

Golden Age Award

At this year's annual Induction Ceremony, the Cricket Hall of Fame will be introducing a "Golden Age Award," which is set to honor pioneers of the sport of cricket in the U.S. and Canada.



The first recipient will be Frederick James Heather, who will be recognized for a lifetime of outstanding contributions to the sport in Canada.

Heather, who was born in England on January 27, 1890, where he began his cricketing career, migrated to Canada in 1921, and took his love of the game with him.

On his arrival in Canada he shared his passion for the game with all Canadians, and did not only introduce his cricketing skills, but eventually played a big role in the growth and development of the game in his new homeland.

Upon retiring as a player, he embarked on a career as an umpire. In addition to umpiring, he made some strong contributions towards the future success of the sport by participating in numerous roles, which included secretary and player for two clubs, a founding member and first secretary-treasurer of the Toronto District Cricket Umpire's Association, and the first secretary of the Canadian Umpire's Control Board.

He won a Toronto Championship and competed for the Canadian Championship. Heather began umpiring in 1929 and was Canada's longest serving umpire when he retired. He was appointed to many international assignments including the Australian Good Will Tour and the inaugural First Class Status match ever held in Canada against the M.C.C.

Heather also started a school for cricket umpires. As principal of the school, he set a curriculum to ensure a high standard of officials for the future of Canadian cricket matches. He was instrumental in starting a junior cricket league in Toronto which resulted in the forming of 18 junior cricket clubs in 1931 that provided cricket for as much as 300 junior players each season.

The Canadian cricket community lost a legend when he died February 22, 1976, in Toronto. During his lifetime, he contributed to the building of Canada through cricket and his story is one to be celebrated and remembered.