

Aurora Sports Hall of Fame looking for nominations for 2016 class

By Jake Courtepatte

Last November, four leaders in sport were immortalized forever in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall is now looking for the public's help in determining the class of 2016. February is nomination month for the Hall, as nominations are opened to the public for those looking to recognize someone who has been a key part of sport in Aurora.

"I've been able to witness the induction ceremony for all the honoured members, and know how honoured they are to be inducted into a Hall of Fame," said Nancy Black, Project Manager at Sport Aurora, of the process. "It can be one of the biggest moments of someone's life."

With that said, Black made note that the first step in becoming an inductee is to be nominated.

"It's a critical phase of the induction ceremony to be nominated, and that's where the organizations, the parents, the athletes, everyone comes in."

While the sporting community in Aurora is fairly tight-knit, and many residents know of other's sports backgrounds anecdotally, Sport Aurora needs those involved at the core of the sporting community to come forward with names and nominations.

Within the Hall of Fame are three categories: Athlete, Builder/Contributor, Coach. While the athlete category may stand out more prominently, it's often those behind the scenes that get overlooked.

"When we think of the prominent athlete, we can track their stats and see them on the field or ice, but we don't have the historical narrative on those that we don't have as much access to," said Black. "So we need the public's help."

Volleyball star and 2015 inductee Mark Heese said the recognition means a lot to an athlete that has poured so much into their sport.

Now with a membership of 17, last year's induction ceremony was one of the sports highlights of the year in Aurora, hosted by TSN's James Duthie. Nominations will be accepted until the deadline of February 29.

Successful inductees will be announced publicly in June, while those selected will be celebrated at the annual ASHoF Induction Dinner in November.

More information on the nomination process can be found at www.sportaurora.ca, or www.aurorashof.ca. You can also contact Nancy Black at project.manager@aurorashof.ca, or call 647-632-6911.