

# Aurora Rugby to Inaugurate Hall of Fame

**By John Reich**

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club will inaugurate its Hall of Fame this Saturday with the induction of eight individuals from its 64 year history.

The induction ceremony will include a gala dinner and tributes to the inductees for their achievements on behalf of the club.

The eight comprise a combination of playing greats, coaches, administrators and organizers, all of whom served lengthy tenures with the club and most have crossed all of the considered categories.

The first class of nominees is highlighted by John Brown, a former teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, who introduced rugby not only to the school in 1962 but also to the Aurora Community when he helped to organize the Aurora Yorks Rugby Club, a predecessor to the current Barbarians organization. The Club describes Mr. Brown as "the father of rugby in York Region."

The other inductees include former National Team captain Ian MacMillan; former National 7s captain Marco Di Girolamo; Toronto Barbarians' founding member and Ontario cap Tony Earl; High school coach and representative player Nigel Toy; Player and administrative standout with predecessor club York County RFC, Stephen Marsland; Accomplished Junior coach and club promoter Nicholas Mitchell; and, former club president John Reich. Brown, Earl and Reich are also members of the Ontario Rugby Hall of Fame.

Steve Hall, club vice-president and architect of the Hall of Fame initiative remarked, "It is a great pleasure to announce the Inaugural Inductees into the Aurora Barbarians RFC Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame committee was made up of high profile Barbarians from all areas and generations of the Club. The committee received many worthy nominations and hundreds of votes in support of nominees. The Inductees are outstanding examples of the Baa Baa spirit and heritage.

"Their support of rugby and their teammates over six decades is what makes our game so special."

The induction ceremony will take place at the LeParc Banquet facility in Richmond Hill. Tickets are available through the club's website: [aurorabarbarians.com](http://aurorabarbarians.com).