



# **2024 SHOF INDUCTION**

Presented by the Nanaimo Museum

**AS PART OF THE NANAIMO SPORT  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS GALA  
Friday, February 23, 2024  
Coast Bastion Hotel**

# A Message from the Manager

It is with great pleasure that we welcome four new honorees into the Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame. These four individuals exemplify the excellence in sport that Nanaimo is known for and have built legacies that will continue to reverberate through this City for many years to come.

The Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame, housed at the Nanaimo Museum, opened in 2008 as part of our new museum building in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. These four 2024 honorees join over 45 other athletes, builders, trailblazers, teams, and media personalities who have their names and accomplishments celebrated in our Hall. We are thrilled that for the first time we have partnered with the Nanaimo Sports Achievement Awards so that the different generations of athletes can celebrate each other, and so that our celebration can also be in support of athletes who are at the start of their careers.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the City of Nanaimo for their ongoing support. Thank you to this year's Selection Committee, and a special thanks to Ian Thorpe for his dedication to the Sports Hall of Fame and his work with us on this ceremony and celebration. Very special thanks goes to Marilyn Sullivan and the Nanaimo Sports Achievement Awards for welcoming our partnership and for supporting our program with enthusiasm. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the nominators, interviewees, family & friends, and all those who supported the nominees through this process.

Thanks also to the donors who provided items for the Silent Auction in support of scholarships for athletes: Nanaimo Clippers (for a donation and a celebration of the inductees at the Feb. 24th Clippers game), Nanaimo Art Gallery, PortTheatre, Vancouver Island Symphony, Hullo ferries, and Nanaimo Courtyard by Marriott hotel. Finally thank you to the Museum staff, volunteers, members, and Board of Directors for your continued support and dedication.

We come together tonight to commemorate and celebrate four extraordinary individuals whose dedication, hard work, and talent continue to enrich Nanaimo and inspire future generations to pursue their dreams with passion and integrity. On behalf of the Nanaimo Museum and Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors and staff, we would like to congratulate and thank the 2024 Inductees for their profound contributions to sport, and sports heritage, in Nanaimo.



**Sophia Maher**  
Nanaimo Museum  
General Manager



# Leo Beier

## Builder

In the 1960s, Leo Beier, a lifelong soccer player, became head referee for the District Juvenile Soccer Association, and later served as President. He coached all ages, and would continue imparting his love for the game to everyone throughout his career.

Leo was instrumental in bringing Women's soccer to Vancouver Island and would go on to develop top-rated teams such as the 1981 Nanaimo Tigers, whom he coached for 17 years, and the 1993 VIU

Mariners Women's Team, who still hold the national record. Leo also co-founded a Youth Indoor Futsal program (indoor soccer) in 1980, and continued to support the program as an event organizer and coach over the years.

In 1992 he was made an honorary lifetime member of the Nanaimo and District Youth Soccer Association and in 2001 he was awarded the BCSA Award of Merit for his contributions to the sport.

Leo has coached hundreds of players - some going on to play professionally at high levels, and many others who went on to share their talents as players and coaches locally. He was known to be a passionate, hardworking, and respected soccer coach and his contributions to sport in Nanaimo are significant.

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# Sandy Harper

## Athlete - Golf

Sandy Harper grew up in a family of golfers, and started playing when he was just seven years old. At the age of twelve, he became a junior member of the Nanaimo Golf and Country Club, and began competing at the Junior level in Island & Provincial tournaments. He then competed at the Men's Amateur level until he became a professional and went on to win the 1984 BC Open. Sandy played professionally both nationally and internationally, with tours across Canada, Australia and Asia throughout his career. In the early 2000s, Sandy

returned to Nanaimo to focus on his family, and later regained his amateur status. By the mid-2000s he was competing in the Mid-Amateur, Mid-Masters, and Seniors divisions of BC tournaments. Between 2006 and 2012 he competed consistently and won many accolades. Sandy was inducted into the BC Golf Hall of Fame in Vancouver in 2013, and was the only player to win all British Columbia Major Championships at both Amateur and Professional Levels.

In 2020 he suffered a stroke and has worked hard to get back to the game he loves. Upon his remarkable return, he won the BCGA Senior and Super Senior Amateur Championships.



## Robert (Bob) Gold

### Builder

Bob Gold was born to a Nanaimo family already well known for their involvement in local sports and community. Growing up he played many sports, and early on he started coaching and helping with field construction and maintenance. Bob started coaching in the 1970s and was known for being a good teacher who emphasized teamwork. During the 1980s and 90s he was President of Nanaimo Minor Baseball and as an umpire himself, he founded the Nanaimo Umpires Association to develop young umpires. In the early '90s, Bob introduced the 'Fair Play' code to Nanaimo Minor Baseball in order to keep things fair and equal for all players. He made national headlines in 2001 for work addressing harassment of young hockey officials, which helped to develop rules of conduct for not just players, but also parents and coaches. Bob loved giving back to the community and was involved in every aspect of sport, stepping in to coach, organize, fundraise, build, rally or promote wherever the need was greatest. His work gained him many certificates of merit and appreciation, including local, provincial and national accolades. Bob joins his father, Jim Gold, in the Nanaimo Sports Hall of Fame.

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## Lauren van Oosten

### Athlete – Swimmer (2004 Olympian)

Born in Nanaimo, Lauren van Oosten was a member of the Nanaimo Riptides swim team and started competitive swimming in 1988. In 1997 she won bronze at the Pan Pacific Championship in Fukuoka, Japan, her first international competition. By 1998 she became a member of the University of Calgary swim team, the Canadian National Swim Team, and was named the Canadian Swimmer of the Year. Lauren became a team member of the 1999 Pan Pacific Championship. In 2003 she joined the World Championship team and broke a 10-year-old national record in the women's 200 m breaststroke event. Two months later she broke the Canadian record at the World Cup event in New York. After a few tough years, Lauren fought her way back and joined the Canadian Olympic team in 2004 in Athens. She was elected by her peers as the women's team captain for both the Olympics and the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. In 2008 Lauren swam with the Zwemclub Amersfoort in the Netherlands, and retired later that year. In 2009, Lauren was inducted into the BC Swimming Hall of Fame as a 14-time National Champion and former Canadian record holder.

# Sports Hall of Fame Induction Gala

## ORDER OF EVENTS:

5:15pm - 5:30pm Inductees & Representatives arrive & meet in lobby. Inductees line up to walk to Inductee table together.

5:30pm - 6:00pm Families and Supporters start to arrive & be seated at assigned seats.

6:00pm All guests take their seats. Nanaimo Sport Achievement Awards begin.

Awards, Silent Auction open, Dinner Served.

Nanaimo SHOF presentation begins - Ian Thorpe MC

### **INDUCTEE**

**Leo Beier**

**Bob Gold**

**Sandy Harper**

**Lauren van Oosten**

### **ACCEPTING**

**Frank Beier**

**Linda & Jamie Gold**

**Sandy Harper**

**Lauren van Oosten**

Each Inductee will have a short video played, followed by presentation of the keeper plaques.

Inductee Group photo following the presentations.

Continuation of the NSAA awards, Silent Auction winners.

**Congratulations to the  
2024 SHOF Inductees!**

## PAST INDUCTEES

1914 Northfield Violets Pioneer – Soccer  
1923 Nanaimo FC Wanderers Pioneer – Soccer  
1956 IWA Nanaimo Timbermen Team – Lacrosse  
Gerald Kazanowski Olympian 1984 & 1988  
Athlete – Basketball  
Phil Olsen Olympian 1976 Athlete – Javelin  
Brenda Taylor Olympian 1988 & 1992  
Athlete – Rowing  
Larry Thomas – Media  
Hugh (Red) Thomson Olympian 1936  
Pioneer – Mile Runner  
F. Elwood Wylie - Builder  
Harry R. Whipper - Builder  
Angie Dobie (Radonovich) Athlete - Basketball  
Michael Edgson Athlete - Swimming  
Bill English - Builder  
Lloyd Gilmour - Builder  
Don MacRae Rink Team - Curling  
John Sandland - Pioneer (Athlete)  
Ray Telford Athlete - Soccer  
Douglas White Athlete - Lacrosse, Football  
Angela Chalmers Athlete - Track & Field  
Michael Rhode - Media  
Frank Crane - Builder  
Leo Margolis - Builder

## Nanaimo SHOF Representatives

Sophia Maher, Becka Macdonald, Jordan Johns, Adam Kveton, Aimee Greenaway, Hayley Williams, Jim Maher, Kerry Kass

## PAST INDUCTEES Continued

Red Carr - Builder  
Barry Pederson Athlete - Hockey  
1983 Malaspina Mariners Team - Soccer  
Ernest Edmunds Athlete - Soccer  
Michelle Stilwell Paralympian 2000-2008  
Athlete - Basketball & Racing  
Alan Hill Athlete - Hockey  
Larry McNabb - Builder  
Don Ashbee Athlete - Lacrosse  
Allison Forsyth Athlete - Skiing  
Jim Gold - Builder  
Mary Thomasson (Frizzell) Pioneer  
Gene Carr Athlete - Hockey  
Susan Reid Athlete - Field Hockey  
Margaret Fuller Rink - Team  
Les Varro - Builder  
Wayne Bianchin Athlete - Hockey  
Fred Fulla Athlete - Lacrosse  
Dr. Ed Johnson - Builder  
Harry Manson Pioneer - Soccer  
Aaron Guiel Athlete - Baseball  
Richie Nichol Pioneer - Basketball  
Steve Smith Athlete - Downhill MTB  
2009 VI Raiders Team - Football

## Nanaimo SHOF Selection Panel

Deryck Cowling, Les Malbon, Dr. Ralph Nilson, Sue Reid, Donn Sherry, Ian Thorpe



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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