



Dear Pentathlon Canada Family and Friends,

John Hawes touched the lives of so many people in the Canadian modern pentathlon community. We've gathered below some tributes and reflections shared following his passing.

Rod Staveley – President, Pentathlon Canada

Ken Maaten – 1972 & 1976 Olympic Pentathlete

Melanie McCann – 2012 & 2016 Olympic Pentathlete

George Skene – 1972 & 1976 Olympic Pentathlete

Robert Bonomo – 2023 Pan American Games Pentathlete

McGill ATHLETICS – Earl Zukerman, Sports Information Officer



Rod Staveley

President, Pentathlon Canada

“On behalf of the Pentathlon Canada family, I extend my sincere condolences to John’s family.

John contributed to our sport in many ways, first as an athlete and later as our National Team Coach from 2009 to 2016. His dedication, knowledge and commitment to modern pentathlon will be dearly missed.

In 1983, John, along with Dacre Stoker, coached Lynn Chornobrywy (now Lynn Séguin) to the World Championships title — a first for Canada in our sport.

John also coached both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic teams. In London, Melanie McCann finished 11th, which remains the highest Olympic finish by a Canadian, male or female, in modern pentathlon.

Thank you, John, for your enduring contribution to our sport and for the many lives you touched along the way. You will be greatly missed.”



Ken Maaten

1972 & 1976 Olympic Pentathlete

“I was deeply saddened to hear of John Hawes’ passing. John was a dear friend, a fellow athlete, and someone I had the privilege of knowing during a very meaningful time in my life.

In 1976, while we were training for the Olympics, I lived with John, and those days gave me memories I will always value. We were great training partners, each bringing different strengths to the group. Running, which was John’s challenge, was one of my strongest events in the pentathlon; swimming, which was my challenge, was undoubtedly one of John’s greatest strengths.

Because of that, we could help each other, encourage each other, and grow stronger together.

John went on to give so much to the sport of pentathlon, and many will remember his impact. He will be genuinely missed, not only for what he contributed, but for the person he was.”

Melanie McCann

2012 & 2016 Olympic Pentathlete

Melanie wrote a heartfelt tribute to John. **Click [here](#) or on the image below to read her full tribute, posted on Pentathlon Canada’s Facebook page.**





George Skene

1972 & 1976 Olympic Pentathlete

"What I will miss most about John is the twinkle in his eyes. If you look closely at John's photos, you can see that twinkle. Along with his big smile, amazing sense of humour, and generous heart, he stood out in so many ways.

God bless you, John."



Robert Bonomo

2023 Pan American Games Pentathlete

“Words cannot express my gratitude for your support, John, before, during and after my modern pentathlon career, as well as the many other great modern pentathletes you have guided to success throughout your career. You will be missed dearly.”

McGill Athletics & Recreation

MONTREAL — McGill Athletics & Recreation is saddened to report that John Hawes, a two-sport Olympian, two-time McGill male athlete of the year and member of the McGill Sports Hall of Fame, has died.

The longtime resident of Stittsville, Ont., was 75. Pentathlon Canada first announced the news on its website on August 22, 2026, followed by a social media post the next day.

Click [here](#) to read the full tribute from McGill Athletics.



John leaves behind a remarkable legacy in Canadian modern pentathlon and, perhaps more importantly, many people who were fortunate enough to call him a friend.

Rest in peace, John. You will be missed.

Pentathlon Canada

