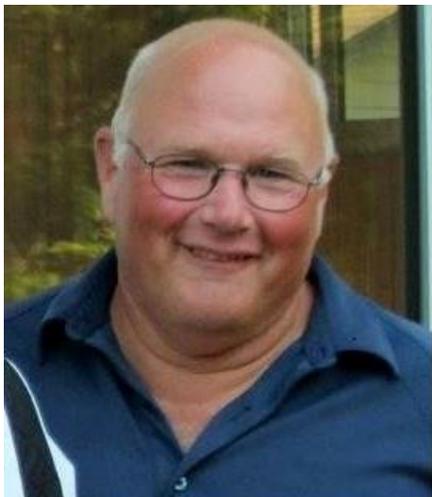


## Rob Hankinson Award



*Selected by the WHL Referees and Timekeepers, this award goes to a WHL referee, timekeeper, player, or volunteer who best exhibits Rob's good nature, dedication, and loyal commitment to the Women's Hockey League.*

### **"It's All Good"**

Named in honour of Rob Hankinson (affectionately known as "Super Hank") who refereed in the Women's Hockey League for 8 seasons (2005-2013). Rob was best known for his easy-going nature, dependability, and his willingness to referee more games in a week than most refs did in a month! His quirky little giggle, his sweet smile and his favourite saying: "It's all good," is etched in our memories. He never complained, never got upset and always went about his job with a smile. In April of 2013, Rob was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. October 29<sup>th</sup> of that year he passed away at the age of 54. He is deeply missed by the WHL Referees and Timekeepers and all who knew him.

### **Recipients**

**2026 – Dana Boyle**

2025 – Ann Dias

2024 – Loris & Lia Rugolo

2023 – Francine Floreani

2020 – Margie Skulech

2019 – Sara Caughill

2018 – Lorie Springall

2017 – Mark Pavoni

2016 – Lori Ballstadt

2015 – Lori Swan

2014 – Meredith Agliani

Dana brings a bright smile and an unmistakable enthusiasm that lifts the spirits of players. Her game knowledge, paired with her calm and consistent approach to officiating, ensures that every match is handled with the highest level of professionalism and fairness. Players trust her judgment because she has earned that trust—through clarity, confidence, and genuine respect for the sport. What truly sets Dana apart is her spirit. She is lighthearted, fun, and never misses an opportunity to make the league feel like a community. Whether it's dressing up for themed nights, adding festive touches during holidays, or simply bringing a sense of humor to the rink, Dana goes out of her way to create memorable moments. Her playful energy helps remind everyone that hockey is not just competitive, it's joyful. Dana's consistent dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to fostering a welcoming environment make her an outstanding representative of women's hockey. She exemplifies what this league stands for, and she elevates the experience for all who participate. Dana is truly deserving of the recognition.

The Plaque Honouring Rob is located in the WHL Trophy Case at the John Rhodes Arena

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

### **2025 – ANN DIAS – Head Timekeeper**

Ann has worked tirelessly with the timekeepers schedule the last few years as well as Timekeeping when needed. Ann has always been fair with scheduling taking into consideration putting timekeepers at rinks closest to home. When issues arise, Ann has always looked after her timekeepers' needs and concerns. Ann is a wealth of knowledge and a great person to talk to about anything, not only for WHL but other tournaments in general. Ann is very deserving of this award.

### **2024 – LORIS & LIA RUGOLO – Timekeepers**

Loris is always so jovial and lots of fun for the players as he plays music for them. Lia is a sweet young girl and very dedicated to timekeeping; and they are both

very punctual; never have to worry about them arriving on time; they are always early for their games...

Loris and Lia have been longtime supporters of the WHL. Everyone loves to get on the ice and see those two in the "DJ Booth" getting players pumped up for the game. They keep the atmosphere fun and exciting. Lia was born into the WHL without any say in the matter, but she stuck around and learned the ropes. Along with her mom, Aggy, on the ice and her dad, Loris, in the booth - they truly are an all encompassed WHL family - and her grandmother, Debbie, plays too. Seeing the whole family participating in and supporting the league is wonderful. And I know if Rob were around, he'd be smiling on the ice listening to the 'jams' too.

### **2023 – FRANCINE FLOREANI – Sponsorship Coordinator**

Francine has worked quietly behind the scenes for the WHL for the better part of 12 seasons (likely more) coordinating our team sponsors. This year was an especially daunting task with the league ballooning from 23 teams to 31. Not all 23 sponsors returned so finding enough to outfit all 31 teams went from "oh dear" to "can we actually do this?" She not only "got 'er done", but she also met the challenge in pure Francine Floreani Style: graciously, respectfully, humour always intact and a big, beautiful smile. The hard work and time that Francine commits to the league each year goes unnoticed by most. This year was the exception. 31 sponsors! We can't thank her enough.

### **2020 – MARGIE SKULECH – Player, Timekeeper**

Margie's passion for the game of hockey goes way beyond simply suiting up and playing for her team. She genuinely enjoys every aspect of it, socializing with her opponents, referees, and fellow timekeepers, all while contributing in every way possible to help her team win. She is extremely loyal to the WHL and goes out of her way to let everybody know how much fun it is. Margie's dedication from year to year, along with her commitment to be the best Timekeeper possible, shows just how much this League means to her. She is still the oldest player in the entire WHL (turning 70 in May) with the character and enthusiasm of a teenager. Her sense of humour and quick wit is definitely appreciated by anyone who gets into a conversation with her. Margie Skulech is one of a kind and the WHL is lucky to have her.

### **2019 – SARA CAUGHILL – Player, Captain, Web Mistress**

Sara has been a Team Captain in the WHL every year since 2008. She has stepped up to volunteer when asked whether as a Timekeeper, Statistician, on a Tournament Committee, or just to provide advice/suggestions on how we can

make improvements to the League. Last year she launched a newer version of the League Website and serves as its Web Mistress. She does all this in the same manner that Rob did - quietly, without complaint and always positive. Sara does more for the WHL than anyone really knows, but her hard work and dedication hasn't slipped past us. Thanks, Sara, for everything you do.....Sara is very dedicated to women's hockey and the WHL. She does so much work behind the scenes and is always smiling when you see her at the rink and has a good attitude. She does the Stats for big league and middle league and now she looks after the league website. She always has great stories to tell that keep us in stitches. Sara is a very valuable part of the WHL and very deserving of the Super Hank Award.

### **2018 – LORIE SPRINGALL – Player, Referee, Timekeeper, Etc.**

For her many years of service to our League and her wonderful referee skills, as well as jumping into time keep when necessary. She has a wonderful sense of humor and keeps the games in good order. She is consistent in her calls and promotes fair play. I think she is more than worthy of this award.....I haven't seen anyone more dedicated to this league or have more fun with the players than Lorie. I'm pretty sure Rob would second my nomination!!!!

### **2017 – MARK PAVONI – Referee**

Mark is a dedicated and passionate supporter of women's hockey, as a referee and as a hockey dad. He is at the rink frequently for his duties as a referee and on his "off" days he still shows up to cheer on his daughter Olivia. Mark's integrity is never questioned and we know he is fair. He even puts his own daughter in the box. Socially, Mark is always up for fun and has even been the "DD" for some team parties and social events! He is a valuable part of this league.....All I can say is that "Super Hank" would be very proud to have Mark receive this award.....I always enjoy timekeeping when Mark is reffing. When I was just a new timekeeper, and even now, should things go awry, he conveys cheerful understanding and support..... I would like to nominate Mark Pavoni for this award. He is an excellent referee and has a wonderful rapport with all the ladies on the bench. He knows his game for sure and is a nice guy.....Mark Pavoni is our current "Super Hank". He skates as much women's hockey as Hank did. He always seems to be available to pick up extra games on short notice and I know he enjoys being on the ice with the ladies. Heck sometimes he must be reminded that he is there to referee a hockey game and not be such a social butterfly at the benches. He has great rapport with his fellow referees and players and very much respects the Women's Hockey League as a whole. Not only that, but quite often you will see him at the rink even when he is not skating, watching his daughter and her team play – of course because of her, but also because he loves the game and the

league. I have known Mark for a very long time, and I think he is very deserving of this award.....Mark is fun, sociable, and spot-on with the "refing" stuff. I like him and I believe he is a good choice for this award.

### **2016 – LORI BALLSTADT – Player, Year-End Party Planner**

Year after year Lori leads a group of individuals who give us a wonderful year-end party to celebrate the season. What I am sure is a stressful task, she makes it seem easy and pulls off a flawless party. With what I hear around the rink, every year, everyone looks forward to another good time. This time off the ice!.....Lori is the most organized, most courteous person and the best party planner ever. We're lucky to have her on our team.

### **2015 – LORI SWAN – Player, Head Timekeeper**

"Swani" does a great job being head timekeeper and makes sure all the games are covered. She gives us all equal time as best she can. She's also a very nice person.....She is 100% reliable.....

I nominate Lori Swan for her continued support both on and off the ice....."Swani" deserves a big thanks for all the behind-the-scenes work that she does.

### **2014 – MEREDITH AGLIANI – Player, Referee**

Meredith ("Aggy") quietly goes about refereeing and playing games in the same manner that Hank did...without any complaints or drama...and as often as humanly possible. Seriously, if Rob were a girl, he'd be Aggy.