

2012 INDUCTEES



ROSS COATES (1946-51)

Ross Coates is a man of many talents. At Delta, he was president of the Lampadion Association and had stories and drawings published in the yearbook. He played varsity basketball, was treasurer of the Boys' Athletic Association, and became a founding member of the Track and Field team. Ross also loved to learn languages. He enrolled as an English major at the University of Michigan on a sports scholarship. After taking an elective course in drawing, Ross couldn't deny his passion for art and made the decision to switch to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1956.

Ross was hired by CBC to paint backgrounds for studio TV sets and he exhibited his personal paintings at the Isaacs Gallery in Toronto. In New York, Ross received his M.A. and PhD and taught in New Jersey. His next venture was to spend 2 years in Uganda where he taught art and music, coached the track team, started a basketball league and learned Kiswahili.

Ross returned to the US and was appointed Chair of the Art Department at a college near Albany, NY where he learned administration by attending to the diverse needs of the music, theatre and visual arts faculties. In 1976, Ross was appointed Chair of the Art Department at Washington State University and was now in the position to accept invitations to write, travel, teach, arrange painter and painting exchanges, and present shows in the United States, Japan, Russia, Denmark and Venezuela. Working with a USA First Nations program, Ross illustrated several books and edited a book on Native American masking traditions. For five years, Ross and his wife, Marilyn, published a once-a-year art magazine, *High Ground*, which promoted local art.

After retirement, in 2001, Ross was asked to stay on as temporary director of the Museum of Art for 2 years and enjoyed developing exhibitions. Since his second retirement, Ross enjoys being with his 4 grandchildren, playing the bagpipes, and continuing to create and exhibit his art. Ross's paintings are in many private collections as well as public buildings, banks and colleges in the United States, Canada and Russia.

FRANK CORNING (1953-58)

As well as contributing articles to Delta's weekly newspaper, Frank Corning played football, was an active member of the Boys' Athletic Council and helped organize intramural tournaments.

After working at Dofasco, Frank entered Waterloo Lutheran (now Wilfred Laurier) for one year and then enrolled at McMaster as a mature student, graduating in 1965 with a degree in History and Religion.

He began teaching history in Georgetown and was asked if he would help coach the wrestling team. Despite his utter lack of experience, Frank began a lengthy career as a coach, administrator and representative of Canada in international competition. He fulfilled the role of Canadian Wrestling Team Leader in 6 Olympics starting with the Montreal Olympics in 1976 and concluding with the



Atlanta Games in 1996. Frank found that involvement in a wrestling program could have a positive effect on academic performance and he encouraged his students to pursue academic excellence along with their athletic activities.

After three years in Georgetown, Frank began a thirty-year career at Fergus Collegiate where he taught history, Urban Studies and English. He organized regional wrestling tournaments and promoted the benefits of a vigorous athletic regime and academic success. He organized a training camp where up to 50 promising young athletes participated and he eventually saw 8 represent Canada in the 1976 Montreal Olympics. As testimony to Frank's influence and reputation, the Olympic Wrestling Team members were allowed to select their own team leader and they selected Frank over candidates favoured by the wrestling establishment.

Of the many things for which he feels great pride, it was a several week training program bringing promising young wrestlers right to Fergus Collegiate that he considers dearest to his heart. The athletes lived a Spartan-like existence similar to that of the earliest Greek Olympic wrestlers by training, eating and sleeping in the school.

Not only was Frank a Director of the Canadian Olympic Association, he was Chairman of the Fergus Planning Board and a member of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity-Wellington County.

Frank has received teaching awards from the McMaster Student Union and from OSSTF. He has won a Special Achievement Award from the Province of Ontario, and a Citizen of the Year award from the Fergus Junior Chamber of Commerce.



DR. JOSEPH MINDEN (1926-31)

Dr. Joseph Minden graduated from Delta in 1931, winning the Gibson Scholarship for general proficiency and the Edward Blake Scholarship for Chemistry and Physics. He went on to study Biological and Medical Sciences at the University of Toronto and graduated third in his medical school class in 1938. Joe completed an internship in St. Louis, Missouri and then began his surgical residency at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland in 1939.

With the attack of Pearl Harbor in 1942, Joe enlisted in the American Army and served as a field surgeon until the war ended in 1945. He rose to the rank of Major and was presented with the Silver Star for heroic and meritorious achievement by President Franklin Roosevelt. Joe was awarded a Bronze Star for gallantry in action and a Purple Heart when he was wounded. His unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation with two Oakleaf Clusters for additional heroic actions. With characteristic wisdom and foresight, and the courage to follow his convictions, Joe's strategic decision to move his unit at a critical time saved many lives.

After the war, Joe married Anne Kitt and became surgical chief resident at Goldwater Memorial Hospital, Columbia University in New York City. In 1950, Joe moved back to Hamilton to begin his practice as a general surgeon. He was blessed with 6 children and twelve grandchildren.

Until the age of 75, Joe served Hamilton and area as one of the most beloved and respected surgeons who was totally devoted to his patients. Day, night, or weekend, Joe answered all calls and it was not unusual for him to cancel a vacation if he was worried about a patient.

Joe was on the staff at St. Joseph's, Chedoke, Henderson and Hamilton General Hospitals and was Chief of Surgery at Joseph Brant Hospital. He taught both nurses and medical students. Joe was an innovator. As a medical student, he worked in the laboratory that discovered insulin and adapted surgical techniques for the battlefield. He developed specialized surgical procedures for removing parasites and was the first in Hamilton to perform bariatric surgery.

Outside of medicine, Joe served as president of Anshe Shalom Synagogue and was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

BILL POWELL (1952-58)

A proud Hamiltonian, Bill Powell has served and promoted our city extraordinarily well in every area of creative endeavour.

He attended the University of Waterloo for one year, graduated from Hamilton Teacher's College, did a brief stint at the Ontario College of Art and studied under Master Andy Stritoff for 6 years.

Primarily painting in oils and watercolours, his art exhibitions have been seen in Ontario, Quebec, and Mexico. Bill is an inaugural member of the Tiger Group of professional visual artists, was a former owner/operator of 2 commercial art galleries, was a former Canadian advisor at Belles Artes de Jalisco, Mexico, and was a past member of the Board of Directors of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. He has adjudicated and organized many art exhibitions, has taught art, and has had solo exhibits in several galleries in the area.



Bill also has had a hand in helping young filmmakers and has run a casting bank for movie and television "extras" for 5 years. Bill produced Renaissance Festivals which included contracting actors, organizing costumes, props and promotions. He also helped establish 2 small theatre companies. Two art magazines were created and published by Bill and he owned and operated Seagull Publishing Inc. which published several poetry books. He also organized poetry competitions. Over 16 years, Bill created and ran 2 coffeehouses featuring all genres of music, theatre, poetry readings and experimental programs. He created and ran an Indie record company and a music talent agency.

His festivals are numerous and highlight music, art, historical events, environmental issues, native culture, and Hamilton events. The Festival of Friends, featuring musicians performing anything from Celtic to Soft Rock to First Nations music, visual artists, and craftspeople from across Canada, is probably the best known.

Bill's generosity is evident in his donation of about 20 of his oil paintings to the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre which is dedicated to helping less fortunate children in our north end. Bill Powell has won numerous prestigious awards for his work in promoting the arts and for his work in the community. Deservedly, he has been called "Citizen of the Year", "Ambassador of Tourism", innovator, and tireless supporter. Bill holds two Lifetime Achievement awards.