



Crusaders 50th Anniversary

Save the Dates

JULY 12TH- 15TH

May 2018 Issue

We are only two months away from the big event! Tickets are on sale for both the **Golf Tournament on July 12th (\$225)** and the **Gala Dinner on July 13th (\$125)**. Visit crurugbyshop.ca to purchase tickets before they're gone!



Please note we have an updated email address
50anniversary@crusadersrugby.ca

Follow us on Twitter [@50yearsofcru](https://twitter.com/50yearsofcru)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/208867679644513/>

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Calling All Crusaders – We Need Your Help!

The 50th committee needs your help! In order to make this event a success, we are asking members to reach out and assist us with procuring prizes for our Golf Tournament and Gala Dinner Silent/Live Auction. Gift cards, getaways, gift baskets – any bit helps. We know that with the size of our club, and the dedication of our members, Cru will come through and make it happen. All funds raised during the weekend of events will go back into improving our club and providing a positive experience for our members for years to come.

On pages 3 and 4 you will find a letter from Chair Person Simon Fitzgerald. We urge you to forward this letter to people who could assist us.

In the meantime, check out some of the prizes we have secured, thanks to the generosity of our partners.

Sneak Peak – Prizes

Golf Prizes

- ❖ 2 Gold-level 30 day Trial Memberships – Clublink, value **\$695 each**
- ❖ 1 Gold Muskoka Golf Package, **value \$3,860**
- ❖ 1 Foursome at Caledon Woods, **value \$350**
- ❖ 1 Foursome at Heron Point, **value \$540**
- ❖ 1 Foursome at National Pines, **value \$450**
- ❖ 1 Foursome at Bluespring, **value \$540**
- ❖ 1 Threesome at Toronto Golf Club with Lunch – Hosted by John Easson, **value \$900**



Resorts

- ❖ 1 Silver Muskoka Resort Package, **value \$2,270**

Household

- ❖ 1 Custom Crafted Coffee Table by Peter Kijak, **value \$1,000**
- ❖ Artwork from Canadian Inuk Artist Matthew Petooloosie, **value \$500**

AND...

- ❖ 1 Autographed Ireland Game Jersey! **Value \$500**
- ❖ Hogtown Brewery Keg Party, **including 2 kegs, cooler, and swag**



Dear Friend of the Crusaders,

The Crusaders Rugby Club is proudly celebrating its 50th year anniversary in 2018. For 50 years the Crusaders, as a not for profit organization, has served the communities of Oakville and Mississauga by providing a safe, fun and challenging environment for athletes of all ages and genders to enjoy and develop in the game of Rugby. The Crusaders over the last 50 years has risen from its humble beginnings to one of the largest and most successful Rugby clubs in North America. Many of our athletes have gone on to represent our community on both Provincial and National levels.

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations we will be holding a gala dinner and silent/live auction on July 13th at the Rattlesnake golf club. The proceeds of the auction will go to the Crusaders Rugby Club building fund. This fund will be used towards much needed upgrades to our present clubhouse and fields. These upgrades will allow our athletes to continue to enjoy the game of rugby in a safe and affordable environment where they can continue to develop both athletically as well as responsible and caring members of our community. Our event is expected to draw over 400 supporters and participating businesses and individuals will be prominently featured in our event program. Can you help us out with a donation of a product or service from your business? This will greatly help our athletes. All donations are much appreciated. Your donation can be something as simple as a gift certificate to your business or an invitation to share lunch and a golf game with you.

A donation form for silent auction items is attached. Simply fill it out, then call or email us and we'll handle everything.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to help out the Crusaders Rugby Club as we embark on our journey to serve our community over the next 50 years.

Sincerely,

Simon Fitzgerald
Chair Person – Crusaders 50th anniversary Committee
Mobile: 416-845-9321



Silent Auction Donation Form

Donor Representative Name: _____

Donor Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

EMAIL: _____

Phone Number: _____

Description of item or service being donated

Approximate Retail Value: _____

Thank you for your support!

Please return this form via email or the same information to:

fundraising@crusadersrugby.ca by June 15, 2018

CRU Through the Years – Seventies and Eighties

BY STEVE SCOTT

The club had 'arrived' in a very short period following the inception in 1968 and the early years of playing 'friendlies' and starting at the bottom of the Niagara RFU leagues. The three teams were now competing in league play and soon to be bolstered by a colts (U19) team playing occasional fixtures.

A steady stream of new rugby playing immigrants, new arrivals to the growing suburbs of Mississauga and Oakville were now augmented by the supply of Canadian home grown talent. This included those returning from University rugby and but more significantly from the local high schools. The number of players that originated from Appleby College, Erindale S.S. and most particularly Oakville Trafalgar were key factors in developing the standard of play.

The early 1970's saw 2 important highlights - one was the Crusaders appearing in the provincial cup final! Known as the Carling Cup, Crusaders lost to The Nomads in 1973. The club would make several more appearances before emerging as champions in 2000 and 2012 in what is now known as the McCormick Cup.

The other highlight involved touring. Crusaders were fortunate to host Brynamman RFC (Swansea Wales) in 1971. This was closely followed by hosting London Welsh Dragons (London), Lusaka Leopards (Zambia) the Universities of Leeds, Manchester and Cardiff, Chelmsford (England) and many more. All in the 1970's.

Crusaders also began travelling - playing in many tournaments - Windsor Borders, Saranac Lake (NY), Sudbury, Barrie VII's, Ontario VII's, Montreal Irish VII's and Quebec Invitational. In 1977 the Crusaders ventured to Freeport (Bahamas) to play 3 matches. Other tours had to wait until the 1980's - Bermuda (1983 and 1987).

Pre-season tours were also initiated in the early 1970's - Washington DC, Akron Ohio, Syracuse NY, New York City (twice) and Pittsburgh. Results were secondary to building club spirit, having fun and getting some grass under our feet.

An International Event

Check out the impressive list of Crusaders from all over the world that will be joining us for the 50th celebrations:

- ❖ **John O'Meara** – Vancouver
- ❖ **Guy Vorster** – South Carolina
- ❖ **Ole Sealey** – Dubai
- ❖ **Dave Prentice** – Singapore
- ❖ **Chris Johnson** – Vancouver
- ❖ **Gary Ghent** – South Carolina
- ❖ **John Shaw** – Calgary
- ❖ **Bill Lewis** – United Kingdom

