

# ELDRIDGE 'GUS' EATMAN

1880-1960, Saint John, New Brunswick



## WORLD CHAMPION SPRINTER

Eldridge 'Gus' Eatman is considered to be one of the greatest sprinters of the early twentieth century, hailing from Saint John, New Brunswick. His first well-known victory came when he defeated world champion and later US Olympic coach, Tom Keen of the United States in 1903 at Moosepath, Saint John, NB. In 1905, Eatman was listed as the fastest Canadian over 120-yards, and in 1906, won the Powderhall Trophy, a contemporary equivalent to the world championship, in Edinburgh Scotland. He won various events across North America and Europe, defeating other athletes from around the world. Following his career in athletics, Eatman served in the First World War as an infantryman. He is also known for working to recruit volunteers and raise funds in the Saint John area to combat Fascist Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935. Eatman was inducted into the Saint John Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame in 2016, and the Maritime Sports Hall of Fame in 2019, all posthumously. Maurice Eatman, Eldridge's cousin who is working hard to revive his legacy, remembers Eatman as "the greatest [athlete] ever produced out of New Brunswick for his era."