

## Richards is Keeper of the "Fame"



# AURORA SPORTS HALL *of* FAME

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*Their Legacy. Our Future.*

### **By Brock Weir**

Although she spent last weekend ice fishing when the weather became a little bit more hospitable, Catherine Richards, Manager/Curator of the Aurora Historical Society, wasn't necessarily a sports buff.

That is, until just a few short years ago when she was appointed with the task of curating the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

Ms. Richards first became involved when the Aurora Historical Society was asked to join the organizing committee of the inaugural Aurora Sport Hall of Fame, and, from there, they helped organize and establish the Hall of Fame's Foundational Committee, and steer it towards the sold-out gala event which inaugurated the Hall of Fame in grand style last fall.

"I had very little knowledge about sport history as it related to Aurora," she says of those early days. "What was great was last year working with inductees to create exhibitions that were held in November in the Skylight Gallery at Town Hall, it was fabulous being able to connect with the inductees, learn more about their accomplishments, and get a sense of how rich Aurora is in terms of its sports history."

"It is just a new dimension of knowledge I am learning and adding to. I like to learn new things all the time, so this is a great project because not only is it historical in nature but with the people involved it is also very contemporary. These are people who have accomplished so much and honouring them today is a contemporary way of highlighting history."

For the moment, artefacts that peppered last year's exhibitions are now back in the careful hands of their owners, but in the future, as the future of the Aurora Collection is firmly established and the Aurora Historical Society learns whether or not their bid to curate the collection for the future was successful, Ms. Richards says she then hopes to focus on creating a proper repository of Aurora's Sports history.

"There were some fabulous things lent to the Hall of Fame last year for the exhibition that hopefully, once the Aurora Collection is up and running, we will be able to return to them and ask if they would be willing to donate them. We hope the Hall of Fame can really be a mechanism to support the Aurora Collection and the Sports Collection component."

The deadline to nominate 2014 inductees is March 31. Forms are available through Sport Aurora at [www.sportaurora.ca](http://www.sportaurora.ca) or by calling 905-727-4776.

?Last year there was quite a good selection of nominations and they pared it down to seven,? says Ms. Richards of nominees. ?I imagine they will have a great intake again this year and I look forward to working with whomever that committee decides to put forward. We're fortunate to have such strengths in that area. Whomever is included, I look forward to learning more about them and learning about their sports experiences.?