented the Legion at local playdowns. From 1964 to 1966, he was on the executive of the Penetanguishene Junior “C” hockey club.

As Mayor, he spearheaded the drive to build our present curling facility, built on the waterfront in 1975.

Vince chaired the Sports Hall of Fame Committee for eight years from 1987 until 1996, and acted as emcee and the main organizer for the first five Induction Dinner and Ceremonies.

Our present Hall of Fame is a direct result of his inspiring vision and dedication.

In honour of his efforts, he was inducted to the Sports Hall of Fame in the “Builder’s” category in 1997.



Congratulations
to this year's Inductees

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Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame: Induction Dinner & Ceremony

The Inductees

2007 - Alvin Robillard

- Nominated by Michael Dubeau - Athlete

This gifted athlete and hockey player first played hockey as a bantam in Midland as the old Osbourne Rink on Main Street in Penetanguishene had burned to the ground, leaving the community without a hockey rink until the new one was opened in 1954.

Alvin later played Junior "C" and Intermediate "C" with the Penetanguishene Hurons, and later suited up with the Midland Mustangs, and its offspring the Flyers which were formed in 1967-68.

Suiting up with the Flyers in 1969-70, the team amazingly competed in two leagues, losing the Intermediate "A" All-Ontario Final to Port Colbourne — but winning the All-Ontario Senior "B" title against Lampton.

Alvin would eventually play in an All-Ontario finals three times in his career.

During his Intermediate and Senior playing career, Alvin would garner 15 individual awards, which included more than six team scoring titles, four league scoring crowns, and he would be awarded five Team Most Valuable Player awards.

An integral part of any team in which he was involved, Alvin was instrumental in organizing and helping form the Penetang Intermediate "C" Brulé Garrisons in 1972.

When the Garrisons disbanded, Alvin was instrumental — along with a strong nucleus of local hockey players — in forming the Penetanguishene Oldtimers Hockey team in 1979, a team that is still going strong today!

Alvin is married to Bernita, and they have three children: David, Pauline and Brian.



2007 - Jamie Mayer



- Nominated by Harvey Stevens - Athlete

Early in 1998, a young boy from the other side of Penetanguishene Bay put the local bowling world on notice that he had arrived. Jamie Mayer first put together a string of bowling victories at the local level in the "4-Steps-To-Stardom" competition that would see him embark on quite an adventure.

He began by competing in the first two steps and by winning the House and then the Zone Playoffs in February.

In March, the 11-year-old bowler from Knight Haven Lanes in Penetanguishene traveled to the Ontario Provincial Bantam Boys Singles Tournament in Waterloo where he captured the gold medal, defeating his closest rival from Markham by a close five-point victory.

It was then on to the Canadian Bowling Championships in Surrey, British Columbia in May.

Here he would be pitted against the 11 best Bantam boys in Canada. The grueling event had Jamie bowling a total of 22 games over three days.

Going into the final day of competition, Jamie was tied for first place with the champion from British Columbia — with six games left to go.

Jamie won all six games of his final matches to capture the Canadian Bantam Boy's title.

His hot streak would see him win 19 of his 22 matches with a 225 average, a record amongst all age divisions.

The Inductees

2007 – Thorpe “Mate” Lichtenberg

-Nominated by Rob Newburn & Claude Quesnelle - Builder

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Thorpe “Mate” Lichtenberg was a very successful Michigan athlete in tennis, track & field, football and basketball.

Attaining a BA in Physical Education in Richmond Indiana, he graduated from the Ontario’s Teachers College in Toronto and first took a job at a high school in Kincardine, Ont.

He was then hired as the Athletic Director of the newly-constructed Penetanguishene Secondary School in 1966.

He was instrumental in establishing a powerful athletic program at the fledgling and small school with a population of only 300 to 400 students.

Under his tutelage, the school immediately produced powerful football, basketball and badminton teams that saw numerous GBSSA Zone, Northern Regional and provincial finalists and

champions.

Not one to boast, he once said proudly in an interview that a football coaching highlight was winning the GBSSA title in 1974.

But he also added:

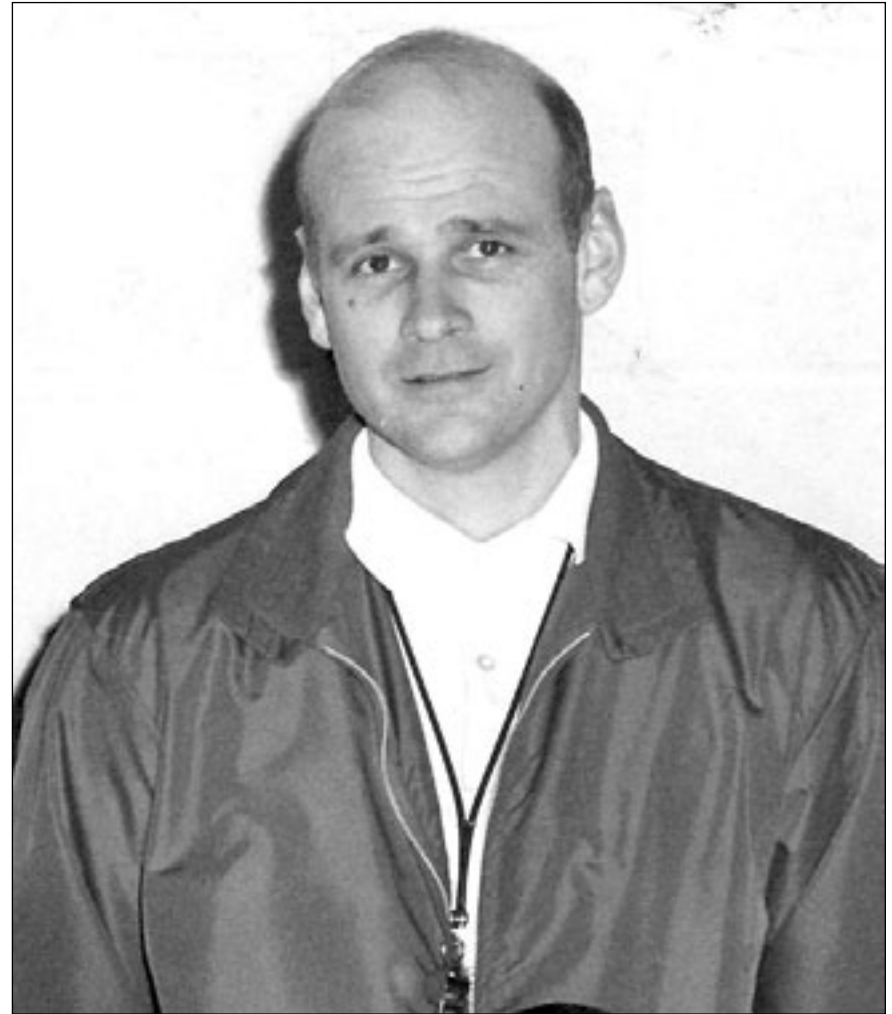
“We have had some reasonably good teams considering our size of school. Our badminton teams have won six GBSSA championships during the ’70s and in 1976, we won the OFSSA title!”

He retired after 22 very rich and successful years of teaching in 1988.

A mentor to all, he effectively taught athletic achievement through discipline, fair play, and hard work — traits his former students fondly remember.

His example led many to become involved in various sports as coaches, officials and organizers themselves.

Mate Lichtenberg passed away in 1990 and is survived by his wife Anne and his two children, Sally and Thorpe.



2007 – Reginald “Reg” McConkey

– Nominated Kevin and David McConkey - Builder

Reg McConkey’s long association with the town’s minor hockey system began one day in 1970 while watching his kids play hockey.

Always one to accompany them to the rink and literally help place boards that divided the ice surface in half for the youngsters, Reg was asked by long-time volunteer Stan LeClair to become more involved and think about joining the executive — or even perhaps coach or help manage a team.

The idea was planted and Reg would end up spending 14 busy years and countless hours involved in the Penetanguishene Minor Hockey

Association.

From 1974-1983 Reg was on the executive in one capacity or another either as a Director, General Manager, and was also involved in one of the teams directly as either a coach or manager.

He was Chairman of the Winterama Hockey Tournament for six years, making it one of the most popular tournaments to participate in.

He was also instrumental in Penetanguishene Minor Hockey officially adopting red, yellow and white as its colours and the flaming “P” as its logo

In recognition of his hard work and unselfish dedication to the boys, Reg won the G. Therrien Award as minor hockey’s Executive Member of the Year three years in a row.

Reg McConkey passed away earlier this year

Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame: Induction Dinner & Ceremony

The Inductees

2007 - Ken St.Amant

- Nominated by Jamie Robillard - Builder

Born into the sports-oriented family of Francis and Dick St. Amant — both inducted as “Builders” in the Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame — Ken became a Physical Education teacher and stayed in the area.

He would become a local, provincial and national organizational — and resourceful powerhouse!

Obtaining his level 1 Instructors certificate, he was a driving force in forming the Penetang-Midland Gymnastics Club in 1979, even writing a local newspaper column about it.

He also attained his instructor’s certification in Track & Field.

He first refereed hockey and later founded the Penetang-Midland Referee’s Association in 1974.

He has officiated at all levels of hockey from the local minor hockey house league, to Major Jr. ‘A’, Provincial Jr. ‘A’, and Senior ‘A’ of the Ontario Hockey Association from 1972 until 1995. He has also refereed at the international level.

He has been a referee in, and the Referee-in chief of, the Penetang-Midland Ball Hockey Association from 1979 until today — an amazing 28 years and counting! He has refereed at countless provincial and national championships.

As an Ontario Ball Hockey Association Referee’s Instructor and Technical Consultant for many years, he was chosen the OBHA “Official of the Year” in 1994 and was elected in into the OBHA “Builders” Hall of Fame” in 2006.

Ken is married to his wife Gisela and they have three children: Traci, Sam and Scott.



In Memoriam:

John Desroches

The Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame and indeed the Penetanguishene community lost a very valuable driving force with the passing of John Desroches in the summer of 2005.

A very committed member of our committee, John was the driving force for the Sports Hall of Fame relocating into the arena. From his first joining the group in 1996, John was a strong advocate of Penetanguishene and her sporting history and set about to organize and fundraise for a new Sports Hall of Fame.

Organizing a group of bingo workers which included not only members of the committee, but also family and friends, John was the driving force in the group reaching the \$200,000 mark as part of our commitment towards the new construction and a new home for the Hall of Fame.

Not only did John’s infectious smile and enthusiasm make the group’s Thursday afternoon bingo sessions one of the most popular for patrons, but John was also a key committee member at the Angel Gate Bingo Hall. But behind it all John had one single goal in mind: a new home for the Sports Hall of Fame.

He was a fiercely loyal native son of the town, for what became his mantra:

“I’m not doing this for myself I’m not even doing this for our committee, I’m doing this for the town and the people of Penetanguishene!”

“I want this to be a place we can all be proud of!”

Hats off to the Bingo volunteers!

Most Thursday afternoons for the past 12 years, a group of very dedicated bingo fund-raisers have gathered at the Angel Gate Bingo Hall with one goal in mind: a new home for the Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame.

Under the leadership of the late John Desroches, the group raised \$200,000 to go towards our share of the Arena Enhancement-Sports Hall of Fame Project.

His vision continues as his bingo group has continued to raise another \$26,000 that has gone towards the interior of the new hall this year — and more is slated for next year!

Some volunteers have come and gone, but all have been instrumental in achieving our goal.

As of April of this year, it was estimated that in the 11.4 years since they began fund-raising, the approximately 21 rotating volunteers had worked 452 bingos, for 14,464 hours. Eight volunteers each week works out to having raised \$28,250 each!

We salute them all!

Jack Bald, Judy Barron, Verda Champion, Charlie Desroches, Ernie Desroches, John Desroches *, Margaret Desroches, Mary Desroches, Marnie Dolan, Rya Duff, Theresa Herron, Stan LeClair, Ron Marchildon, Bert Mason, Lynn McCourt*, Doug Mundy, Lisa Paradis, Pat Quigley, Anita Sauve, Greg St.Amant, Carl Tessier.

* (Deceased)

Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame: Induction Dinner & Ceremony

Timeline of Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame

1987

The Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame committee is formed with Jerry Murphy, Paul DesVillers Ron Marchildon, Mike Dubeau, and Ken Tannahill as members with Vince Moreau acting as Chairman.

- The first 13 Inductees are enshrined during the inaugural Induction Dinner and Ceremony on Friday, Aug. 28th, 1987. A picture display case is mounted in the memorial Arena lobby.

1989

Six names are selected for induction at the second Dinner & Ceremony.

1991

Four more names are inducted at the third Dinner.

1993

Three more are inducted at the 4th Dinner and Ceremony.

1994

The Memorial Arena Sports Hall of Fame display case runs out of room and is moved to the Centennial Museum.

1995

Six inductees are enshrined at the fifth

Dinner and Induction Ceremony. The committee is transformed with the addition of new members Stan LeClair, Bert Mason, Doug Mundy and later, John Desroches.

1996

Charter Sports Hall of Fame Chairman Vince Moreau retires and is replaced by David Dupuis. Waxy Gregoire and Denis O'Leary join the committee.

- The Centennial Museum expands and the PSHOF is given a new 1,152 sq ft area in the upstairs of the Museum's new addition. Artifacts and memorabilia are now beginning to be collected and displayed by curator Stephanie Meeuwse.

- Under the direction of John Desroches, the committee and a dedicated group of volunteers begin bingo fundraising. The committee decides to direct the funds towards a new Sports Hall of Fame to be built at the arena.

1997

Dedication of the Phil "Babe" Marchildon Field at École St. Louis.

- Three new inductees are enshrined into the PSHOF at the sixth Dinner and Ceremony.

1999

The seventh Induction Dinner & Ceremony welcomes three new inductees.

2001

The eighth PSHOF Ceremony & Dinner welcomes two inductees. Ken Popple joins the PSHOF committee.

2003

The ninth PSHOF Dinner & Ceremony recognizes three new inductees.

Greg St.Amant, Gilles Charlebois, and Roy Patenaude join the committee.

2005

Council approves the construction of the new Arena Expansion-Sport Hall of Fame addition. Sadly, John Desroches passes away this summer before seeing his dream of a new Sports Hall of Fame come to fruition.

- Pat Quigley joins the committee.

- The 10th Dinner & Ceremony welcomes three more inductees.

2006

The PSHOF Bingo fundraisers present the town with a cheque for \$200,000.00 towards a new home. Chris McConnell joins the committee

- The PSHOF receives a two-year \$134,600 Trillium grant to go to the interior of the new hall

2007

The PSHOF committee takes possession of the new home. Trent Maracle joins the committee.

- The new 1,600-square-foot Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame is officially opened under the direction of Curator Stephanie Meeuwse on Oct. 6th. Five new inductees are enshrined at this the 11th Induction Dinner and Ceremony.

The PSHOF presently recognizes the sporting accomplishments of 51 inductees which include:

26 Athletes, 6 Teams, 19 Builders (157 Total Individuals)

Presently, the SHOF Committee is composed of volunteers:

David Dupuis, Denis O'Leary, Ron Marchildon, Bert Mason, Chris McConnell, Greg St.Amant, Gilles Charlebois, Pat Quigley, Waxy Gregoire, Roy Patenaude and Trent Maracle.

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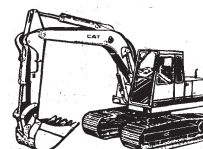
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Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame: Induction Dinner & Ceremony

Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame

List of 51 Inductees

26 Athletes, 6 Teams, 19 Builders

1987

Athletes: Bert Corbeau, Con Corbeau, Andrew Bellehumeur, Howard McNamara, George McNamara, Harold McNamara, Jake Dupuis, Vic Grigg, Don Tannahill, Jean Thompson, Babe Marchildon
Builders: Charlie Noquet, Bud Dubeau

1989

Athletes: Buzz Deschamps, Michael Dubeau, Anne Merkley,
Builders: Bunn Deschamps, Fred Scott
Team: 1934 Spencer Foundry Rangers Men's Baseball Team

1991

Athletes: Maddy Tannahill, Gil Robillard, Jimmy O'Hearn
Builder: Stan LeClair

1993

Athlete: Bill Stewart
Builders: Larry Bellisle, Frances St.Amant

1995

Athletes: Neville Keefe, Murray Griffin
Builders: Don Quigley, Peter Dubeau
Teams: 1974 Penetang Red Socks Ladies Baseball Team, 1975 Pee Wee Rep Hockey Team

1997

Athlete: Brian Pilon
Builders: Vince Moreau, Max Cowan

1999

Builders: Jamie Robillard, Erich Deininger, Dick St.Amant

2001

Athlete: Brian McReynolds
Teams: 1989 Performance Motor Ball Hockey Team

2003

Athlete: Brian Orser

Builder: Marlene Leroux
Teams: 1983 Jr. "C" Kings Hockey Team

2005

Athlete: Andy Dusome
Builder: Ron Marchildon
Team: 1959-60 Legion Bantams Team

2007

Athletes: Jamie Mayer, Alvin Robillard
Builders: Mate Lichtenberg, Reg McConkey, Ken St.Amant

The Arena Enhancement Fund-raising Committee

The arena is the most highly-used community building in town, with more than 175,000 users passing through her doors each and every year for various sporting or community events — either as guests, spectators, and/or participants.

The recent 4,000-square-foot arena expansion greatly improved the functioning of our arena. But such a large undertaking came at a price.

Town Council financially supported the

expansion, but has asked a core of community volunteers to help bridge the small shortfall of the costs of construction.

This is a separate group from the PSHOF bingo fund-raisers that raised funds specifically for the Sports Hall of Fame.

The Arena Expansion – Sports Hall of Fame Community Fund-raising Committee is at the half-way mark in raising \$225,000 towards the new arena addition.

Please take the time to pledge a one-time, or three-year payment. Income tax receipts will be issued for all contributions. Cheques can be made payable to the "Arena Enhancement — Sports Hall of Fame Fund"

The Arena Enhancement Fundraising Committee members are:

Anne Gagne, Barbe Dodson, Francis St.Amant, Doug Leroux, Greg St.Amant, Marlene Leroux, and Gilles Charlebois.

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