



NEWS RELEASE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Hosts 2026 Sports Wall of Fame Ceremony

For Immediate Release

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Niagara-on-the-Lake is proud to host the annual Sports Wall of Fame Ceremony, an event that recognizes individuals who have made remarkable contributions to the Town's sports community or achieved outstanding athletic accomplishments.

The Town is pleased to announce the 2026 inductees:

- **Gary Friesen:** Achieved success in hockey and lacrosse at the provincial and junior levels before returning to his community as a dedicated coach, mentor, and volunteer, helping develop the next generation of local athletes.
- **Kurt Hamm:** Has dedicated nearly 40 years to coaching youth soccer and supporting community sport, leaving a lasting impact through his leadership, volunteerism, and commitment to generations of local athletes.

"Council has made significant investments in recreation because we know it helps build healthier, more connected communities," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "Those investments are only part of the story. They are brought to life by dedicated volunteers, coaches, and mentors like Gary Friesen and Kurt Hamm. It is an honour to recognize their lasting contributions to Niagara-on-the-Lake's sporting community."

The public is warmly invited to attend this special celebration, honouring these individuals who have played a pivotal role in shaping Niagara-on-the-Lake's vibrant sporting culture.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Friday, August 21, 2026
- **Location:** Meridian Credit Union Arena (1567 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil)
- **Time:** The ceremony starts at 5:00 p.m., with reception to follow.
- **RSVP:** RSVP is not required.



"Each year, the Sports Wall of Fame Ceremony is a tradition of recognizing those whose commitment helps make Niagara-on-the-Lake such an exceptional place to live, play, and grow," said CAO Nick Ruller. "Congratulations and thank you to Gary and Kurt for creating positive experiences for young athletes and strengthening our community through sport."

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