

Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association

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1960

Toronto vs Montreal



June 2019



ARGOS ALUMNI IN REBUILDING MODE

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For long-time fans of the Toronto Argonauts it was a pretty cool sight.

At one table, Damon Allen was laughing it up with his former receiver David Williams, who will join him in the Canadian Football Hall of Fame this summer. Hall of Fame running back Bill Symons was holding court, telling tales about his playing days at the University of Colorado. Chuck Ealey was moving around the room, constantly flashing his million-dollar smile.

They were part of a group of former Argos, grabbing a bite to eat after competing in the annual Argos Alumni golf tournament held recently at Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Georgetown. The event is a staple on the calendar, and is also used to raise money for the Argonauts Alumni Support Fund, which provides financial assistance for former players in need.

The day is always a great deal of fun for everyone involved, but when looking around the room one thing became clear rather quickly, the majority of those in attendance were either senior citizens, or not too far away from gaining that status. There were only a handful of players from this millennium in attendance.

That's the biggest challenge currently facing the group, to lure players from more recent teams to join and become active members. One thing that will help is the enthusiastic support of MLSE. The ownership group has been proactive in rebuilding the relationship with the former players. The company has donated a private suite in the south-west corner of BMO Field where Alumni Association members and their families can watch the games for free. The President of the Argos Alumni Association is Stacey Coray, a defensive back with the Boatmen in 1973-74. He knows the value of having ownership on his group's side.

"It's so important," Coray told Argonauts.ca. "One of the strongest points of having the support of top leadership is that everything flows from there. It does wonders for perception. Younger players will see that, and hopefully it makes a big difference." The ownership group is keen on recognizing players from days gone by. It's important to not only maintain, but to improve the relationship



Legends of the Game
QB Damon Allen &

Continued on Page 5



Letter from the President

Another terrific and exciting CFL and Toronto Argos season is underway!

Thanks to you, overall alumni membership and engagement and attendance at our events has grown. Thank you again for your support.

Last year MLSE's generosity was beyond our expectations, and without it, last season would not have been so successful. We are heading into the second year of our partnership with MLSE and are excited about the new and existing opportunities that lie ahead this season.

Membership renewal time again! Thanks to those that have sent in their dues. If you have not done so yet, please take a few minutes and send in your dues. New this season, all paid members attending Argos regular season home games at BMO Field can get a staff discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages. We look forward to everyone's continued support and hope to see you at our events during the season. More information on <http://argoalumni.com/membership-information/>

Wednesday, April 17, 2019, the Association kicked-off its 2019 season with the 9th Annual Reunion at Royal Woodbine Golf Course in Toronto. It was well-attended, lots of fun and special thanks to all that came out. Coach Chamblin brought the entire coaching staff, Danny Webb, current players, Brandon Bridge and James Wilder and recent retired player, Matt Black to meet and connect with the alumni that evening. Coach C addressed the group and underscored his philosophy for this season: "It's having a goal and aggressively going after it. It's going to be an aggressive mindset, not relenting and being specialists in all three phases of the game."

Also that night, and of special note was hearing from Randy Ambrosie, CFL Commissioner and Argo alumni who spoke to us about CFL 2.0, a new paradigm for the CFL: Sharing the CFL with the world. Randy emphasized that "it's time the CFL stopped being everyone's favourite local underdog and sought its rightful place among the world's most successful and most innovative sports leagues. Being second biggest of 40 is much bigger than being in the shadow of

two." The importance of and excitement about growing the CFL internationally resonated with everyone. Monday, June 3, 2019, the 20th Annual Golf Fun Day Tournament, the Association's major fundraiser, teed-off at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Georgetown, ON. Special thanks and our gratitude to Pete Martin and his team which includes Crista, who is always awesome, for putting together yet another terrific event. But one of the "unsung heroes" on Pete's crew is his wife, Wendy who needs our appreciation and to be recognized for all her efforts as well.

On behalf of the Association, congratulations to Ricky Ray on an outstanding career and his recent retirement. He retires as the all-time leader in all major passing categories for the Argonauts and Eskimos, the only player to hold this distinction. Also, we want to thank his wife Allyson, and daughters Chloe and Olivia for being a big part of the Argonauts tradition. Congratulations also to Terry Greer and David Williams who were recently announced as two of this year's inductees in the Player category of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame (CFHOF) and Museum. Greer and Williams join Jon Cornish, Mervyn Fernandez, and Ernie Pitts in the Player category; and former Saskatchewan club president Jim Hopson and University of British Columbia coach Frank Smith, in the Builder category.

The Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Support Fund (TAAA) is now the official charity of the Association. Set-up to help alumni that may not be able to help themselves by offering short-term financial assistance, the Support Fund will continue to be a key initiative of the Association this year.

If you have not done so yet, please check out our website <http://argoalumni.com>, our communication anchor and go-to place for Toronto Argonauts football history and all things Double Blue.

Again, thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at a game at BMO Field.

Cheers, Stace Coray



TOArgosAlumni



2019 ARGOS ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & ENTITLEMENTS

- Discounted game tickets for all regular season home games at BMO Field. Unlimited number of tickets can be purchased
- Opportunity to access the exclusive Association Suite provided by MLSE for all regular season home games at BMO Field
- Pre-public-sale access to Grey Cup Game Tickets and events purchases. Unlimited number of tickets can be purchased
- Priority Access to 50% discount on any CFL teams regular season home games
- Opportunity to participate in and have full access to all special Argos/Alumni Pre-game Shipyard Tailgate events
- Official 2019 Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Membership Card
- Entitled to vote for the All-Time Argos
- Regular paid membership entitles you to become a member of the Board of Directors of the Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association
- Free attendance to Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Annual Reunion event to be held Wednesday, April 17th at Royal Woodbine Golf Club, Toronto, ON
- Opportunity to purchase: Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association Ring (Jostens)
- Free attendance to CFLAA Legends Luncheon during Grey Cup week
- Reduced cost to other Grey Cup events during Grey Cup week
- Nissan Vehicle Purchase Program
- Athabasca University Discount
- Cannabis Medical Use Observational Study
- Canadian Concussion Center Research Project
- Membership to the National CFL Alumni Association
- MLSE staff discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages (non-transferable; must show valid Association membership and Identification with photo)
- 40% discount at Real Sports Apparel (non-transferable; must show valid Association membership and Identification with photo)

If you have any questions, please contact Fred Dunbar at dunbar.fred@gmail.com or by phone at (905) 826-1482



Membership Payment & Information: <http://argoalumni.com/membership-information/>



2019 Argos Schedule



Date	Time	Opponent
June 22	7pm	vs Hamilton Tiger-Cats
July 1	7pm	at Saskatchewan Roughriders
July 6	7pm	vs BC Lions
July 12	8:30pm	at Winnipeg Blue Bombers
July 18	9pm	at Calgary Stampeders
July 25	9:30pm	at Edmonton Eskimos
August 1	7pm	vs Winnipeg Blue Bombers
August 16	7:30pm	vs Edmonton Eskimos
August 25	6:30pm	vs Montreal Alouettes
September 2	1pm	at Hamilton Tiger-Cats
September 7	1pm	at Ottawa Redblacks
September 20	7pm	vs Calgary Stampeders
September 28	7pm	vs Saskatchewan Roughriders
October 5	10pm	at BC Lions
October 11	7pm	vs Ottawa Redblacks
October 18	7pm	at Montreal Alouettes
October 26	4pm	vs Ottawa Redblacks
November 2	7pm	at Hamilton Tiger-Cats

Highlights of the 2019 Schedule

- Touchdown Atlantic! The Toronto Argonauts are heading East to The Maritimes to take on the Montreal Alouettes on Sunday, August 25th. As the league looks to grow the game of Canadian football from coast to coast and with the possibility of a 10th expansion team on the horizon, the Argos are honoured and excited to host a game in The Maritimes.
- Under the lights: Toronto will play seven of its eight home games at BMO Field at night; three on Saturday nights, three on Friday nights and one on a Thursday night. The Argos call BMO Field home for the fourth consecutive year and will have a new playing surface to get excited about. A new grass surface, strengthened with intertwined artificial fibers that help protect and hold the surface together as well as reduce recovery time between events, will be in place before the Argos take the field for their home opener.
- The return of the CNE game! The Argos welcome the Edmonton Eskimos to BMO Field on Friday, August 16th, at 7:30 p.m. **Free admission to the CNE included with the purchase of a game ticket.**
- Bye weeks in Week #1, Week #9 and Week #14.



Alumni website can now be accessed directly from <https://www.argonauts.ca/>



relationship between current and former Argos. Keenly aware of that is Argonaut President Bill Manning, a huge supporter of heightening relations between team and the Alumni Association.

“To me personally I feel that a team’s history should never be forgotten,” said Manning. “For us, recognizing the history of the Argos – which dates back forever – and the guys that played here is important and should never, ever be forgotten.”

Manning’s appreciation for retired players was honed by spending four years working for the NFL’s Philadelphia Eagles, where he rubbed shoulders with many of that team’s legends and saw how important those players meant to the team’s fans.

“We just want them to feel welcome,” said Manning of former Argos. “Hopefully the Alumni Association make the young guys feel welcome too. It tends to be guys that have been out of the game for a while that lead the organization, so I’d love to see some younger blood in there. You just want them to feel welcome, that’s the biggest key for me.”

That bridge building is much appreciated by Coray and company. “All the game day stuff is important,” said the former DB. “The club has expanded the size of the suite from 20 seats to 42. That helps. When the guys’ kids get a little older they’ll be able to bring them to the games with them. It doesn’t take a whole lot to get them involved.”

Head Coach Corey Chamblin and General Manager Jim Popp are also proponents of engaging former players. They’ve invited an alumni member or two to join the team at practice the day before each home game and then address the players – Ricky Ray will do it prior to the home opener. After the discussion, the alumni member will join the Argos back at BMO Field to sit down and have lunch with them. “For Corey and me it’s simply trying to intertwine the past, educate the current guys on the history of the team, and talk about the ups and downs those gentlemen went through to be as great as they are, as great as they have been, and what it takes to win champion-

ships,” said Popp, who said that the relationship between the team and alumni was great in Montreal, but was particularly strong in Baltimore, where the Stallions built a relationship with former Colt players like Johnny Unitas, Joe Washington and Tom Matte.

“They embraced us,” related Popp, now smiling broadly. “They talked about the community, and got involved around town with places like the Elks Club, or some type of group around the area that were fans of the Colts or the Stallions. They had their own groups of people that embraced the players themselves and it became a great union and everybody got to know one another and understand the history of football in Baltimore. It really went a long way.”

What will it take to get players in their 20s, 30s and 40s to join the association, explore the history and make connections like the ones Popp experienced in Charm City? The group’s youngest and newest member is Matt Black, who retired as a player at the end of last season and is now working in the Argos Football Operations department. He has some ideas on how to engage some of his former teammates.

“I’m a big believer that you just include people,” said the hero of the 2017 Grey Cup win over Calgary. “We need to reach out to guys and let them know what’s going on and get them into the environment, because I think once they get out there they’ll find out that it’s really cool, it’s really awesome and they’ll be welcomed with open arms.”

Black is still getting used to the concept of being a “former player”, but has thoroughly enjoyed his recent added exposure to the generations of players who played before him. “It’s really good to see the older Argonauts,” Black continued. “The guys that have done a lot of the groundwork and opened some doors for us to have these opportunities today.” That’s the message both the Argonauts and the Argonauts Alumni Association want to get out to all former players, whether they played one game or one decade, that they are encouraged to reconnect with the organization. If you are, or know a former Argo who is not currently involved with the Association, have them contact the club and they’ll be informed on how to reconnect.

21st ANNUAL ARGOS ALUMNI GOLF FUN DAY

Monday, June 3rd
ANOTHER INCREDIBLE DAY!

Results

Many thanks to all those who participated



1st Team (58)
Jim Popp, Damon Allen
Tim Evans, Noel Prefontaine



Oldest Team (312 Yrs - Average of 78 yrs)
Gord McTaggart, Peter Warren
Bill Blair, Mike Kirkpatrick

2nd Team (59)

John Dunn
Al Bahnman
Ron Boyko
Mike Dunn

3rd Team (60)

Jack Valiquette
Gary Leeman
Peter Ing
Greg Hotham

Longest Drive

Mike Dunn
Cassy Melnike

Most Honest Teams (79)

Jim Zuber
Steve Martorino
Darryl Rigby
Mike Ross

Bob Hudspeth
Armando Flores
Davie Bolton
Bernie Dobbins

Closest to the Pin

Luv Villeneuve
Gary Siliker
Bill Blair
Shawn Reynolds
Lo Capobianco

Golf Photos—<http://argoalumni.com/2019-golf-fun-day-gallery/>

2019 GOLF PHOTOS



Proceeds to the Argonauts Alumni Support Fund

Support Fund Details: <http://argoalumni.com/alumni-support-fund/>

2019 GOLF PHOTOS



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THANK YOU!



Thank you to All Alumni who attended our 21st Golf Fun Day and made it another successful day!



Special thanks to this Alumni, Pete Martin for his relentless efforts and continuous dedication year after year with organizing and planning every detail for the Golf Tourney. Pete and his wife Wendy are the backbone and the reason this day is ALWAYS a success!



SAVE THE DATE: GOLF FUN DAY—MONDAY JUNE 1ST 2020

SPECIAL THANKS

*The Argonauts Alumni would like to thank the following
for their contribution to the success of our
2019 Golf Fun Day*

HOLE SPONSORS

MLSE
Toronto Argonauts
Toronto Raptors
Toronto Maple Leafs
Gerald Sternberg
Caponi Financial
Active Green + Ross
Dan Ferrone
CBM Aggregates
Freshhouse Foods
Manulife
CFL
Black Bull Tavern
Zeke O'Connor Ent.
Pina Food Ltd
Whiteoak Ford Lincoln
The Naz and Wally Show AM 740
Ninth Line Family Golf Academy
Home Transition
Randy Ambrosie
Tim Hortons
Ed & Bernadee Learn

PRIZES & GIFTS

ClubLink
Hershey Canada
Metro Supplies
Mandarin Restaurants
Ren's Pets
MLSE
Toronto Argonauts
Jeff Howe
Robert Thompson
CFL
Whiteoak Ford Lincoln
Labatt Breweries
Horse & Buggy Brands
Granite Ridge Golf Club
Church & Dwight
Flamborough Hills G. C.
Goodlife Fitness
Real Canadian Superstore
Far Away Greens
Hidden Lake G. C.
Riddell Canada
Hydropool Hot Tubs

Golf Fun Day—<http://argoalumni.com/2019-golf-fun-day/>

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

CFL OWNERS

1. Who owned the NHL St. Louis Blues in & what CFL Team did he own from 1988—1991 ?
2. What former Canadian Senator has owned more than one CFL Team?
3. What two CFL Teams are Community owned and sell shares to the Public?
4. What Toronto born music industry executive bought the Calgary Stampede in 1991 and is now co-owner of After-Master Audio Labs and Recording Studios in Hollywood with Justin Timberlake?
5. True or False? The current Alouettes franchise was established in 1997 by the owners of the Shreveport Pirates?



John Candy
True Double Blue



New Argo owners in 1991—Bruce McNall, John Candy
& Wayne Gretzky

twitter 
@TOArgosAlumni

Answers on Page 17



LOOK WHO TRIED TO COME OUT OF RETIREMENT AT 50-SOMETHING...



Came out of retirement to surprise his former Argos Coach Adam Rita on the football field in Bergamo, Italy. As talented and athletic as Howard Dell is.... After warm up and catching footballs, he couldn't fool the coach! Great memories after 30 years.



Don't miss an incredible performance by Howard Dell 2016

CFL Alumni Association Newsletter <https://www.cflaa.ca/cflaa-news-letter/>

Peter Gabriel is like the Energizer Bunny... Keeps going.. And going..

Happy Belated 65th Birthday Peter!

No amount of ortho surgeries keep Peter away from attending Argos games, Alumni Events and being a driving force behind Fundraising for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rockwood , ON.

Fingers crossed you can ditch the crutches soon!



Matt Black retires & Joins Argos Front Office

Toronto native Matt Black hangs up his cleats but doesn't go too far from the locker room. Matt joins the Argos in Football Operations and Player Relations.

Black will continue his efforts with the Huddle Up Bullying Prevention Program along with several other Team Programs.

<https://www.cfl.ca/2019/03/20/matt-black-announces-retirement-joins-argos-front-office/>



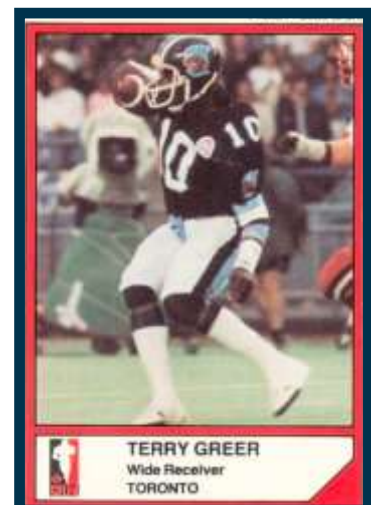
2019 CLASS REVEALED



CANADIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2019



*2 Former Argos called to
the Canadian Football
Hall of Fame 2019*





ARGOS ALUMNI REUNION



More Alumni Reunion Photos: <http://arggoalumni.com/2019-reunion-gallery/>



Do you need assistance or know of a former Argos Alumni that does?

In 2013 , we received word that an Argonauts Alumni was having difficulty paying bills related to medical issues which required extended health care and the need for specialized equipment. A letter outlining his situation, was sent to 15 of his former teammates and within 30 days \$4,250.00 was donated and his bills were paid.

That was the beginning of the Argonauts Alumni Support Fund. Since that time , thanks to proceeds from Our Golf Fun Day and unsolicited donations related to the Fun Day we have been able to provide assistance to several Alumni in their time of financial need.

Our goal is to grow the fund so that we can continue and expand on the assistance we can provide in the future.

You can help by making your own personal donation today.

To Donate : Make your cheque payable to :

The Toronto Argonauts Alumni Association

Attn: Pete Martin
2282 Parkglen Ave ,
Oakville On L6M4R3

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For more information and to obtain a confidential application form, contact: Pete Martin:

petemartin77@gmail.com

or call Pete at 289-837-4892

"Quality of life expenses may include: prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies, food, clothing and other comfort items"



For Support Fund Guidelines and an Application Form Click: [Support Fund](#)



Need a brain check-up?

The Canadian Sports Concussion Project, in association with the CFLAA, is seeking CFL alumni, *with or without a history of concussion*, to participate in a study investigating the effects of concussions on the brain

What's involved?

- MRI brain scan
- Testing of your thinking skills
- Testing of your motor skills

What do you get out of it?

- Assessments by experts in the field
- Feedback on your performance
- Access to programs aimed at managing symptoms and improving thinking abilities

Travel costs to and from Toronto, as well as accommodations (if required), will be provided.

For more information, our clinical contact is:

Dr. Sabrina Lombardi, 416-597-3422 x7788, sabrina.lombardi@uhn.ca

For more information on the Canadian Sports Concussion Project:

www.solveconcussions.ca

Testimonial

"As I read about the effects of concussions that occur in the sports world, I am growing increasingly concerned about what, if any damage my brain may have sustained and what measures are available that may reverse or slow down any ill-effects. Participating in this study has given me new insights and tools to strengthen and improve how my brain functions. I highly recommend investing in this worthwhile activity."

– Alumnus, Toronto Argonauts




*Head Games:
Understand
what is going on
in your head*

To speak to one of your peers about their experience with the program contact Crista to connect you.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

CFL OWNERS

- 

Harry Ornest was born in Edmonton, Alberta and was an LA based business man who made his fortune in vending machines. He owned the St. Louis Blues from 1983 to 1986 . He bought the Argos in 1988 and sold the Team to Bruce McNall, Wayne Gretzky and John Candy for \$5million in 1991.
- Former Senator David Braley is the present owner of the BC Lions (Since 1997). Braley owned the Ti-Cats from 1987—90 when the Team return to community ownership. In early 2010, he became owner of the Toronto Argonauts and the only owner to own 2 CFL Teams at the same time. He sold the Argos in 2015. In 2002 Mr. Braley was the interim Commissioner of the CFL and was elected into the CFL Hall of Fame in 2012.



- The Roughriders and Eskimos are community-owned teams in the CFL who sell shares to the public. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers are a not-for-profit, community organization, and do not sell shares to the public.
- Larry Ryckman is a music industry executive known for his knowledge of audio production and mastering the development of patented audio and video technologies used in the music and entertainment industries. In 1991, Ryckman purchased and privatized the Calgary Stampede Football Club.
- False. The current Alouettes were established in 1996 by the owners of the Baltimore Stallions. The Stallions were disbanded at the same time Montreal franchise re-established.



We The North
Congratulations to our
Toronto Raptors -
2019 NBA Champions





**Toronto Argonauts
Alumni Association**

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GET INVOLVED

Email: Pete Martin
petemartin77@gmail.com

www.argoalumni.com



@TOArgosAlumni

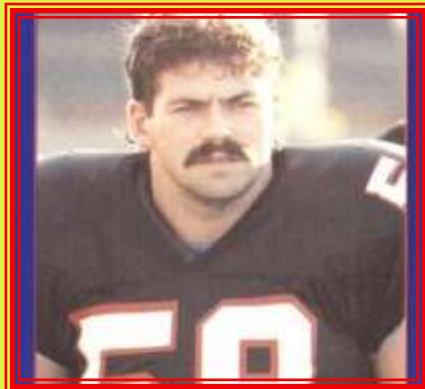
WHERE YOU AT?

Share with us some photos. Tell us what is new with you... Where are you coaching... what charity event are you involved with.. Any upcoming events? What other Alumni have you bumped into? New career? Did you have a milestone birthday? A personal story you would like to share.. News article about you or something you are doing? Any awards?

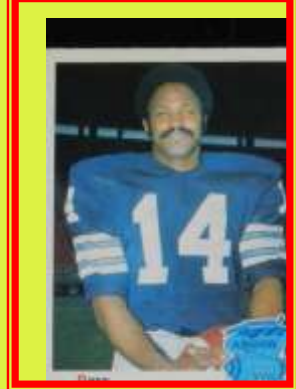


1952 Grey Cup Champ, Zeke O'Connor—92 yrs

WHAT'S NEW??



Rob Smith—Rough Riders



David Raimey—Argos

SEND US YOUR BEST STACHE!

Email pics of your classic moustaches or peach fuzz from over the years for Mo-vember! crista_bazos@yahoo.ca



GOOD LUCK TO OUR 2019 TORONTO ARGONAUTS



See you at the Game!

Membership Information: <http://argalumni.com/membership-information/>