

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

DEAN MCLEOD NAMED AS 2021 LESTER B. PEARSON AWARD RECIPIENT

TORONTO, ON – Lacrosse Canada has announced that Dean McLeod will be presented with the 2021 Lester B. Pearson Award. The Pearson Award is presented annually to members of the Canadian lacrosse community in recognition of their unselfish dedication and outstanding contributions of sportsmanship and distinguished leadership to the game of lacrosse and to the physical and mental development of young Canadians.

McLeod's devotion, work ethic, focus and sustained commitment to the Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse League, and to lacrosse in his hometown of Brampton, have been exemplary. Born in Brampton, Ontario in 1945, Dean has been involved in lacrosse at virtually every position possible. However, in 1982, he took on the role for which he is most commonly identified when he became Commissioner of the Ontario Lacrosse Association Junior "A" League; a position he held for over three and a half decades. At the end of the 2018 Ontario Lacrosse season, he officially announced his retirement as commissioner, ending a 37-year continuous years of service to the league.

When asked for his initial response to hearing that he was named the Pearson Award recipient, Mr. McLeod stated, "When Terry Rowland (Lacrosse Canada Director of Marketing) telephoned me and told me I had been selected the 2021 recipient of the Lester B. Pearson Award, and along with it comes Life Membership through Lacrosse Canada, I was completely dumbfounded! What an unsuspected honour to have my name now sit alongside all of the great past winners of this award. There is only one person each year to whom this honour is bestowed, and I am truly humbled."

Among his major contributions to Ontario Junior "A" lacrosse were the development of the league policies, annual Minto Cup agreements, the introduction of the Minor Entry Draft and, most importantly, the establishment of the Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse League as the premiere loop for young players in Canada. During his 37 years as commissioner, the eventual Ontario provincial championship team won 28 out of 37 Minto Cup Canadian national championship titles.

In sharing specific memories from over the decades, Dean noted, "my 37-year run as Ontario Junior "A" Lacrosse League Commissioner and all of the great personalities that I dealt and worked with over the years, not only from Ontario but across Canada and internationally are paramount among my memories. The second most lasting memory is the eight Mann Cup Championships I have managed or have been a part of in Brampton. I am, and always have been, a proud Brampton Excelsior."

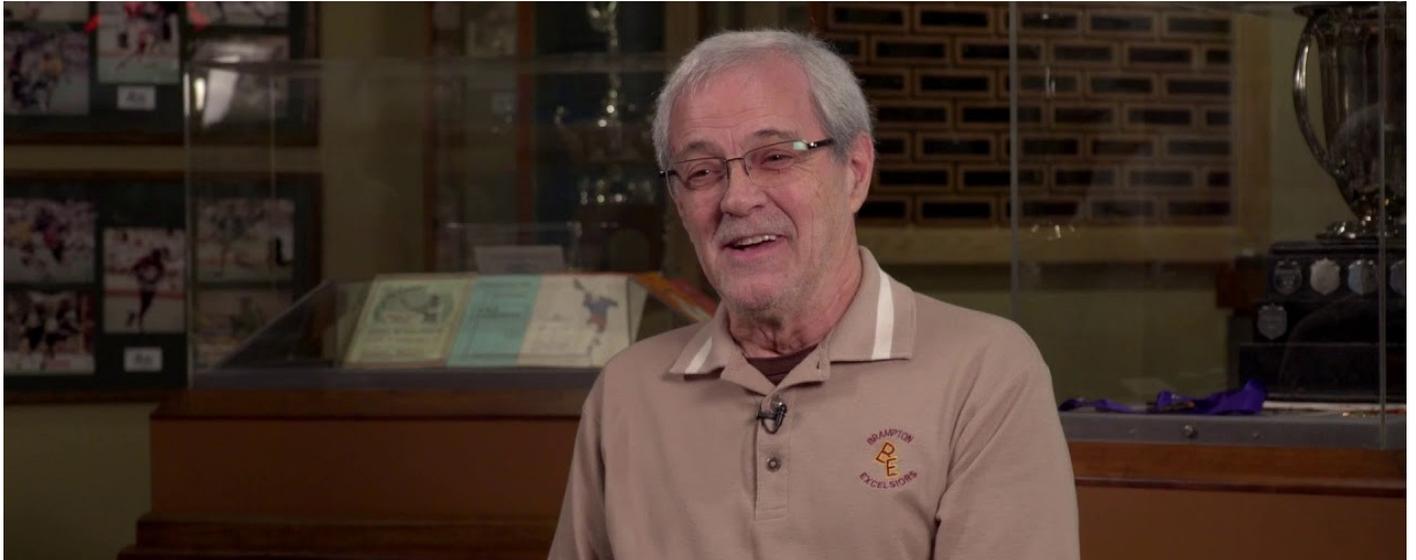
McLeod was quick to acknowledge other lacrosse builders who were an important part of his lacrosse life and the contributions he made to lacrosse: "I immediately think of names like Lee Vitarelli, Cap Bomberry, the late Jack Wilson, the late Bob Bartlett, Stan Cockerton, Chuck Miller, Murry Lehman (BC), the late Sohen Gill (BC), Greg Lintz (Alberta), Lisa Grant (Alberta), Bill Hutton, Bob Clevely, the late Brian Allen, Bob Hanna, Alan Fredrickson (Australia). The list goes on and on. For those I have missed, I apologize."



With over 50 years of commitment and devotion to lacrosse in Ontario and across Canada, McLeod's achievements have left a legacy for lacrosse. In reflecting on his accomplishments, Dean offered these heartfelt personal thoughts, "My lacrosse involvement, over the past 55 years, has been very, very satisfying and I have always had the support of my wife Mary and our children Deanna and Stewart. Of all of the recognitions I have received until now, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is my most cherished possession. This Lester B. Pearson Award now stands next to it. I would like to thank the Lacrosse Canada selections committee. This honour is very much appreciated."



Dean McLeod is pictured with wife Mary at the Rose Theatre in Brampton during the 2019 Brampton Sports Hall of Fame (BSHOF) Induction Ceremony. McLeod was inducted into the Builder Category of the BSHOF in 1997, and currently serves as a chairperson of the Selections Committee.



*Dean McLeod speaking at the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame in St. Catharines, ON
as part of the “Legends of Lacrosse” video series*

Past recipients of the Lester B. Pearson Award

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| 2020 - Rusty Doxtader | 2005 - Chuck Miller |
| 2019 - Cheryl MacNeill | 2004 - Jim Price |
| 2018 - Dave Huntley | 2002 - Joanne Stanga |
| 2017 - Joey Harris | 2001 - Bill McBain |
| 2015 - Terry Lloyd | 1983 - Joan Gostling |
| 2014 - Mike ‘Kanentakeron’ Mitchell | 1981 - William Hutton |
| 2013 - Don Blacklock | 1980 - Ed Linstead |
| 2011 - Stan Cockerton | 1979 - Frank Huntley |
| 2010 - John Herd | 1978 - Jack Fulton |
| 2008 - Stew Begg | 1977 - Jim Bishop |
| 2007 - Sohen Gill | 1975 - Ken Newton |
| 2006 - Jim Burke | 1973 - Morley Kells |

*The information in this release appears courtesy of Rad Joseph of Major Series Lacrosse.
A more detailed version of this release, including a complete list of McLeod’s accomplishments, is [available here](#).*