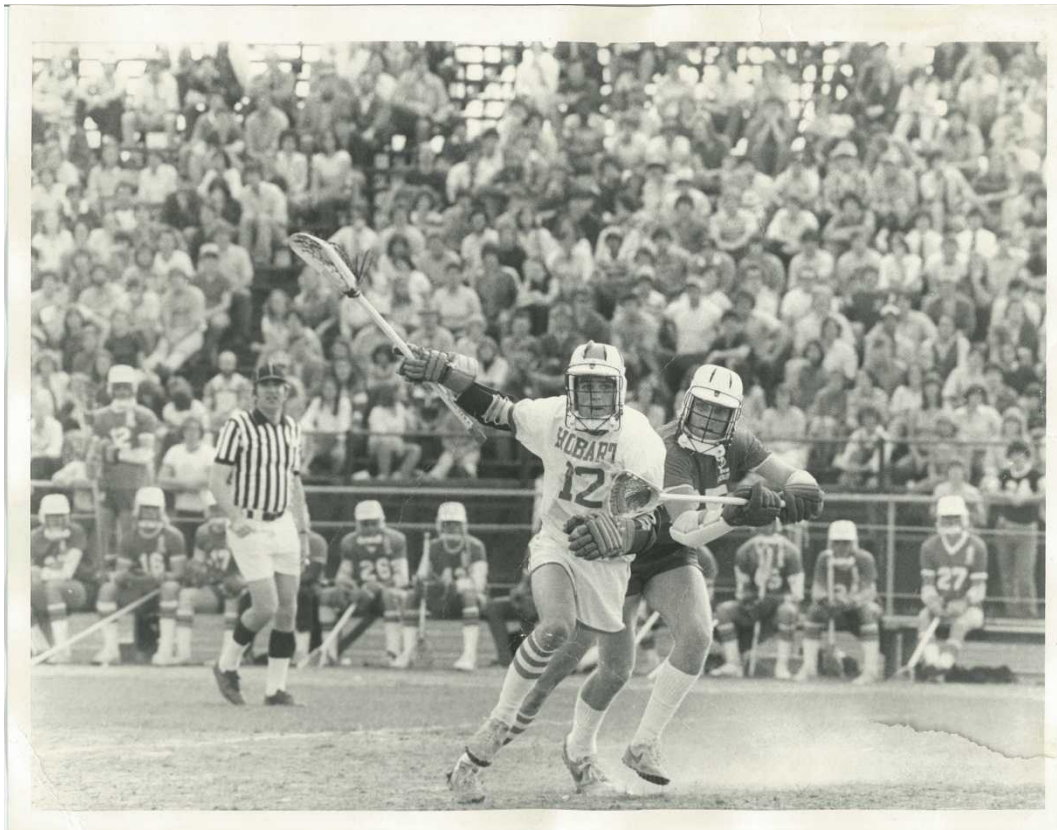


## JIM CALDER – LACROSSE PLAYER AND TROUBADOUR

Jim Calder started playing lacrosse as a 14 year old in 1970. His family had moved from Saskatchewan, Canada to Long Island, New York in 1964. He was playing baseball up to 1970 when a Junior High School (Grades 7-9) gym teacher gave him a stick to use in grade 7. He fell in love with the game immediately and was playing for the Junior High Team by Grade 8 through Grade 9, and played for Baldwin Senior High School from Grades 10-12. "We played against some of the great players in the country on Long Island- including Mike O'Neill and Craig Jaeger who also played in Australia in 1979 for Malvern, the year before I went to Australia and played for Malvern".

"I was sent to a showcase camp by a great dad of one of my friends - my family had no money and we were a single parent household. I had a great camp and received a Presidential Scholarship from Hobart College all expenses paid (For lacrosse and academics), one of the best places to play the game, in the heart of Haudenosaunee traditional territory in upstate New York. I felt like I had won the lottery and was so proud to play for the little school that could compete handily with the big schools, like Cornell and Syracuse. We came close to beating Cornell who was number 1 at the time and beat Syracuse a few times. To my surprise and delight, I started at midfield all 4 years at Hobart and Captain in Senior Year, graduating in 1979."



Above is Jim in action for Hobart

You would think being Canadian that Jim would have played more box than field but given he left Canada before starting to play lacrosse that was not the case. "I never played any box lacrosse as it wasn't played on Long Island at that time. I became the only pure field lacrosse player (No box background) to play for Canada in the world championship in 1978. Some other Canadians were playing in Upstate New York, including Mike French (Cornell), Johnny Mouradian (Ithaca), Dave Huntley (Johns Hopkins), Stan Cockerton (NC State), who suggested I try out for the 78 team. Canadian coaching staff had also seen me when they came through Upstate playing exhibition games a few years earlier."

Jim was a member of the 1978 Canadian World Championship team and 1982 team member.

In 1980 Jim was assistant coach of NCAA University of Massachusetts, after which he travelled to Australia with team mate and goalkeeper, Rick Blick, playing for Malvern, where they were runners-up to Williamstown. Jim and Rick were recruited to Malvern by Brian Bell and hosted by Doug Carter. "I learned all about "Two-up" and the "Dogs" (Greyhounds) from Brian!"

After the season Jim and Rick, and a couple of other American players hitchhiked up to Airlie Beach and stayed on an uninhabited island in the Great Barrier Reef – "It is one of the great adventures of my life. We had great stops in New Zealand and Maui and Los Angeles on the way back to Long Island, a brief stay there before moving back to Canada."

"I moved back to Canada in January 1981 to prepare for the 1982 team. I thought I would be up here for one year, but I loved Toronto and ended up just staying as I had my Canadian Citizenship. My centre balance, Hobart College, was only 4 hours away from Toronto, closer than when I was on Long Island, so I was still very involved with the Hobart athletics program as a volunteer on the Athletic Board. I think it is why I have such a close affinity with the Haudenosaunee as I really felt comfortable in both countries and spent a great deal of time in Haudenosaunee Territory - Upstate New York."

Jim was the founder of Toronto Lacrosse Club (Men's field lacrosse) in 1981 which he played in and coached for 7 years.

Jim became a freelance writer for major Canadian newspapers and some magazines covering sports and travel throughout the 1980's.

## **WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

"I got involved in women's lacrosse in 2002 because I have been blessed with two daughters and so you end up coaching and building leagues for them to play in. They both ended up going to Hobart and playing there."

Jim was the founder of the Toronto Stars girls field lacrosse team in 2018, General Manager of the Team Ontario girls box lacrosse team, which were national champions

(2009), and builder of Toronto Districts Women's High School Lacrosse League, which is still going to this day. He also served as head coach of University of Toronto women's lacrosse program.

In 1999 Jim was one of original owners and a member of the original management team of Toronto Rock, the first Canadian professional box lacrosse franchise in the U.S. based NLL and winner of two NLL Championships (1999 & 2000).

## **AWARDS**

1976 & 77 NCAA National Champion

1978 & 79 All-American

1986 Ontario LA Mr. Lacrosse Award

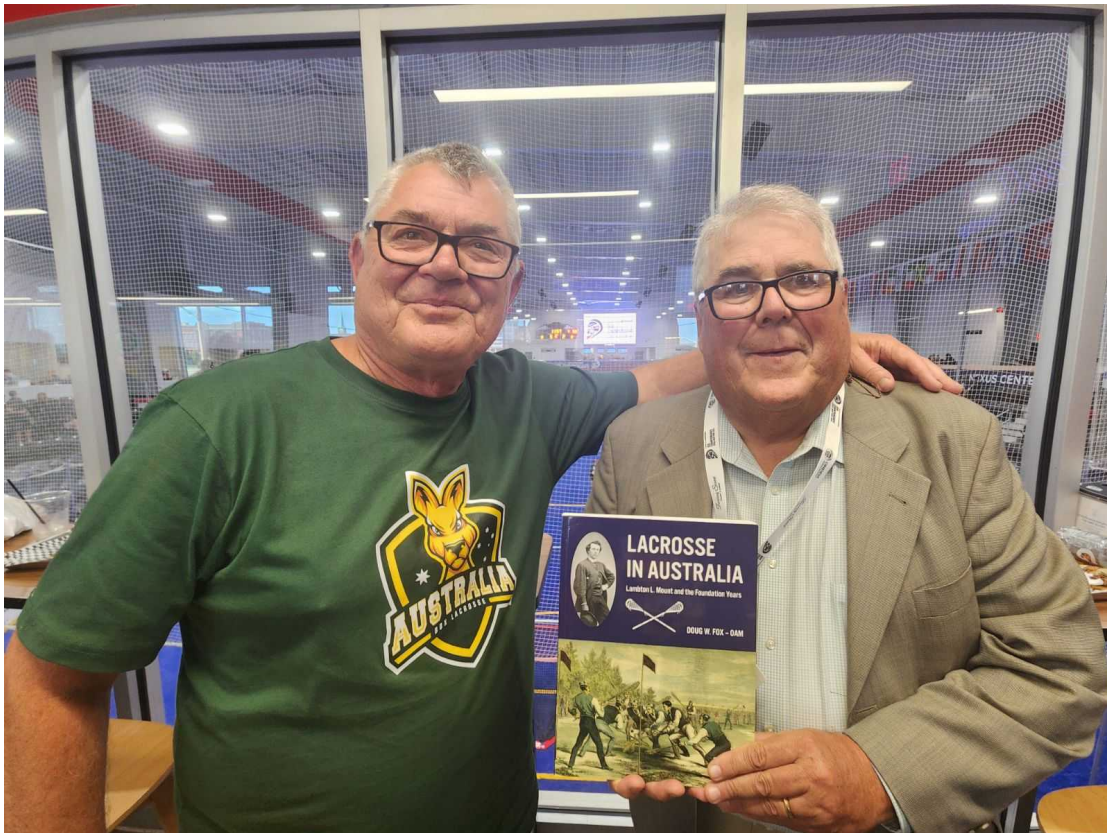
2001 CLA Hall of Fame Member – Team Canada '78

2003 Hobart College Sports Hall of Fame Member

## **SERVICE TO THE GAME**

Off the field or box, Jim has assumed many roles in lacrosse, including:-

- Event Manager – Lacrosse Canada Commemoration and Founding Event – 2024
- Committee Member and Co-Founder of Alfie Jacques Ambassador Award – 2024 (Ongoing)
- Event Manager for Re-enacted Lacrosse Games – Event Manager of 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lacrosse in Montreal - 2017
- Event Manager of Great Lakes Stick Ojibwe Presentation at LaSalle Voyageurs Rendezvous event in 2019
- Manager of Legends and Lacrosse Talks Video Library and Podcasts – [www.lacrosse.ca](http://www.lacrosse.ca) - Current
- School Presentations and Lectures – History and Culture (Ongoing)
- Co-Creator of Heritage Cup Lacrosse Event in 2002
- Co-chair of the World Indoor Lacrosse Championship in 2003 in Ontario
- General Manager of 1986 FIL Men's World Field Lacrosse Championship team (Toronto, Canada)
- Chair of Canadian Men's Field Lacrosse Championship held in Toronto in 1984
- Member of the Board of Directors – Canadian Lacrosse Foundation (1995 – present)
- Board of Directors – Ontario WFL (2011-16)



Above is Jim with that “Old campaigner” “Keka” at the World box championships in July

Jim began writing books because he had been really getting into the history and culture of the game and was taught a great deal by “Faithkeepers” like Delmor Jacobs (Cayuga Nation) and Oren Lyons (Onondaga Nation). This informal education began in 2002 or so. He had a constant thought of writing a book (Lacrosse – The Ancient Game) that would contain both the Medicine game and Modern sports origins. The internal prompting would not let go so he began writing his first book in 2009, having met Alf Jacques sometime around that time. The book was published in 2011.

Author: "Lacrosse - The Ancient Game" - [www.lacrossetheancientgame.com](http://www.lacrossetheancientgame.com) and second book - "Women Play Lacrosse -A History of the International Game". Third Book is “Tales of a Lacrosse Troubadour”. Fourth book is Educational Guide and Student Workbook to accompany “Lacrosse – The Ancient Game”.

Jim is 68 years young, still working on a number of projects, writing books and lectures, video interviews collecting history in Canada, and now a volunteer with the Alfie Jacques Award Committee, with no retirement in sight.

Well done Jim on a great career and altruistic contribution to our great game, on and off the field and the box – the Creator would be amused!