



Newsletter

March 2019.

2019 Nominees Selected

From a great list of deserving candidates, the class of 2019 has been selected and will make the village and surrounding area very proud of its sporting heritage. This year's nominees include:

- **Robbie Graves**, a hockey star, that began with Minto minor hockey and over 2 decades progressed to be a high school star, junior hockey MVP, accomplished university player, and a stint with the American Hockey League.
- **Bob Lynch**, a minor hockey coach to be emulated by all aspiring coaches. Bob was a players coach, more concerned with the welfare and happiness of the kids more than wins and loses.
- **Mike Tyler**, a badminton phenom that continued his sports dominance for decades after leaving Minto High.
- **Joe King**, A world class bowler that reached the pinnacle of world class status and helped raised the sport of Candlepin bowling to a higher level.
- **A senior hockey** team (GL Thrashers) with two provincial titles and thrilled local hockey fans for several years.
- **A hockey family** Kirk and Zack Firlotte that elevated the hockey pride level for the entire community of Minto for three decades.

Their stories, and many more, will be told in great detail at the May 11th banquet in their honor. Mark the date on your calendar so you can come and enjoy an evening of stories from local legends as far back as the 1970's, memorabilia and of course wonderful food.

One to Watch – Alyssa Best

In early December, 4 days before turning 19, Minto native Alyssa Best received an e-mail notification that she had been selected to attend the 2019 Canada Games in Red Deer, Alberta. The second year kinesiology student at the University of New Brunswick, first donned the stripes when she was 12 years old. Best attended the new officials clinic, “and ever since then, I’ve been hooked,” she said.

In November, Alyssa was one of 75 officials invited to attend the level 4 seminar in Halifax, where not only did she pass her level 4, she tied for the highest female mark in Atlantic Canada.

Having just returned from Red Deer, Best described her Canada Games experience as, “the time of my life. It was such a cool experience. I had the opportunity to learn from the best. Memories and friendships were made that will last a lifetime.”

On March 14-17, Alyssa is off again, this time to the CIS Nationals being held this year in Charlottetown, PEI.

Alyssa’s family is no stranger to the MSWOF as she has Uncles Wellesley Hoyt, Alton Hoyt, Ed Gallant, Bill Best, Larry Roi, Aunt Judy Best, Cousin David Best and her mom Tammy Best already inducted onto the Wall and is one day hoping to join them. Most certainly, Alyssa is one to watch....



Minto bowling leagues chose Provincial Team

It took all winter but the best seven bowlers from the Minto lanes are prepared to challenge for the provincial championship. The team consist of Cory Leburque, Rick Bourgeois, Kevin Spencer, John Dicarolo, Wall of Famer Marcel Richard, Mike Richardson, and Gerald Richard. Coming off a weak showing at the 2018 event this group feel they have something to prove. This year's event is scheduled for Seaside Bowling Lanes in Shediac May 1st through the 4th. . Best of luck from the MSWOF.

Just Sayin...

In my time Hockey was a game played on ponds, old mine cuts, home made rinks, in the garage or basement, and in summer on the road. We played for the Stanley Cup wearing our Jean Belliveau, Dave Keon or in my case a Tony Esposito jersey. Time, hunger, frozen toes or homework didn't stop us from being Cup champions for a day. Every kid played wanting to be like their heroes in the NHL. We wore mitts, knitted hats and skates and built a fire with old tires, usually from behind the neighbours garage, to keep warm on the ponds. Our rubber boots were goalpost and there was no concern about ice time or shifts, we just played until we were too tired to play. When we were fortunate enough to play organized hockey at Bantam, Midget or High School we were coached in a way that encouraged playing with heart and imagination. We still enjoy, 30 or 40 years later, our teammates like the games were played yesterday ,we respect our coaches from the past and still call them mister. These were the best time of our lives. Today, I go to the "Arena", see parents tying skates, holding clipboards, and talking to coaches from behind the bench. I watch kids in full armour, practise without pucks, work on complicated drills, then go out and play within a system. Imagination in play is gone, intangibles are gone, friendship bonds are gone, and most importantly the fun is gone. It is disappointing that hockey at all levels has become big business with hockey schools, elite camps, identification camps, and speciality coaches. Coaches need to jump through hoops just to help kids. I long, as most of my generation does, for the simpler time when kids could be kids and adults stayed out of the way. It was simply the best time of our life. Just sayin.....

Did You hear the one About...

Art McDonald was putting down the lineup while “Cat” watched. He wrote down to the seventh spot and inserted Welly as the seventh hitter, then stopped, put down the sheet and just sat there, Cat asked Art, “who bats after Welly”? to which Art replied “usually the other team”

Thank a sponsor

Before any player touches the ice, field, or floor to participate in sport, vast amounts of sponsorship money needs to be raised for such things as bats, balls, pucks, ice time, uniforms, umpires, referees and transportation. The community of Minto and surrounding area has been blessed with the most generous groups, companies, individuals, and ticket buyers that exist in the Province.

These sponsors have given for decades to every level of team, group, and individual that needs help. They never ask for anything in return and send us away with a “good Luck” wish. We don’t always show our appreciation as we should and we should consider this when we shop our products, hire a service, or need contractor. So, please when you spend your hard earned money, consider these sponsors and support them as they have us for decades.

You tell us

If you know a good event to cover, a story to tell, a sponsor to thank, an athlete, team, coach, or other individual to nominate please let us know. The wall of fame is only as good as we and you make it.