



April 3, 2021

We are delighted to announce that the running track, a key feature of this facility, has been named in honour of Harry Jerome, British Columbia's male athlete of the 20th Century and recipient of the Order of Canada. As you may know, Harry Jerome grew up on the North Shore in the 1950's, training and competing on the old cinder track at West Van High. We believe that his courage in the face of cruel racism and two devastating injuries is an inspiring story, and that no student should look out at the track, and no citizen should walk around it, without knowing who Harry Jerome was and what his story can teach us about building a more civil society. We have been working closely with his sister Valerie Jerome, herself an Olympian and a tireless advocate for social justice. On the recommendation of Valerie, the new track will be known as **Harry Jerome Oval**, and it is our intention to include these words from Nelson Mandela on the plaque that will be placed at the facility:

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again"

We invite you to view the short video announcement on this website of the naming of Harry Jerome Oval, and to hear directly from Valerie what sport meant to Harry as a teenager searching for acceptance at school and in his community. It was through track that Harry first recognized the power of sport to change lives, and he later devoted much of his life to providing sports opportunities for Canada's youth. In Valerie's words,

"Harry so desperately wanted other young people to enjoy the bounty of good fortune and happiness brought to him through sport"

We very much look forward to the day when we can celebrate the opening of Harry Jerome Oval, the only track in the world named in his honour, but we still have some distance to go in our fundraising campaign. We have received wonderful support for the West Vancouver Place for Sport from almost three hundred donors, whose generosity to date has provided over \$3,600,000 in funding. We remain optimistic that 2021 will see us reach the finish line of \$5,000,000, with construction now set to begin in the spring of 2022.

We believe that a community can be transformed by sport, as it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. The Place for Sport will be the most important sports facility built on the North Shore in over a decade, but at its heart will be Harry Jerome Oval and the values of belonging, inclusion, and community.

We hope that you will consider donating to this important project. Now, more than ever, we need your help to make this dream a reality. Donations can be made on this website, or through a contribution to the:

West Van Foundation
Place for Sport Fund
775 15th Street
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 2S9

Please don't hesitate to share this information with friends or colleagues who might wish to join you in helping to build a sports facility of which we can all be proud.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Jopson

Jo-Ann Wood

Gerry Humphries

On behalf of the Place for Sport Capital Campaign Committee