



Jim Elder competed in six different Olympic Games from 1956 to 1984. Here he competes with the Canadian Equestrian Jumping Team on Ruffles II at the Montreal Olympics in 1976. In 1983 he received the Order of Canada and in 2003 Elder was inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame.

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KING TOWNSHIP'S AMAZING OLYMPIC HISTORY

King Township, with a population of under 25,000, is the birthplace, training ground, residence or retirement retreat of an incredible number of Olympians. For over 60 years, athletes with King in their past or future have competed on the trampoline, the track, the rink, the rowing course and, in history-making numbers, on horseback. Some of the Olympians with strong ties to King Township are...

Rosannagh MacLennan -- better known as Rosie, Canada's gold medal trampolinist at the 2012 London Olympics -- is a lifelong King City resident. She competed also in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Rosie is the only Canadian ever to win gold in an Olympic trampoline event.



Schomberg resident Eric Lamaze won an individual gold medal in Equestrian Jumping and team silver in Hong Kong for the Beijing Olympics, 2008. He competed again in the 2012 London Olympics. His beloved stallion Hickstead's death in 2011 attracted international attention. (See cover photo)

Curtis Joseph, goaltender on Canada's gold medal Men's Ice Hockey Team in Salt Lake City in 2002, grew up in East Gwillimbury. But as a teenager, "Cujo" played Junior B with the King City Dukes and later lived in King when he played for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

In 1968, the Canadian Equestrian Team won gold in Mexico City with Jim Day riding on Canadian Club (left) and Jim Elder on The Immigrant (middle).

Andrew Byrnes, who spent his early years on the 7th Concession near the headwaters of the East Humber River, won a gold medal in Beijing, 2008 and a silver in London, 2012 with Canada's Men's 8+ Rowing Team. (Byrnes is sixth rower from the bow.)

Jason Burnett, a trampolinist who grew up in Nobleton, won his silver medal in Beijing in 2008 and represented Canada in London, 2012.



Elvis Stojko won silver for Men's Individual Skating in consecutive Olympic Winter Games; 1994, Lillehammer and 1998, Nagano. While he grew up in Richmond Hill, Stojko has lived in King and he graduated from The Country Day School where the school individualized his timetable to allow for his rigorous training schedule.



Larry McGuiness (second from left), John Rumble (second from right) and Walter Pady (right) rode in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics with the Canadian Equestrian Team. McGuiness, Rumble and Pady were probably the first King athletes to compete in the Olympics, riding with the first Canadian Eventing team ever to enter the Games. McGuiness' farm on the 7th Concession served as an early training ground for Canadian equestrians.



In 1956, the Canadian Equestrian Eventing Team won bronze in Stockholm where equestrian events were held during the Melbourne Olympics. All three team members were from King – John Rumble on Cilroy, Jim Elder on Colleen, and Brian Herbinson on Tara.



Beth Underhill participated in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics with the Canadian Jumping Team on Monopoly.

Jay Hayes competed with the Canadian Equestrian Team as a jumper on Zucarlos at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Hugh Graham participated with the Canadian Equestrian Team in Los Angeles, 1984 on Elrond.



Cindy Ishoy won bronze with the Canadian Dressage Team in the 1988 Seoul Olympics on Dynasty. Ishoy comes from a family with a long history of excellence in dressage.



In 2008, the Canadian Equestrian Team won a silver medal at the Beijing Olympics held in Hong Kong with King residents Mac Cone on Ole (second from the left) and Eric Lamaze on Hickstead (second from the right). Torchy Millar (on the far left) served as Chef d'Equipe in 2008 and participated as an equestrian jumper in 1968, Mexico and 1972, Munich.



William (Bill) Gairdner competed in the Men's 400m Hurdles and the Decathlon in Tokyo, 1964. Gairdner retired from track and field to King where he maintains his champion's fitness level, running and cycling on Township trails.

Christilot Boylen, expert in Dressage, competed in five Olympic Games including Barcelona, 1992, on Biraldo.

John Rumble on Cilroy leaps an obstacle during competition to win team bronze in 1956, Stockholm (Melbourne Games).

Allan Ehrlick rode Durlas Eille in 1968, Mexico.

Other King-connected equestrians who have participated in the Olympic Games include Martina Pracht (1992, Barcelona), Barry Sonshine (1968, Mexico) and Norman Elder (1960, Rome and 1968, Mexico).