

Rady JCC
51ST ANNUAL KEN KRONSON
SPORTS DINNER
June 10, 2025

RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg



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Jared Akman
and the Akman
Construction Legacy**



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Creator Jesse Pollock**



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Mazel Tov Jared Akman and The Akman Construction Legacy

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We thank the Rady JCC for being such a vibrant and welcoming organization that continuously works toward strengthening relationships, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and helping the Jewish culture flourish. It has been our privilege to be proud supporters of the Rady JCC since 2007.

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Mazel Tov!

**To 2025 Honourees Jared Akman
and the Akman Construction Legacy.**

**We applaud your leadership and
contributions in our community.**

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FOUNDATION**

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The Rady Jewish Community Centre is located on Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.



We are a Rady family.

And we are proud to support the Rady JCC that has given so much to so many families the years.

The Akmans
Jared, Leanne, Julie & Hannah



Congratulations to Jared Akman and the entire Akman family on this incredible achievement.



– The Akman Construction Staff

PROGRAM

ANTHEMS & INTRODUCTIONS

Zachary Minuk

Producer, Rady JCC Sports Dinner

Sophie Braunstein

Singer

BLESSING

Jeff Lieberman

Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

Paula Parks

President, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

WELCOME

Jesse Pollock

Special Guest Host

– DINNER IS SERVED –

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Bert Knazan Awards

Adel Ovnepou & Harry Margolis

Max Labovitch Hockey Scholarship

Michael Markhasin

Loretta Labovitch Sports Scholarship

Loren Ovnepou

Meyer Rypp Memorial Scholarship

Tomer Kasztan

IDY & MAX NUSGART MEMORIAL JEWISH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

FINALISTS:

Adam Buchwald (Long Track Speed Skater)

Vadim Matveev (Martial Arts)

Leah Shore (Powerlifting)

Janna Soronow (Competitive Cheerleading)

PRESENTATION TO JARED AKMAN AND THE AKMAN CONSTRUCTION LEGACY

2025 RADY JCC KEN KRONSON SPORTS DINNER HONOUREES

Introduced by David Carr

LIVE AUCTION

Gregg Maidment

Charity Auction Group with Acquire and Komana Financial

INTERVIEW WITH CRIS CARTER & JOHN RANDLE

(SILENT & RAINBOW AUCTION WINNERS WILL BE DETERMINED AND POSTED DURING INTERVIEW)

Mazel Tov Jared Akman and the Akman Construction Legacy

Honourees at the 51st Annual
Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner



Marjorie Blankstein and Family

Jesse Pollock, Special Guest Host

Murray Gilfix, President, Rady JCC
Don Haid, Past President, Rady JCC
Rob Berkowits, Executive Director, Rady JCC
Al Greenberg, Chair, 2025 Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner Committee
Zachary Minuk, Sports Dinner Producer

Jared Akman, 2025 Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner Honouree

Mark Chipman, Executive Chairman and Governor, Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club
Wade Miller, President and CEO, Winnipeg Football Club
Andrew Collier, General Manager, Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball Club
Jason Smith, President, Winnipeg Sea Bears

Gene Bowers, Chief, Winnipeg Police Service
Megan Meltzer, Principal Secretary, Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO)

The Honourable Nellie Kennedy, Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism
Carla Compton, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Tuxedo

Gustavo Zentner, VP (MB/SK), The Centre for Israel & Jewish Affairs

Karlee Evans, VP, Impact & Innovation, The United Way Winnipeg

Paula Parks, Chair, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg Board of Directors
Jeff Lieberman, CEO, Jewish Federation of Winnipeg

Rod Hill, Winnipeg Blue Bombers Legend

Cris Carter, 2025 Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner Keynote Speaker
John Randle, 2025 Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner Keynote Speaker

Mazel Tov Jared Akman and the Akman Construction Legacy

Honourees at the 51st Annual
Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner



Ruth and David Asper

VIP RECEPTION & DINNER MENU

VIP RECEPTION

Chicken fingers with honey dill sauce & sweet chili sauce
Beyond meat sliders, roasted BBQ beet sauce, cabbage slaw
Mini lamb kofta, mango chili honey sauce



Trans Canada Brewing Company beer battered pickerel bites, tartar sauce

GALA DINNER Bakery Basket

Grilled Peach Spinach Salad

Spinach, artisan greens, pickled carrot julienne, shredded red cabbage, peppers, red onion, micro greens, toasted sesame seeds, apricot ginger dressing

Mixed Grill

4 oz horseradish Canadian Beef tenderloin, bordelaise sauce, Atlantic salmon, tomato relish, green beans, heirloom baby carrots, braised potato medallions

Chocolate Caramel Banana Ganache Cake

Roasted Bananas Foster, salted caramel, ginger cookie, cinnamon meringues

Coffee & Tea Service



Special Guest Host: Jesse Pollock

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Jesse now works for TSN's BarDown team as a content creator where he proudly shows love to Winnipeg's sports teams in Toronto. Jesse attended Gray Academy until grade 9 and continued exercising at the Rady Centre until 2013, when he made a life-changing move out east. Although he still resides in Toronto, the 32-year-old has demonstrated an eagerness to show his hometown love and has never shied away from letting Leafs and Argos fans know which city has the sports better teams. As for his favourite American team... Jesse has more recently become a Minnesota Vikings fan and had the fortune of covering them in both Minneapolis and London, England over the past two years.

In his time with BarDown, Jesse has amassed 115k followers on Instagram and has established himself as one of the leading content creators at TSN, the result of dedication and hard work. Jesse is a graduate of the Sports Media program at Toronto Metropolitan University, the only program of its kind in Canada.

Recently, Jesse had the opportunity to cover Team Canada's Special Olympics Team for a second straight World Games this past March in Turin, Italy, and he is a coach with the Toronto Metro Leafs every Thursday in Toronto. Go Jets and SKOL!



Anthem Singer: Sophie Braunstein

Sophie is a graduate of Gray Academy's class of '23 who has a passion for the arts. She just finished her second year at McGill University and is thrilled to be back home in the community for the summer. She has performed in many different musicals, one of which was featured at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. She prides herself in community involvement recently serving a term as Regional President of Red River Region, BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization) from 2022-2023.



**We congratulate the Rady JCC
and its Sports Dinner Honourees, The Akman Family.**

**The Akman family have led the property development
and management field for more than 100 years.**

**Our company has been developing and managing
properties in Winnipeg for more than 65 years.**

We and many others have learned much from them.

Mazel Tov.

Sam and Joanne Katz
Dawn Katz
Geoffrey and Candice Katz
Avrom and Fayanne Charach
Murray Greenfield

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GREETINGS FROM THE RADY JCC PRESIDENT



Murray Gilfix
President

On behalf of the Rady JCC Board of Directors, welcome to the 51st Annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner. We are delighted to bring our community together again for an event that has become a cherished Winnipeg tradition. That people return each year to celebrate our honorees and award athletic excellence is a sign that this event has a special place in our guests' hearts. It's also an incredible amount of fun!

The pursuit of athletic excellence is the pursuit of dreams. When athletes wake up early to train, when they run that extra lap, when they keep persisting until the race is done, the scores are tallied, or the final buzzer goes, they are chasing that dream of success and excellence. It's this dream that our guests for the evening, Cris Carter and John Randle achieved during their hall of fame careers, and it's the same dream that our athlete of the year nominees, and our other award winners share.

Congratulations to the winners of the Bert Knazen Award, Idy & Max Nusgart Memorial Jewish Athlete of the Year, as well as the recipients of the Max Labovitch and Loretta Labovitch Scholarships, and the Meyer Rypp Award. As you continue your sports dream, I wish all of you the best of success.

By coming here tonight to connect with friends, enjoy stories, food and drink, and participate in the various auctions and activities, all of you in attendance are

helping the Rady JCC continue to support the dreams of an entire community. Every single dollar raised at this dinner goes towards programs and services directed to those most in need throughout Winnipeg, regardless of cultural background.

Thousands of dollars are directed each year to families experiencing difficult times, special needs programs for children, and initiatives that promote the wellbeing of people living with chronic illnesses or cancer recovery.

Building up community is something tonight's honoree, Jared Akman, is quite familiar with. Akman Construction has long been a vital member of the community, and has given back both through direct philanthropy, such as their Engineering Scholarship at Red River College, and through their business decisions, such as having 45 percent of the building crew on the *Manitou a bi Bii daziigae* building on the RRC campus be of Indigenous descent.

As we gather here tonight, in the spirit and love for sports, as we enjoy great food and drink, and celebrate the achievements of athletes at every step of their career, I want to thank you all again for your support. With your help, the Rady JCC is scoring big, and dreaming bigger.

Enjoy your evening,

Murray Gilfix, President
Rady JCC Board of Directors

RADY JCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Murray Gilfix

Immediate Past President

Don Haid

Senior Vice-President

Shimon Segal

Vice-President Finance

Kyle Ibbetson

Vice-President

Evan Bloomfield

Yale Chochinov

Tannis Mindell

Directors

Ashley Cabernel

Marianna Fradkov

Elliot Katz

Drew Mindell

Daniel Moscovitch

Olya Vrublevsky

Nathan Weltman

Derksen

Made in Manitoba

Congratulations to Jared Akman & the Akman Construction Legacy

2025 Honourees at the 51st Annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner

Your commitment to building strong community is an inspiration



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GREETINGS FROM THE SPORTS DINNER COMMITTEE CHAIR



Al Greenberg
Chair

Welcome to the 51st Annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner! On behalf of our committee, and the Rady JCC team, who've been working nonstop to bring you the biggest, best event yet, we are thrilled to have you all here with us tonight.

There are folks in attendance who first came to this dinner ten, twenty, thirty, even forty years ago, when Mike Ditka and Bob Costas joined us on the stage. Right beside them are guests for whom this evening with Cris Carter, John Randle, and our special guest emcee Jesse Pollock, will be their first experience at the Sports Dinner. We've got a full night planned with amazing keynote speakers, athletic awards, and a tribute to our guests of honour, Jared Akman, and the Akman Construction Legacy. Our auctions will keep the excitement going as you are invited to bid on exclusive memorabilia, premium prizes, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences that will create lasting memories.

Each year, we work to make a memorable experience, and to build on the previous year to keep evolving and growing to bring you the best event possible.

By coming out and enjoying this fantastic event, you're supporting the Winnipeg community that Rady JCC serves. The participation of our sponsors and partners, ticket buyers, and prize donors lets us provide programs and services that promote healthy lifestyles and create a sense of belonging that is more important than ever these days.

An evening like this takes hundreds of hours of planning and execution, and I need to express my admiration for the Rady JCC staff, working under the dynamic leadership of Zac Minuk. The Sports Dinner Committee is grateful for all your efforts, and proud to work alongside you to make it all happen.

Seeing this event come together, and having you all here is like watching Game 7 of the playoffs – there's excitement, anticipation, and in that final moment, when the score goes up one last time – that's what this evening is. With your ongoing support, we'll continue to score big and dream bigger.

Have an exceptional evening,

Al Greenberg, Chair
Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner Committee

SPORTS DINNER COMMITTEE

Executive

Al Greenberg, Chair
Blair Worb, Past Chair

Committee Members

Eugene Fradkov
Lori Gilfix
Murray Gilfix
Greg Gilfix
Jason Glass
Norm Glass
Larry Hecht
Leilani Kagan
Nona Leibl

Sports Dinner Producer

Zachary Minuk

Sharon Love
Lana Maidment
Drew Mindell
Wayne Nemy
Elizabeth Pappas
Mickey Serebnitski
Lisa Stiver
Mel Verin
Nathan Weltman

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GREETINGS FROM THE RADY JCC CEO



Rob Berkowits
CEO

As we begin our Annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner, I am grateful to the community that has made this event what it has become over its 51-year history.

This event is such a great time for our community that I start looking forward to this evening beginning the morning after the previous event has ended – and I don't think I'm alone. This

event, celebrating excellence in sports among the Jewish community, and bringing folks together for an evening of friendly conversation, inspiring awards presentations, exciting auctions and more, is a high point for the Rady JCC. For those of you in the room, the ones that we love seeing back year after year, we're so glad to see you again. For those first-timers – have we got a great evening in store for you!

The support of our community at this event and throughout the year helps us keep putting forth our very best programming and lets everyone from young to old enjoy meaningful activities that provide a sense of belonging and help to build lifelong friendships. Connecting to community is something our honourees, Jared Akman, and the Akman Construction legacy, know all about; and I look forward to sharing more about this incredible family with you tonight.

The funds raised through this dinner also let us provide opportunities to those in the Winnipeg community who might otherwise not be able to participate in activities like day camps, fitness, childcare, just to name a few. When we say, "Score big, dream bigger," that's what we're talking about.

Now, with that said ... are you ready for some football?

This evening, we're welcoming two Minnesota Vikings hall of fame players as our keynote speakers. Cris Carter, rated by the NFL as one of the best wide receivers ever to play the game, and defensive tackle John Randle, who recorded double-digit sacks in nine different seasons are here tonight, and taking us through some of those amazing moments, we're thrilled to welcome TSN's Jesse Pollock to the stage.

Thank you to our Co-Title Sponsors, Michael Silver & Jason Bonneteau of WPG The Wealth Planning Group as well as Paul Winestock & Danny Childerhouse - Winestock Childerhouse Wealth of RBC Dominion Securities and Peter Dimmell & Ryan Schwab - RBC Private Banking. Tonight, they are here with over 200 different corporate partners as well as countless individual attendees and donors, helping ensure Rady's sustained success for years to come.

To our Sports Dinner Chair, Al Greenberg a special thank you. Your leadership and commitment to this event allow us to raise the bar higher and higher each year. Your passion and pride for the Rady JCC's mission is infectious, as everyone who works with you on the committee can attest, as they add their own efforts, ideas, time and talent to the event. To our Sports Dinner Producer, Zac Minuk, thank you. This event doesn't happen without the all the time, energy, and hard work you put into it.

The buzz in this room right now reminds me of the crowd just as the game is about to start, all anticipation and excitement.

It's going to be a great night. And it starts right now.

Rob Berkowits, CEO
Rady JCC

RADY JCC MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Office

Rob Berkowits CEO
Sauna Marling Executive Assistant

Finance & Administration

Barry Miller Director of Finance & Administration
Vicki Morton Manager of Accounting

Fitness & Aquatics

Boris Bursak Director of Fitness & Health
Sarah Rich Manager of Aquatics
Morrisa Klein Manager of Fitness & Health

Marketing, Membership & Communications

Zachary Minuk Director of Development, Partnerships & Communications
Chris Allinotte Communications Specialist
Robyn Lieberman Member Services Manager
Ben Morry Membership Manager
Gwendolyn Penner Coordinator of Graphic Design & Digital Content

Programming

Laura Marjovsky Director of Programming
Natali Halberthal Manager of Programming

Early Learning Centres

Eleonora Caporalini Director of Childcare Services
Shirly Pelich Assistant Director, David & Ruth Asper Early Learning Centre
Joanna Young Assistant Director, Kaufman Child Care Centre



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GREETINGS FROM THE SPORTS DINNER PRODUCER



Zachary Minuk
Producer

Game day is finally here.

Welcome to the 51st Annual
Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports
Dinner, what I truly believe
is one of the most thrilling
events of the year.

Tonight, we are all players in
this game, and we are all part
of the same team.

Our team is made up of
partners and sponsors, supporters and dignitaries,
staff and volunteers.

And our team is in it to win.

Being a team player means being ready, willing, and
able to support the team – no matter what may lay
ahead. In sports, the best team players are the ones
who act unselfishly and make decisions for the good
of the team.

By showing up here tonight and supporting our dinner
and the Rady, you are doing just this. So, thank you.
You are the ultimate team player.

As someone who helped design tonight's playbook,
one of my main objectives is to ensure your game
day experience is unparalleled. I want you to see the
value of being part of this team.

My goal is for you to walk out of this dinner knowing
you helped create monumental impact in the lives of
thousands of people, while at the same time, share
some laughs and have a great time.

I know there are different games being played all year
long, all supporting incredible missions. That said,
know that we've got some trick plays set up to make
tonight stand out for you long after it concludes.

A game this big requires many coaches and captains
to lead the charge getting ready for the main event.
I need to recognize Al Greenberg, our Sports Dinner
Committee Chair. Your dedication to our cause is
something that is rarely seen. Time and time again,
you challenged me to think bigger, to break through
walls, and to reach higher. I thank you for all you've
done and taught me.

I also need to recognize the hard work and devotion
the Sports Dinner Committee put in to make
everything you see and experience right now. While
tonight's game is only a few hours, our Committee's
season actually played out over the past 12 months.
In particular, I want to thank Lori Gilfix, Nate Weltman,
Murray Gilfix, Nona Leibl, and Lana Maidment for
going above and beyond.

To my small staff team that I got to work and play
alongside all year leading up to tonight – Vicki Morton,
Shauna Marling, Gwendolyn Penner – I say thank you.
We would not be here right now without your selfless
commitment to our Sports Dinner's success.

And finally, to Rob Berkowits, thank you for giving me
the ball again and again and letting me run with it.

It's game time, everyone.

Zachary Minuk

Zachary Minuk, Producer
Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner



Ideas. Tools.



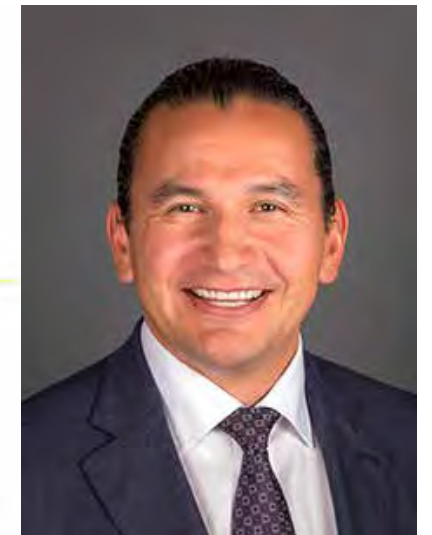
Proud to support the 2025 Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner.

Building strong communities through local sport, and creating remarkable experiences for our Team Members and the farmers, industrial workers, and hard-working Canadians we serve.



PREMIER
OF MANITOBA

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CANADA



A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Manitoba, I want to welcome everyone to the 51st annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner.

Congratulations to Rady JCC on over 50 years of hosting this fantastic evening of fundraising and friendship. From recreation to art to language classes, Rady JCC offers many opportunities for Manitobans to explore new interests and connect to their culture.

As we gather to celebrate Jared Akman and the Akman Construction legacy, I want to commend Jared for his dedication to building a better Winnipeg through construction and philanthropy. On behalf of all Manitobans, thank you for the work you do in your community.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to football legends Cris Carter and John Randle. It is our honour to host you here in Manitoba.

To everyone attending, thank you for being here in support of a better Manitoba. Have a great night!

*The Honourable Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba*

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, it is an honour to welcome everyone to the 51st Annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner.

The Sports Dinner is always a much-anticipated event in our city with its long history of memorable guest speakers, worthy honourees, and support for the Rady JCC. With the theme "Score big, dream bigger," tonight we celebrate how sports, philanthropy, and civic pride come together to enrich lives across Winnipeg.

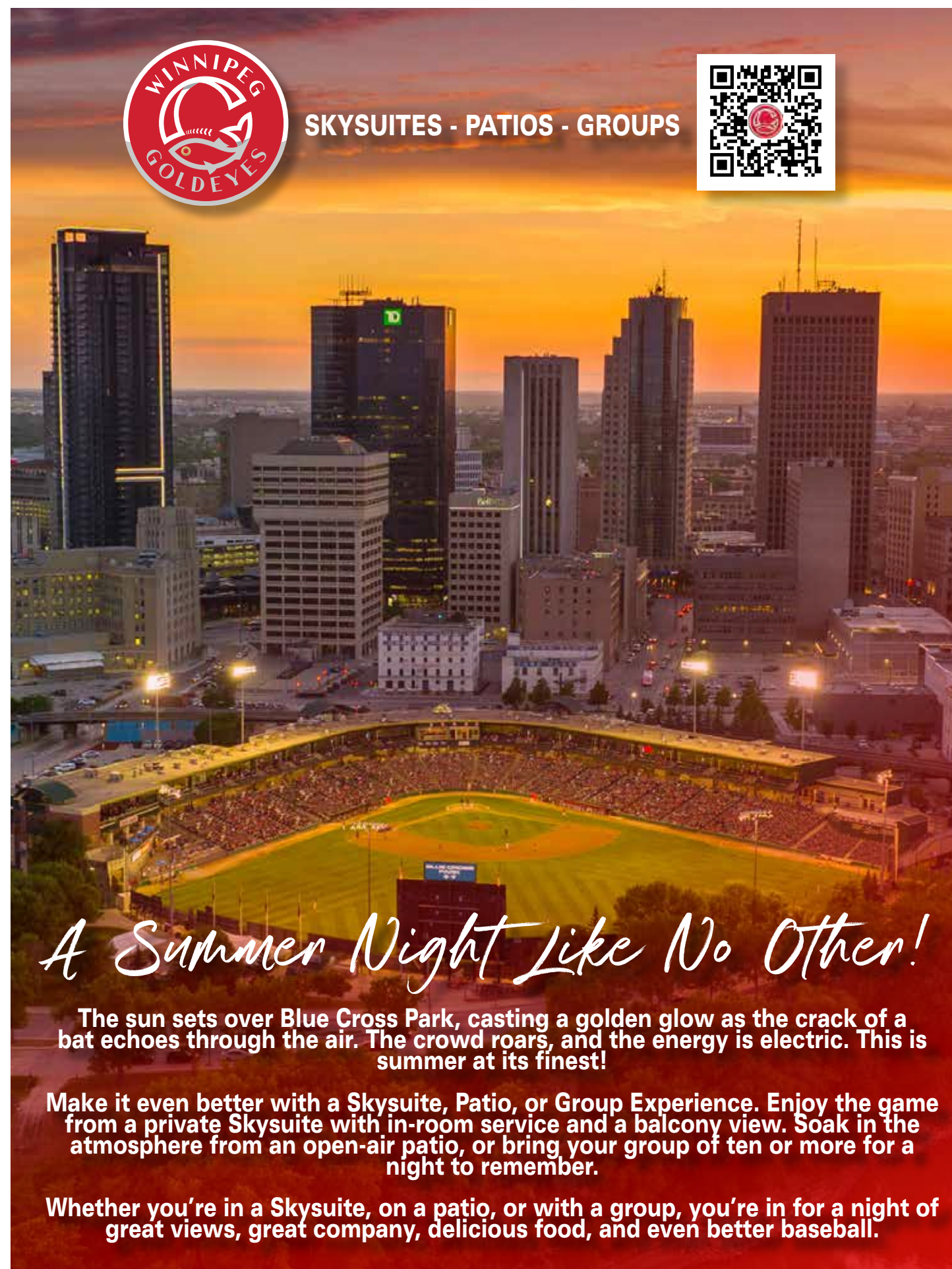
I would like to offer my congratulations to Jared Akman on being honoured tonight, and my appreciation to Akman Construction for its many contributions to our city. Events like this are only possible through the support of passionate community leaders, and we thank you for your commitment.

I would also like to welcome Pro Football Hall of Famers Cris Carter and John Randle, thank you for sharing your inspiring insights and experiences as tonight's keynote speakers.

My best wishes to all attendees for a wonderful evening.


Sincerely,

Scott Gillingham
Mayor
City of Winnipeg



WINNIPEG GOLDEYES

SKYSUITES - PATIOS - GROUPS



A Summer Night Like No Other!

The sun sets over Blue Cross Park, casting a golden glow as the crack of a bat echoes through the air. The crowd roars, and the energy is electric. This is summer at its finest!

Make it even better with a Skysuite, Patio, or Group Experience. Enjoy the game from a private Skysuite with in-room service and a balcony view. Soak in the atmosphere from an open-air patio, or bring your group of ten or more for a night to remember.

Whether you're in a Skysuite, on a patio, or with a group, you're in for a night of great views, great company, delicious food, and even better baseball.

**MESSAGE FROM
GRAND CHIEF
JERRY DANIELS**



On behalf of the Southern Chiefs' Organization representing 32 Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations and over 87,000 citizens, I extend warm greetings to all attending the 51st Annual Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner. This evening celebrates athletic excellence and the spirit of community and collaboration that strengthens our shared future.

The presence of NFL legends Cris Carter and John Randle underscores the power of sports to inspire and unite. Their journeys remind us of the resilience and determination that resonate deeply within our communities.

I commend the Rady JCC for its commitment to inclusivity and community engagement. Your efforts in providing programs that cater to diverse backgrounds and abilities reflect values that align with our own aspirations for a harmonious society.

Congratulations to Jared Akman and the Akman Construction legacy on being honoured this evening. Your contributions have left an indelible mark on our city's landscape and spirit.

May this evening be filled with inspiration, camaraderie, and a renewed commitment to building bridges across all communities.

Miigwetch, pidamaya ye, and thank you.

Grand Chief Jerry Daniels
Southern Chiefs' Organization

Buildings are built one brick at a time.
Lives well-lived are built one day at a time.
And great legacies are built one generation at a time.



Photos featured are from various Akman Construction renderings and projects.

In 1912, Russian immigrant Aaron Akman began constructing single family homes in Winnipeg’s North End. He believed that for his company to succeed, the core of its foundation needed to be built on three values: integrity, collaboration, and commitment.

Unbeknownst to Aaron, over the next 113 years Akman Construction’s project portfolio would grow to include luxury apartments, condominiums, commercial and institutional facilities as well as post-secondary educational facilities. Time and time again, this local family-run business has successfully executed high quality building throughout Manitoba, all built on the foundation of Aaron’s core company values.



Dubbed “The Akmans of Broadway,” taken from a 1985 Manitoba Business article: Brothers Danny, Bob, and Richie, along with their father, Lefty.

And today, under Akman Construction President Jared Akman, the family company’s fourth generation leader, Akman Construction continues to shape both our Jewish community and our city’s skyline with visionary projects.

Jared proudly continues the legacy set by his father, grand-father, and great grand-father, making a lasting impact through Construction Management as well as meaningful philanthropic contributions felt throughout our community and beyond.



- 1 - Richie at the lake with friends Ken Harasym and Robert Day.
- 2 - Lefty and Jared.
- 3 - The Akman children: Richie, Bob, Danny, and Beth.
- 4 - The Akman family at Jared & Leanne’s wedding.
- 5 - Jackie and Richie in Palm Springs with granddaughter Julie.
- 6 - Jared’s sister Jamie and Skyler with their children Lowan and Shea, Jared and Leanne with their children Julie and Hannah.
- 7 - Harriet and Alex Zimmer, Jared’s mother and father-in-law, along with grandchildren Hannah and Julie.

Tonight, we honour community-forward business leader Jared Akman and pay tribute to the Akman Construction legacy.

Aaron Akman (1880 - 1962)



Born in Russia in 1880, Aaron came to Canada in 1903 and settled at Winnipeg the following year. In 1912, he founded and was President of A. Akman and Son Limited and started building homes in Winnipeg's North End.

As a certified carpenter, Aaron's dedication to pride in workmanship and attention to detail helped develop the company's reputation for delivering quality projects to satisfied clients.

He was active in construction and real estate development, erecting many buildings around the city.

Aaron was married to Sarah Kaplan and they had four children: Esther Akman (married to Charles Swartz), Abram "Lefty" Akman (married to Beatrice "Betty" Wolch), Annette "Anna" Akman (married to Abraham Averbach), and Bertha Akman (married to Morris Rusen).

In 1962, Aaron sadly passed away. He was commemorated by an engineering scholarship at the University of Manitoba.

Aaron's incredible legacy is forever stitched into the fabric of Akman Construction.

One of the first Akman work trucks on the road.



To Aaron, who started it all, we say thank you.

Abram "Lefty" Akman (1912 - 1996)



Born the same year Aaron started the family business, Lefty's first job was in the garment industry. He then worked as a public adjuster before joining his dad in 1942 at, what was then still called A. Akman and Son. Together they built houses and apartment buildings around the city.

Four years before joining his dad, Lefty married Beatrice Wolch, whom everyone affectionately called Betty. They had had a daughter, Beth, and three sons, Bob, Danny, and Richie.

Lefty would eventually assume the head role of the father-and-son business. At this point, the company grew impressively, constructing industrial buildings, factories, shopping centres, and condominiums.

The company grew and diversified under Lefty's leadership. In 1976, all three of Lefty's sons were active in the family business, now comprised of

three divisions: Development, Construction, and Property Management.

Notable projects under Lefty's leadership include a number of residential homes and apartment buildings throughout Winnipeg, including Hampton Green and Hampton Park, and 1800 Wellington Crescent. He also built the four-storey walk-up that houses the Akman head offices at 346 Broadway.

Throughout his tenure, Lefty upheld his father's core values while instilling them into his sons' business acumen. He continued the company's success through the latter half of the twentieth century.

Lefty would go on to receive a City of Winnipeg Community Service Award in 1988.

We lost Lefty in 1996. His storied legacy continues to be cherished by his family, friends, and contemporaries.



Lefty and Betty with their children Beth, Bob, Danny, and Richie.



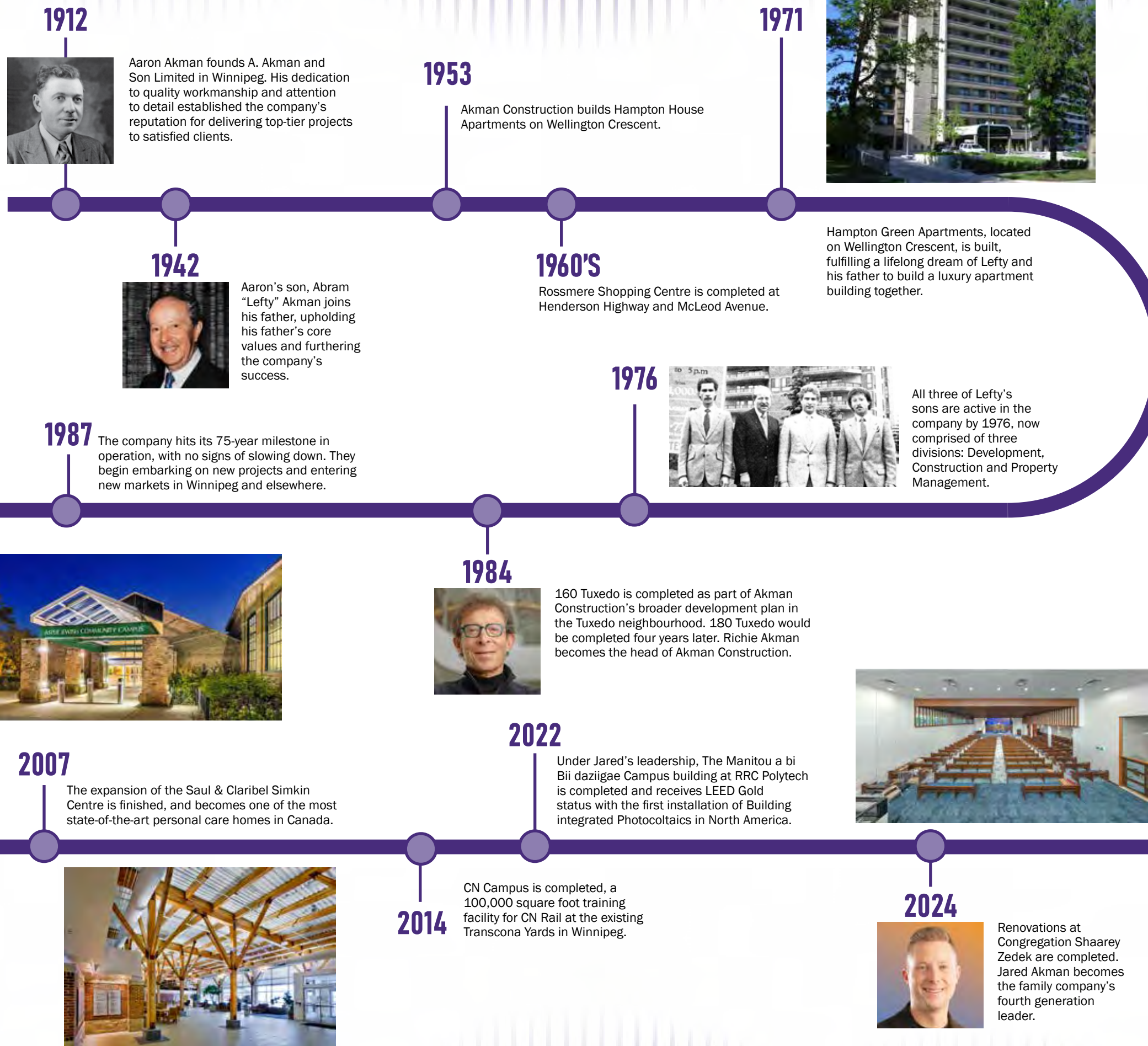
Lefty and Betty with their family.

To Lefty, who took his father's vision to new heights, we say thank you.



A Legacy, Four Generations in the Making.

Akman Construction has played a key role in shaping the Manitoba landscape for over 113 years. Founded over a century ago, Akman Construction dedicates themselves to offering valuable services to clients, to building partnerships in the community, and creating important resources for the community.



Richie Akman (1953 - 2024)



Richie grew up in River Heights, before graduating from Civil Engineering at Red River College in 1976 with his best friend Ken Harasym. At that point, he joined the family business.

Two years later in 1978, Richie would go on to marry the love-of-his-life, Jackie Rubin. Together, they had two children, Jared (married to Leanne Akman), and Jamie (married to Skyler Berman). Richie and Jackie were blessed with four grandchildren, Lowan and Shea Berman, and Julie and Hannah Akman.

Throughout his career, Richie exhibited unparalleled dedication and professionalism. His contributions to the construction industry were significant, earning him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and peers.



Richie with his children Jared and Jamie.



Richie and Jackie with grandchildren Lowan, Julie, Hannah, and Shea.

Under Richie’s 40+ years of leadership, he built some incredible facilities. Some of these include the Asper Jewish Community Campus, RRC Polytech’s Roblin Campus, the Simkin Centre, Women’s Correctional Centre, Assiniboine Community College - Len Evans Centre, and CN Campus Winnipeg.

Richie was community-minded and served on many boards and committees to better the city in which he lived. He served as the Chair of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg as well as other Boards, including St. Paul’s High School. His steadfast belief in serving the community was instilled in his children, who continue to do so through various organizations.

Richie’s favourite place, his sanctuary, was at his home at Lake of the Woods with his family, the absolute centre of his life. Here, he enjoyed fishing, boating, and being surrounded by nature with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Sadly, we lost Richie in 2024. While his legacy includes incredible achievements in business, he is also fondly remembered a family man of unwavering integrity who embraced every moment with humility.



Richie and Jared at Lake of the Woods.

To Richie, who forged new paths and business opportunities, thank you.

Jared Akman (1984 -)



Jared was born in 1984, growing up in South end of the City where he attended Ramah Hebrew School, Laidlaw Elementary, and St. Paul’s High School.

At a young age, he began working for Akman Construction in the summers as a labourer. While working, he graduated from Red River College in 2008, from their Engineering and Construction Technology program with a diploma in Structural Engineering Technology.

He started as a Junior Project Manager in 2008 upon graduating. In 2014, Jared joined Akman Construction’s leadership team as the Director of Operations, immediately earning a reputation for a strong work ethic, attention to detail, and a steadfast belief in sustainable building.

For projects to be deemed sustainable, they are ranked through the Canada Green Building Council’s LEED certification. LEED (Leadership in Energy an Environment Design) certification is a symbol of sustainability excellence, used to recognize and encourage best practices in building design, construction, and operation.

Jared takes great pride in close working relationships with Clients, Consultants, and the trades which he has formed trusting relationships with the industry. Jared is also highly committed to strengthening his company’s relationship with the Indigenous Community through various strategies. During the build of RRC Polytech’s Manitou a bi Bii daziigae, Jared created an Indigenous Employment Strategy. This ensured 20% of all workers were to be of Indigenous decent. In fact, Jared went beyond that, estimating 45% Indigenous participation, as well as offering training, support, and mentorship for those on site. He would then assist these individuals in obtaining their career goals by partnering them with their desired trades in various positions.

Under Jared’s leadership, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, one of Winnipeg’s synagogues, as well as Ches Chel Emes, a non-profit burial society mandated

to prepare Jewish people for burial according to tradition, underwent massive renovations. Understanding the importance and roles these sacred buildings play for our Jewish Community, Jared made sure both renovations were impeccably executed to perfection without question.

In 2015, Jared married his wife, Leanne (daughter of Harriett and Alex Zimmer). Together, they have two children, Julie born in 2018, and Hannah, born in 2020. They are currently raising their girls in Jared’s dad’s childhood home in River Heights.

Jared also volunteers his time and expertise sitting on a number of Boards and Committees, including leadership roles with the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg as well as the Asper Jewish Community Campus. He is also a founding Board Member and Past Vice-Chair of Young Construction Leaders of Manitoba.

Like his father, Richie, Jared is a family man, first and foremost. He and Leanne have a beautiful relationship, and his girls are his world. Summer weekends are spent at the family cabin at Lake of the Woods, where their family builds memories with their sister and brother-in-law, Jamie and Skyler, their niece and nephew, and his mom Jackie.

After losing Richie at the start of 2024, Jared became the fourth generation of the Akman family to lead their family business forward.

And, in the short time under his leadership, his impact has already been profound.

To Jared, who is committed to the growth of our community, we say thank you.

Jared, as you now construct your legacy, know that it will be forever felt by future generations.

A QUICK HISTORY OF THE AMAZING RADY JCC KEN KRONSON SPORTS DINNER

While I haven't been to all 50 Rady JCC/Y Sports Dinners, I think I've been to every one since 1979, when baseball legends Mickey Mantle, Billy Martin, and Whitey Ford spoke at the annual fundraising dinner. My uncle Julius Wise took me to that dinner—and several others after that. It was always a highlight for me to see and hear from sports legends.

Looking back at the history of the Sports Dinner, the YMHA—and later the Rady JCC—have brought in some of the greatest athletes and sports personalities in the world. These include Jesse Owens, Frank Gifford, Terry Bradshaw, Johnny Bench, Bob Costas, Mike Ditka, Jim Valvano, Sparky Anderson, Hurricane Carter, Phil Esposito, Scotty Bowman, Pete Rose, Peyton Manning, Warren Moon, Joe Montana, Magic Johnson, and Alex Rodriguez.



Ken Kronson presenting an award.

The late, great Ken Kronson used to tell the story that the old downtown YMHA was short on basketballs, so he, a few friends, and Les Marks (then the Executive Director of the Y) organized the very first dinner to raise money to buy sports equipment. Kenny and his close friend Ernie Nairn founded the

YMHA Sportsman's Dinner in 1972, and Ken decided they would aim high and ask Don Shula, coach of the Super Bowl Champion Miami Dolphins, to speak at the dinner. Ken called the Dolphins' office, a man answered, and Ken asked to speak to Don Shula. The fellow on the other end said, "That's me"—and the two of them negotiated the contract right then and there. How times have changed! Today, you'd need an agent to talk to another agent, and it would go back and forth for months.

The original dinner committee included Ken Kronson, Ernie Nairn, Ken Einhorn, Paul Nusgart, Ken Galanchuk, and a few of their buddies.

The dinners featured some great speakers and, for many years, made a profit of around \$60,000. It was a lot of work for what wasn't a huge return. After the 2007 dinner, the late Harold Buchwald met with a small group of us to talk about how to make the dinner more successful. Harold said we either needed to bring in bigger-name sports personalities or find another way to fundraise. The committee decided to go for it. We paid more than we ever had before and brought in legendary sports announcer Chris Berman for the 2008 dinner. Berman was fantastic. We sold more corporate sponsorships than ever, the dinner sold out, and we made over \$100,000!

In 2009, the committee swung for the fences and brought in Peyton Manning, who had just won the Super Bowl as quarterback of the Indianapolis Colts in 2007. Manning was the biggest name in football at the time, and we were incredibly fortunate to have him speak at our dinner.

Peyton opened the door for other elite athletes to follow—Cal Ripken Jr., Joe Montana, Mark Messier, Drew Brees, Dan Marino, Eli Manning, and Alex Rodriguez (A-Rod) all came to Winnipeg. The Rady JCC Sports Dinner became the premier sports dinner in Canada.

In 2014, we paid a huge fee to bring in Magic Johnson—and he sold out the dinner. During the sports auction, he gave away two separate sets of his courtside seats to any Lakers game of the winners' choosing. The two highest bidders got amazing tickets, and Magic's generosity nearly paid off his speaker's fee. Incredible!



Anders Hedberg and Ken Kronson.



Teemu Selanne at the Heritage Classic in 2016.

In 2017, Teemu Selanne was the keynote speaker. After the dinner at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, a few of us went next door to a private lounge in the Delta Hotel and watched his former team, the Anaheim Ducks, in a playoff game. It was pretty cool to hang out with Teemu that night.

Ken Kronson incredibly chaired the Sports Dinner for 40 years. Many of the committee members stayed on for years, and for a long time, a small group of us would go to the Rae & Jerry's lounge for steak sandwiches after our meetings. That's where the real meetings happened.

Ken stepped down as Chair in 2012, and Blair Worb took over until 2019. Since then, Al Greenberg has chaired the committee. Sadly, Ken Kronson passed away on February 6, 2017. During his involvement, the dinner raised over \$7 million!



Winnipeg Jets ownership group including Barry Shenkarow and Michael Gobuty.

The Sports Dinner has grown and become more profitable thanks to live auctions offering some incredible products and experiences. Several years ago, the Vickar Automotive Group began donating a car to the event, which has raised a lot of money over the years.

At the dinner, the Rady JCC also encourages donations to help send kids to summer camp. Many kids have had the chance to go to camp thanks to the generosity of our donors.

The 2025 dinner will mark the 51st Sports Dinner. This year's featured speakers are football legends Cris Carter and John Randle, and the Akman family will be honoured. The dinner is now officially called the Rady JCC Ken Kronson Sports Dinner, named after the man who did so much for Winnipeg's Jewish community. Ken's legacy lives on, and today's staff—led by CEO Rob Berkowits—and volunteers—led by Al Greenberg—continue to produce an outstanding event that raises much-needed funds.

These funds help kids become Rady members, attend cultural programs, and go to summer camp. Seniors, people with disabilities, and those who can't afford memberships are also provided with support and access to programs they wouldn't otherwise have.

The first 50 Sports Dinners have made a huge difference in our community, and I'm confident the next 50 will be just as impactful.

By Jeff Lieberman

Jeff Lieberman is the President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and has been a volunteer with the Rady JCC for many years.



2025 SEASON TICKETS

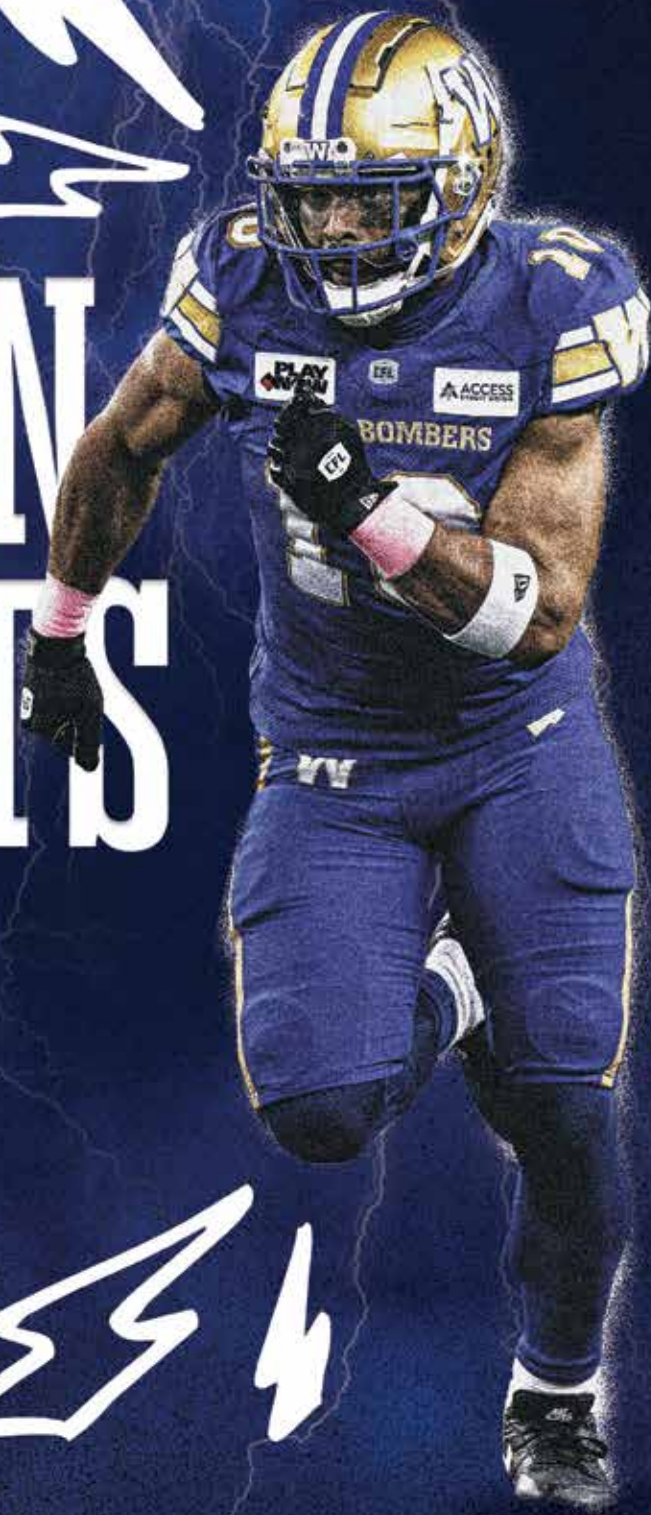
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2025 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

John Randle

Pro Football Hall-of-Famer | Former NFL Defensive Tackle

A humble man from humble beginnings, John Randle grew up in tiny, Mumford, Texas to become a legendary defensive lineman for the Minnesota Vikings and Seattle Seahawks, rising to become enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

His National Football League (NFL) career began after being selected as an undrafted "free agent" from Division II Texas A & I by the Minnesota Vikings. He dominated the 1990s, being named to six All-Pro First teams, the NFL's 1990s All-Decade Team, and earning seven trips to the Pro Bowl. Randle's 137.5 career sacks rank tenth all-time and first among defensive tackles. During his fourteen-year NFL, Randle was known for his high-energy style, earning the respect of both his teammates and opponents.

In 2008, John was inducted into the College Hall of Fame and in 2010 he became the 258th member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Randle achieved the pinnacle of football excellence in 2019, when he was named to the NFL 100 All-Time Team.

In retirement, Randle has found that his passion and commitment to the game of football continues by working with the "legends" of the game. He proudly serves as the Director of the North Central at the NFL Legends Community, an organization that assists former players as they make the transition from the field to retirement.

In his free time, Randle enjoys working on his golf game, spending time with his wife, Candace, and their twins, Jonathan and Ryann, and supporting his Minnesota community.

Cris Carter

Pro Football Hall-of-Famer | NFL Analyst | Author

Cris Carter is a former NFL wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles, Minnesota Vikings and Miami Dolphins. Over the course of his sixteen seasons (1987-2002), Cris was named to eight Pro Bowls, was twice named first-team All-Pro, and was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013. In college, Cris starred at Ohio State, where he was a consensus All-American after his junior season.

After retiring with the second-most receptions and touchdowns as a receiver in the history of the NFL, Cris entered the media. He was a studio analyst for HBO's "Inside the NFL" from 2002-2007. From 2008-2016, Cris served as a studio analyst on ESPN's signature football shows, "Sunday NFL Countdown" and "Monday Night Countdown."

Cris was also a regular co-host on ESPN's top-rated radio show, *Mike and Mike*, and was an analyst on ESPN's *Super Bowl* and *NFL Draft* coverage.

Most recently, Cris served as a co-host on Fox Sports 1's daily morning show, *First Things First*, where he debated the hottest topics in sports.

Cris is the author of *Going Deep*, published in 2013, which examines the evolution of the wide receiver position.

Cris is also a sought-after public speaker and has spoken for many Fortune 500 companies. Cris speaks about leadership, teamwork, and overcoming adversity, including his previous struggles with addiction.



2025 JEWISH ATHLETIC AWARDS



A sport is more than just a game.

The lessons learned in sports begin the first time a child picks up a ball, racquet, or glove. They engrain discipline, resilience, and graciousness, win or lose. Sport provides real experience in operating as part of a team, being a leader, and being led.

The Jewish Foundation of Manitoba is proud to fund the annual scholarships and awards presented at the Rady JCC Sports Dinner, honouring athletic excellence and highlighting the connections between sport, identity, and community.

In sports players rely on a team, and each individual's contribution is the only path to the success of the whole. The Jewish community mirrors this perfectly. We are a community that looks out for one another and works together to maintain our vibrancy and strength.

Each year, countless athletes throughout our Jewish Community showcase dedication, passion, and excellence in their sport. They compete at a high level, inspiring and leading their peers and becoming role models for our community's next generation of athletes. Helping the Rady JCC recognize and encourage these outstanding competitors brings great pride to the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

This year's recipients and nominees span many sports across national and international competitions. They are a terrific reminder of our community's tradition of excellence throughout the years and foreshadow the outstanding Jewish athletes who will shine brightly in the years to come.

Since 1964, the Foundation has distributed over \$100 million in grants and awards. Thanks to our generous donors, we maintain our commitment to supporting individuals like those being honoured this evening and organizations like the Rady JCC, who are the heartbeat of this community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to this year's award recipients and honourees. Thanks to the Rady JCC for hosting such a terrific event; together, we are building a stronger future for all.

John W. Diamond, B.A., LL.B.
Chief Executive Officer
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba



JEWISH FOUNDATION
OF MANITOBA

2025 Bert Knazan Awards

These awards are given to a female and male athlete exhibiting excellence in athletic performance and good sportsmanship. In selecting the most worthy recipient, the level of good sportsmanship is to transcend the level of excellence in athletic performance.



Adel Ovnepou Volleyball

Adel Ovnepou is a force to be reckoned with behind the volleyball net, but it is her team spirit, determination, and strong work ethic that truly set her apart as a leader on the squad.

She is a key player on the elite Impact Volleyball Club, an organization that "provides athletes with the expertise that will be helpful beyond the volleyball court and values the goals of our individual athletes." The club prides itself on evolving the most well-rounded, talented athletes who have respect, honour and leadership skills, all things that Adel brings to the team when she heads out onto the floor. Recently, the Impact Volleyball Club won silver at the Best of the Rest tournament in Calgary and achieved a top 20 finish in the provincial championships.

When not playing or attending games, Adel and her family are active in the community, sharing their time to support others. On and off the court, Adel strives to be a positive influence on those around her.



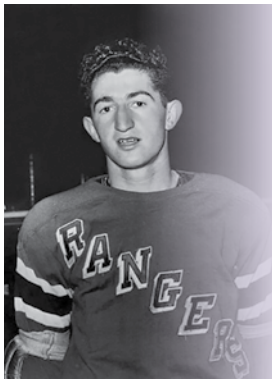
Harry Margolis Basketball and Ultimate Frisbee

As captain of both the Gray Academy Raiders Grade 12 Ultimate and Basketball teams at Gray Academy, Harry sets a high standard of dedication, sportsmanship, and performance. He's known throughout the school both for his athletic talent and his leadership. Harry has led his teams in both sports into exciting contests at the local, regional, and provincial level. In the past, Harry also represented Gray Academy as a member of the golf team.

Off the field, Harry volunteers his time in the community, following the example his family set for him even at a young age. When he was as young as 6-years-old, Harry was helping out with fundraising for the annual Salvation Army kettle campaign.

As Chair of the Athletic Council at Gray Academy, Harry plays a central role in organizing, planning, and executing school athletic events that bring the school community together. Widely respected by his peers and staff alike, Harry is a role model for many younger students, inspiring the next generation through his hard work, team-first attitude, and commitment to excellence.





Max Labovitch Hockey Scholarship

The vision of the Max Labovitch Ice Hockey Scholarship is to allow an individual to be able to enjoy, participate and learn about the great sport of hockey. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a male student attending school in grade 6-11 who place ice hockey at a club or school level. The recipient of this prestigious award must be involved in the community and volunteer his time in the Jewish and general communities.

Max Labovitch (1924 –2018) was a Jewish Canadian professional ice hockey player who played for teams including the New York Rangers and the New York Rovers, and the Stan Evans Orioles of Winnipeg. He was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in February 2001. The Max Labovitch Ice Hockey Fund is housed at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

Michael Markhasin 2025 Recipient

This year’s Max Labovitch Ice Hockey Scholarship winner has truly been playing the game since he could walk. Michael Markhasin learned to skate at age two and was playing with the South Winnipeg Hockey Association as soon as he turned four. At age 7, he qualified for the Team Manitoba U11 squad and went on to win gold at the biggest U11 tournament in the province. That win was Team Manitoba’s first gold in 20 years!

Michael continued to work on his skills year-round at the rink, with the goal of getting a spot on the Manitoba Brick team. Although the team had a cutoff at 9 years-old, they accepted 8-year-old Michael and

he went on to a great season and held his own on the ice even against bigger 11-year-old players. At the end of the season, Michael was invited to participate in an all-star tournament with the top 100 players in Western Canada. Michael ultimately went on to take third place!

Michael currently attends Gray Academy, along with his older brother, Nikita, and looks forward to continuing to excel on and off the ice.



Loretta Labovitch Sport Scholarship

The Loretta Labovitch Sports Scholarship was established to support young women and let girls compete in sports to the fullest level of their abilities. The scholarship is awarded annually to a female student in grades 6-11 who actively participate in sports at a club or school level. The recipient of this prestigious award must be involved in the community and volunteer her time in the Jewish and general communities.

Loretta Labovitch (1930-2008) was very active in sports and was a competitive speed skater. She was active in a range of charitable organizations including being a founding member of the Winnipeg chapter of ORT and a life member of Hadassah. The Loretta Labovitch Sports Scholarship Fund is housed at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

Loren Ovnepou 2025 Recipient

As a player on the U14 “Impact” Club Volleyball team, Loren lets her love for the game shine. At age 12, she is already full of drive and focus at practice, committed to improving her skills. She shows the same dedication to helping her teammates succeed, which has made her a valuable and respected member of the squad. This past April, the U14 Impact Girls teams competed at the Phoenix Volleyball Invitational, where Loren’s team, the U14 Thunder won the silver medal!

Loren comes from a family of four siblings and her passion for volleyball is shared with her older sister,

Adel, who plays on a U17 club team. Their shared love of the game creates some healthy competition in the household, but more importantly, it has strengthened the bonds between them, and they are each other’s biggest fans and supporters.

This scholarship will pave the way for Loren to continue to pursue her volleyball career and her dreams of representing her club, her province, and her country one day on the court.



Meyer Rypp Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship, new this year, is presented to a Jewish athlete who excels in the sport of basketball at a club or school level. It is based on financial need, community involvement, and volunteerism in the Jewish and general communities. The recipient is provided a bursary from the Meyer Rypp Memorial Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

Meyer Rypp (1937-2022), founder of Meyer Rypp and Associates was well known in the community for his generosity, dedication to family, friends, and clients, and a lifelong love of basketball.



Tomer Kasztan 2025 Recipient

Tomer has been an active member of the Gray Academy basketball team, competing in the Manitoba High School Athletic Association since Grade 9 and has consistently been recognized as the Most Valuable Player throughout his high school years. In addition to basketball, he has worn Raiders blue in several other sports, including Ultimate and volleyball, demonstrating his commitment, athleticism, and teamwork.

When not competing, Tomer is dedicated to supporting the athletic community, especially at his school. He volunteers as a coach for younger Gray Academy athletes in both volleyball and basketball. In addition to coaching, he is also a frequent volunteer scorekeeper for basketball as well and a referee for volleyball games. Congratulations to Tomer as he continues his pursuit of athletic excellence and community involvement.

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Idy & Max Nusgart Jewish Athlete of the Year Award

This award is presented annually to a Jewish athlete competing at the high school, provincial, national, or international level. The selected winner is provided with a bursary from the Fred Glazerman Memorial Fund at the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba.

2025 Finalists



Adam Buchwald Long Track Speed Skating

Since first making his mark on the speed skating world in 2022 with four first place finishes in provincial championships, Adam Buchwald has been on a steady trajectory towards his Olympic goals.

This past year, adversity reared its head and threatened to derail Adam’s dreams, but he persevered. Adam started the 2024/2025 season as usual in May of 2024 and training was going well when he began suffering from episodes of



increased heart rate. After the third occurrence of a heart rate exceeding 230 beats per minute, Adam’s coach (ex Winnipegger & World Speed Skating champion, Mike Ireland) paused training until a diagnosis could be found.

Adam ultimately missed 3 months of training, finally being cleared in July 2024 with a heart condition diagnosis and daily medication to keep things under control. In March of 2025, Adam underwent successful surgery to repair his heart and can now train full time again, without any medication. Despite this serious challenge, Adam still managed to compete and won third place overall in the Canadian National Junior Men’s Championships in December of 2024, and was named to the Canadian Junior World Championship & Junior World Cup Team. He went on to represent Canada in Collalbo, Italy this past February, where he placed 5th overall in the Men’s Team Pursuit, as well as top 15 and top 20 finishes across the 3,000 m and 5,000 m distances. Ultimately, Adam went on to become the top-rated Junior Man in Canada for the 2024/25 season in the 10,000 m category.

It is truly remarkable that Adam was able to accomplish one of his lifelong goals to represent Canada at World Championships & being named to Team Canada. There has not been a male from Manitoba on the Junior World team in over 6 years and Adam is the first Jewish male named to Team Canada’s Long Track speed skating team.

Currently, Adam has recently completed his second year at University of Calgary where he is majoring in history. He trains full time at the Calgary Olympic oval High-Performance program.

Beginning with the upcoming season, Adam will now compete in the senior rankings. He is well positioned to continue his growth, and his goal is to represent Team Canada at World and Olympic Championships in the years to come.



Vadim Matveev Kyokushin Karate

It’s rare that the sports we begin as children become lifelong passions, but for those who stick with it, the world begins to open up to them in new and amazing ways.

Vadim Matveev was just three years old when he began training in karate. As he grew, and advanced in the art of full-contact Kyokushin karate, Vadim discovered that the spirit of discipline and greater self-knowledge through martial arts was worth devoting all his energy to.



“I chose Kyokushin Karate because it is one of the toughest martial arts there is with a philosophy and values that strengthen you for life, and I felt it from the first year I started training at the age of 8,” says Vadim.

From 2005 through 2017, he was the Israeli champion twelve times in the fight category, and the kata champion five times. At the age of 19, he received his black belt, and he opened his first dojo in Israel, bringing the joy of karate to a whole new generation.

In 2015, Vadim became the official representative of the Kyokushin KWF Organization for Israel, representing and promoting the sport across the country. This passion for the sport extends throughout his family, from his father, who introduced him to the sport, to his brothers, who currently operate 5 dojos in Israel, with around 300 active students.

Meanwhile, Vadim has continued his upward trajectory in competition. In 2023, he had a top ten finish in the Karatenomichi World Federation European Championship in Armenia, and this past January, he took first place in the Kyokushin World Union Senshi Gold Cup All America in Montreal, which qualified him for the world championship in Japan in November.

Now living in Canada, and working at the Rady JCC, Vadim continues to train and compete. He hopes to represent the Kyokushin KWF organization in his new country as he did in Israel and plans to have the strongest school in Canada within the next 5 years.

When asked what drives him, Vadim replied, “I feel it is my duty to be an example to the new generation. I know that this way I can show them that hard work always brings results. The training is not always easy or fun, but it always brings results.”



Leah Shore Powerlifting

Leah Shore began her powerlifting career in May of 2023, and has already raised the bar on her goals as she finds her place in the active powerlifting community in Canada.

She competes in the Junior Women’s Unequipped category, in which competitors take on bench press, squats, and deadlift without additional supportive equipment, Leah has developed a love for the sport that extends beyond personal achievement and is already giving back by serving on the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Powerlifting Association and also acts as the board’s corporate secretary.



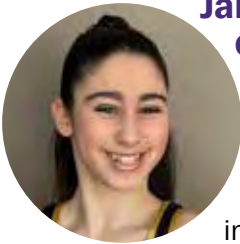
Additionally, she is a qualified Manitoba Powerlifting Referee as certified by the Canadian Powerlifting Union as well as the International Powerlifting Federation.

In 2024, Leah built on her local success when she competed at the Canadian Powerlifting Union’s Western Championships in Moosejaw. Based on her performance, she qualified for a spot at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Sun City, South Africa. Competing on the world stage has only strengthened Leah’s resolve to improve and she has already surpassed her tournament best in recent workouts, due in no small part to the connections she made at the event, growing Leah’s community of fellow lifters and brand-new friends. In a sport like powerlifting, where one competes just as much against their own limits as they do against their fellow competitors, there is a spirit of camaraderie and cheering each other on to greater gains that keeps lifters coming back to the gym again and again.

“The commitment to building strength through nutrition, regular and constant workouts, proper sleep hygiene, accountability to yourself and others and of course a desire to lead and enjoy a healthy life is a full-time endeavour. In short, powerlifting is a discipline.” ~ Sean Shore

Currently, Leah is working towards qualifying for Canadian nationals, and ultimately a place at Worlds. In the meantime, she volunteers her time with the Manitoba Powerlifting Association and participates in competitions as an athlete, as well as a coach, handler, and a referee. She’s also currently pursuing certification as a national and international powerlifting referee.

When not lifting, Leah attends university and works at the Rady JCC as a nationally certified lifeguard and deck supervisor.



Janna Soronow

Competitive Cheerleading

In just 4 seasons of competitive All-Star Cheerleading with her team, Vision Cheer, Janna Soronow has quickly accumulated accolades, including Rookie of the Year in her first season.

This past year, Janna was on two international teams, Limitless – a Level 3 U16 squad, and Illusion – a Level 4 U18, as well as Enlighten, a Level 6 Developmental U16 team. In 2024, Janna was named MVP of the Limitless team.

Limitless and Illusion recently dominated the Canadian competitive scene with multiple first place finishes, including the Manitoba Winter Riot, and True North Cheer and Dance in Edmonton. The teams went on to two top ten finishes at the prestigious Cheersport Nationals competition in Atlanta, where they faced off against the best squads in the United States, with Limitless claiming a well-earned silver medal. Competing at a world-class level was transformative for Janna, who says it was one of the best experiences of her life, and it has only fueled her passion to train harder and continue competing at the elite level.

When not competing, Janna is committed to sharing her exuberance for competitive cheerleading to the next generation and has been a volunteer Junior Coach for the past 2 years for Imagine - a U8 Level 1 team. Her passion for the sport is infectious, and her students love learning from her.

Janna spends 5 days a week in the gym which works out to approximately 19 hours of training per week. Whether she is working on a new stunt, tumbling,

dancing, or coaching, Janna commits her all to the practice, and is a true performer through-and-through.

In the off-season, Janna stays in form through strength training, trampoline work, and stunting drop-ins.



Past Winners

1986	Gordon Orlikow
1987	Sherman Greenfeld
1988	Jeff Steinberg
1989	Shep Shell
1990	Sherman Greenfeld
1991	Kelly Kives
1992	David Gurvey
1993	Alan Greenberg
1994	Shashawna Greenberg
1995	Colin Berenhaut and Hart Pollack
1996	Colin Berenhaut
1997	Olia Berger
1998	Rebecca Hoffer
1999	Riva Benditt
2000	Olia Berger
2001	Jacob Micflikier and Jill Swirsky
2002	Olia Berger
2003	David Glass and Jacob Micflikier
2004	Naomi Casiro and Skyler Berman
2005	Aaron Pfeffer
2006	Maxwell Stearns
2007	Michael Leger and Maxwell Stearns
2008	Mitchell Billinkoff
2009	Elizabeth Sera
2010	Daniel Fainman and Lauren Sera
2011	Caleb Rutner
2012	Brendan Leipsic
2013	Ezequiel Lubocki
2014	Hannah Blatt
2015	Mandy Greenberg
2016	Isaac Bellan
2017	Jeremy Leipsic
2018	Carolyn Lindner
2019	Sarah Jacobshon
2020	No award due to pandemic
2021	No award due to pandemic
2022	Yohnatan Elizarov
2023	Eli Feierstein
2024	Maxine Lavitt

2025 Jewish Athlete of the Year Selection Committee

With four outstanding finalists for the Jewish Athlete of the Year Award, the Rady JCC reached out to a select panel of experts in sports analysis and commentary to select this year’s winner. We are so grateful to this committee for sharing their expert opinions with us, and for their support of these rising athletic stars.

Paul Friesen – Sports Columnist, Winnipeg Sun

For 22 years and counting, Paul has been the sports columnist for the Winnipeg Sun, giving readers news and insightful commentary into the Jets, Bombers, Goldeyes and more. A lifelong Manitoban, he has covered Olympic Games, Pan-Am Games, Grey Cups, world hockey and curling championships, the PGA Championship and more Blue Bomber and Jets games than he can count. From high school to the pros, it’s not about the final score for Paul. It’s about the people.



Leah Hextall – Sports Broadcaster

Leah Hextall is a reporter and play-by-play announcer for ESPN, covering both NHL and NCAA games. She was the first woman to call play-by-play commentary for a nationally televised NHL game as part of Sportsnet’s first all-female broadcast team. Hextall also made history as the first woman to call an NCAA Men’s Ice Hockey Championship game for ESPN in 2019. Leah is also a professional public speaker, inspiring action, leadership, and inclusive thinking.



John Hindle – Entrepreneur, Former GM, Winnipeg Goldeyes

From 1994-2001, John Hindle was the general manager of the Winnipeg Goldeyes and saw increased attendance every year. In 2002 John served as a director of the Manitoba Baseball Association and in 2003 was the president of the Manitoba Junior Baseball League. He also founded the business “Home Run Sports Sporting Goods”, and he introduced blastball to Manitoba.

John is now a widely acclaimed professional speaker who calls himself the Contact Hitter – someone who makes meaningful connections with people.



Rabbi Matthew Leibl – Rabbi, Sportscaster

Rabbi Matthew Leibl was a regular fixture on Winnipeg sports radio as the co-host of the Big Show on TSN 1290 from 2010-2016, and known for his irreverent yet interesting takes on the sports stories of the day. In 2016, Matthew left TSN to devote his energies to rabbinical studies at Shaarey Zedek. He later become co-rabbi with Rabbi Anibal Mass from 2017 – 2020. Today, Rabbi Leibl continues to enjoy connecting with people and being with them through the milestones in their lives.



Jim Toth – Radio Host, CJOB

Host of the Jim Toth Show on CJOB, Jim has built a 27-year career in broadcasting, including 16 years in Winnipeg. He’s been a radio analyst for Manitoba Moose games, as well as hosting live for Winnipeg Goldeyes, WHL hockey, U of M Bisons Football, and, in 2016, was a key member of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers radio broadcast team on TSN 1290. Jim passion for the stories that surround the individuals and the various games, has shone through with his unique sense of humour and broadcast style.





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Past Presidents - 1919-2024

1919-20	Rock Calof*	1947-48	Joseph Halprin Q.C.*	1985-87	Dr. Earl Hershfield*
1921-22	Alex E. Cantor Q.C.*	1949	Mark Danzker*	1988-89	Hester Kroft
1923-24	Dr. Sam Churchill*	1956	Harry Walsh Q.C. *	1990-92	Arnold Glass
1925-26	Max Cohen*	1958-59	Dr. Norman I. Corne*	1993-94	Larry Hecht
1927-28	B.J. Cutler*	1960	Leonard Remis*	1995-97	Barry Steinfeld*
1929-30	I. Guttman*	1962	Archie R. Micay Q.C.*	1998-99	Allan Fineblit Q.C.
1931-32	Marcus Hyman*	1964-65	Yude Henteleff Q.C.	2000-01	Larry Boone
1933-34	A. Hershfield*	1968-69	David Slater*	2002-04	The Honourable Heather Pullan
1935-36	Captain W.V. Tobias*	1970	Dr. M.J. Lehman*	2005-06	Jeff Lieberman
1937-38	The Honourable Samuel Freedman O.C., Q.C.*	1971-72	Morley Blankstein*	2007-08	Murray Gilfix
1939	G. Sydney Halter Q.C.*	1973-74	Ben Burke*	2009-10	Morley Hoffman
1940	J.S. Perlman*	1975-76	Harold Buchwald Q.C.*	2011-12	Eric Sawyer*
1941	T.J. Gould*	1977-78	Zivy Feldman	2013-14	Danny Stoller
1942	M.W. Wright Q.C.*	1979-80	Bert Newman*	2015-16	Elliott Garfinkel
1943	Lou Adelman*	1980	Mel Myers Q.C.	2017-18	Debbie Hoffman
1944	A.J. Blond*	1981-82	Sam Linhart	2019-20	Lindsay Sawyer Fay
1945	J.D. Lyone*	1983-84	Dr. Sheldon Gorenstein*	2021-22	Ginna Sapozhnik
				2023-25	Don Haid

Recognition Awards - Since 1973

1973	Winnipeg Sports Media Athletic Dinner		Sports Dinner	2007	Zivan Saper
1974	The United Way of Winnipeg	1993	George Druxman* & Tribute to Les Marks	2008	Milt Stegall
1975	Anders Hedberg	1994	Sherman Greenfeld	2009	Jeff Pash
1976	Tribute to the YMHA Jewish Community Centre 60th Anniversary	1995	Sam Katz, Jeff Thompson, Winnipeg Goldeyes	2010	Nathan Jacobson
1977	Robert M. Hull	1996	Thomas Steen	2011	The Tallman Family
1980	Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club	1997	Tribute to Ken Kronson*	2012	Gail Asper
1981	Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame	1998	Earl and Cheryl Barish	2013	Jeff Rabb and Arch Honigman*
1982	Vince Leah	1999	International Year of the Older Person (IYOP)	2014	Larry Vickar and Family
1983	The Honourable Samuel Freedman			2015	The Frieman & Leibl Families
1984	Marc Berger	2000	Athletes and Builders of the 20th Century	2016	Israel Idonije
1985	Canadian Maccabiah	2001	Former Canadian Championships and Don Wittman*	2017	Bryan Klein
1986	Joyce Fromson*			2018	Ryan Downey, Brendan Rogers & Paul Winestock
1987	Ben Hatskin*	2002	Winnipeg 2002 Maccabi J.C.C., Jack Fraser O.C.	2019	Marjorie Blankstein
1988	Dr. Neville Winograd*			2020	No award due to pandemic
1989	Larry Fleisher	2003	Winnipeg 2003 Maccabi J.C.C. Games Team	2021	No award due to pandemic
1990	1990 Western Canada Games			2022	Carol and Neil Duboff
1991	Grey Cup '91 Winnipeg	2004	Past Presidents	2023	Blair Worb
1992	Tribute to the 20th Annual YMHA	2005	Mark Chipman	2024	Lana and Gregg Maidment
		2006	Jim Daly		

Past Speakers - Since 1973

1973	Bobby Hull*, Karl Kassulke*, Don Shula*	1990	Larry Csonka	2009	Peyton Manning
1974	Marvin Milkes*, Jim Bouton*	1991	Angella Issajenko, Bob Knight	2010	Cal Ripken Jr.
1975	Normie Kwong, Mickey Mantle*	1992	Jim Valvano*	2011	Joe Montana
1976	Rudy Pilous*, Jesse Owens*	1993	Jay Johnstone*, Jimmy Piersall*	2012	Mark Messier
1977	Danny Gallivan*, Leo E. Durocher*	1994	Eli Zaret, Denny McLain	2013	Drew Brees
1978	Emmett L. Ashford*, John Havlicek	1995	Art Donovan*	2014	Earvin "Magic" Johnson
1979	Mickey Mantle*, Rollie Miles*, Billy Martin*, Whitey Ford*	1996	Jim Bouton*, Dennis Hull	2015	Jets Roundtable - Paul Maurice, Kevin Cheveldayoff, Mark Chipman and NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly
1980	Graham Leggat*, Bud Grant	1997	Sparky Anderson*, Sherry Bassin	2016	Dan Marino
1981	Don Cherry, Steve Stone	1998	Marv Levy	2017	Teemu Selanne
1982	Tom Gorman*, Frank Gifford*	1999	Jerry Tarkanian*, Darryl Dawkins*	2018	Eli Manning
1983	Art Holst, Terry Bradshaw	2000	Rubin "Hurricane" Carter*	2019	Alex Rodriguez
1984	George Blanda*, Bart Starr*	2001	Roy Firestone	2020	No event due to pandemic
1985	"Boom Boom" Geoffrion*, Johnny Bench	2002	Leigh Steinberg	2021	No event due to pandemic
1986	Bob Costas, Mike Ditka	2003	Dan Hampton	2022	Emmitt Smith
1987	Roy Firestone, Doug Flutie	2004	Phil Esposito	2023	Chris Chelios, Ed Belfour, Jeremy Roenick
1988	Dennis Hull, Ron Luciano*	2005	Scotty Bowman	2024	Grant Fuhr, Doug Gilmour, Wendel Clark
1989	Sherry Bassin, Dan Dierdorf	2006	Pete Rose*		
		2007	Warren Moon		
		2008	Chris Berman		

* Of blessed memory

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

As an army of volunteers and staff worked tirelessly over the past number of months ensuring every detail of our dinner remains unparalleled, we never forget or lose sight of why we do this. Every single dollar from the Sports Dinner directly supports the Rady JCC, a not-for-profit community agency providing recreational, cultural, and fitness programs for all age groups to meet the diverse needs of the community-at-large. We are non-religious, non-denominational, and open to anyone who wishes to have a Rady experience.

Through our programs and camps, we reach thousands of children a year, helping them to stay active and develop leadership skills. We provide programming for children with disabilities, as well as programming that promote the wellbeing of people living with chronic illnesses or recovering from cancer.

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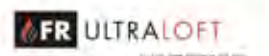


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The Rady JCC strives to ensure this listing is up-to-date and correct. With that said, we regret any errors or omissions you may see.

DIC DAVID CARR

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On behalf of David Carr & Associates, we would like to wish a huge congratulations to Jared, the Akman family and Akman Construction on a very well deserved honour.

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Monopoly Realty is proud to be a sponsor for this years Rady JCC Sports Dinner and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the Akman family – a true inspiration to our community.

Congratulations to Jared, the Akman family and the Akman Construction Legacy on this well-deserved honour!

We're honored to be part of this evening of celebration, sportsmanship, and community support. Enjoy the event, and let's continue making a difference together!



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Congratulations to the Akman family on building an outstanding legacy in business and in service to our city and community.

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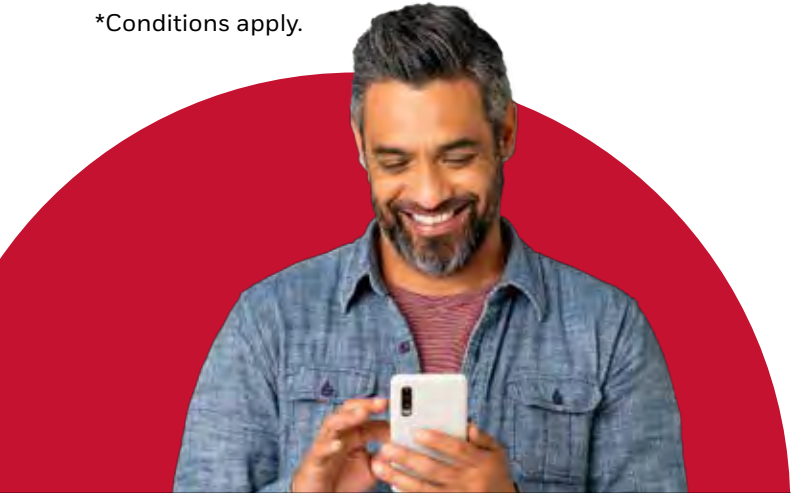
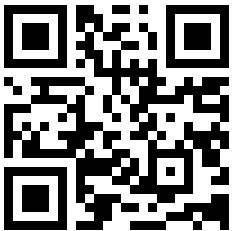
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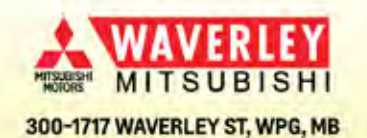


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