

WILLIAM KENNEDY



Bill Kennedy was born and raised in London, Ontario, as the youngest of five children. He has two older brothers and 2 sisters, one of whom, Louise, was inducted into the Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame in 1995.

He was encouraged to participate in the sport of swimming by his father, an orthopaedic surgeon, who was a member of the 1972 Olympic Team staff. Bill's first love during his youth was football, and he did not enjoy the sport of swimming until much later in life.

Bill attended the University of Michigan, and returned to London in 1971 to graduate from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor's degree, followed by Law School at the University of Ottawa, where he graduated with honours in 1976. He was called to the Bar in 1978. He moved to Grand Bend, Ontario, where he currently practices his profession.

Bill has quite a lengthy success story. His accomplishments included 10&under to 13&14 age group records in the backstroke, and becoming the youngest member of the Canadian Pan Am Team in 1967. This earned him an introduction to then Prime Minister, Lester Pearson.

He missed the 1968 Mexico Olympic Team by a hair, coming second at the Trials. In 1969, Bill earned three gold medals at the Canada Games in Halifax. It was team gold in the 4x 100m Medley Relay and individual gold for Bill at the 1970 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. Bill competed in the 100m Backstroke where he narrowly beat out Wales by 4/100ths of a second in one of the meet's most exciting finishes. In 1971, he placed third in the 100m backstroke at the Pan American Games in Columbia. He was the CIAU record holder in the 200 yard butterfly in 1972, recorded the fastest Canadian 200m backstroke time at the Munich Olympics in 1972, and was a member of the 400m medley relay team.

In retrospect, Bill realizes that swimming had given him a great opportunity to see the world by the age of 19. Swimming also developed a tremendous spirit of competition in him. He hated to lose – something that still prevails in his life today.

Bill is still an avid golfer and tennis player, among other pastimes. He plans to marry Krisan Sereda, a Chatham registered nurse some time in the future. He was a member of the London Public Utilities Commission that founded the London Aquatic Centre, home of the 2001 Canada Summer Games. He has also been inducted into the University of Western Ontario's Athletic Hall of Fame, as well as the Canadian Aquatic Hall of Fame.

The Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame is pleased to induct Bill Kennedy as a Swimmer.