



Joe McLean (photo by Susan Veale, OVGA Director)

The Ottawa Valley Golf Association (OVGA) Board of Directors and members of their Hall of Fame Committee honoured Joe McLean by inducting him into the OVGA Hall of Fame in the Builder category with a surprise ceremony at their year-end dinner at the Rivermead Golf Club on Friday, November 25, 2022. As co-chair of the OVGA Hall of Fame Committee, Joe was surprised to learn that he was also being inducted. “You got me, and that’s hard to do,” said Joe.

It is an honour well-deserved. Joe has been involved with the OVGA and the Ottawa golfing community for nearly 40 years. He first started golfing in 1970, and has been a member of, and was involved in many capacities at the Poplar Grove, Rivermead, Kanata, Glen Mar, Mississippi and Greensmere golf clubs.

In 1984, Joe was asked to volunteer at an OVGA tournament, which led to him becoming a Rules Official and a Director of the OVGA. He served as a Director at Large (1987-88), Tournament Director (1989-91 / 1996-99), Vice-President (1992), President (1993-94) and Immediate Past President (1995-96). Since 2000, Joe has been the archivist / historian for the OVGA, and in 2021, he assisted in founding the OVGA Hall of Fame Committee where he currently serves as co-chair.

In 1996, Jeff Bauder launched Flagstick Golf Magazine. At different times, Joe wrote columns, covered events and helped with delivery for Flagstick while holding down a full-time job. In 2001, after 31 years with the Ottawa Carleton Health Department as a public health inspector, Joe went to work full-time with Flagstick. During his time with the magazine, he covered many of the amateur and professional golf tournaments in Eastern

Ontario and Western Quebec as well as writing travel stories and personal and course profiles. Joe retired from Flagstick in 2022.

Over the years, Joe became interested in the history of the game of golf, especially in the Ottawa area. He became editor of the Golf Historical Society of Canada's quarterly newsletter THE JIGGER, wrote the history of the Rivermead Golf Club and the Mississippi Golf Club for their 100th Anniversaries, and co-wrote the history of the Kanata Golf & Country Club for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Joe is the historian for the OVGA, and worked with the Golf Historical Society of Canada and recently published a comprehensive history of the PGA of Canada – Ottawa Valley Zone.

In 2022, Joe received a Special Recognition Award at the Ottawa Sports Awards, which is presented to individuals or groups who have contributed notably to their sport community in unique ways, such that other Ottawa Sport Awards may not clearly capture their contributions.

Joe has been married to his better half and best friend, Paula, for 51 years. They have two married daughters and two grand-daughters.

After being presented the award by Dru Lafave, President of the OVGA, Joe said, "I am humbled and honoured to be inducted into the OVGA Hall of Fame. This was a complete surprise to me. The Ottawa Valley Golf Association has been and continues to be near to my heart. I would like to thank my wife Paula for allowing me the time to work with all these organizations. My awards are as much for her as they are for me."