



## 2010 Athletics Ontario Hall of Fame

### PRE-1930 Era

#### WILLIAM "Billy" SHERRING (ATHLETE)

##### **1906 – Winner of Olympic Marathon (Interim Games) in 2h51.**

Born and raised in Hamilton (1877-1964), Sherring was (along with others like Jack Caffrey, Tom Longboat and James Duffy) a member of the fraternity that took to Marathoning in the Hamilton area at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century prior to WW1. While the mentioned others won the famed Boston Marathon in these early years (he placed 2<sup>nd</sup> to Caffrey in 1900) he gained international status winning an Olympic title – at the 1906 Athens "intercalated" Games – in the Marathon. His famous picture - being paced the final stretch of the track by the crown prince of Greece - has helped establish the lore of the marathon that has resounded through the years. A two-time winner of the Around-the-Bay race in those early years, the race was eventually named in his honour, and continues to this day as the longest serving road- race in the country.

#### ALEXANDRINE GIBB (BUILDER)

##### **Manager of Women's Olympic Track team in 1928.**

Born and raised in Toronto (1891-1958), Gibb was a pioneer and driving force behind the advent of women's organized sport in the 1920's. She organized the Toronto Ladies Club (1921) as an umbrella organization for sports managed and coached "for women and by women". In 1925 she brought the WAAF into existence as a means to help women compete outside the confines of the male-oriented AAU, becoming the "foremother" of women's organized sport in Canada. In this capacity she was solicited to manage the first Canadian women's team to compete internationally at the Tri-meet in Track & Field in England in 1926. This paved the way for women to compete in Track & Field at the Olympics in 1928 – she managed the "Matchless Six" women's team that came back with 2 gold medals (most of whom were inducted at our inaugural event in 2009). She later established and donated the Velma Springstead award in 1934 – annually presented to Canada's Outstanding Female Athlete (She was a Hamilton athlete on that 1926 team who had died in 1927 at 20 years of age). Gibb was a sports reporter (Toronto Star) and paved the way for other female athletes like Bobbie Rosenfeld and Myrtle Cook to follow suit in expressing a women's perspective on sport.

## **1930-1945 Era**

### **CAPTAIN JOHN RICHARDSON "Cap" CORNELIUS (BUILDER)**

#### **Pre-eminent Hamilton Coach from the 1920`s into the 1960`s.**

Born in Scotland, Cornelius came over to Ontario (Hamilton) and began his coaching exploits after WW1. In the 1920's he coached with the YMCA, Central Collegiate and The Hamilton Olympic Club. He was the coach for the 1924 and 1928 Olympic teams (the latter being a Hamilton affair with fellow HOC representatives M.M.Robinson as team Manager and Bobby Kerr as team Captain – both inducted last year) that included a number of his local and later HOC athletes. The women`s section also began in the 1920`s under his tutelage, including some on the first women`s International team (like Velma Springstead). His athletes were successful in the 1930's at both the Olympic level (Ray Lewis and Betty Taylor) and in British Empire Games. At the school level, his Central Collegiate teams (he was head of Phys.Ed.) were a huge force at the Penn Relays, once setting three World records in a day. He also coached the McMaster University teams throughout the 1930`s into the 1950`s. He retired from teaching in 1950, but continued to coach until shortly before his death in the early 1960`s, even helping start a rival Hamilton club (Spartan T&F club) in 1959 which produced a few notable athletes. Named Hamilton`s Man of the Year in 1957, he also received one of the first Ontario Government Achievement Awards – recognizing his devotion to sports and his students.

### **EVA DAWES (ATHLETE)**

#### **Won bronze medal at the 1932 Olympics in the High Jump.**

Born and raised in Toronto (1912-2009), Dawes was a pre-eminent High jumper in the 1920`s and 1930`s. She was an erstwhile rival of Ethel Catherwood (inducted last year), winning the Canadian title in 1926, and qualifying for the 1928 Olympic team, but was deemed too young to travel. She won consecutive National titles from 1932-25, and won a bronze medal (1m60) at the 1932 Olympics and a silver medal at the 1934 British Empire games. She was a favourite for the 1936 Olympics (Berlin), but boycotted them because of the Nazi regime, instead planning to compete at the alternative Games in Barcelona - which were cancelled at the last minute due to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil war. She married and moved to England in 1937.

### **ELIZABETH "Betty" GARNER TAYLOR (ATHLETE)**

#### **Won Bronze medal at the 1936 Olympics in the 80m Hurdles.**

Born in Ingersoll in 1916 (died in 1977), she was a Hamilton Athlete in the 1930's (competing for the Hamilton Olympic Club, and later attending McMaster University) under the tutelage of "Cap" Cornelius. She competed in and won the sprint hurdles event at the 1930 National championships for women conducted at the same time as the 1930 British Empire Games in Hamilton (as no women's events were included). She went on to become the premier Hurdler in Canada during the 1930's. She competed in the 1932 Olympics in the 80m hurdles. She later won silver medals at the 1934 British Empire Games and at the Women's World Games (a competition arranged for after the BEG competition). Her career culminated with a Bronze medal at the 1936 Olympics, equalling the WR of 11.7ht in the Semi-final (11.81 for 80m Hurdles), after which she retired from competition.

She was named the Velma Springstead and Bobbie Rosenfeld awards winner for 1936.

## **1960-69 ERA**

### **GEORGE J. ARNOLD (BUILDER)**

#### **Official in the OTFA - level 5 Track &Field Referee and Jury of Appeal (National).**

As do many parents, George got involved in the sport through his son's Track club (Don Mills in Toronto), his introduction being in the early 1960's. Initially he was involved in meet directing, administration and team managing before becoming more involved with officiating. His involvement with the Central Ontario association led to being named the AAU treasurer. Officiating and certification was being formalized in the 1960's, and George was amongst those getting certified at the higher levels (Level 4 initially). Meet directing (like assisting Ken Twigg and John Hudson with the Toronto indoor Games throughout the 1960's and 1970's) and officiating went hand-in-hand for many years. Team management was also evident through 1969-72 at the National level, including the 1970 CG and the 1972 Olympics. Administration duties culminated with the CTFA (Treasurer from 1969-72). He also, along with Donald Mills (2009 inductee) and Tom Lord, produced the CTFA rules book to supplement that of the IAAF. He also was involved with developing The Ontario True-False exams for officials. In addition he was a prolific clinician in helping to develop officials for both the OTFA and CTFA.

George's officiating duties included many meets over 30 years, including being Field referee at National Championships ranging from 1967 to 1983.

George (along with his wife Nicky, an OTFA official) received a special achievement award from the government of Ontario in 1975. He was named to the National Officials' Council Wall of Honour in 1994.

## **1970-79 ERA**

### **ABIGAIL "Abby" HOFFMAN (ATHLETE & BUILDER)**

#### **As the top National 800m runner in the 1960-70's, she is also a pioneer in administration as a member of Executive council of the IAAF.**

Born in 1947, the Toronto athlete initially distinguished herself in hockey – as a girl participating on a boy's team. As a teenager she won the 800m at the 1963 Pan Am Games. She would rule the event in Canada as a member of the Toronto Olympic Club (under coach Paul Poce, 2009 inductee) for much of the next 14 years – 8 National titles and the CR from 1962-75, taking over 10 seconds from the record (2.10 – 2.00) during that period. She won medals at both CG (gold in 1966) and Pan Am's (gold in 1963 and 1971), FISU and the Maccabiah Games. She was a two-time Olympic finalist (1968 and 1972) in the 800m establishing a Commonwealth record during the latter, and culminated her athletic career as the Flag bearer for the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

A pioneer in women's administration at this time, she was named Director General for Sport Canada (1981), appointed to the executive committee of the COC and later a member of the IAAF executive council (1995). She was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1982.

Hoffman's contributions on and off the track reflect the pioneering spirit that has defined her career.

## **1980-89 ERA**

### **CECIL SMITH (BUILDER)**

**Executive Director of the OTFA for a quarter century. Publisher of *Athletics Magazine* and numerous National Statistical annuals.**

Born in 1936, Cecil Smith arrived in Canada in the 1970's and began his involvement with Ontario as a volunteer coach with the Toronto striders, developing high jumpers like Maggie Woods and Julie White. He also got involved in the administrative side of the sport. Initially he was the Chairman of the Ontario Coaches Association for few years, later he was appointed executive Director of the OTFA – a position he retained until retiring 25 years later. He started *Ontario Athletics* magazine, the predecessor of *Athletics*, in 1976, in which is included his regular "Inside Track" column.

Cecil developed programmes such as the Ontario Track League. As well he founded the Pan Am Junior Championship, which he brought to Sudbury in 1980. This led to the successful bid for the 1988 World Juniors in Sudbury – at which he served as Technical Director. He was heavily involved in the planning for, and conduct of, the 1993 World Indoor Championships in Toronto. He also helped to revive the Hamilton Indoor *Spectator* Games, serving as meet director for several years, and it gained IAAF status at one point. Among other accomplishments, Cecil served as a member of the secretariat for the 1976 Olympics (Montreal) and the 1978 Commonwealth Games (Edmonton).

As a member of ATFS (Statisticians), he has compiled and published numerous annual lists, rankings and handbooks that are, and continue to be, a valuable source of information to many – still important today and essential in the pre-internet days.

## **DAVID LEE STEEN (ATHLETE)**

**Won Bronze medal at the 1988 Olympics in the Decathlon.**

Born in 1959 in British Columbia, and with a family history in the sport (his namesake uncle was a GG Shot champion). Steen moved to Ontario and the University of Toronto under coach Andy Higgins. He won the 1977 Canada Games Decathlon title which began a career in the event culminating in the bronze medal at the 1988 Olympics. Along the way he won Gold medals in 1983 at both the Pan Am Games and FISU, was the first Canadian decathlete to surpass 8000 points (1982), and won two CG silver medals (1982 & 1986) and the 1985 Pan-Pacific Title.. At the 1983 Toronto classic he defeated Olympic Champion Daley Thompson and set a WR in the indoor pentathlon (4104 points), eclipsing it again in 1986. He was named Ontario's Athlete of the year in 1988, and named to the order of Canada in 1991.

## **1990-199 ERA**

### **MICHAEL C. SMITH (ATHLETE)**

**Won Silver and Bronze medals at the 1991 and 1995 World Outdoor Championships in the Decathlon.**

Born in 1967, Smith was raised in Kenora. His OFSAA exploits led him to the decathlon and the University of Toronto – under coach Andy Higgins in 1985 - which produced a silver medal in the decathlon at the 1986 World Juniors.

Smith became the first North American to win the prestigious Gotzis Decathlon in 1991, and again in 1996. He was a three time Olympian (1988, 1992, 1996), including being the flag-bearer in 1992. He won the Francophone Games Decathlon (1989) and twice was Commonwealth Games Decathlon Champion (1990, 1994). He won a silver medal at the 1993 World Indoors and won silver (1991 – 8549 pts) and bronze (1995) at the World Outdoor Championships. Smith is Currently a Track & Field analyst with CBC TV.

### **MEN'S 4x100m RELAY TEAM 1995-1997 (ATHLETES)**

**Won Gold medals at the 1995 and 1997 World Championships and the 1996 Olympics.**

The span of success for the men's 4x100m relay team in the 1990's began with the bronze medal at the 1993 World Championships, then onto Gold medals at the 1994 Commonwealth Games and Francophone Games. The three-year domination at the global level - Worlds in 1995, the 1996 Olympics, and again the Worlds in 1997 - was followed by a win at the 1998 Goodwill Games and a silver medal at the 1998 Commonwealth Games. Common to all of these teams was Glenroy Gilbert. It is safe to say that Mr. Gilbert was "Mr. Relay", continuing on through 2001 as a member of the National relay team (9 years in total). Bruny Surin (from Quebec) was also an integral member of many of these teams, and an accomplished sprinter in his own right.

### **DONOVAN BAILEY**

A 2009 AO Hall of Fame inductee for his individual accomplishments, he was the anchor for this team during the 3 year reign as World & Olympic champions. Born in 1967, his individual acclaim as Olympic 100m champion and world-record holder (1996) is duly recognized. His contributions to this team as anchor are equally legendary. Bailey was on the 1994 CG team, 1995 and 1997 Worlds, 1996 Olympics and 1998 Goodwill Games.

### **CARLTON CHAMBERS**

Born in 1975, Chambers won for his Brampton area (and coach Mark Guthrie) both an OFSAA Senior 100m championship (setting a record of 10.41, 10.27w in the final) and set a Canadian Junior 100m record of 10.30 in placing 5<sup>th</sup> at World Juniors in 1994. He was also on the Junior 4x100m relay team (with Ontario team-mates) that won a bronze medal at this 1994 World Junior meet. He capped off the year as a member of the winning Canadian 4x100m relay team at the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

Chambers ran the first two rounds (heat and semi) of the 1996 Olympic 4x100m team that went on to (with Robert Esmie in his place) win the gold medal. He also ran the first round on the 1997 team that won the World Championships.

### **ROBERT ESMIE**

Born in Jamaica in 1972, and raised in Sudbury, Esmie's individual prelude to glory on the World and Olympic level (as "Blast-off") included an OFSAA 100m record (10.50 in 1990) and later a bronze medal in the 60m at the 1995 World Indoor Championships. Known for his bullet starts – hence the name "blast-off" – Esmie was integral part of the three-year domination (1995-97) of the Canadian 4x100m relay team at the highest level – World and Olympic Titles. Esmie was on the 1993 (Bronze), 1995, and 1997 Worlds teams, 1994 Commonwealth Games (Gold) and 1996 Olympic team.

### **GLENROY GILBERT**

Born in 1968 in Trinidad & Tobago, Gilbert came to Canada (Ottawa) while still quite young. Settling in as a long jumper, Gilbert made the 1988 Olympic team and won silver at the 1989 Francophone Games. In the 1990's he became the backbone of the National Relay team. Beginning with the 1992 Olympic team he was on the National team through 2001. He won medals at Worlds in 1993, 1995 and 1997 as well as Commonwealth Games in 1994 and 1998, Francophone Games in 1994 and the Goodwill Games in 1998. In the interim he worked on his individual 100m enough to win gold at the 1995 Pan American Games. Gilbert was also versatile enough to be a participant in the 1994 Winter Olympics on the Bobsleigh teams. So in all he was on 5 Olympic teams. Gilbert is now a coach of the National relay team – fitting for someone who was such a productive member of the team in the past.