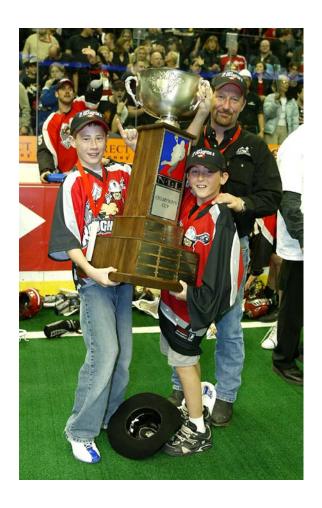**Bill 'Cowboy' Flett**

Sports: Athlete

Bill 'Cowboy' Flett grew up in Okotoks and played his entire minor hockey career here. At age 17, he began playing junior hockey with the Melville Millionaires. In 1967 Bill was drafted by the Los Angeles Kings, which began his 13-year career with the National Hockey League (NHL). He played with the L.A. Kings for three seasons, followed by the Philadelphia Flyers, Toronto Maple Leafs, Atlanta Flames, and Edmonton Oilers. The highlight of his career came in 1974 when he won the Stanley Cup with the Flyers. He played in 689 regular NHL games, scored 202 goals and had 215 assists before retiring in 1980. Bill later served as a scout with the Edmonton Oilers and remained active with old timers hockey games in support of numerous charities.

Bill loved hockey, but he also loved rodeo equally and grew up rodeoing in the foothills. He continued this passion in the off-season, earning him the nickname 'Cowboy'. Bill was known for his trademark black hat, cowboy boots and even wearing spurs on his skates during charity games. Bill was also known for his bushy beard and is considered to be the first player to ever wear a beard in the NHL. Bill passed away in 1999.

Brad Banister

Sports: Community Builder

Brad Banister is synonymous with the game of lacrosse. Canada's national sport has flourished in Okotoks as a result of Brad's dedication, experience and pure love of the game, which he has shared with hundreds of local athletes as a coach, manager and mentor. Brad has been instrumental in building lacrosse in Okotoks at all levels of the game – from the minor leagues to Junior A. As a result, Okotoks has become a nationally-recognized hotbed for lacrosse; in fact it's the second largest lacrosse community in Canada per capita.

In 2011 Brad was instrumental in putting Okotoks on the national stage when he brought the Minto Cup to Okotoks, which saw the top players in Canada compete for the national junior lacrosse title. Brad was a founding owner of the Calgary Roughnecks Lacrosse Team, which was established in Calgary in 2001, and he helped guide them to two National Lacrosse League (NLL) titles in 2004 and 2009. Brad was also honoured by the NLL as Executive of the Year in 2004.

Brad has not only given freely of his time to the sport of lacrosse but also donated financially to the Alberta Lacrosse Association to benefit Okotoks and all of Alberta. His support for minor sports in Okotoks also extends to volunteering as a coach for hockey and soccer, as well as lacrosse.

Ray Watrin

Sports: Athlete & Community Builder

Born and raised south of Okotoks, Ray Watrin has had a remarkable career in the Canadian Football League. Ray was drafted by the Calgary Stampeders in 1969 and went on to play for the B.C. Lions, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the Montreal Alouettes and the Ottawa Rough Riders. He played in five Grey Cups as an Alouette and is a two-time Grey Cup champion, winning titles in both 1974 and 1977. Ray retired in 1976 but came out of retirement in 1977 and played four more years before retiring a second time in 1981 as an Ottawa Rough Rider. Ray was the Montreal nominee for the Canadian Schenley Award in the categories of Outstanding Offensive Lineman and Top Canadian in 1979, winning the title of Outstanding Canadian Offensive Lineman in the Eastern Conference. He was also named to both the Eastern and Canadian All Star Teams that same year.

In 1982, Ray returned to Okotoks where he dedicated himself to building the sport of football. Ray is affectionately known as "Coach W" to hundreds of young football players who he has coached and mentored in Okotoks and Calgary. He was the first coach of the Foothills Composite High School Falcons and helped them secure numerous league titles and two provincial championships. Ray coached the Calgary Colts junior team for two years, and he also founded the Foothills Eagles bantam football program in Okotoks, which continues to foster the passion and skills of a new generation of football athletes.

Tracie Ward

Arts & Culture: Community Builder

Tracie Ward served as the Cultural and Historical Services Team Leader for the Town of Okotoks from 1998 to 2005. During that time, Tracie shared her passion for the arts by encouraging, supporting and showcasing the local arts community through The Station Cultural Centre. She advocated for the arts in Okotoks and built a solid foundation from which a vibrant arts sector has grown.

The Rotary Performing Arts Centre and the Okotoks Museum and Archives also stand as Tracie's legacies to Okotoks. When the former Dixon law office was facing certain destruction, Tracie spearheaded a drive to save the century-old house, raised funds and relocated it to its present site on North Railway Street, where it has become our community's museum. When the former Okotoks United Church went up for sale, Tracie saw the potential for the facility to be transformed into a performing arts venue. Tracie worked tirelessly to raise funds, renovate and celebrate its opening as the Rotary Performing Arts Centre in 2005.

Tracie also developed the town's first art walk and the first public art project, which consisted of three sandstone sculptures. Tracie passed away in 2012; however, her passion has inspired others to continue celebrating and advocating for the arts in Okotoks.