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By **Mac Christie**, Review Staff

Waterdown District High School (WDHS) rugby coach Monty Heald has been made an Honorary Life Member of Rugby Canada.

Heald, who lives in Waterdown but was born in Derby, in the East Midlands region of England, will be formally receive the honour – the highest and most prestigious bestowed by Rugby Canada – during June's Canada-Scotland game

“I didn't realize this, but I guess there's only three people this has ever happened to before,” said Waterdown District High School's Nathan Tidridge. “They give it out very sparingly.

“His story is basically a history of rugby.”

After immigrating to Burlington in 1968 and moving to Puslinch in 1971, Heald was a founding member of the Burlington Centaurs Rugby Club in 1973.

The club's first captain, Heald's playing career ended in 1988, but he had already become active in administration.

In 1981 Heald became a national selector and also managed the Canadian team for a period, as well as the sevens squad. He also served as the director of the national team from 1986-1991.

Now retired, Heald coaches at WDHS and serves on Rugby Canada's past presidents committee.