



George Henderson Phillips, a leader in the development of amateur sports in the province of Manitoba, passed away Friday May 29, 2015 at the age of 86.

Amongst his many sports contributions, Phillips was the founding father of the Legion Athletic Camp at the International Peace Garden in 1962 and was associated with the camp as director and head coach for 50 years.

It is perhaps best that a few of his fellow Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame members give us their unbiased perspective. Phillips was inducted in as a builder in 2010.

"If the truth be known, he is probably one of the most important individuals in the amateur sport scene in Manitoba's sport history," Maureen Dowds, track and field (inducted 1988).

"Since the early 1960's, he has been one of the greatest builders of many sports in our Province. He has always dared to be different, unconventional and innovative," Brian Marshall, media.

"I believe that his greatest legacy lies in the hundreds of men and women, who after their own athlete careers ended, give back to the young people of Manitoba as coaches, teachers and volunteers," Bruce Pirnie, track and field (inducted 1987).

He was an individual who thought outside the box.

In the early 1960's, he was on the cutting edge of developing co-ed sports while also delving into sports medicine. Never discriminating, he facilitated that females find head coaching duties.

One must remember that females were not even allowed to participate in the Boston Marathon until 1967.

Over the years, the Legion Athletic Camp has hosted numerous sports including basketball, cycling, elementary, equestrian, fastball, fishing, gymnastics, football, karate, lacrosse, rhythmic gymnastics, rugby, sailing, soccer, team handball, track and field, volleyball, weightlifting, wilderness, etc.

His influence touched thousands of athletes and coaches.

### National/International

1962

Organized the inaugural Royal Canadian Legion Athletic Camp located at the International Peace Garden. The 1962 edition was a two-week summer camp (40 males first week, 40 females second week) with four of Manitoba's best track coaches.

1960's – 2012

Nearly 40,000 amateur school-aged athletes have attended the annual summer camp, which has gained international acclaim with athletes from around the globe attending.

### Provincial

1950's – 1960's

Organized mobile track and field clinics during the summer months, which traveled throughout the province of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario. Funded by the Royal Canadian Legion.

1960's – 1970's

One of the key organizers and meet director for the highly successful Red River Relays indoor track meet held annually at Winnipeg Arena.

1950's – 1980's

Physical education instructor at various schools including Churchill High School and General Wolfe. Coached numerous championship teams in various sports.

Assistant director of physical education for Winnipeg School District #1.

Principal at Hugh John MacDonald and Kelvin High School.

## Recognition

In the 1970's he received a plaque for his involvement in amateur sport from the Governor General of Canada.

Recipient of the inaugural Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Certificate of Recognition in 1980.

Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame (Builder) 2010

St. John's Ravenscourt Sports Hall of Fame 2010

