

Sport Aurora makes final push for Hall of Fame nominations

By Jeff Doner

Over the years Aurora has been a home to countless tremendous athletes and individuals who have donated their time and efforts to sport in the community.

Now those people will have a chance to be honoured for their work as part of the new Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.



With the nomination committee just about in place, the organization is calling out to the community for nominations for three categories ? athletes, coaches and builders/contributors ? by June 28.

Kate Collins, chair of the induction committee, said planning has been going on for quite some time.

?The induction committee did a lot of research around best practices and we did those on a national and provincial basis and then we looked at municipalities that were akin to either the size of the sporting organizations that we see in the municipality of Aurora,? she said. ?We talked to them to see how they would do things if they had a chance to do it over again, we looked at their resources and shared tons of conversations and came up with what we thought was the best plan for year one.?

Collins added that the hope is to have seven inductees for year one or a minimum of one for each category.

In order to be considered, a nominee must have direct connection to Aurora as defined by the following criteria:

- ? Was born in Aurora; OR
- ? Was raised or spent their formative years in Aurora; OR
- ? Achieved their athletic prominence in Aurora; OR
- ? Made their contributions to athletics and sports in Aurora.

Ron Weese, president of Sport Aurora, said he hopes the community will get involved.

?The Hall of Fame organizing committee and the board of governors have laid the groundwork for the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame and what is more important now is the engagement of the community, because this is the communities Sport Hall of Fame.

?Sport as we know is an important rallying point for any community and this community being 150 years old has a very rich sport heritage. We know that there are people who have contributed to the good reputation of the town through sport and it's our intention to celebrate those people and recognize them for their contributions.?

Added Collins: ?Obviously the key and the nuance to it, is that this is Aurora's Sesquicentennial year ? 150th anniversary,? she said.

?Last year we planned with fingers crossed and good intentions that all this would come together in a way that we would be able to honour the anniversary.?

After all nominations have been considered, an announcement is planned for sometime in September, which will be followed by the inaugural Aurora Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Nov. 9.

As a lifelong Aurora resident Collins said she is looking forward to seeing the Hall of Fame take off.

?It's for the community and we want the community engaged,? she said. ?The challenge is that we need them engaged now, so between now and June 28 we really need votes (nominations).?

For more information, any questions or to make a nomination visit www.sportaurora.ca or email Kate Collins at kate.collins@sportaurora.ca