

John Cannon Memorial Fund Grant

John Cannon, who was described as one of the best rugby players to have ever come out of Abbotsford, passed away on March 19th 2016 at the age of 35. John began playing rugby in high school, first playing rugby at WJ Mouat Secondary and then for Abbotsford Senior, where he graduated from in 1998. He first represented Canada on an Under-17 tour to England in 1996 at the age of 15.

The following is a summary of his rugby career:

1996 – Canada Under-17 - Tour to England

1997 – Canada Under-17 - Tour to Germany

1998 – Canada Under-19 - FIRA World Under-19 Tournament in France

1999 – Canada Under-19 - FIRA/IRB World Under-19 Tournament in Wales

1999-2001 – Canada Under 23 Pacific Pride Program

2000-2001 – Canada Senior Men’s Sevens Team Member

2001-2005 – Canada Senior Men’s Team Member - Earned 31 caps for Canada and participated in the IRB World Cup of Rugby in 2003

2001-2007 – Played professional rugby in England for Rotherham, Coventry, and Doncaster

2004/2005 and 2005/2006 – “Best Centre in England National Division One” as voted by league coaches (now called Championship League)

2007 – Retired from rugby in August 2007 as a result of an injury stemming from an unprovoked attack following a soccer match. Doctors advised him not to play rugby again

2011 – Inducted into the Abbotsford Sports Hall of Fame

2014-2016 – Coached the Abbotsford Rugby Club Men’s Teams with Harry Toews

John was not only respected on the field for his skill, toughness, and tenacity but also off the field for his caring nature and love of life. Having progressed through the Canadian pathway of rugby development, John was well aware of the financial commitment required to play rugby for British Columbia and Canada. It had long been John’s dream to set up a fund to assist Abbotsford rugby players in pursuing representative rugby. This grant is a lasting reminder of John’s desire to give back to the game that gave him so much.

Eligibility:

Applicant is a male or female athlete who wishes to pursue representative rugby and is:

1. Currently playing, or has previously played, rugby in Abbotsford
2. Currently playing rugby at a high school, club, university, or elite rugby program
3. Between 17 and 23 years of age on September 30th of the year in which the grant is awarded

General Guidelines:

1. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply in a subsequent year.
2. Successful recipients may not apply again.
3. Applications may be emailed, mailed or couriered. Faxes will not be accepted.
4. The award recipient or recipients must agree to have their name and photograph publicized. The recipient or recipients must also be prepared to promote the grant as requested.

Selection Criteria:

1. Strong academic achievement, excellent citizenship, and community involvement.
2. Recognized contribution to the rugby community.

Application Requirements:

1. A completed application form.
2. A letter, not more than 250 words, describing the reasons why you would be a worthy recipient of the John Cannon Memorial Fund Grant. Include your contributions to the rugby community, other volunteer activities, your academic achievements, your most important accomplishments and your future goals.
3. Two letters of reference from the two individuals named in your application. One must be a coach or a teacher from your school, college or university.
4. An electronic photograph e-mailed to pcannon@telus.net. We would prefer if the applicant is wearing a rugby jersey in the photo but that is not required. Once submitted the photo will be the property of the Canadian Rugby Foundation.

Deadline:

Applications may be submitted by email, mail or courier no later than **July 15th, 2019 at 4pm PST**.

Only the successful applicant or applicants will be notified. The Cannon family would like to thank all applicants for their interest in the John Cannon Memorial Fund Grant and wish them future success on and off the field.

Applications can be emailed to pcannon@telus.net

Or mailed to:

John Cannon Memorial Fund Grant
c/o Peter and Jane Cannon
2472 Sunnyside View
Abbotsford, BC , V2T 4K7