



## Canadian Ski Hall of Fame Inductees 2020 Biographies

### **Alexandre Bilodeau – Freestyle Athlete**

Alexandre Bilodeau was born in Rosemere, Quebec. He calls his hometown Montreal and currently resides there.

He was a member of the Mont Saint-Sauveur Freestyle Ski Club from 1997-2004. He placed 12th at the Olympics in 2006 and, in the same year, became the youngest athlete in history to win a World Cup mogul event. He did so in front of home town fans at Mont Gabriel, Quebec. In 2009 he won both the FIS moguls and freestyle skiing overall titles.

Alex was two time Olympic gold medalist. He was the first athlete in any sport to win an Olympic Gold Medal on home soil at the 2010 Vancouver Games. He defended his title with a Gold Medal performance in Sochi four years later. Alex won five medals at the FIS World Ski Championships (three gold) as well as 48 FIS World Cup medals (18 gold). Alex was a three-time Olympian and nine-year member of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team.

He and his teammate Jennifer Heil made giving back to charity a priority and they challenged other athletes to do the same. In honor of his brother, Alex is a long time supporter of the Cerebral Palsy Association and has sponsored a fund, the Alexandre Bilodeau Fund for Adapted Sports at the MAB-Mackay in support of adaptive athletes.

Among his many medals and awards, Alexandre was awarded Queen Elizabeth II, Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, the Medal of Honour by the National Assembly of Quebec in 2017, and in 2019 was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

After retiring from full time sport in 2014, he completed his bachelor's degree in business. Once completed Alex focused further his post competitive career becoming a certified Chartered Accountant

### **Darrell MacLachlan (Deceased) – Alpine Builder**

Darrell MacLachlan was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta.

Darrell has been involved in the ski industry since 1969 where he was a member of the Paskapoo Ski Club. He is was an exceptional and tireless volunteer, official, and builder of Alpine Ski Racing locally and internationally. He was instrumental in the enviable success of the Winterstart Lake Louise World Cup events since 1992 as the Chief of Race and Director of Winterstart events.

Darrell was one the most experienced FIS Technical Delegates worldwide and worked at the highest levels both nationally and Internationally including the Olympic Winter Games.



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Further he was a FIS Course and Safety Inspector. Besides being directly involved in the organization, commitment, and delivery of many race events at a high level, he also delivered many courses and symposia to ski racing officials.

He was a natural and charismatic leader who led by example. His work in international matters and events in Alpine racing helped present Canada as a leading force for ski racing. He motivated a vast army of people to stay involved in ski racing and contribute in the same way. Which meant with principle, selflessness and respect.

Darrell was inducted into the Rocky Mountain Ski Racing Hall of Fame in 2014 as an Honored Lifetime Official.

### **Dave Wood – Nordic Coach**

Dave Wood was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He considers Prince George, BC, his hometown and currently resides in Rossland, BC.

He is a National NCCP Level 4 XC Coach who began skiing in his late teens. He joined the Hickory Wing Ski Club of Prince George (Caledonia Ski Club) in 1980 and was active with the club as a domestic skier.

In 1986 Dave began assisting with the BC XC Program and played an important role in preparing athletes for the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. Here is where he was accredited to work with Canada's XC team and continued for the next six Olympics. In addition to working with the Canadian teams through 7 Olympic Games he contributed to their success internationally for 25 years through 9 World Championships, 4 World Junior Championships, and a multitude of World Cups.

Dave is considered one of the most dedicated cross-country ski coaches with 12 years as the Head Coach of the Canadian National Ski Team from 1998 to 2010.

When he retired as a Coach, he returned to Rossland, BC. Here he worked with the Blackjack Nordic Ski Club to develop the Black Jack Nordic Academy and ski programs for skiers aged 13-18. This effort yielded success Nationally and Internationally at the World Juniors championships. His contributions and formulas for success continue to support cross country skiing and athlete development.

### **Gordon Canning – Alpine Builder**

Gordon Canning was born in London, England, but refers to Cornwall, Ontario, as his hometown. He currently resides in Blue Mountains, Ontario.



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Gordon is considered a Builder of the ski and snowboard industries in Ontario and Canada, having started in management at Blue Mountain Resort in 1970 under his father-in-law, Hall of Fame Inductee, Jozo Weider. Gordon became President of the resort in 1978 and led the business until 2013 when he retired.

Under his leadership, Blue Mountain made many advancements in snowmaking technology, high-speed lifts, and more. His knowledge and analytical skills led him to overseeing research for the Canadian ski industry, studying the skier population, demographics, growth, and patterns of visitation, which helped to modernizing and raise the standards at ski resorts across Canada.

Gordon has received the two top honours and awards from the Canadian Ski Council. He is widely respected in the local community for his contributions to the Blue Mountain area as a builder and leader in the ski and snowboard industry. The Town of Blue Mountains has named a street after him in honor of his contribution to the advancement of participation in skiing and snow sports. Gordon is also a lifetime honorary member of the Toronto Ski Club.

His peers and leaders in the resort industry continued to embrace his values and implement many of the concepts that he designed. Gordon continues to be a generous donor and contributor to community organizations in the Blue Mountain and Collingwood region.

### **Joe Fitzgerald – Freestyle Builder**

Joe Fitzgerald was born in Calgary, started his career in Freestyle Skiing working for the National program in Ottawa and leading the provincial program in Alberta. From here he moved to Europe, where he has spent the past 25 years based at the FIS headquarters in Switzerland. He is one of only a few North Americans to be employed by the FIS in a leadership role within the Organization. Here he has been an instrumental force in the continued development and elevation of Freestyle competitive skiing.

Joe competed as a Freestyle Skiing athlete. He studied and graduated from the University of Calgary in Physical Education. While studying biomechanics he authored 'Anatomy of the Back Flip' which became an essential contribution to the development of coaches' education for Freestyle Aerials. He has been the FIS Coordinator for the Freestyle Discipline and Race Director for the FIS World Cup, FIS Freestyle World Championships, and the Freestyle Competitions in the Olympic Winter Games since 1999.

Joe was instrumental in creating Canada's National Freestyle Team program. He also made significant contributions to rules development nationally and internationally, as well as



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training and certification programs for coaches and officials. Joe worked relentlessly to help pave the way for Canada and the expansion of freestyle aerials and moguls worldwide.

During his time as Freestyle Coordinator, the events of Ski Cross, Halfpipe, Slopestyle, and Big Air were added to the Freestyle discipline and became recognized as Olympic events.

Through a lifetime commitment and passion for Freestyle Skiing, Joe is known as a man who lives for the sport to improve and modernize. Promoting Freestyle Skiing in Canada and around the World. He recently retired from the FIS and has been retained as an Expert by the Chinese Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

### **Philip Chew – Para-Alpine Coach**

Philip Chew was born in Blackburn, England, and calls Whistler his hometown and current residence.

Philip joined the BC adaptive and CADS programs in 1978 and the Para-Alpine Ski Team in 1982. He was a member of the Canadian National Ski Team for ten years from 1982-1992. He competed as a Paralympic athlete in National, World, and Olympic events from 1984-1992.

Philip retired as a competitive athlete with an impressive career, winning many medals and awards nationally and internationally including multiple Canadian, European and World Championship medals in Slalom, Super-G, Downhill and Combined. He also demonstrated GS ski racing to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) twice; Sarajevo 1984 and Calgary 1988. He received three Athlete of the Year Awards; two in BC (1986 and 1987) and a National Athlete of the Year award in 1987.

After retiring from the Para National Ski Team, he educated himself to become a Level 3 Coach to work with the BC Para-Alpine ski teams. He has coached 18 athletes who moved up to the National Team including Paralympic and World Championship medallists.

Philip coached for 21 years until his retirement in 2014. He helped many disabled athletes get the most out of life through sport. His goal was to make skiing accessible to as many disabled athletes as possible while making it fun and exciting along the way to becoming ski racers.