

Terry D. Burton

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2017 as a “Builder”



I am pleased to stand here tonight to introduce one of Central Newfoundland’s finest builders of sport – Mr. Terry Burton of Gander.

I met Terry while we were undergrads at MUN’s School of Physical Education in the late 70’s – I was a few years ahead of him in school. Terry started teaching in the Gander area around 1983 at the old Gander Junior High. It was in early 1990 that we renewed our friendship when I started teaching in the Central area as

well.

Terry Burton can be called the “Father of Basketball” in the Central Newfoundland area. As some of you may know, Central Newfoundland is known as Volleyball Country – that changed when Terry took basketball, especially school basketball to start with, and made it popular over time in the Gander area.

In 1990, Terry was a founding executive member of the Gander Basketball Association, a league that still exists today. He was also one of the founding members of the Central Newfoundland Association of Basketball officials in 1992 (It just celebrated its 25th Anniversary this past season). Terry held various executive positions with CNABO, including Vice-President, President and signing officer.

Terry founded and coordinated the Gander Summer Minor Basketball program for many years, which provided valuable employment and leadership skills for the youth of Gander.

He started the McDonalds Classic Basketball tournament, which today, is one of the longest running high school basketball tournaments in the province – this year was its 29th year of the tournament. This started as a boy’s tournament, and later expanded to a girl’s tournament as well.

Our honoured guest is also responsible for starting a Ladies scrimmage league in Gander on Monday nights. This league is composed of former high school players from the Central Newfoundland area, and others that wish to get out and get some exercise. A group from this league would compete in a Women’s tournament in Trepassey in the spring of each year. It has been noted that the Gander ladies competed in at least 4 of these tournaments, and had many fine memories from their participation.

The Town of Gander has honoured Terry Burton as well – three times they have bestowed the honour of Coach of the Year upon Mr. Burton.

PROVINCIALY – Terry successfully coached teams at St. Paul’s Intermediate and Gander Collegiate. His teams were always competitive – he coached his teams to 2 provincial SSNL titles and placed top 4 on a consistent basis. He also coached the Gander Men’s team in several provincial D2 tournaments.

Terry was involved in organizing several NLBA minor and senior tournaments in Gander over the years. He was a member of the SSNL Hoopla Hosting committee in 1994, and a committee member of the 2002 Newfoundland – Labrador Winter Games hosted by Gander, where he also officiated Basketball for both the male and female competitions.

NABO chose to honour Terry Burton on two occasions – in 2004, he was selected as the recipient of the Frank J King Award of Merit for his work as an official and administrator with CNABO. As well, in 2012, Terry was awarded the J.A. Wink Willox Award, from the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials (NABO is permitted 1 recipient per year) for his contributions to officiating in Newfoundland. To put this in perspective, he is one of 16 former or current NABO officials who have received this award.

Terry also served as the President of the NLBA from 1997 until 2001. He stayed on the executive as Past President for several years after that.

NATIONALLY – As a Buider, Terry attended many AGM’s of Canada Basketball with Executive Director Bill Murphy to advocate the NLBA’s position on “the state of the game” within Canada, in a time when the very survival of Canada Basketball was at its crossroads, and if the game would survive as a national entity within our country.

As our Past-President, Terry was selected to be on the Mission staff during the 2003 Canada Winter Games in Bathurst – Campbellton, NB during February of that year.

On a personal level, Terry officiated at the Eastern Canadian U15 Championships held in St. John’s in 1998, where he worked the Girls Gold Medal game.

As a coach, he and his side kick at St. Paul’s Intermediate, Mr. Volleyball, Deon Goulding, organized a basketball exchange with student-athletes from a French speaking school in Quebec, under the Canadian Friendship and Sport Exchange program, which brings Francophone and Anglophone students together in an exchange of culture and sport.

INTERNATIONALLY – Terry and his sidekick, Mr. Goulding, organized and coached the Gander Collegiate boys’ basketball team in an International Basketball Competition in Havana, Cuba in 2008. This was an educational and team building experience for students as they learned and lived in another culture for a week. They also experienced how basketball is played and

officiated in another part of our hemisphere. This would have not been possible without Terry's vision and leadership.

Terry Burton has provided his time, experience, expertise and vision as a builder to the sport of basketball in various capacities, whether that be as coach, official, executive member or organizer, Terry Burton has left his mark on our sport, not only in Central Newfoundland, but in our province and the country as well. He is a worthy recipient to be inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2017.