



# TIGERtales

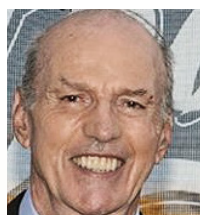
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Dec 2018

## YEAR IN REVIEW. . .

2018 was the year of inductees. We saw the return of the Wall of Honour as Joe Montford was the first inductee at Tim Horton's Field. Dave Hack was honoured by the Cat's Claws as the latest edition to the Walk of Fame while Don Sutherin was inducted in the Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame. Former Tiger-Cat QB Frank Cosentino was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame as a builder for his lifelong dedication to football not just as a player but a coach and author.

The lifelong dedication to football and education are now to be remembered as the new High School across the street from Tim Horton's Field will be known as Bernie Custis Secondary School.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We are looking to build on the momentum of last year's well attended and supported Alumni Golf tournament. Please reserve Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for next year's tournament. We are also looking for sponsors; please direct all leads to [htcaa@bell.net](mailto:htcaa@bell.net) to follow-up.

The Annual Hall of Fame game will be Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> when the Cats host the Lions, inductees to be announced.

Next year we will also celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hamilton Football. The actual day will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>, so we will be looking to plan a special event / reunion around that weekend's game versus Toronto.

## HTCAA.CA

Our website has also been updated. We now have video highlights from all Tiger-Cat Grey Cup along with extensive team and individual records and statistics. Be sure to check it out at [www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca).

**TigerTales is the official newsletter of the Hamilton Tiger-Cat Alumni Association.  
It is published 3 times per year in May, September & December.  
For more information visit our website at [www.htcaa.ca](http://www.htcaa.ca).**

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### ALUMNI AT PENNZOIL

HTCAA President Ryan Donnelly along with Jason Riley, Dave Hack and Sandy Beveridge were on hand at the Pennzoil station meeting and greeting customers.



### GATEWAY RIBBON CUTTING

Jason Riley was on hand for the grand opening of the new Gateway service station at Plains Rd. and Hwy 6. Also on hand for the event were city councillor and the local MPP.



### SENIOR CATS CHOW DOWN

A number of local senior Tiger-Cat alumni gather annually to recount football memories from day's gone time. Getting together at the Village Restaurant were Steve Hmiel, Zeno Karcz, Pete Neumann, Nick Pollice, Ron Brewer, Willie Bethea, Tommy Joe Coffey and Bob Krouse.





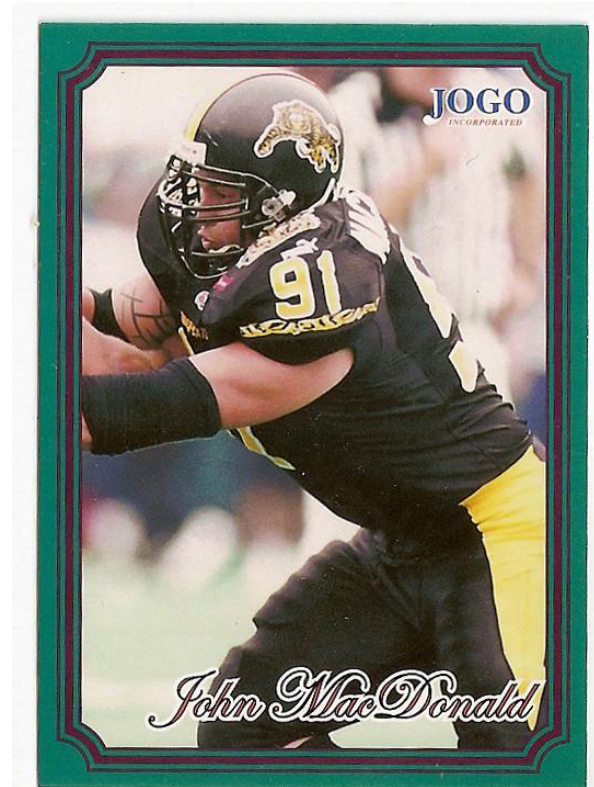
## FORMER TC LINEMAN HONOURED WITH DREAMCATCHER FOUNDATION AWARD

Grand Erie's John Macdonald, teacher at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, was honoured on Thursday, October 25, with an award presented by the Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation during its annual gala celebration in Hamilton. The foundation is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of Indigenous peoples across the country, and supporting youth programming to continue to develop leadership. Macdonald, who is Mohawk, and a former Hamilton Tiger-Cat defensive lineman (2002 -04), was recognized for his contributions to education. At Pauline Johnson, he combines his experience and skillsets to bring expertise to the school's SOAR program (Strength Opportunity, Achievement and Results), which supports the needs of student athletes.

"A great coach of mine, Andy Cox, once said that money and fame don't mean anything; what matters is the quality of the relationships you forge with people," said Macdonald in his acceptance speech. "This is a profound message and, of course, one that has echoed for generations from our traditional stories, ancestors, and elders. I encourage Indigenous role models to get out there and work with our youth because our lessons, presence, and spirit are needed by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike."

Macdonald's commitment to reaching students facing adversity is parallel to Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan, which promotes practices that help students feel safe, welcomed, and included through its Equity indicator, as well as setting high expectations and delivering effective learning strategies through its Achievement indicator.

"Grand Erie is so proud to count John among its team of dedicated and passionate educators working each day to ensure students succeed," said Brenda Blancher, Director of Education for Grand Erie. "He brings a wealth of experience to the role and a commitment to equity that allows his students to prosper, and he couldn't be more deserving of this honour."



## HAMILTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON



The Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame held its' annual luncheon at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre. Former Tiger-Cat player and Coach Don Sutherin was the latest Tiger-cat inductee. Among others, Don was joined by former Hamiltonian, Burlington Brave and Montreal Alouette Peter Dalla Riva.



# 2018 Grey Cup Review

**H**ello fellow alumni,

I had the pleasure of attending the Grey Cup this year as the Tiger-Cat Alumni representative for the CFLAA – AGM. Although I was prepared for arctic conditions, the weather was unusually mild for November in Edmonton. At kick-off on Grey Cup Sunday it was +1 C, unlike 1984 when we played Winnipeg in the Grey Cup with -28 C temperatures at game time!

I knew I was in for a great weekend when I went to Hamilton Airport on Thursday afternoon and the Ottawa cheerleaders were

on our flight to Edmonton. What a great group of young people. Next, when I arrived at Edmonton Airport I ordered an Uber to drive me to the hotel and I was intercepted by a volunteer driver who was shuttling Grey Cup personnel between the airport and the hotel. She wouldn't even take a tip because she said it was against festival policy. What a lovely lady.

Arriving at the hotel, I went directly to the hotel pub to meet my old college and Blue Bomber team mate Pat Cantner and Bob Bronk the Argos alumni rep, who was my roommate for the weekend. At this point, I had the pleasure of meeting legendary coach Wally Buono. He had just retired as the winningest coach in league history. Now I've been retired from the CFL since 1993, and Wally not only remembered my name, he also remembered my number (58) and I never played for the man! I was impressed and this just added to the positivity surrounding the G.C. weekend.

I had previously been instructed by Leo Ezerins, the Executive Director of the CFLAA, to bring my game worn jersey for the annual Legends Luncheon event on the Friday morning. According to many sources, this has become one of the most popular events of the G.C. festival each year and I was looking forward to attending it – the tenth annual. I was not disappointed.

It was on Friday, November 23, at the Shaw Conference Centre down town Edmonton, from 11AM–2PM and it was sold out. There was a buzz in the building when we arrived an hour before the event. Hector Pothier who was the point man on this event told us if we signed all the new alumni jerseys for the raffle, we got a goody bag – it contained a







toque, scarf, and gloves with the CFLAA crest on them – really cool stuff. The best part of the event was the social for all the CFL alumni who were in town for the game wearing all their team jerseys. It was very nostalgic for me to reconnect with so many of the players I played with and against throughout my career and those that are legends from another era. I could have stayed in there all day and just enjoyed the camaraderie in the room.

Then Hector told us all to line up in order of our colours and there were groups of alumni from every team, with the Eskimos contingent coming up the rear. We marched into the packed conference room to bag pipes, as the sold out crowd gave us a standing ovation. It really was an emotional moment to be surrounded with a thousand hard core CFL fans celebrating their personal favourites. As the steak dinner (Alberta beef is the best in the world!) was being served commissioner Randy Ambrosie spoke and he was genuinely impressed with the event. He announced the great news that the Atlantic Schooners will be the new maritime addition to the CFL. There

was also a silent auction, a live auction, and a game of Heads or Tails, of which all proceeds go to the CFLAA Support Fund.

After the incredibly successful Legends Luncheon, I attended my first AGM. This meeting lasted from 3PM–8PM and covered a plethora of key issues and events that the CFLAA regularly deals with. I don't have the space here to discuss it all, but one important issue I do want to mention is the Medreleaf, long term medicinal cannabis health study that the alumni association is embracing. Medreleaf is a well-respected company with excellent credentials providing cannabis products like CBD to help manage chronic pain resulting from arthritis often associated with football injuries. Please contact [htcaa@bell.net](mailto:htcaa@bell.net) if you're interested in joining the study.

Saturday afternoon we attended the Tiger-Cat event to watch the Vanier Cup between Western and Laval. In the evening we went to several of the team social events for the G.C. The sea of green in the Roughrider venue with the food, music, and nostalgia was amazing.

On Grey Cup Sunday the game was sold out and there were fans from every team in the league just enjoying meeting fans from across the country. The atmosphere in Commonwealth stadium was electric and bolstered by the relatively balmy weather. Unfortunately, the outcome of the game was never in doubt from the start because Ottawa seemed flat for the first half. Apparently they used up all their karma breaking records against our Tiger-Cats in the Eastern Final the previous weekend! It seemed fitting that Calgary won, since it was their third consecutive attempt.

So the weekend was very memorable for many reasons, but mostly because of the excellent Legends Luncheon experience. I recommend that everyone put it on your bucket list if you haven't already. Thank you to Hector Pothier, Leo Ezerins and the rest of the CFLAA for crafting such a successful event.

Have a safe and prosperous 2019!

**Jason Riley**  
Past-president, HTCAA



# Bob Krouse – Local Legend

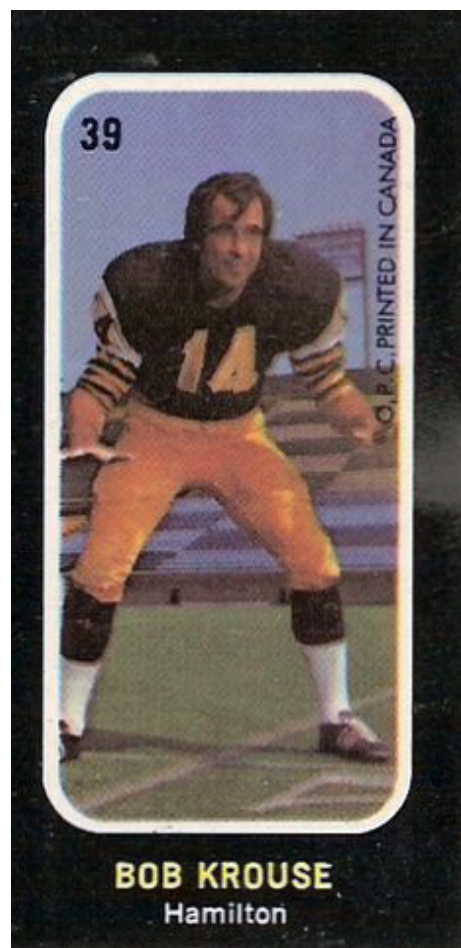
By Don Edwards (see note below)

The length of the career of an average NFL player is recorded to be 3.3 years. If that player starts to play in Secondary School that means he will spend on average less time playing football over his lifetime than Hamilton, Ontario native son, Bob Krouse did as a Canadian Football League stand out. Krouse came to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats directly from Central Collegiate High School in Hamilton's North End. Krouse expressed his desire to attend University to Cats' Head Coach Ralph Sazio, however, Sazio argued that Bob could stay home, attend McMaster University, play for the Tiger-Cats, play more games each year and continue to see his girlfriend Marjorie. Some 43 years after playing his last CFL game and 55 years after deciding to stay beside that gal, she and Bob remain married.

Krouse never did leave school, after graduating from McMaster, the 6', 195 lb linebacker spent three decades teaching secondary school in the region and of course, coaching football. One of Krouse's jobs in the off season was to run the Hamilton Tiger-Cat High School evaluation camp. The high school camp was created by former Tiger-Cat head coach, Jim Trimble. The role of the camp was to invite top high school talent from the region to show off their abilities for a week to recruiters from Canada and the United States. Players were tested, coached and evaluated by a tremendous staff and very often, university football careers were a direct result. Bob Krouse was the driving force behind that Tiger-Cat institution for many years.

A fixture at the Tiger-Cats home field since 1963, the 75- year old is still involved with the Tiger-Cat alumni and his council is sought as often now as it was during his playing days when players would huddle in Krouse's room after training camp practice to learn their roles on defense at the feet of the master. Bob was born to be in a classroom, he was an avid student of the game, watching film long before it was popular, Krouse often took cues on the field from what he learned in the class. Those extra hours in study hall served the tough Canadian well during the 1972 Grey Cup. Krouse's study revealed an opportunity for him to apply some extra heat on the Saskatchewan Roughriders punter, which Krouse took advantage of on two occasions, blocking punts in critical stages in the contest that the Tiger-Cats won at Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton. By the time Krouse would have graduated from university he had already played in three Grey Cup's winning two of them. There are very few university players who can get to a Vanier Cup more than once in a career, Krouse was in the national title game four out his first five years in the league.

Krouse's playing career takes on even more grandeur when you realize that in 1963, CFL rosters had a total of 32 players, having to play on the defense and most special teams takes a toll both physically and mentally. Krouse recounted a time when an injury prevented him from physically being able to turn left, "so I had to circle around guys to tackle from the right" I would suggest that in the CFL



of 2018 an injury of that nature would keep a player out of the lineup.

It was a special time for football in Canada and Bob Krouse was, and remains, a special kind of man.

**DON EDWARDS** recently passed in a tragic car accident along with his 18 year old son Spencer. Don wrote this article and passed it along before his passing but was not previously published.

## FORMER TIGER-CAT PLAYERS, COACHES & EXECUTIVES WHO PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST YEAR

### Urban M. Bowman Jr.

(November 16, 1937—February 25, 2018)  
1971—Hamilton Tiger-Cats (Defensive Coordinator)  
1995—1997 Hamilton Tiger-Cats  
(Asst. Head Coach/  
Special Teams/Defensive Line)

### Gene C. Ceppetelli

(July 28, 1942—June 14, 2018)  
1963–1967 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Bobby Dawson

(February 4, 1932—December 9, 2017)  
1953 – 1959 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### George Grant

(March 18, 1942—September 17, 2018)  
1995 - 2003 Owner, Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Jon Hohman

(October 23, 1942—August 2, 2018)  
1967–1973 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Jerry Keeling

(August 2, 1939—January 20, 2018)  
1975 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### William “Bill” Kyle

(January 29, 1926—February 21, 2018)  
1947 Hamilton Tigers

### Harry Lampman

(July 22, 1927—June 9, 2018)  
1957–1959 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Ray Truant

(October 10, 1930—October 15, 2018)  
1953–1957 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Scott Orlando Tyler

(December 5, 1939—January 8, 2018)  
1964 Hamilton Tiger-Cats

### Roger Yachetti

(April 14, 1940 - September 16, 2018)  
1992—1995 Hamilton Tiger-Cats (Part Owner & Chairman)

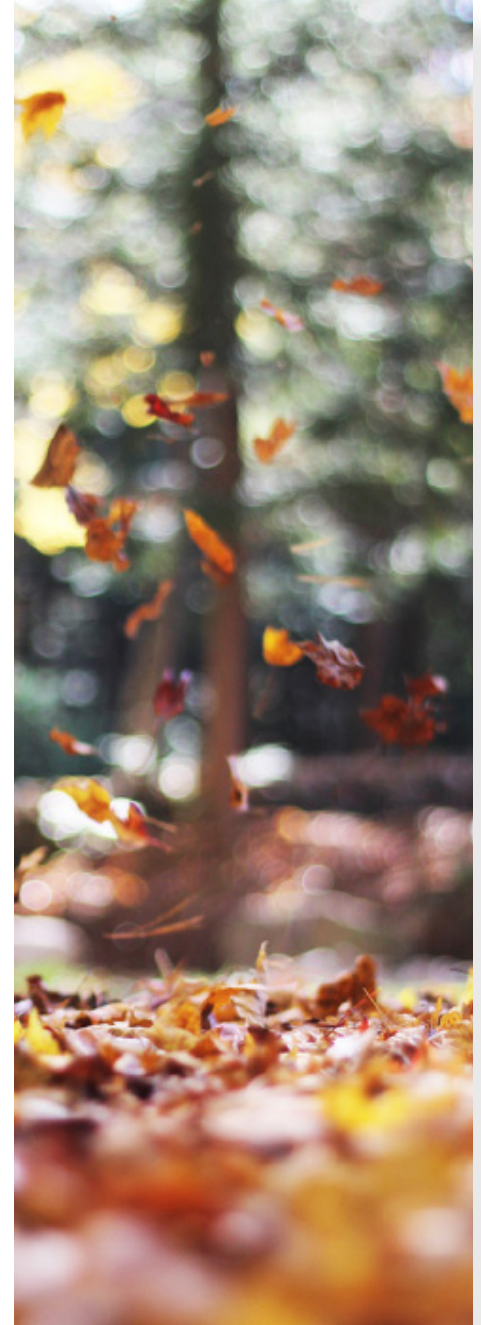
## HAMILTON FOOTBALL CONTRIBUTORS WHO PASSED AWAY IN THE LAST YEAR

### Don Edwards

(1959—October 31, 2018)  
Don worked in the Tiger-Cat front office from 1994–1997. Don was President of the Ontario Football Alliance and had been a long time coach in the Hamilton community and involved with various levels of football and colour commentator on cable 14.

### Dennis Griffin

(1941—November 14, 2018)  
Dennis was a teacher with the HWDSB for 34 years. He had a profound love for football and coached at all levels, minor to professional, in the Hamilton area for over 5 decades.





2019

# HAMILTON TIGER-CATS SCHEDULE

HOME  
AWAY

## HOME OPENER

SAT. JUNE 1	THUR. JUNE 6	THUR. JUNE 13	SAT. JUNE 22	FRI. JUNE 28	THUR. JUL. 4	SAT. JUL. 13	FRI. JUL. 26
							
7:00 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM

## HALL OF FAME GAME

THUR. AUG. 1	SAT. AUG. 10
	
9:30 PM	7:00 PM

## WEATHERTECH FOOTBALL DAY IN HAMILTON

### LABOUR DAY CLASSIC

SAT. AUG. 17	SAT. AUG. 24	MON. SEPT. 2	SAT. SEPT. 14	FRI. SEPT. 20	FRI. SEPT. 27
					
4:00 PM	10:00 PM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	9:30 PM	8:30 PM

FRI. OCT. 4	SAT. OCT. 19	SAT. OCT. 26	SAT. NOV. 2
			
7:00 PM	4:00 PM	1:00 PM	7:00 PM

EASTERN SEMI-FINAL: NOV 10  
EASTERN FINAL: NOV 17  
107TH GREY CUP: NOV 24



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