

COBOURG & DISTRICT SPORTS HALL OF FAME  
P.O. Box 45, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 1M8

HONOURED MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION APPLICATION

Date Received

Nominee: SOMMERVILLE ROBER CLARKE  
Family Name First Name Middle Initial

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_


Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place: TORONTO Date of Birth: 05/12/30  
Day Month Year

Place/Date of Death: COBOURG

Year Lived in Cobourg and/or District: 1952 - 1997

If nominee is deceased, please provide name, address and phone number of next of kin.

DAVID SOMMERVILLE 

SPORT ACHIEVEMENT

Nomination For: Athlete ( )  Builder (✓)

Sport (s): \_\_\_\_\_

SPORT	TEAM	ROLE/CAPACITY	DATE

Championship Teams: (Please provide dates): *Cobourg Cougars Jr C Provincial*  
*SINCLAIR Mustangs Provincial*  
*Coldspring Cats Provincial*

Individual Awards/Citations: (Please provide dates):

*Sportsman of the year 1977*

\*Indicate if awards/honours are Local, Provincial, National or International

Associations/Organizations/Clubs with whom nominee is/was associated with (local, provincial, national, international etc.)

If possible, please provide a summary/description of any other additional information that would describe the nominee's outstanding contribution to sport.

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Newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photos or sort memorabilia will assist in supporting the application.

**SUBMISSIONS WITH INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN A  
DELAY IN CONSIDERATION BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE.**

Additional Information/Comments:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE ABOVE FACTS ARE TRUE, AND I ENDORSE THIS APPLICATION FOR INDUCTION INTO THE COBOURG AND DISTRICT SPORTS HALL OF FAME

NOMINATOR: DAVE SOMMERVILLE

ADDRESS: 84 KING ST W COBOURG

PHONE #: ( [REDACTED] ) EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: Sept 24/19

Please return completed form to:

Cobourg & District Sports Hall of Fame

P.O. Box 45

Cobourg, Ontario

K9A 1M8

# Robert Clarke Sommerville

1930 -1997



Clarke Sommerville was born in Toronto, Ontario on December 5th, 1930.

He played hockey from a young age and eventually spent four years with the Galt Black Hawks in the OHA Junior 'A' Hockey League. When his junior career ended, he played for Washington and Philadelphia in the American Hockey League (AHL). During that time Clarke realized his hockey career was coming to an end and it was time to move on.

In 1952, he purchased a small retail business in Cobourg that evolved into Sommerville's Sporting Goods.

Upon his move to Cobourg, Clarke immediately became involved in the sports community. He played goal for the Intermediate Hockey Team, joined the golf club, played in the men's fastball league, coached and joined the executive of the Cobourg Church Hockey League.

Clarke was also involved "behind the scenes" in the organization of the 1960s kids' lacrosse league when it became known a group of kids wanted to start a league. A number of Cobourg sportsmen including Vern MacGregor, John Lavis, Orv Delaney and Clarke organized a league for them which played at the Memorial Arena.

Also in the mid 1960s, Clarke, Dick Robinson, Jeff Rolph and Layton Dodge were instrumental in the starting and funding of a Junior 'B' Hockey Team—the Cobourg Cougars. Clarke was a lifetime executive member and played many roles within the club over the years including general manager as shown in the above photo.

In the 1970s, Clarke helped start a girls' fastball organization now known as the Cobourg Angels. During that time, he put together and coached a girls, novice rep team "the Sinclair Mustangs" that won an Ontario Championship.

Clarke supported many aspiring athletes pursuing education and sports careers. He often provided jobs with flexible hours so that they could pursue their dreams—many times providing financial assistance when needed.

Clarke was often asked to provide advice and mentorship. He believed that everyone should be given a chance to "succeed" and that "desire to succeed" was often more valuable than ability.

The "Sporting Goods" store was a gathering spot for many. They would come every day to discuss current issues. More than once it was stated that some of the most important decisions in Cobourg sports were made by a group standing around the pop cooler at Sommerville's.

Clarke was proud and humbled to be involved in the successes of the Cobourg Cougars, Coldsprings Cats, and countless other teams and organizations.

Throughout the decades, Sommerville Sports has been a staunch supporter of many sports in various ways "behind the scenes". But that was Clarke—he always believed that the people who did the organizing etc. should stay out of the lime-light with the attention and accolades being focussed on the athletes.

Even though Clarke was an accomplished multi-sport athlete himself, his legacy in the Cobourg Sports Community as a builder will carry on for years to come.

Please accept this nomination for Clarke Sommerville in the "Builders" category for the Cobourg and District Sports Hall of Fame.

*Submitted by  
David Sommerville*



Nomination of  
**Clarke Sommerville**  
to the Builder's Category



of the 2020 Cobourg & District Sports Hall of Fame

## ROBERT CLARKE SOMMERVILLE

Robert Clarke Sommerville was born in Toronto, December 5, 1930. He played hockey early on, working his way up to the Junior A ranks, spending 4 years as goaltender for the Galt Black Hawks. The following two years were spent in the American Hockey League with Philadelphia and Washington. At this point in time, Clarke Sommerville made a life changing decision. In 1952, he purchased a small retail business in Cobourg that evolved into Sommerville's Sporting Goods. Upon arrival, he got involved in the local sports community, he played for the Intermediate hockey team, joined the golf club, pitched in the Town Softball League and joined the executive of the C.C.H.L – Quietly and "behind the scenes", he, along with Orv Delaney, John Lavis and Vern MacGregor formed a lacrosse league for kids. They played out of Cobourg's memorial arena. In the mid 60's, Clarke, Dick Robinson, Jeff Rolph and Layton Dodge were instrumental in starting and funding of a Junior "B" Hockey Team – The Cobourg Cougars. Clarke was a lifetime executive member serving in many roles including General Manager. In 1972, Clarke and his son David coached their "Sinclair Mustangs" to an Ontario Softball Championship.

The sporting goods store was a gathering spot for many people to discuss current issues. Many important decisions about local sports were made around the store's famous pop cooler. Clarke was proud and humbled to be involved in the success' of the Cobourg Cougars, The Cold Springs Cats and countless other teams and organizations.

Throughout the decades, Sommerville's Sports has been a staunch supporter of many sports and athletes in various ways "Behind the Scenes", he believed that athletes should be front and centre. Clarke Somerville was a good athlete but his legacy as a Sports Builder will last a very long time.



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ROBERT CLARKE SOMMERVILLE WAS BORN IN TORONTO DEC. 5-1930. HE PLAYED HOCKEY EARLY ON, WORKING HIS WAY UP TO THE JR 'A' RANKS, SPENDING 4 YEARS AS GOALTENDER FOR THE GALT BLACK HAWKS. THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS WERE SPENT IN THE AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WITH PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, CLARKE SOMMERVILLE MADE A LIFE CHANGING DECISION. IN 1952, HE PURCHASED A SMALL RETAIL BUSINESS IN COBourg THAT EVOLVED INTO SOMMERVILLE'S SPORTING GOODS. UPON ARRIVAL, HE GOT INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL SPORTS COMMUNITY, HE PLAYED FOR THE INTERMEDIATE HOCKEY TEAM, JOINED THE GOLF CLUB, PITCHED IN THE TOWN SEFTBALL

87  
59  
95  
274



DOROTHY AT  
THE TOY SHOP



A WONDERFUL  
COUPLE -  
MARK & DOROTHY



Hilroy





THE TOY SHOP



MARY BEVAN - DOROTHY SUMMERYKLE AND  
MARLENE TOWNS.