



JAY JOHNSTON

Jay Johnston's contribution/involvement to the game of rugby in Canada and Ontario spans over four (4) decades primarily in the governance and financial stewardship of the game.

Since the mid 70's Jay has played a significant role as a player, referee and administrator with the local referees society, local Rugby Park (Twin Elm) and Director. He was a Board of Director Rugby Canada for 20 years .

As a participant, Jay was a longstanding member of:

- the Ottawa Ospreys (formerly Indians) Rugby Club from 1974-1995, and later;
- the Ottawa Senators Rugby Club from 1995-2002.

Jay has taken on crucial leadership roles at almost every level of rugby in Ontario and Canada. He became an active member during the years of

- 1991 – 1996 of the Eastern Ontario Rugby Referees Society
- 1996 – 2001 of the Board of Twin Elm Rugby Park and
- 2001 – 2021 Director on the Rugby Canada Board of Directors

Over his 20-year tenure as Treasurer and Treasurer Emeritus for Rugby Canada, Jay helped grow the organization's financial position ten-fold, which directly supported investment into the game in Canada. Notably, Jay's contributions included playing an active role in the staging of many international events matches, including

- The first-ever test matches at professional stadiums BMO Field (Toronto) and Tim Horton's Field (Hamilton);
- Securing and executing the Canada Sevens tournament on the World Sevens Series;
- Removing the "pay to play" model for the Canadian Women's XV team;
- Raising capital and securing funding to build and operate the Al Charron National Training Centre
- Reestablishing the Pacific Pride program;



Furthermore, Jay has made significant personal financial contributions that have helped build stronger infrastructure to guide future success for the sport in Ontario and Canada. His financial acumen, business management skills, clear-headedness, integrity and unwavering determination among other things has seen rugby prosper and grow across Canada.

In 2023 Jay was inducted into the Rugby Ontario Hall of Fame in recognition of his work over a 45 year window.