



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nanaimo Museum**

#### **Nanaimo Museum Sports Hall of Fame 2017 Inductees**

Nanaimo – The eighth induction into the Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame happens at the Nanaimo Museum in June. The Sports Hall of Fame is a tribute to outstanding Nanaimo athletes from the past and present. The 2017 inductees are Aaron Guiel, Richie Nichol, Steve Smith and the 2009 VI Raiders team.

The Sports Hall of Fame recognizes five categories: Athlete, Builder, Media, Pioneer, and Team. Anyone can submit a nomination for consideration, except the Sports Hall of Fame committee and selection panel. “We are proud to honour outstanding athletes from our community,” says Debbie Trueman, General Manager at the Nanaimo Museum. “They represent local achievement in all levels of sport and many are strong contributors to community athletics in Nanaimo.” The induction ceremony is an invitation only event.

Pioneer inductee Richie Nichol first started playing basketball at the age of eleven years and as an adult joined a professional team, the Vancouver Hornets. In the late 1930s, Nichol was still in his teens and was invited on more than one occasion to play with the Harlem Globetrotters while the team toured Vancouver Island. Athlete inductee Aaron Guiel played baseball as a child in Nanaimo at Gyro Park and Serauxman Stadium. He later played in the Major League for the Kansas City Royals. Athlete inductee Steve Smith grew up in Cassidy and was described by Cycling Canada as the best Canadian downhill mountain biker. Smith won multiple national titles and World Cup events. Team inductee the 2009 VI Raiders is considered to be the best Junior Football team ever assembled. The team had an undefeated record of 13 and 0, and won that year’s Canada Bowl held in Nanaimo.

The Sports Hall of Fame exhibit is located in the museum’s lobby and includes artifacts, inductee wall and images spanning a century of sports history in Nanaimo. Induction ceremonies are conducted bi-annually. The Nanaimo Museum is located in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, beside Serious Coffee. For more information please visit [www.nanaimomuseum.ca](http://www.nanaimomuseum.ca) or call 250 753-1821.

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**\*Media are invited to the induction ceremony. Please RSVP to Becka MacDonald at [admin@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:admin@nanaimomuseum.ca) or 250 753-1821.**

Contact:

Debbie Trueman, General Manager 250 753-1821 or [debbie@nanaimomuseum.ca](mailto:debbie@nanaimomuseum.ca) for more detailed bios on each inductee and media invite info for the event.