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## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Springwater Sports Heritage Announces 2014 Inductees

**Outstanding Athletes, Builders and Teams have been elected to the Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame by the Springwater Sports Heritage Board.**

The Springwater Sports Heritage Board has completed the challenging but exhilarating selection of athletes, builders and teams that will represent the inaugural inductees. A strong beginning to the Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame will see the induction of seven athletes, five builders, four teams and will include six existing inductees from the former Township of Vespra Hall of Fame

The 2014 inductees, beyond their achievements, contributions and ties to the Township of Springwater, connect with the NHL, a variety of Halls of Fame, the Olympics, Regional/Provincial/National/International and World Championships. Some will be recognized posthumously, while many continue to support athletics locally or have travelled internationally to pursue their sporting aspirations.

*"We are thrilled to announce both the launch of the Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame and the election of the 2014 Inaugural Inductees,"* said Induction Committee Chairperson, Darrin Robertson.

*"Given the outstanding accomplishments and vitality of Springwater's Sport Heritage this undertaking is long past due,"* enthused Facilities/Awards Committee Chairperson Paul Priest.

. As Springwater has an overabundance of potential inductees the inaugural induction quota was increased to create a distinctive foundation of worthy entrants.

*"I am extremely excited and proud to have received this incredible honor"* said athlete inductee Douglas Kirton. *"It is a great feeling to be recognized by your hometown and peers."*

In the fall of 2014 the Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame will host their inaugural biennial Induction Ceremony. It is expected that over 200 people will be in attendance at the event. More information on the ceremony and tickets will be available soon.

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## 2014 Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame Inductees

<u>ATHLETES</u>	<u>BUILDERS</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>VESPRA HALL OF FAME</u>
Timothy Belcourt Curling	Douglas McConnell	1924 Minesing United Farmers Hockey Team	W. Ellsworth (Ell) Crawford 1987 Athlete
Mike Forgrave Track & Field	Ross McConnell	1964-65 Elmvale Alex Currie Pontiac Juvenile Hockey Team	Maurice Partridge 1988 Builder
Frank Foyston Hockey	Lynda Ritchie	1977 Elmvale Merchants Men's Fastball Team	Walter Craig 1989 Athlete
Douglas Kirton Hockey	Michelle Simpson- Leigh	1996 Diamond Senior Ontario Curling Champions	Wilma Giffen 1990 Builder
Scott Kirton Hockey	Lloyd Turner		Corby Adams 1991 Athlete
Terry Martin Hockey			Julie Anne White-Empfield 1992 Athlete
Michelle Simpson- Leigh Figure Skating			

INDUCTEE	SYNOPSIS
Timothy Belcourt (Athlete)	1987 World Curling Champion, numerous Ontario and Canadian Championships, Canadian and Ontario Curling Halls of Fame, Penetang Hall of Fame, Lifetime member Elmvale Curling Club
Mike Forgrave (Athlete)	Six time Ontario Secondary Schools Track Champion, University Track MVP, Canadian hurdle champion and record holder, Commonwealth games, Canadian Olympic Team, Barrie Hall of Fame
Frank Foyston (Athlete, Posthumously)	Born in Minesing 1891, Three Stanley Cups, 1916-17 NHL most valuable player, Hockey Hall of Fame, Barrie Sports Hall of Fame
Douglas Kirton (Athlete)	1985 Canadian Junior "A" Championship, Colorado College MVP, drafted New Jersey Devils, Leagues: German Elite, German Bundesliga and ECHL
Scott Kirton (Athlete)	Elmvale Bantam "C" Ontario Championship, BCJHL Rookie of the Year and 1st All Star, drafted Chicago Black Hawks, contract Boston Bruins. ECHL Championship, Leagues: ECHL, AHL, UHL, IHL and others
Terry Martin (Athlete)	OHA London Knights, NHL: Buffalo Sabres, Quebec Nordiques, Toronto Maple Leafs, Edmonton Oilers and Minnesota North Stars, NHL Coach and Scout, Barrie Hall of Fame

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Michelle Simpson-Leigh (Athlete)	Regional, Ontario and Canadian Figure Skating Medalist, Skate Canada Development Program, Figures, Competitive Free Skate and Dance Gold tests. Regional Basketball, Volleyball and Track Champion
Douglas McConnell (Builder, Posthumously)	Elmvale, Georgian Bay, Huronia, Little NHL and OMHA Minor Hockey Coach, Referee in Chief, Administrator, Convenor, and Tournament Chairperson
Ross McConnell (Builder)	Engaged in Hockey and Baseball in varying capacities in Elmvale, OJHL and Silver Stick as Coach, Referee in Chief, Administrator and Tournament Director, possesses Level 4 Coaches and Level 3 Referee Certification
Lynda Ritchie (Builder, Posthumously)	Elmvale Hockey and Baseball and Figure Skating Coach, Scorekeeper Administrator, Liaison, Sponsorship, Publicity, Booth, numerous awards, Citizen of the Year, charitable causes
Michelle Simpson-Leigh (Builder)	Canadian, International, World and Olympic Figure Skating Coach, Ontario Female Coach of the Year, Canada Games Board of Directors, Consultant Vancouver Olympic Excellence, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
Lloyd Turner (Builder, Posthumously)	Born in Elmvale in 1884, Established the Allan Cup, Original Member of Hockey Hall of Fame, Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum Member
1924 Minesing United Farmers Hockey Team	1924 United Farmers Provincial Championship Hockey Team, many successful years of competitive hockey and other sports. Team Members and Officials: Leighton 'Babe' Adams, Earl 'Jim' Crawford, Ell Crawford, Carlin 'Cal' Foyston, H.L. 'Hank' Foyston, Charlie Grant, Ab Maw, Ronald Orchard, Howard Priest, Murray 'Stub' Ronald
1964-65 Elmvale Alex Currie Pontiac Juvenile Hockey Team	OMHA Juvenile "C" Championship, undefeated during 1964-65 season including many Junior Teams and other higher ranked teams, played 3 games in one Championship Day (2 to win Milton Juvenile Tournament and one to clinch the OMHA Juvenile "C" Championship). Team Members: John Archer, John Brown, Bob Burnett, George Conn, Jim Conn, Mike Conn, Steve Crane, Carl Edwards, Doug Lambie, Alvin Leonard, Pete Marley, Ted McConnell, Stewart McKenzie, Bernie O'Hallarn, Bill Player, Brian Swan, Gary Turner, Nelson Woods. Coach: Bob Stacey, Manager: Norm Crane, President: Doug Rose, Trainer: Ralph Archer, Stick Boy: Rob Crane

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1977 Elmvale Merchants Men's Fastball Team	1977 All Ontario Intermediate "C" Fastball Softball Championship by winning both the Southern and Northern Ontario Championships. Team Members: Ken Archer, Doug Barnes, Lou Belcourt, Carl Edwards, Brian Handy, Chuck Jordan, Paul Marley, Doug McMann, Danny Rowat, Gary Turner, Bill Williams, Keith Williams. Team Officials: John Brown – President, Don Fleming, Bill McClung, Don Ritchie, Paul Rowat- Coach, Mike Townes, Den Turner, Lou Turner.
1996 Diamond Senior Ontario Curling Champions	1996 Zone, Regional and Ontario Champions, Team Members: Dorrie Fiegehen (skip), Marlene Tinney (vice), Lorna Quesnelle (second) and Ev McFadden (lead)

### Vespra Hall of Fame

W. Ellsworth (Ell) Crawford (Athlete, Posthumously)	1987 Inductee, excelled at hockey, baseball and horseshoes, Ontario Horseshoe Hall of Fame
Maurice Partridge (Builder)	1988 Inductee (collecting info)
Walter Craig (Athlete, Posthumously)	1989 Inductee, 1930 Ontario Crokinole Championship, Baseball, Horseshoe, Curling, and Bowling.
Wilma Giffen (Builder, Posthumously)	1990 Inductee (collecting info)
Corby Adams (Athlete)	1991 Inductee, excelled in hockey and baseball, Barrie Flyers Junior, College All-Star, Allan Cup Finalist and Champion
Julie Anne (White) Empfield (Athlete)	1992 Inductee, 1992 World Triathlon Series Champion, 1st Canadian Ironman, 2nd Hawaii Ironman

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### About Springwater Sports Heritage:

Springwater Sports Heritage is a non-profit organization governed by a Board of volunteers composed of nine (9) Directors and two (2) ex officio members. The Board provides leadership, governance, succession planning, operational and strategic accountability within its codified constitution and an established operational relationship with the Township of Springwater.

The purpose of Springwater Sports Heritage is:

- A) To digitally chronicle, preserve and provide internet access to Springwater's sports heritage and
- B) To ceremoniously acknowledge and exhibit the awards of exceptional sporting contributions and achievements of Springwater's Athletes, Builders and Teams.

Springwater Sports Heritage will biennially recognize and ceremoniously Induct 2 Athletes, 2 Builders and 1 Team into the Springwater Sports Heritage Hall of Fame. A minimum of one physical location will be established to provide a privileged site where visitors can view the recognition and awards of Springwater's Inductees

The Board has established an internet-based archive to accommodate and accumulate the memorable Sports Heritage our Township. To enhance access and the preservation of Springwater's sports heritage we are amassing a digital archive of documents, memorabilia and recordings. The internet-based platform approach provides a foundation for enormous development, storage and securing of Springwater's valuable sports related history. Equally important is the unimpeded access and distribution possibilities it provides sports fans, researchers and the media to access a storehouse of valuable resources at their convenience. The digital archive will continue to evolve as pictures, video, information, statistics and other assets are accrued.