

BeaconStar

Hall of fame inductees named



Photo courtesy Beacon Star

James “Frosty” Hannon, left, Rita Barks (the wife of the late Ray Barks), Marianne King-Wilson and W. John Young, sit in front of the photos of past inductees during Wednesday’s press conference

PARRY SOUND—The 2009 inductees to the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame were announced on Wednesday, December 3, 2008:

- Raymond William Barks, a legendary hockey coach and player, being honoured posthumously
- James “Frosty” Hannon, a key influence in the development of hockey players over many years
- Marianne King-Wilson, founding president of Sail Parry Sound
- W. John Young, an all-round athlete, as an award-winning player or coach, of fastball, curling, hockey, volleyball and badminton

The inductees were welcomed warmly by the management and staff, the Induction Committee and the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame Advisory Committee.

Manager Cheryl Ward said it was a huge honour to be announcing the names, and she was excited that all of this year’s inductees were local people.

Induction committee chair Dave Garagan presented the inductees. Garagan suggested the cause of Parry Sound’s hockey success could have been something in the water.

“These athletes grew up playing hockey on Parry Sound,” he said. “I say that because they literally played most of their hockey on Georgian Bay.”

Young said it was a great honour to be included in the hall of fame. “Just look at all those faces,” he said, pointing to the wall of previous inductees, which include Bill Carson, Bobby Orr’s father Doug Orr, and Special Olympian Tim Vancoughnett.

Young said Parry Sound produced amazing athletes when strapping on a pair of skates was the only way to pass the time. “Back in those days it took an hour to get to MacTier,” he said. “We were isolated and it’s all we had to do.”

King-Wilson said the honour is shared with Sail Parry Sound, its board and volunteers.

Kevin Barks, who attended with other relatives of the late Ray Barks, said his father would have been thrilled to hear he was named. “He’s with us always,” he said.

The official induction ceremony, a prestigious annual event, will take place on June 13 at the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame, 2 Bay Street, Parry Sound. Tickets will go on sale in January.