

International Maple Hall of Fame...Update and Nomination

Most everyone in the maple industry is aware of the International Maple Hall of Fame, located in Croghan, New York. Since 1977, the Hall of Fame has honored over 100 individuals who have made a consistent and constant contribution to the maple industry, both in their local environment and internationally. Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is deemed the highest honor that can be bestowed to an individual by their peers.

The North American Maple Syrup Council (NAMSC) sponsors the Hall of Fame nomination and induction process. Recently the Executive of NAMSC has revitalized the Hall of Fame program. A rejuvenated committee is chaired by Ray Bonenberg (ON) and is supported by committee members Kathy Hopkins (ME), Tom Mcrumm(MA), Bill Robinson(ON), Eric Randall(NY) and Joe Polak(WI). A revised terms of reference and selection criteria for inductees has been developed and approved by the NAMSC Board in May 2024. A new induction “pin” has also been developed and the inductees at the 2024 ceremony were the first to receive the rejuvenated pin.

The Hall of Fame committee is now working on a revitalization of the induction ceremony normally held in Croghan, New York in May of each year. This coincides with the official season opening of the International Maple Museum and has traditionally hosted a pancake breakfast and a few exhibitors around the grounds followed by a fantastic chicken BBQ lunch. However, attendance and support at the ceremony has waned recently and the committee is exploring ways to rejuvenate that in the future.

For the 2025 induction process, the Hall of Fame committee is seeking nominations for recognition. Anyone is invited to submit nominations. The criteria used to select candidates is:

- Candidates must have demonstrated significant contributions to improving and advancing the maple industry in North America.
- The nominee’s contributions must have or continue to have a positive impact within the maple syrup industry at the local, national, and especially the International level.

- Posthumous nominations will not be accepted except on a case-by-case basis and should be submitted within 2 years of the passing of the suggested nominee.
- If for extenuating circumstances the nominees coming forward do not include 2 deserving individuals, the committee may consider one or in extreme cases, none.

Nominations need to explain the rationale for nominating with solid evidence of accomplishments. A one-page nomination letter is sufficient for consideration by the committee. Nominations are due by September 15th to Ray Bonenberg; maplesidesugarbush@gmail.com or to any committee member.

If anyone wishes to discuss the background eligibility, they can contact Ray directly @ 613 735 2366