

Bob Simms – Goose Bay Judo Club Hall of Fame Category – Builder

Appointed to Hall of Fame – November 2013

Bob started Judo as a member of the Memorial University Club and was a member of the varsity team until he graduated in 1970. His Sensei was Dr. Yves Legal.

Upon beginning his teaching career in Cartwright Labrador, Bob started up his first club at Henry Gordon Academy from 1974 to 1976; having obtained some cotton mats to use as a tatami from an old North Warning site in the community. In 1976, he relocated to Happy Valley - Goose Bay and started the Goose Bay Judo Club at Peacock academy. A couple of years later the club moved to the Labrador Training Center, where Bob is still the lead Sensei.

Over the years the Goose Bay Judo Club has been a consistent presence within the NLJA; developing athletes that have represented the club and the province at the Provincial, Regional and National level. The Goose Bay team has always represented well at provincial tournaments, winning the Brisol Cup twice and as individual athletes, winning the Allister Fowler award four times in the past ten years. The club has also consistently had athletes who were team members on the provincial Canada Winter Games teams; Joe Broomfield from The GBJC is the only Judoka from the province to have won a gold medal at the CWG's.

For the past ten years Bob has dedicated his focus to developing a leadership team for the club that will ensure it's continued success. His strong leadership, unwavering principles and team-focused approach have developed a well-established club, with a strong membership and a well-rounded leadership team.

Bob was graded to Shodan in 1982, to Nidan in 199, Sandan in 2007 and Yondan in 2013.

Other awards and recognitions that Bob has received include:

- 1989 – awarded "Community Builders Award" from the town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay – relating to volunteer contributions to judo.
- 2002 – awarded "Queen's Golden Jubilee Award" from the office of the Governor General – relating to volunteer contributions to judo.
- 2002 & 2003 – nominated for "Alumni Tribute Award" Memorial University – relating to volunteer contributions to judo
- 2009 - awarded "Coach of the Year Award" from the town of Happy Valley - Goose Bay - in recognition to his long standing dedication to coaching young people in the community and the positive influence he has had on many

- 2013 – awarded “Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Award” from the office of the Governor General – relating to volunteer activities, particularly in judo
- Multiple appreciation awards from judo parents and students.

Provincial activities:

In addition to leading his own club Bob has also been consistently engaged with the Provincial Judo association.

Bob has served many years on the executive of the Newfoundland and Labrador Judo Association, is the current chair of the Provincial grading board and his presence is constant providing assistance and guidance as a Provincial A referee at competitions.