75th Anniversary

The OVA is proud to have the honor of serving the volleyball community for the past 75 years. We look forward to another 25th years and the 100 Anniversary and beyond. The OVA has had 4 different permanent homes all in Toronto in recent history, from 1970 to the present. However prior to 1970 Mr. Anton Furlani, housed the OVA and Volleyball Canada operations from his home in Scarborough. Anton was the truly one of the founding fathers of volleyball in Canada. He is a life member of the OVA and an inductee into the Volleyball Canada’s Hall of Fame.

Throughout our history, the OVA has been blessed with countless volunteers and numerous staff dedicated to the development of the sport. The people have been and continue to be the inner strength of this organization that has resulted in its success.

Who would have thought that beach volleyball would be so popular and continue to grow at such a rapid pace. Over 10 years ago, the OVA decided to integrate both the indoor and beach volleyball to maximize the opportunities to share and pool resources. Today we see the OVA membership is greater in the youth divisions both indoor and on the beach than the adults. Coaches are realizing the benefits in the development for athletes to play both games. Who would have guessed or dreamed that Ashbridges Bay in Toronto would have over 95 permanent volleyball courts in 2004. One can only imagine what is in the future for volleyball.

During the evening the OVA launched the “Quarter Century Club” recognizing individuals who have contributed a minimum of 25 years of service to the OVA. The OVA received 79 nominations for this award, and 35 of those individuals were inducted into the “Quarter Century Club”. These worthy recipients represent more than 750 volunteers years. Their dedication and commitment often appear to go unnoticed, but this night we recognized and commended their efforts for so many many years. For the love they have demonstrated to the sport and organization, we thank them.

The following are the first inductees into the “OVA Quarter Century Club”

Mark Ainsworth, Unionville
Rob Atkinson, London
Paul Brownstein, Toronto
Evelyn Duchesne, Mississauga

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Christine Dussault, Sudbury
Wally Dyba, Newmarket
Vince Enright, London
Anton Furlani, Scarborough
Dale Huddleston, Kingston
Ollie Kurcigs, Etobicoke (over 50 years of service)
Dale & Ingrid Lahey, Chatham
Larry Lavell, Ottawa
Kit Lefroy, Sudbury
Frank Lilliman, Hamilton
Lee Little, Mitchell
Val & John Long, Etobicoke
Modris Lorbergs, Etobicoke
Molly McIntyre, Belleville
Renzo Milan, Beamsville
Barry Mutrie, Chesley
Jim Nichol, Elliot Lake
Betty Opersko, Waterford (over 50 years of service)
Brian Parkinson, Scarborough
Alex Pawliw, Toronto (over 50 years of service)
Vaughn Peckham, London
Doug Robbie, Scarborough
George Shermer, Toronto
Elias Soueiti, Metcalfe
Orest Stanko, Toronto
Brenda Willis, Kingston
Diane Wood, Hampton
Reg Young, Kanata
Harry Zanin, London