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Association News

Volume 40, Issue 2

Oakville hosts successful ISHA conference

Survive AND Thrive was the theme of the well-attended and successful ISHA conference hosted by the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum (CGHF) in Oakville, Ontario in October.

Educational sessions from strategic planning to social networking to new exhibit technology helped incite meaningful dialogue that left all heading back to their institutions with the knowledge needed to take the next steps toward more successful programs.

Open sessions and a “working lunch” also helped improve communication among the membership, and with a terrific turnout, those sessions proved informative and valuable as they allowed attendees a chance to ask about issues with which they deal, but that may not have been included among the session topics.

The Evening of Champions dinner was preceded by a reception at the CGHF at which

the first annual ISHYs were presented for communication award winners. The dinner was then held at Glen Abbey Golf Club with featured guest speaker Debbi Wilkes.

Golf Canada's Karen Hewson was awarded the prestigious Schroeder Award for her long-time service and contributions to the sports heritage industry. The Schroeder Award is the highest honor presented by ISHA and is awarded to an individual for his/her meritorious service of lasting nature to sports heritage. Hewson is the managing director of membership and heritage services with Golf Canada.

The conference also included a trip to tour The Hockey Hall of Fame Resource Center, home to the Hockey Hall of Fame archives.

A special thanks to Meggan Gardner and the staff at the CGHF.

So you want to build a sports statue? By Michael Gibbons

My home town of Baltimore, Maryland once held the moniker of “Monumental City” because of the hundreds of statues and monuments that adorned our downtown plazas. And while we don't generate the same kind of burgeoning numbers of artsy tributes today as we did, say, after the American Civil War or World Wars One or Two, you can still go to one or two unveilings a year, regardless of America's current martial meanderings.

Three of our city's most recent statues celebrate local sports heroes, their presence on our monumental landscape indicative of how far sports heritage has come in the modern era. Prior to the unveiling of the Babe Ruth statue at Camden Yards in 1995, there had never been a statue dedicated to a local sports icon in the downtown area. In 2002, a statue of Baltimore Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas was unveiled outside the main portal to M&T Bank Stadium, home of our Baltimore Ravens. And just last month, Mister Baltimore Oriole, Brooks Robinson, was on hand for the unveiling of his nine-foot bronze likeness just west of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

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ISHA is on twitter and Facebook.
 Be sure to follow us on twitter @SportsHeritage or on Facebook as International Sports Heritage Association.

Induction Ceremonies

Hockey Hall of Fame —November 14, 2011 —Ed Belfour, Doug Gilmour, Mark Howe, Joe Nieuwendyk.

Skate Canada Hall of Fame —January 22, 2012—Sandra Bezic, Wendy Griner

Ski and Snowboarding Hall of Fame—April 14, 2012—Nick Badami, Mason Beekley, Dick Dorworth, Paul Gravink, Harry Leonard, Joe Pack, Tyler Palmer, Eva Twardokens

Cardinals Museum receives gear

The Cardinals Hall of Fame and Museum requests items from the clubhouse at the conclusion of every season. Museum curator, Paula Homan said, “It’s just a smart way to build your team collection. We watch throughout the season and work out a list of key players for which we hope to receive something... sometimes anything. With a stunning World Series victory unfolding, the staff kept remarking, ‘Oh!, what about...’ and addendums to the list were sent at least twice.”

This collage displays some of the items recently accessioned into the collection. From left to right, Chris Carpenter’s regular season home jersey (including a *Teams Unite for Joplin* patch from June 17, 2011), Lance Berkman’s Sunday cap, Jon Jay’s World Series road jersey, 2011 team signed baseball, Skip Shumaker bat, Lance Berkman bat, Allen Craig Nike shoes, David Freese batting gloves and Yadier Molina custom-made shoes.



An interesting note is that Molina and Albert Pujols wear the same size shoe, and apparently Yadi really likes Pujols’ custom designed Nikes. He wears the exact same model as Pujols, but marks the back of the shoe with his number “4” just above the embroidered “5” with an overlaid batter figure.

Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins visit Hockey Hall of Fame

On Nov. 4, the Hockey Hall of Fame welcomed the 2011 Stanley Cup Champion Boston Bruins for a team autograph session with the fans. Fans



drove from as far away as New England for this exclusive autograph signing, lining up at 6:00am for a 4:00pm signing.

The next day was equally as special as Honored Member and Boston Bruin President Cam Neely and General Manager Peter Chiarelli presented the Hockey Hall of Fame with a Stanley Cup ring, which will go in the ever-growing Stanley Cup ring collection, which dates back to 1893.

The Bruins won the Stanley Cup last spring by winning three Game 7 series clinchers.



Pictured: (at far left): Bruins President Cam Neely places Championship ring in Hockey Hall of Fame ring collection. (above): Bruins captain Zdeno Chara signs an autograph for a lucky fan.

Thank you from the Founders Fund Committee by Sheila Kelly

The Founders Fund Committee would like to say a huge thank you to all of the organizations who donated an item (or more!) to *An Evening of Champions* silent auction, as well as to those delegates who put pen to paper and bid for those items. What a huge success the auction was! \$1,720 was raised. Almost enough to cover off the ISHA grant commitments for 2011. Thanks to:

Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum

BaAM Productions

Bobby Orr Hall of Fame

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum

Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum

Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum

Colorado Sports Hall of Fame

Delaware Sports Museum & Hall of Fame

Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

Hockey Hall of Fame

IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

International Women's Sports Hall of Fame,
Women's Sport Foundation

Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory

Peter J. McGovern Little League Museum

Pro Football Hall of Fame

St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame

Skate Canada

Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame

The Hall at Patriot Place presented by
Raytheon

The University of Iowa Department of
Athletics

United States Golf Association Museum

\$1,000 grants available through Founders Fund

ISHA has established an annual special projects grant, supported through the Founders Fund, to provide financial assistance up to \$1,000 that supports museum activities intended to address one of the following priorities within an ISHA member institution: increase collection capacity, increase public access, improve documentation, increase awareness, improve preservation, or increase interpretation. In 2011 the grant was awarded to the College Football Hall of Fame for upgrading its database to improve public access, documentation, and awareness.

ISHA has established an annual conference grant, supported through the Founders Fund, to provide financial assistance up to \$1,000 for a member institution to attend the ISHA annual conference. In 2011 the grant was awarded to Jamie Wolverton, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame. Applications for the 2012 grant will be available in the spring. Visit www.sportsheritage.org for more information.

Holiday Auction

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum launched its 8th annual Christmas Silent Auction, featuring 44 great items. For more information or a list of items up for bid, email scott@baseballhalloffame.ca or call 519-284-1838. The auction runs through Dec. 15.

Member News

New facility in Lake Placid

The Lake Placid Olympic Museum is in the planning stage for an exciting new facility; the International Sliding Sports Museum (ISSM) and its Science and Technology Park at the Olympic Sports Complex at Mt. Van Hoevenberg.

The first of its kind in the world, the ISSM will feature the evolution of equipment and facilities, and the history of athletic endeavor for the sports of bobsled, luge and skeleton at the home of North American sliding, where current and future Olympians from around the world train and compete.

Alberta unveils programming for visitors age 55-plus

On the first Thursday of each month the ASHFM spends the afternoon reminiscing and taking a look at some of the interesting sport history of our province through artifacts, stories and guided tours; a special trip down memory lane. The topics vary but the discussion and interaction with our senior visitors is very informative, enlightening and rewarding. On Oct. 6 we explored "Times Gone By" by taking a look at sporting equipment used 50-100 years ago, and reminiscing about our sports experiences and equipment. On Nov. 3, war and sports was our topic as we explored the new "Victory on the Field" exhibit at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Our next session will be Dec. 1, when we will talk about "Fair Play and Respect in Sport" and discuss Alberta athletes that have achieved success and set examples for athletes through courage and sportsmanship.



New Exhibits From Our Members

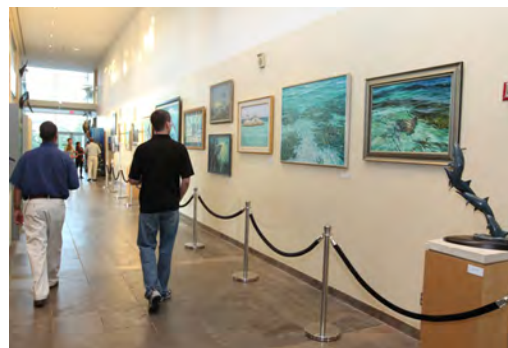
The Road to Recovery

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame has unveiled its newest exhibit which focuses on the world of sports medicine. Consisting of three distinct exhibit cases, this new exhibit discusses the history of sports medicine, the impact that it has had on modern athleticism, and the many careers that students of sports medicine can pursue. Through photographs, diagrams, and surgical objects, the exhibit takes visitors through the stages of an injured athlete's recovery – from the initial injury, to the treatment of the injury, to the athlete's rehabilitation process. A thorough exploration of Georgia's impact on the field of sports medicine, this new exhibit is a welcome addition to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame's permanent exhibit space.



Art of the Dive/Portraits of the Deep

The IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum is hosting the premiere of *Art of the Dive/Portraits of the Deep*, a special exhibition of aquatic life. Subjects range from game fish to marine mammals, turtles to tropicals, fresh water to salt, as well as corals and crustaceans. The exhibit features original paintings, sculpture and photographs by some of the world's leading marine artists. Among these are Stanley Meltzoff, Al Barnes, Ian Coleman, Jean-Louis Courteau, Dr. Guy Harvey, Don Ray, George Schelling, M.J. Brush, Diane Peebles, Randall Scott, Wes and Rachelle Siegrist, Mark Susinno, Fred Thomas, Ronnie Williford, and Wyland. Marine sculptors include Charles Allmond, Renee Bemis, Randy Puckett, John Kobald and Kent Ullberg, whose *Sword Dance* fountain provides a stunning entrance to the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum. *Art of the Dive/Portraits of the Deep* will be on display in the Changing and Art Galleries until Nov. 30, 2011.



Commitment to Excellence in Art and Sport

The National Art Museum of Sport (NAMOS) and the NCAA held an awards ceremony and opening reception on Oct. 27 for their second annual International Fine Art Competition, the winners of which will be on exhibit through Feb. 29, 2012. The exhibit features over 50 prize-winning paintings, sculptures, and photographs by artists depicting sport as their primary subject. The works were chosen by a three-panel jury following an international call for submissions. The competition attracted artists from 46 states and nine foreign countries. Fifty-seven sports were represented in the more than 300 works of art that were entered. Most works will be available for purchase with up to 30% of all proceeds benefitting NAMOS. The NCAA plans to sponsor artwork and display winning entries at its national headquarters in support of the project. The museum is located at University Place on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Ted Williams and the America's Cup World Series

The San Diego Hall of Champions recently hosted memorabilia from San Diego native and Red Sox Hall of Famer Ted Williams as part of a live auction. The display included personal items such as Williams' 1949 MVP Award and 1956 American League batting champion Silver Slugger Award.

The thrills and excitement of the world's most prestigious sailing competition came to San Diego, Nov. 12-20, in the America's Cup World Series. It was the first America's Cup World Series event to be hosted in the United States.

The San Diego Hall of Champions, a San Diego Sports Commission affiliated company, has been working recently with members of the local sailing community to construct a first-class sailing exhibit on the bottom level of the museum floor. Bill Koch, who has earned an international reputation in the sailing world, has given a \$500,000 matching gift to fund the sailing exhibit.

Thessaloniki Olympic Museum

"Greek Basketball Highlights", the first exhibition in Greece dedicated to Basketball, was launched on Oct. 21. Important items, such as old shoes, balls, score tables from the first court in Thessaloniki, and of course, tee shirts and MVP awards of the greatest and most famous Greek basketball players are some of the artifacts displayed in the museum exhibit. It also includes items given by Nick Galis, the man who brought basketball to Greece.

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Aside from the obvious notion that each of the above-referenced monuments pay tribute to famous Baltimore sports figures, they have one other thing in common: they were all produced by our sports museum!

After three projects of 'monumental' proportion, I can tell you one thing conclusively: the devil is in the detail. Why? Because even though a statue, at the time of its unveiling, seems like a relatively straight-forward, simplistic, artistic gesture (a bronze figure mounted atop a concrete and granite pedestal, adorned with a couple of plaques for donor recognition and narrative text), it isn't! Because what you see at an unveiling does not accurately represent the full scope of such an undertaking.

Statue projects typically take years and years. Why? Well, once the creative or inspirational spark of an idea translates into enough individual or group motivation to get a project going, coordinators must start to move forward across multiple layers of endeavor, ensuring that all components of the project mesh together seamlessly, and on time. They must select the right artist, negotiate a contract, establish a production schedule, garner political approval, civic permission and corporate support, secure a construction company, locate the installation site, garner grass roots enthusiasm from the community, tickle and then grab the attention of local (and perhaps national) media, maneuver through a myriad of unveiling ceremony details, draft and enact long-term maintenance and security contracts, create post-unveiling souvenir and merchandising opportunities, and, in the end, pray that they don't make any irreversible mistakes or missteps.

When we did our first statue project, Babe Ruth, everything went along relatively well all the way through the unveiling, with the governor and Babe's daughter pulling the drape from the nine foot depiction of a young Ruth in his Baltimore Orioles uniform. But about a week after the grandstand had been dismantled and the dust had started to settle on the slugger's bronze likeness, all hell broke loose. The artist had depicted Ruth carrying his right-handed fielding mitt, which would have been fine, except Ruth was a lefty!

Our committee of 'experts' surveyed and scrutinized until the cows came home, but not enough to prevent the mistake. News of the error went viral and spread across national news desks faster than one of the Babe's home runs flying out of Yankee Stadium. Just like that, Baltimore's first sports statue was notorious. And our statue committee was dumbstruck. What could we do?

The answer, of course, was nothing, except live and learn. Which I think we did, because the Unitas and Robinson statues that followed have no errors that we are aware of, no wrong-handed mitt or uniform malfunctions. So if you want to build a statue, know that it is complicated, painstaking, unforgiving work, and if you make a mistake, it will be there for generations to contemplate.

The Ruth statue error, by the way, turned out to be not all that bad, because that notorious right-handed mitt has made the Camden Yards monument a 'must see' for out-of-town tourists and locals alike, sixteen years after the discovery...and counting.

Michael Gibbons is the President of ISHA and the executive director of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Sports Legends Museums in Baltimore, Md.

Reds Hall of Fame unveils Bench statue

On September 17, 2011 the Reds Hall of Fame and Museum celebrated Johnny Bench Night with the unveiling of Johnny's statue. Commissioned by the Reds Hall of Fame and made possible through the generous donations of a host of fans and friends of Johnny, the statue was created by world-renowned sculptor Tom Tsuchiya who also created the statues of Ted Kluszewski, Ernie Lombardi, Joe Nuxhall and Frank Robinson that adorn the Crosley Terrace entrance to the ballpark. Bench's statue captures Johnny at the height of his Hall of Fame career when he established himself as the greatest catcher in the history of the game.

A large crowd of around 4,000 was on hand for the ceremony as were more than 90 VIP guests, including fellow Reds Hall of Famers Joe Morgan, Dave Concepcion, Cesar Geronimo, George Foster, Tommy Helms, Jim O'Toole and teammate Doug Flynn. The dedication ceremony included remarks from Executive Director Rick Walls, President of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors Bill Poffenberger, Reds President & CEO Bob Castellini, sculptor Tsuchiya and Johnny himself. It was capped off with the official unveiling of the newest landmark to grace the home of the Reds.

During an on-filed ceremony, Bench called the unveiling of the statue his "greatest moment." He then received a surprise second honor when a street outside the ballpark was re-named Johnny Bench Way. Johnny then threw out the ceremonial first pitch to former teammate and fellow Reds Hall of Famer Joe Morgan.



Right On Time: The Life & Times of Buck O'Neil



On Oct. 6, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) kicked off a month-long celebration of the life of its founding chairman John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday on Nov. 13. In honor of this centennial occasion, the NLBM commissioned 18 artists and seven poets to physically bring to life their impression of Buck and the impact he had on their lives and the lives of others.

The exhibit, which opened in the museum's Changing Gallery on Oct. 6, will be on display through Feb. 5, 2012. It features the works of local and national artists, who worked with various media – from watercolors to metal works to quilting – to depict baseball's grand ambassador.

"While not a teacher by trade, his life was an open book used to inspire and motivate others to dream and believe in their dreams. He taught a nation about the unsung heroes of the Negro Leagues and worked passionately to ensure that their legacy would never be forgotten," NLBM president Bob Kendrick said. "He taught us humility, tolerance and how to handle disappointment and so passionately demonstrated the prevailing power of the human spirit."



On Nov. 11, the NLBM began its three-day tribute, *A Century to Remember*, which featured several events commemorating Buck's life. The tribute's events included the *Buck O'Neil Run/Walk* and *Buck's Baseball Family Reunion*, which featured an all-star roster of baseball legends. There also was tribute featuring actor/comedian Anthony Anderson and a performance by Grammy award-winning recording artist Eric Benet. The event was capped off by a soul-stirring gospel salute featuring performances by area choirs.

Association News

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The mission of the International Sports Heritage Association is to educate, promote and support organizations and individuals engaged in the celebration of sports heritage.

PFHOF obtains collection of documents from NFL's early years

The family of Edward "Dutch" Sternaman, former player, coach and co-owner of the Chicago Bears, has donated to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, a comprehensive collection of original documents from the early years of the National Football League and the Chicago Bears.

It represents the most complete collection of its type in the Hall of Fame's collection. Included in the collection are accounting ledgers, handwritten notes, correspondence, photos, game programs, play-by-play charts, coaching diagrams, books and other information that chronicles the first decade of the NFL and the Bears. Both were founded in 1920.

The collection also includes original documents pertaining to one of the NFL's most important historical events, the signing of Harold "Red" Grange in 1925 and his ensuing cross-country barnstorming tour with the Bears.

"This is without a doubt one of the most significant collections of documents that has ever been donated to the Hall of Fame," stated Steve Perry, the Pro Football Hall of Fame's President/Executive Director. "These rare documents are an incredible treasure and will be properly preserved by the Hall of Fame for the benefit of future generations of football scholars and fans."

