



**THIS EDITION IS DEDICATED TO  
STANLEY CROWLEY, OABO LIFE MEMBER  
FEBRARY 27 1927—FEBRUARY 20 2020**



### OABO PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to provide condolences on behalf of OABO to Nadine and the Crowley family for the passing of her dad Stan. Stan is one of the most highly decorated OABO officials within our 70 years as an association. He is a Wink Willox Award recipient and an OABO Honorary Life Member. Additionally, our condolences and thoughts go to the Kingston Board for the passing of their former president Chris White. The Ontario basketball officiating community feels distant from one another for most of the season, but at times like these, we all share the loss of fellow officials and friends.

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► It is that time of year when we wrap up many of the championship events throughout the province. OFSAA tournaments are being hosted in North Bay, Windsor and Hamilton. The OCAA's are in Windsor and Sarnia and the OSBA's are in Toronto. We are fortunate to have the USport Championships for men and women both happening in Ottawa. Congratulations to all the floor officials and referee-coaches on your selections to the events. Enjoy the experience and represent yourself and your associations well.

**We have now cancelled our President's meeting which was scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> due to Covid-19 .** This is unfortunate as we had worked extremely hard to get representation from OBA, OSBA, OFSAA, OCAA, CB, CBOC and even CEBL the OABO all confirmed to attend however in light of world events , our health and safety is by far more important. We are unsure if we will be able to re-schedule at this time.

One of the topics of discussion at the morning meeting was going to be about Rowan's Law. OABO has been working with a law firm to develop our own Rowan's Law protocols and procedures to better provide our local boards and officials with a clear and straight forward set of guidelines when dealing with athletes who meet the criteria of Rowan's Law. We have also developed a memorandum which will be circulated to all local boards regarding the conversations that will be necessary to be had with all clients prior to assigning officials. This is an important aspect in conforming to the law.

As we prepare for the fall AGM weekend in Guelph, I would like to remind everyone of a few things. Local boards were provided a draft of a rewrite of our OABO Constitution last year by Don. It is necessary that local executives review the draft and bring any suggestions or concerns with them to the meeting. Time will be devoted to advancing the work already started. OABO proudly presents awards to our deserving officials at each AGM. This year an ad hoc committee was struck to assist the process of securing nominations for these awards. Brian Seccareccia and Brady Taylor have been in contact with some local boards to remind them to look at their rosters for possible candidates for the OABO awards. Should you have any questions about the process don't hesitate to contact them. Criteria and past award winners are posted on our website under the Awards tab. We truly wish to celebrate the achievements of as many of the incredible people of OABO as we can. Lastly, this is an election year for the position of president, vice-president and supervisor. If you have any questions about the positions or the responsibilities, don't hesitate to reach out and ask.

As we transition toward a time of OBA championship weekends, know that assignors will be looking for games to be filled on those crazy weekends. Flexibility and availability can be such a welcome aspect in those busy times. Knowing many "shut it down" at the end of high school, college and USport games, even a double header can make a huge difference when you get those desperate emails asking for availability. The games need fresh legs and fresh minds in these competitive tournaments. There is a fine balance between warm bodies on their 7-8<sup>th</sup> games of the day and a new face eager to work a couple games. If we can all make some time to get these games covered as best we can, the athletes, coaches and spectators will all appreciate the efforts we put in even more than they already do.

Finally with spring about to stake a claim to our world, enjoy the sun, the green grass and hit 'em straight.

Best regards;

Rick

## 2020 AGM/SEMINAR UPDATE - Vincent Bull

The Guelph Board of Approved Basketball Officials is proud to host the OABO 2020 Conference. This event will be held at the Guelph Holiday Inn located on the corners of Scottsdale and Stone Road in Guelph.

Our committee is diligently working at finalizing pricing and we are working with Don Thorne to enable on-line registration by mid May, but we can inform you of the following:

Rooms have been reserved for our event and a link will be provided shortly for pre booking. The room rate starts \$145 for single or double occupants and parking is free. Every guest who stays at the hotel for OABO 2020 conference will have access to an included hot buffet breakfast.

The agenda follows the schedule from past conferences with a Golf outing on Friday Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at Ariss Valley Golf and Country Club. This facility has 27 holes and will provide a great venue for our outing. The green fees have not been negotiated but we are targeting a fee of 60 to 70 which will include 18 holes lunch and prizes. We have booked the Trillium room to host our social. We have our own staff ready to serve you with select beverages from our local brewers.

Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> our traditional education sessions occur. This year our theme is ***Working to be Better*** and in that spirit we felt that focusing on speakers whom can talk about education, evaluation and execution would fit this theme. To date we have secured Mike McPhee, Steve Foxcroft and Rich Stehlik. Additional speakers are forth coming and we are very excited about this year topics. GBABO has also secured lunch for all the members who join us for the education session. Refreshments will be provided through the day.

Saturday, for our guests staying at the Holiday in but who are not participating in the seminar events, we are planning an outing that may consist of the Butterfly conservatory and/or a trip to Elora. Elora has many sights to see including a museum, Inn and a wide variety of shops and boutiques, and walking trails. We are in talks to secure a bus to move these guests. There is no registration fee to use the transportation but you may have to pay for admission fees to certain venues.

The Wall of Fame dinner will be held in the Oakwood Ballroom and will be served buffet style with choices for all dietary needs. For those who have allergies or other restrictions simply inform us with your registration and we will pass along your information to the catering staff. If you wish to join us for the meal only we can accommodate your attendance with registration for just this event.

After the awards we will host a social in the Trillium room where once again, our own staff will be ready to serve you with select beverages from our local brewers. We will also have a silent auction for Saturday night and we will be providing some amazing and unique items!

Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> is the OABO AGM at which voting and provincial issues will be discussed. Coffee and Tea will be available. If this meeting runs long GBABO will host a lunch.

Other venue info: The hotel has a 24 hour fitness centre, a 24 hour business centre, a main floor restaurant and lounge, known as Elements on Stone. Hotel overnight guests who have registered for the Seminar will have access to a hot buffet breakfast which is included with your stay, as we mentioned before.

You may contact me: Vincent Bull, [vince.bull@gmail.com](mailto:vince.bull@gmail.com) or call me at 519-994-1445.

See you at OABO 2020 AGM.

## Vice President's Report - John Grilli

Fellow OABO Members,

I hope that this refereeing season has been successful and healthy thus far. Even though many leagues are winding down or been completed, we are heading into a very busy and competitive part of the OBA season.

Our OBA Fair Play Committee(FPC) has been dealing with a number of incidents at various levels (OBA, OSBA) involving coaches, players and fans. There are some takeaways that I would like to share with you as well as put forward some reminders for the rest of this season:

- Address bad behaviour by coaches and players early in the game. Don't ignore this behavior because you think it will go away as it won't get better without dealing with it. Use the quick engage, talk, warning, T procedure of progressive discipline.
- Don't let the game get rough. Especially early in game make calls to diffuse physical, non basketball oriented behaviour. Be aware of which players substitute into the game. When subs come in, especially late in game, could change the temperature and type of game so referee these players accordingly.
- Don't be afraid to call unsporting fouls as not calling U fouls that are warranted leads to rough play and the game getting out of hand. Technical fouls and warnings are to be used to diffuse situations and not to inflame them.
- Get on the same page as your partner(s) and match calls at both ends of the court as coaches and players just want consistency.
- The FPC has been getting some disturbing situations forwarded. Refuse to be abused.
- Keep filling out incident reports in a timely and accurate fashion as they are instrumental in helping to ensure that we deal with bad behaviour and make the refereeing environment better for all of us.
- Continue to work with table crews positively and don't tolerate their abuse by coaches.
- Unfortunately we have had a number of incidents which involve officials wearing 2 hats as officials and/or parents and/or coaches and/or players. It can be a challenge for some officials who are participants in other roles but be sure that you are to be held to a higher standard. Don't use the old line of "I'm also an official and I know the rules" or that you somehow have more rights as a coach/parent/player because you happen to be an official as well.
- Lastly, stay cool, calm, and collected when all else lose their minds and watch what you say to all stakeholders.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Sincerely,

John

## Tony Turnbull - OUA Officials Award of Merit

“From those who have excelled between the whistles to those making the calls, the Officials Award of Merit goes to **Tony Turnbull**, who has been called upon to officiate not only some of the biggest games in the OUA, but across a number of high profile leagues during his career.

Turnbull, who is set to officiate the upcoming U SPORTS Men’s Final 8 in Ottawa, has also taken on the role for events like the 2019 Canadian Elite Basketball League Final Four, several OCAA and CCAA men’s championships, and a pair of U SPORTS women’s championships. A member of last year’s OUA Wilson Cup crew and veteran part of postseason officiating crews for over 15 years, Turnbull is now a multi-time winner of the conference honour.” - OUA Office





## INTERPRETER'S REPORT - MIKE MCPHEE

In my August 2019 article I wrote: "This term (Advantage/Disadvantage) doesn't exist anymore." Subsequently a reader of that article wrote to me that "the word disadvantage is specifically used in sections 33.11 and 47.3 of the FIBA rulebook. So the term does exist." Clearly I misspoke. What I was referring to was the so called "Tower Philosophy", which for many years was the qualifier of rules interpretation in North America.

The advantage/disadvantage "philosophy" came into being about 60 years ago. During most of my officiating career it was the mantra "good" officials followed, or tried to. It was named after Oswald Tower a basketball administrator, by his friend John Bunn who was the national interpreter for NFHS/NCAA. The basic statement of the philosophy was as follows:

'It is not the intent that the rules shall be interpreted literally, rather they should be applied in relation to the effect which the action of the players has upon their opponents. If they are unfairly affected as a result of a violation of rules, then the transgressor shall be penalized. If there has been no appreciable effect upon the progress of the game, then the game shall not be interrupted. The act should be ignored. It is incidental and not vital. Realistically and practically, no violation has occurred.'

It wasn't actually a written "rule" as such but an application approach to the various rules of the game. Its purpose was to stop what the purveyors saw as the "interfering" in the game by officials. In other words they were blowing too many whistles. In time the philosophy came to be written into some rules manuals using the term "advantage/disadvantage". The NFHS rules manual never uses the term, and each contact situation is definitively explained by 12 articles. Even so, the overseers of that level of officiating also kept pushing the philosophy as the preferred way to call the game.

The drawbacks to the practice are two-fold. Firstly, what does "unfairly affected" mean? It varies depending on the level of play certainly, but it also varies within the mind of the human being with the whistle. In too many cases objective rules became over time subjective ones. For example a try for goal with contact on the shooter became not a foul because the basket scored. Post play became a wrestling match where two "big" players shoved each other around, or offensive players backed their defender down in order to score. Somehow these contacts had "no unfair effect". Small players guarding large players were allowed to harass their opponent by repeated contact with hands and arms, because that contact didn't seem to "disadvantage" the big player. In essence the game became a clutch and grab event where "scrappy" teams were rewarded by diminishing the skills of talented teams using actions clearly not within the spirit and intent of the rules.

Secondly, the withholding of whistles in contact situations led to players who were getting contacted without a whistle, try to sell that they were fouled and that the advantage gained by the opponent was unfair. The natural development of that created players who learned to flop when they hadn't even been fouled. The unhappy development of that has been the coaches who build a "flopping practice" into their workouts.

The Tower approach had a second unintended result as well. It created a growing number of officials whose goal in a game was to blow as few whistles as possible. This just doesn't work at the youth level where most basketball in Ontario is played. Younger players must first have an understanding of what actions are within the limits of the rules, in order to learn how to play proper defense. If we as officials are going to let players use their hands illegally, or attack the ball from places where they can't get it without contact, then we are encouraging coaches to teach illegal things. Statements from us such as "If you want me to call hand checks I will have to blow my whistle every possession", or "If we called every foul, then the game would last forever", are clear indicators of a desire to get through the game rather than to serve the game.

FIBA wants a clean game. That is why we have a list of reasons to blow the whistle, and to decide when contact strays into unsportsmanlike territory. Since 2012 at least (while I have been OABO Interpreter), CABO has put out points of emphasis. In every case contact has been on the list. Initially the statements were somewhat nebulous and as a result real progress wasn't achieved. In recent years however FIBA has released more specific guidelines for judging contact and ruling fouls. For example illegal contact on the dribbler which includes hand checking has been clearly explained, as follows:

- Once the defensive player has established an initial legal guarding position, he may move to guard his opponent, **but he may not extend his arms, shoulders, hips or legs to prevent the dribbler from passing by him.**
- Placing two hands on a dribbler is always a foul.
- The officials shall decide whether the player who caused the contact has gained an advantage. If contact caused by a player in any way **restricts the freedom of movement of an opponent, such contact is a foul.**
- Illegal use of the hand(s) or extended arm(s) occurs when the defensive player is in a guarding position and his hand(s) or arm(s) is **placed upon and remains in contact with an opponent with or without the ball, to impede his progress.**
- To repeatedly touch or 'jab' an opponent with or without the ball is a foul, as it may lead to rough play.
- The principles of guarding a player who does not control the ball must apply (Art. 33.5) and **officials must penalize defenders who extend their arms (forearms), shoulders, hips, or legs in the path of an opponent and this illegal contact impacts the freedom of movement on an opponent.**

So, it is obvious that we are to stop this type of illegal contact. We do it by calling the fouls, right from the beginning of the game. Our job is to control the game. Establish the criteria early (first illegal contact) and maintain the criteria (first to last call). Call the obvious; be fair, but be firm!

### **Other Items of Concern**

Our last OABO/IAABO Conference call/webinar was held March 5 (originally March 3 but technical glitch cancelled that night). This year we still, for the most part, had just over half of the boards participate regularly. They are an important tool for sharing information, questions and concerns. Each one this year covered various areas where there was some confusion or inconsistency. I always share the PPT from the call with boards that request it.

The November call dealt with 2 person mechanics changes, Time-out procedures (esp. Last 2 minutes), Travelling and the 2019-20 Points of Emphasis. In January we dealt with the procedures for issuing warnings, and the setting of the shot clock on free throws. (The shot clock should be set to 24 seconds and NOT 14 seconds). The last one (March) covered Officiating Mechanics issues, The cylinder principle in relation to calling fouls, and travelling (again) using the videos from the NBA which clearly explain that all travelling situations occur after the "gather" or catch of the ball.

In the Mechanics section I dealt with the fact that many areas have not enacted the correct Time-out procedures, or the 24 second shot clock setting. That is disappointing.

We have entered the crunch time of our officiating season with provincial championships at all of the levels we handle. The tournaments are long and tiring for any local board that has them. Let's make the effort to be correct in all aspects of our game. The rulings and the mechanics.

## **NORTHERN REPRESENTATIVE REPORT** - Brian Seccareccia

Well it is that time of the year once again as March Madness approaches we get ready to fill out our brackets and see if we can predict who will be in the final four and win the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Congratulations to all of the officials who were selected to officiate in their local, regional, provincial, and national championships.

Listed below are some of the highlights since Christmas from our Northern boards.

### **Muskoka Parry Sound** — Submitted by Ray Chan

As for the high school boys season we started off well with our new members before Christmas. All officials worked hard during the season and continue to work hard during the men's league. The main challenge for us during the high school season was that most of the games had a start time of 2 p.m. which made it hard to find officials for that time of the day. As a result we had to use the same officials for most of the games and some officials were injured. The worst news is that the high school season came to an end with no MPS or GSSSA championships due to school strike action. I think our board is the only one that did not have city finals. Hopefully the school situation will settle and we will have some elementary school games. The majority of the OBA teams are playing in the OBL league and as a result there are less tournaments and we project we will be doing 20% less games this year.

### **North Bay** — Submitted by John Fong

There is not too much to report since Christmas. We have had one boys high school tournament since Christmas which was handled with no problem. Our officials have worked OCAA games here and we have sent some of our officials to Barrie. We hosted the NOSSA AA and AAA Regional Championships March 1st weekend. We also look forward to hosting the OFSSA A Boys Provincial Championship March 9.

### **Sault Ste. Marie** — Submitted by Chris Siegman

The high school boys regular season and Sault College in OCAA play kept the board busy over the winter months. We are in the midst of wrapping up the high school playoffs and the completion of the Sault College season. Labour action from high school educators did cause some scheduling issues, including the cancellation of the annual Guy Vetrie High School Boys Tournament. Our board hosted the NOSSA 'A' Regional senior and junior boys championships. Four of our officials continue to work OUA games. Congratulations to John Duke on being selected to officiate at the OFSSA 'A' championship in North Bay.

### **Sudbury** — Submitted by Chris Pakkala

We have been very busy since Christmas as we have had to officiate three new tournaments this year: 1) LoEllen junior boys tournament was held January 10th and 11. 2) the first Sudbury Five Senior Boys Invitational Tournament was Helsinki the Sudbury Arena January 17th weekend and 3) Chelmsford junior and senior boys tournament was held January 17th and 18th at Chelmsford Secondary School. We also covered a four team U17 Club Girls tournament January 17. The Bishop Carter junior and senior boys tournament from December was rescheduled to February 7th weekend. Steve Lafreniere, Carine Dimaio and Dave McKnight went to North Bay to officiate at NOSSA Regional championships. We ran a clinic for our newer officials on Sunday February 9th with the U13 and U14 playing. It was a good turnout and all in attendance were pleased. We have had an increase in registration this year and there are a few new comers who look very promising. The Men's League is very strong with nine competitive teams. We also have sent officials to Espanola to officiate the North Shore Senior Championship February 18th.



**Timmins** — Submitted by Pierre Thibodeau

O’Gorman High School hosted the 50th Annual Zenon Ziemba Boys Basketball tournament and the top teams from each major Northern Ontario City (Thunder Bay,

Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, and Timmins) competed in the Senior Division.

The 40 team tournament (Junior and Senior) we’ve had in a few years. We were helped out by our fellow officials from Sudbury (Gary Miller, Stu Fairwell, Ryan Basso, Matt D’Alessandri) North Bay (Butch Forbes, Dez Collins) and Kapuskasing (Sheldon Belanger). Our officials will be travelling to Kapuskasing for the NEOAA Junior Championships and the Senior Boys Championship in New Liskeard. Angelo Lia, Evan Colameco and Pierre Thibodeau are heading up the James Bay Coast in March for the Moose Cree Basketball Tournament.

This year, making his maiden voyage, Craymer Forth will be joking us. The crew is looking forward to officiating in front of appreciative

Crowds.

**Thunder Bay** - Submitted by Rod Miller

We have kicked off both the local Masters and Men’s League, which truly tests our officials endurance and patience as the schedule runs into April. We provided officials for all Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys at the high school level in Thunder Bay, as well as select tournaments (600km) in nearby communities. Our officials are in the process of completing the high school playoffs at the AA level in Thunder Bay and at AA and A levels in nearby communities. Noel Parker has continued to excel at the OUA level in his first year. From our training program in the spring, we have 5 new officials in our ranks.

They are eagerly learning the game and continuing to improve. Our officials also provides officials for the Blaze and Junior Wolves Club program.

**EASTERN REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Dear OABO members,

I would like to thank the OABO Executive for selecting me to be the OABO East Regional Representative for the 2019-2020 season. Many thanks to Brady Taylor who represented the East Region well in previous seasons.

My goals are to have an open dialogue with all Eastern board executives and members to share your voice with the OABO Executive on any matters which may concern you, as well as, assist the Executive with the day-to-day operations to make Ontario the best province to officiate in.

As we enter the home stretch of this season, I hope that you are all continuing to stay focused and delivering the best quality officiating to your fellow officials, minor officials, players and coaches.

Please feel free to reach out via email ([mikekimdvm@gmail.com](mailto:mikekimdvm@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,  
Michael Kim

## Special Olympics Partnership: Monday, March 9, 2020

Today we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Special Olympics Basketball program in Guelph and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Special Olympics in the World.

Special Olympics provides sport and fitness opportunities for athletes with an intellectual disability. The Special Olympics Guelph Basketball program started with 13 athletes and 3 coaches--- 20 years ago in a small gym at Holy Rosary School. Today the program has 60 athletes, 30 volunteer coaches and 5 teams.

Some of our Guelph athletes and coaches recently competed in the World Games in Abu Dhabi. The growth and success would not have been possible without the help and support of volunteers and organizations like the Guelph Referees Association.

For the past 20 years the Guelph Referees Association has been an awesome supporter of Special Olympics! Through volunteering their service at Local, Regional and Provincial Basketball Tournaments, School Unified sports events and motion ball marathon of sports, the Guelph referees' association has supported Special Olympics at all levels.

Today on behalf of Special Olympics Ontario, head coach Steve Redmond and Taylor Redmond present the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Award to Jack Massey and Gord Swanson as a Special Thank You. This award is given to individuals and organizations who have made an outstanding contribution to Special Olympics.

Steve Redmond – convenor & coach states:

- Guelph Special Olympics Basketball Tournament has been going on for 18 years
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest running SO basketball tourney in the Province
- It has grown from 10 teams to over 21 teams this past year
- Teams from Windsor, Hamilton, KW & Brampton regularly compete
- 5 Guelph teams compete in the tournament
- The Guelph referees' association has volunteered their service for all 18 years
- With close to 50 games to cover at 2 sites on one day – the referees cover all the games
- Donating their fees back allows us to give a medal to all the athletes

Taylor Redmond – Special Olympics Athlete also stated:

- I have competed in the Guelph tournament and Provincial qualifiers for 18 years
- The Guelph Referees are awesome!
- They are friendly and teach us things while refereeing-like rules of the game
- They tell us to watch the traveling or double dribbling
- They keep the game safe for us
- They are always friendly with us, make the games fun & make us laugh
- Sometimes the refs high 5 us after a basket
- one year at the provincial qualifier at the U of G. one of the referees noticed my friend didn't have his shoes tied up. So he stopped play and helped tie them up

Taylor wanted to pass on to everyone on the Guelph Referees Association special thanks for helping us “be the best that we can be”.



Above: L to R Gord Swanson, Taylor Redman (athlete), Jack Massey, & Steve Redman (coach)  
Below: Taylor & Steve Redman presenting trophy to The Guelph Board of Basketball Officials



*From the Desk of the Secretary*— Don Thorne

It's time for all IAABO boards to review your roster. If you know your board will be stepping away from IAABO I would like to hear by April 10th so I can report this at the IAABO Executive meeting in Ocean City, MD.

All officials should now have the news letter issued by CBOC which contains more news regarding the merger of CBOC and CABO. If you did not get a copy it has been posted on the oabo.ca site under Newsletters.

With the World Health Organization declaring Covid-19 as a pandemic, it's not hard to realize that we are now living in a different world. With 6,000 plus confirmed cases a day world wide, this virus has started to affect the officiating world even though there are only 93 cases in Canada. While working the score table at Raptor905 games I have noticed ball handlers (kids) wearing surgical gloves, bottles of hand sanitizer at each end of the score table, players and officials all using it. No one shakes hands anymore. It's knuckle or elbow taps. Games are being cancelled at certain venues at the pro and US college level, games being played without fans, and it now affects us here in Ontario.

I received notice last Friday (March 6 2020) that our insurance provider covering our out of province travel coverage has cancelled the policy without notice because of Covid-19 without notice. Our broker is scrambling, as I write this, to find a new provider and will work on a rebate from the current provider. This adversely affects those travelling to BC for the CCAA championships and they have been advised to find alternate travel coverage for now.

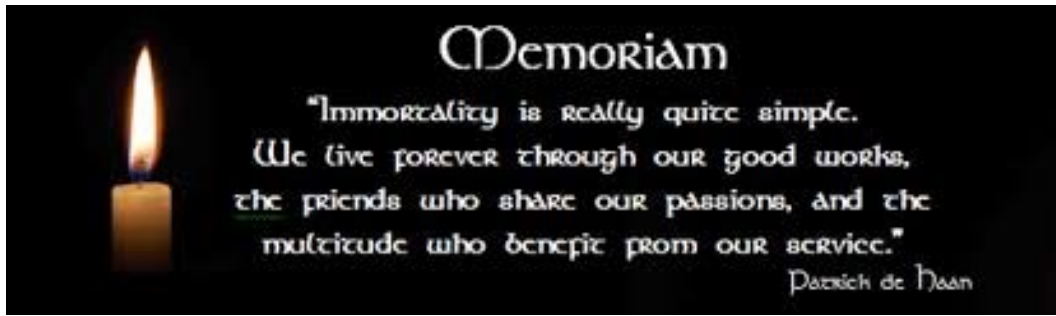
If you are curious on the country status day to day regarding confirmed cases, deaths etc., check out the following site:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeee1b9125cd>

This bug is pretty scary and it can make you wonder where it will all end. As fast as I write this, things change. I wrote this at 2pm and at 9pm NBA suspends all play, March Madness will continue but with no fans. Hopefully the world will develop a vaccine and we can get back to the life we love on and off the court.

Stay safe out there.





Condolences to :

Ben Tomiuck and family and the Niagara board with respect to the passing of Bob Tomiuck (Niagara), the Guelph board with respect to the passing of member Peter Barnsley, the Kingston board with respect to the passing of their former President Chris White, and Nadine Crowley, family and the Toronto and Peel board with respect to the passing of OABO Life Member Stan Crowley

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