



Jack Fine President's Award

Jack Fine

2016 (Posthumous)



Jack M. Fine
1925 - 2014

Just before last season kicked off our industry learned of the passing of a gentleman who can arguably be referred to as the Kingpin of Bowling in Canada. **JACK MARSHALL FINE** passed away August 27, 2014 at the age of 89.

his participation in the family business, becoming the film booker for the family theatres. He soon saw an opportunity to get into the bowling business, purchasing a bowling centre at Bathurst and St. Clair in mid-town Toronto.

By 1954, Jack's political savvy and interest saw him involving himself heavily in the formation of a network of bowling proprietors, and he was instrumental in the formation of the Bowling Proprietors Association of Ontario. In fact, he was a huge asset to the new and growing organization, and sat on the Board of Directors of BPAO throughout its early years.

In 1959 he foresaw the boom coming for bowling, and decided to make his mark, leaving the

Born July 8, 1925, Jack was the eldest of 3 siblings. His father Sam got into the theatre business with B & F Theatres in the Toronto area. As Jack got involved in the family business he learned a lot about the entertainment industry, understanding the considerable work ethic required which he would bring in to his future endeavours.

In 1947, at the age of 22, Jack graduated from the University of Toronto with Honours in Political Science & Economics. While at college, Jack became heavily involved in sports, especially squash and racquetball.

His passion for sport had him writing a Varsity Sports article for the Globe and Mail newspaper while at school, and he also applied his considerable writing talents as editor and writer of the school yearbook.

After graduating from U of T.... he elevated



Bowl Canada President Todd Britton presents the President's Award (posthumously) to Jack Fine (accepted by Jack's son Harry)
June 2016 - Niagara Falls, ON

Bowl Canada President's Award - Jack Fine



Jack with Blue Jay Buck Martinez during Bowlerama Day circa 1983

ma” name and brand was based on a bowling centre Jack saw in Florida. He thought it was a perfect fit to project a brand which represented the world of bowling, and before long it was the representation of the sport in Southern Ontario and eventually, by reputation, across Canada. Very quickly afterwards he added 3 more centres in Toronto as well as locations in Guelph, Brantford & Kitchener.

In 1977, Bowlerama purchased the “All Canada Bowl” chain, adding another 13 bowling centres to the growing operation, now numbering 23 centres. At its high point, Bowlerama reached 28 locations across Southern Ontario, and was the 4th largest chain of bowling centres in North America. Truly remarkable.

family theatre business and upping his game in the bowling industry. He purchased his first “Bowlerama” centre on Jane street in Toronto with partner Thurston Allen.

Interestingly, the “Bowlerama”

Jack supported the industry in many ways, including active participation on Boards. He sat on the BPA of America Board, was BPAO President from 1967-68, Sat on the Bowl Canada Executive Committee for a number of years, stepping up as national President from 1982-1984. Additionally, he was an influential member of MUBIG, the Multi-Unit Bowling Information Group in the United States.

As if that weren't enough, from humble beginnings in one of the Bowlerama centre basements, Jack also built up Bowling Sales of Canada and created one of Canada's leading bowling distribution outlets, servicing both the retail market and the Trade.

Recognition did come his way and how could it not. Jack was inducted into the C5PBA's Hall of Fame in the Builder's Division in 1986, and the Builder's of the Industry in 1982.



Jack circa 1980



Jack with Col. Harlan Sanders of KFC circa 1978

Jack Fine's creativity led to his innovation of time Bowling. His political savvy led the fight to extend bowling centre's hours of operation... the fight to lower municipal licensing fees for the industry... the fight against unreasonable Realty assessments... and he was

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Jack Fine (centre) amongst his industry peers at an Ontario Bowling Alley Owners Association dinner in 1954

a key player in knocking down the liquor laws keeping alcohol out of bowling centres in his province of Ontario.

Jack regularly kept in touch with the Bowl Canada office, sharing news and checking in to see what was happening in his industry. And he was a Contributor right to the end, standing for election to our Board of Directors just a year or so before his passing, always willing to give a little more.

We remember Jack now and with respect acknowledge his incredible contributions to our sport and industry. Bowl Canada has submitted his name for consideration to The Canadian Sports Hall of Fame as we know he truly belongs to be among the elite group of builders in our country. And to ensure we honour our stars and keep them in sight, effective next year, this award we bestow upon him posthumously, the Bowl Canada President's award, will henceforth

be known as the Jack Fine President's Award.

We are very pleased to have with us this morning a man who has made his own mark in our industry, one who was there by Jack's side through many of his successes. I would now like to call up Harry Fine and ask him to accept the Bowl Canada President's Award on behalf of a gentleman I, and many others, will respect throughout our days....

**JACK
MARSHALL
FINE**

