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1959 McFarlands inducted into Ontario Sports Hall of Fame

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The 1959 Belleville McFarlands were inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony Thurs, Oct. 26 in Toronto. Pictured: Back Row (Left to Right) Moe Benoit, Red Berenson, Lou Smirke, Lionel Botly, Floyd Crawford, Al Dewsbury, Davey Jones, George Gosling, John McLellan. Front Row (Left to Right) J.P. Lamirande, Ike Hildebrand, Gordie Bell, Denis Bouchan, Barton Bradley.

A magical hockey team behind one of Belleville's most important sporting achievements was recognized at a special ceremony in Toronto late last week.

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The Ontario Sports Hall of Fame Gala in Toronto tipped its hat to the 1959 Belleville McFarlands hockey team, inducting the national champions who went on to represent Canada and win the gold medal in the Ice Hockey World Championships in Czechoslovakia.

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Winning the 1959 World Championship was the culmination of years of hard work by a team dedicated to the sport.


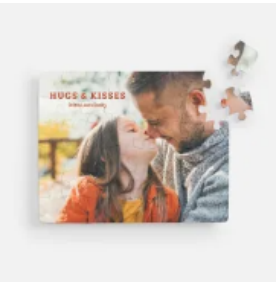


Attending the ceremony induction ceremony Oct. 26 to accept the Hall of Fame award was Belleville McFarland Red Berenson on behalf of the team.

He was accompanied by team family members and Mayor Neil Ellis.

“Red received the award on behalf of his teammates and gave it to Mayor Ellis to house in the Belleville Sports of Fame. We are so proud of our McFarlands and would like to recognize all of the members of the 1959 team for their incredible achievement,” said the City of Belleville in a statement.

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Belleville officials said the following McFarland teammates will be forever etched in the history of a small but determined hockey community: Moe Benoit, Red Berenson, Lou Smirke, Lionel Botly, Floyd Crawford, Al Dewsbury, Davey Jones, George Gosling, John McLellan, J.P. Lamirande, Ike Hildebrand, Gordie Bell, Denis Bouchan and Barton Bradley

During the induction ceremony, a video highlighting the global victory for the McFarlands was shown noting the Belleville McFarlands were a Canadian senior ice hockey team in the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) from 1956 to 1961.

According to The Ontario Sports Hall of Fame ceremony materials, “the McFarlands played in the OHA Senior A League and won the J. Ross Robertson Cup as league champions in 1958.

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“The McFarlands also won the 1958 Allan Cup, defeating the Kelowna Packers four games to three. The following season, the team represented Canada at the Ice Hockey World Championships, in Czechoslovakia, winning the gold medal at the 1959 World Championship. The team won an impressive eight of nine games, including a final-round match versus the Soviet Union.”

“Their only loss at the event came on the last day of the tournament versus the host Czechs, when they already had first place clinched.”

“Games were broadcast on CJBQ radio by Jack Devine, including the world championship game in Prague. The team name was revived by a later team in the Eastern Ontario Senior Hockey League from 2003 to 2006, known as the Belleville Macs.”

“Belleville has such rich sports history and the McFarlands are a key part of that,” said Ellis ahead of the ceremony.

“They represented Belleville on the world stage and left a lasting legacy and love for hockey that Belleville continues to have.”

For more information about the induction, visit ontariosportshalloffame.com.



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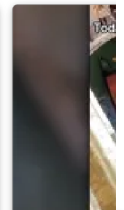
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