



# Mississauga Legends Row

## Rower's Olympic comeback inspired a nation

The lowdown:



Silken Laumann

By JOSEPH CHIN  
Staff

### Class of 2013: Silken Laumann

Although she's a three-time Olympic medalist, Silken Laumann will always be best remembered for her courage and indomitable will to compete.

In May 1992, just 10 weeks before the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, Laumann was competing in a warm-up

race in Essen, Germany, when, out of nowhere, a German boat crashed into her shell, severely injuring Laumann.

"I looked at the leg for a few seconds and knew it was serious when my muscle was hanging at my ankle and I could see the bone," she said.

Reigning world champion in

single sculls rowing, Laumann was told by doctors she might never row again.

Twenty-seven days, five operations and countless hours of gruelling rehabilitation later, Laumann was back in her shell, ready to pursue her Olympic dream.

When the starter's pistol

rang out on Aug. 2, viewers in Mississauga and the rest of the country — who normally wouldn't tune in to a rowing race, especially at 3 a.m. — saw Laumann make the greatest comeback in Canadian sports history, winning the bronze and capturing the hearts of a nation.

Laumann retired from rowing in 1999 and now lives in Victoria, B.C.

- born Nov. 14, 1964 in Mississauga
- graduated from Western University in 1989
- inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1998, Mississauga Hall of Fame in 1999
- awarded the Thomas Keller Medal, the highest honour given by the International Rowing Federation, in 1999