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**Skate Canada Manitoba Mourns the passing of Gerry Howard**



**Gerry Howard**

***September 11, 1939 – December 1, 2015***

Skate Canada Manitoba announces the passing of Gerry Howard.  Gerry was a Past Chair of the Board of Directors from 1986-88.  Gerry's wife Lois Howard also served as the Skate Canada Manitoba Executive Director from 2000-2004.  Both of their children Cal and Leanne were competitive skaters.    
  
Our thoughts and prayers are with the Howard family during this difficult time. Below is the notice from the family  
  
Donna Yee  
Chair

It is with heavy hearts and great sorrow that we announce the passing of Gerry Howard on Tuesday, December 1st at the St. Boniface Hospital, surrounded by family.

Gerry will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 54 years Lois (Johnson), son Cal, daughter Leanne, grandsons Jeffrey and Quinten, sister Lorraine, brother Brian and sister-in-law Faye as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Gerry was born in Neepawa on September 11, 1939 and grew up in the town of Kelwood where sports quickly became a major factor in his life. While working for the bank in Portage he met his wife, Lois, and they began a life together that took them to Regina, Edmonton before settling back in Winnipeg.

Gerry retired from a successful career at Sunlife and has been enjoying his retirement fully ever since. Spending winters in Weslaco, Texas and summers working on the “honey-do” list that Lois always had readily available, as well as time with the game he loved - fastball.

Gerry is known around the World for his involvement as an Umpire in Softball. He has been inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame, the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Softball Hall of Fame as well as the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame for his efforts over the years. Through softball he had the opportunity to travel the world to places like South Africa, Japan, China and Columbia to name a few. His greatest honor was being the Deputy Umpire in Chief at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996. His infectious personality and laugh made it easy for him to have a multitude of friends from every corner of the World.

Volunteering in sports was a way of life in the Howard house. Gerry coached hockey, football, baseball and gave hours of time to organizations like figure skating, where he chaired the Manitoba Section of the Canadian Figure Skating Association. He also developed an Official’s Development Program for softball and recently was elected President of Magic Valley Park Association in Texas as well as serving on many other committees as time permitted.

He was known for living life to its fullest each and every day and making those around him feel welcome and important. Although Gerry has left us, he will always remain prevalent in the lives of those he touched.

The family would like to thank the staff and the doctors in the Emergency Ward of the St Boniface Hospital, especially dear friend, Lydia Harris, who arranged a comfortable setting for all.

**A celebration of Gerry’s life will take place upon Tuesday, December 8 at 2:00 pm at** [**Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home**](http://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/chapellawn?gclid=CIf4wIy4wskCFYGCaQodbdgKnw)**, 4000 Portage Avenue.**

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Softball Manitoba Hall of Fame, Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame or Skate Canada Manitoba Grass Roots Bursary Fund.