

Joe Iannarelli Sr. is a Past President of the Association (1965-1966). He was the winner of the Bob Muir Memorial Trophy in 1967. For his dedicated service Joe was also awarded a life membership. In addition to these honours Joe was inducted into the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 as a Builder.

Joe was a pioneer with the Association when it was known as the British Columbia Arena, Auditorium and Stadium Association. During this era some recreation facility topics of the day included making and maintaining good ice and using concessions to generate more revenue for the budget. It is interesting that these same two important issues are still being discussed by ice arena managers and their staff more than 50 years later!

Joe was the Manager of the Esquimalt Municipal Sports Centre when it was officially opened in 1961. One of his highlights in the position was the establishment of the first summer hockey school on Vancouver Island. I personally benefited from Joe's overall leadership as a young participant in the 1969 version of this school. In addition, he helped create a popular men's hockey league which played their double-header games on Friday nights at the Sports Centre. Joe also



indicated that he enjoyed helping to get the sport of curling established at the facility. It was the second club to be built in the Capital Region in addition to the one in downtown Victoria.

Joe retired from the field of recreation in 1981 and now lives in Langford, BC. He is 97 years young!

These days he keeps himself busy with a wide variety of recreation activities. He enjoys his friendship with Roberta Fillman while playing cards, crib, going for walks and out for dinner along with watching T.V. and listening to music.

When asked what his best memories of the Association were, Joe commented that he enjoyed helping to get it organized because members were spread out all over the province of BC and this type of support was needed. He also enjoyed helping formalize the agenda for the President's Supper at the annual conference (this event used to be known as the President's Ball). With some members of the Association at the time being army, air force and navy veterans a number of elements of "Mess Dinners" were incorporated into the supper to make it a more formal function. ■

