

Olympian Rosie MacLennan named Athlete of the Year

By Jeff Doner

Rosie MacLennan has added yet another award to her impressive collection. The King City native was recently named Female Athlete of the Year at the Ontario Sport Awards.

"It was such an honour to be selected as Ontario female athlete of the year," said MacLennan. "There are so many great athletes from Ontario who have excelled. It is an amazing feeling to be able to recognize the accomplishments of all the athletes, not just those who won."

Established in 1965, the Ontario Sport Awards is the highest recognition for excellence in amateur sport in the province. Finalists are nominated by their provincial/multi sport organization. Winners are chosen by the Sport Awards selection committee, a group comprised of former athletes and sport administrators from Ontario.

"Congratulations to all of the talented athletes recognized at this year's Ontario Sport Awards," said Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "We are proud to celebrate the motivation, determination and passion of Ontario's finest amateur athletes and the dedicated coaches, volunteers and sponsors who support them."

Ontarians will be represented by some of these honoured coaches and athletes as members of Team Canada in a number of upcoming national and international competitions, including the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games.

"I want to congratulate all the recipients and finalists of the Ontario Sport Awards," said Holly Abraham, chair of Sport Alliance Ontario. "We are thrilled to be able to recognize the amazing athletes, coaches, volunteers, and sponsors, who work so hard in their respective sports year after year. It was great to see that so many finalists were Olympic and Paralympic medalists, which demonstrates excellence in the Ontario sport system."

Other athletes earning top honours included figure skater Patrick Chan, wheelchair basketball player Patrick Anderson, para-swimmer Summer Mortimer and ice dancing duo Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

The award adds to a fantastic year for MacLennan, who won Canada's lone gold medal at the 2012 Olympics in London.