

Terry Fox Secondary Wall of Fame 2009 Inductee

George Buckley

In 1977 George Buckley earned his Master of Education degree from the University of British Columbia. His first encounter with Port Coquitlam came when he was hired as a teacher at Port Coquitlam Secondary in 1964 and up to and including 1970. He taught Math and Chemistry. It was here that George came to not only understand, but to truly love the community of Port Coquitlam. He appreciated the hard working PoCo citizens who supported one another, took pride in their accomplishments and valued each other, all characteristics that Mr. Buckley himself tried to live each and every day. In 1985, George Buckley returned to Port Coquitlam the Principal of Port Coquitlam Senior Secondary. During his time at PoCo Secondary he was able to accomplish so much. With the support of the Fox family, he was determined to have PoCo Secondary renamed after one of the Great Canadian heroes ... Terry Fox. Like Terry, he showed tremendous determination. With the blessing of the staff, students, parents of the Port Coquitlam Community, the Port Coquitlam Mayor and City Council and the Coquitlam School Board, the dream was realized in 1986. Changing the name of Terry Fox Secondary, although an outstanding accomplishment, was minor in comparison to the standards of excellence that George demanded and received from his staff and students. Through his leadership, he established a climate amongst students of caring and valuing each other and was instrumental in developing the school pride that remains prevalent today.

Teachers were provided an atmosphere of support and encouragement to lead our students. George never got in the way of great ideas but instead provided the enthusiasm and wisdom to allow the creative educational minds to work their magic. Mr. Buckley, for that we thank you.

During his time as Principal of Terry Fox he took away many great memories:

- Renaming the school and the ceremony enjoyed by all Fox Family members.
- Professional Musical Theater productions like West Side Story and Jesus Christ Superstar that not only sold out Terry Fox gym but had runs at the Queen Elizabeth Theater as well.
- The school's first B.C Football Championship.
- The School's back to back B.C Boys' Basketball Championships.
- Watching Port Coquitlam/Terry Fox students go from 9 Provincial Scholarships to over 40 by his last year and seeing Terry Fox students receive \$400,000 in scholarship money his last year.

Mr. Buckley retired in June of 1994. At that time, Mayor Len Traboulay and the Port Coquitlam City Council proclaimed June 16th, 1994 as George Buckley Day. The Student Council recognized the value and support of this great leader with a plaque of thanks entitled

“Pursuit of Excellence”. Mr. Buckley’s calling card ... a motto the staff and students pursue every day. The Coquitlam Secondary Schools Athletic Association awarded Mr. Buckley the prestigious Jim Steward Award, a builder’s award for his support of athletics in Coquitlam District 43. Mr. George Buckley has left a truly great legacy of excellence, a trail we all try to walk each day. Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of it. The Terry Fox Wall of Fame honours Mr. George Buckley.

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Paul Ballard

It is with honour that I am here to present to our first Wall of Fame recipient of the evening, Paul Ballard. Paul graduated from Terry Fox Secondary in 2001. He was a student of multiple talents getting involved in many areas of school life. Paul enjoyed the arts and was heavily involved in the theatre sports team and acted in numerous plays such as Charlotte’s Web, Apollo of Belek, The Crucible and West Side Story. Paul also demonstrated his leadership abilities as a Link Crew Leader. These leaders were responsible for working with a small group of freshman students mentoring them and helping them adjust to the demands, rigors and expectations of high school life. In grade 12 Paul was the recipient of three prestigious awards: The Terry Fox Spirit Award, Sherry Sharma Acting Award and the Link Crew Leader Award. All of this being outstanding, Paul’s greatest talents were and are in athletics and his amazing compassion and work with others

As an athlete at Terry Fox, Paul was involved in the Tennis Program for three years and the Track program for one year. His number one sport and love was soccer though. Paul was an amazing force on the soccer team for 4 years and it would be these talents that would lead him to Trinity Western University where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Kinetics with a concentration in History alongside with having an outstanding collegiate soccer career.

At Trinity Western University, Paul was the soccer team’s captain for five years, a two time TWU Top Athletic Award winner (2002, 2006), four time Canada Western Soccer All Star and two time All Canadian winner. Paul also competed on the U-20 National Soccer team and was captain of the Whitecaps reserve team in 2005. Unfortunately, Paul suffered a torn ACL in his senior year which took him out of the game for a short while but gave him the opportunity to do Leadership Development with all of the athletic team captains at TWU.

Following his recovery, Paul and his wife decided to work with a ministry based program called “Athletes in Action”. Through ministry work this organization focuses on changing communities worldwide. The ambitious couple took an assignment in Johannesburg, Africa where Paul would be a part of a Professional soccer first division team working with players on life skills in an effort to build strong role models in the community, which were desperately needed. Through soccer and bible study, Paul’s efforts helped to change many lives during the year and a half Paul spent in Johannesburg.

As Paul’s soccer story continues, he currently has a two year contract with the United Soccer League team the Cleveland City Stars. Interestingly, the team’s motto is “Serving the City, Changing the World”. Paul and his team mates do community work through the Salvation Army to help make the community a better and healthier place for all to live.

Although Paul could not be released from his team to be here tonight our message to him is we are very proud of his soccer accomplishments and his commitment to excellence as an athlete. But what we are most proud of his compassion for people and community and his desire (along with his wife’s) to make this world a better place for all to live. Paul truly lives by what he learned from being a Terry Fox student and athlete...compassion, perseverance, integrity and leadership.

Congratulations Paul on becoming a Terry Fox Wall of Fame Inductee.

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Dolores Kirkwood

Dolores Kirkwood joined the theatre department of Port Coquitlam Secondary School with the first ever production of a Broadway musical, “My Fair Lady”, in 1967. Her work had been viewed at Burnaby South Secondary School by a busload of students from PoCo who had ventured on a field trip to see one of her very successful musicals. Her talent as a choreographer was apparent and the PoCo students were so enthusiastic about this show that they demanded the PoCo drama department do the same type of production. Dolores was asked to come to Port Coquitlam to help initiate the musical theatre program. This was to be the beginning of an extraordinary run of musicals that lasted for over 20 years, all choreographed by Dolores and directed by Ed Harrington.

Dolores loved working with our students and always said that her biggest reward was seeing the students so enthusiastically involved and loving the experience of musical theatre. The musicals became known for their imaginative choreography ... every student became a dancer. Occasionally, boys were in short supply. Dolores had no qualms about marching out to the rugby pitch and hauling in the manpower she needed, much to the chagrin of our rugby coaches.

Dolores showed endless patience with the students and they grew to love her and the experience she brought to our school. Some of her favourite shows were “Hello Dolly”, “the Sound of Music”, and her last production at the school in 1989, “Forty Second Street” ... every cast member learned how to tap dance.

Dolores has been widely acclaimed for her theatre work. She was the recipient of the Sam Payne Award presented by the Actors Equity for her contribution to the encouragement of young talent. She was awarded a Star on the Entertainment Walk of Fame on Granville Street in Vancouver and has been recognized as the Citizen of the Year in New Westminster by the Chamber of Commerce.

We were indeed fortunate to have Dolores give so much to the students of Port Coquitlam Secondary for so many years. She truly enriched the lives of everyone in our community. She began a musical tradition at Terry Fox we can be proud of and she is happy to see that today, her legacy of musical theatre lives on. Terry Fox’s recent presentation of Hair is testament to a history of success that started so long ago in 1967.

Thank you Dolores, you are indeed a worthy member of our Wall of Fame.