



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLYMPIC SPIRIT CANADA'S SPORTS HEROES COME TO THE FERNIE MUSEUM

FERNIE, BC (January 7, 2015) – The Fernie Museum is please to announce that Mark Tewksbury, Kevin Martin, and Beckie Scott, three Canadian Olympians featured in the Fernie Museum's winter exhibit, *Olympic Spirit: Canada's Sport Heroes*, will be joining the Fernie Museum as part of the museum's Winter 2015 programming. The theme of their appearances is "The Road to the Olympics", in which the three athletes will share their personal stories of their journey to the Olympics to inspire youth in Fernie and Elk Valley region to also dream big and set high goals for themselves as well as to inspire the community to provide the leadership and support for youth to achieve their dreams.

MARK TEWKSBURY

Schedule of Presentations | February 11

10:00 to 11:00 am Presentation | Fernie Secondary High School
Celebrating Diversity: Straight Talk from a Gay Jock about Bullying

11:30 am to 1:00 pm Lunch Presentation | Park Place Lodge (742 Highway 3)
The Fundamentals of Leadership: Stories from the Chef (de mission)

Mark Tewksbury burst onto the scene at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, winning gold in a thrilling come-from-behind victory in the 100 metre backstroke. Twenty years later, Mark returned to the Olympic Village again, this time leading the Canadian Olympic Team and its 600+ person delegation at the 2012 London games. Mark will share stories from behind-the-scenes to bring some fundamental leadership traits to life.

Tickets for public events are available [online](#) on the Fernie Museum website or at the Fernie Museum.

4:30 to 5:30 pm Presentation to the Dolphins Aquatic Club | Fernie Museum | Closed Presentation
The Fundamentals of Achievement

MEDIA CONTACTS

Ron Ulrich | Director-Curator
Fernie Museum
250.423.1375 (cell)
director@ferniemuseum.com

Lori Bradish | Program Coordinator
Fernie Museum
250.423.8850 (cell)
programs@ferniemuseum.com

ABOUT MARK TEWSBURY

Mark Tewksbury first came to prominence as the star athlete who burst out of the water at the Barcelona Olympics; an Olympic Champion with gold, silver and bronze medals, numerous awards, and a cover appearance on TIME magazine.

Following his swimming career, Mark hosted television shows, authored three books, and became a sought-after speaker. He has been the Master of Ceremonies for the Dalai Lama's Canadian appearances, was invited by the Government of France to address human rights at the United Nations in New York City, and was the Chef de Mission for the 2012 Canadian Olympic Team competing in London.

Mark sits on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Canada, is the National Ambassador for CANFAR's Legacy Group, and is Honorary Coach for Team Canada competing at the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles this summer.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

A select group of Canadian athletes have changed the face of sport in Canada forever. Olympic medalists, world champions, fierce competitors – they have competed for our country, won with pride and lost with dignity. Through their efforts, they have proven that sport can capture the imagination of an entire country – and often the entire world. They deserve to be remembered.

In 2002, Alberta artist Gordon Milne was commissioned by the Canadian Sport Centre Calgary to paint a series of large-scale portraits to celebrate our Olympic sports heroes. On exhibit at the Fernie Museum are twelve portraits from this series, including Alex Baumann, Silken Laumann, Beckie Scott, Ian Millar, Mark Tewksbury, Diane Jones Konihowski, Nancy Greene, Kurt Browning, Gaetan Boucher, Kevin Martin, Cassie Campbell and Catriona Le May Doan. Accompanying the portraits are artifacts from the collections of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame showcasing the athletes' achievements and contribution to Canadian sports. Fernie's connection to Canadian Olympics and Olympians is also highlighted.

This collection of portraits has been achieved with the generous support of the Canadian Sport Centre Calgary, ARC Energy Trust, BMO Financial and Alberta Culture and will ensure a lasting tribute to our Canadian sport heroes. The exhibition is on loan from Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in Calgary, Alberta and is made possible with the support of Canadian Heritage and Canadian Tire.

For further information regarding the Olympic Spirit | Canada's Sports Heroes exhibit, please contact Janice Smith, Director of Programs and Exhibits at Canada's Sports Hall of Fame by phone at 403.776.1040 or by email at jsmith@cshof.ca.

ABOUT THE ARTIST | GORDON MILNE

A Canadian artist, Gordon Milne was born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1953. He attended McMaster University where he studied printmaking and sculpture.

Early in his career Milne worked as a printmaker – producing original etchings, woodcuts, linocuts and mixed media drawings. In 1982, at the start of a promising career, a gallery flood ravaged most of Gordon's artwork, leaving little to show from the '70s. Although difficult at the time, it proved to be the event that altered Milne's focus from printmaking to painting – specifically portraiture.

Along with the **Canadian Sport Heroes Collection**, Milne has created the **Sport Legacy Collection**, a visual tribute to Olympic sport, a series of six smaller paintings which was also commissioned by the Canadian Sport Centre Calgary and is installed at the Calgary International Airport.

Gordon has also enjoyed a long-term relationship with the Alberta Ballet where he regularly attends classes to draw this group of dedicated dancers. Milne has completed major portraits of several renowned Canadian dancers which mark the inception of a new collection of work called **Art & Dance**.

In addition to these ongoing projects Gordon has completed a number of private commissions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit our website at www.ferniemuseum.com