

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARPA Acclaims Excellence in the Field of Recreation and Parks

Lake Louise, AB – ARPA acknowledged six award and scholarship recipients at an awards dinner hosted in conjunction with the 2009 ARPA Conference & Energize Workshop at the Chateau Lake Louise – October 31st, 2009. The award winners included community volunteers, practitioners and post-secondary students who made outstanding contributions to the recreation and parks sector.

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| ▪ AABRD Undergraduate Scholarship | Leah Moroz (University of Alberta) |
| ▪ AABRD Graduate Scholarship | Kyoung June Yi (University of Alberta) |
| ▪ Halladay Memorial Scholarship | Joshua Koehli (University of Alberta) |
| ▪ Excellence in Youth Development Award | SOGO Calgary |
| ▪ ARPA Merit Award | Diane Dunn (City of Edmonton) |
| ▪ A.V. Pettigrew Award | Town of Blackfalds |

“We are delighted to honour these individuals and communities for their efforts to improve the quality of life for Albertans,” states Dr. Tim Burton, ARPA President. “Recreation and parks are crucial to the wellbeing and development of healthy individuals, communities and environments. Thus it is vital to recognize those who work to promote wellbeing through recreation and parks. The ARPA President’s Awards Banquet is an important occasion to celebrate the accomplishments of these current, past and future leaders.”

The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) is a provincial, not-for-profit, charitable organization made up of volunteers committed to fostering the health and wellbeing of Alberta’s communities and citizens through recreation and parks. Serving Albertans since 1952, ARPA members include community and public recreation agencies, educators, corporate, elected/appointed officials, lay and student members.

For further information on the award and scholarship categories and winners, please refer to the attached Backgrounder.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

Kay Kenny
Chair, Awards and Scholarships Committee
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (403) 309-8418
Fax: (403) 342-6073
Email: kay.kenny@reddeer.ca

Mandi Wise
Communications Coordinator
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (780) 644-6976
Fax: (780) 451-7915
Email: mwise@arpaonline.ca

AABRD Legacy Awards and Scholarships

In 1972, the Alberta Advisory Board on Recreation for the Disabled (AABRD) was formed to act as a catalyst in the promotion of recreation services for people with disabilities through existing generic recreation delivery systems. Twelve years later, the AABRD felt that its primary objective had been fulfilled and appointed ARPA to disseminate AABRD services, awards, and scholarships.

Support for the AABRD Awards is provided through a Legacy Fund, managed by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Undergraduate Scholarship

AABRD Legacy Undergraduate Scholarships assist Albertans in advancing their Undergraduate-Level education in the area of recreation for people with disabilities (e.g., recreation administration, adapted physical education, rehabilitation medicine or other related programs).

Leah Moroz

This year's recipient of the AABRD Undergraduate Scholarship is Leah Moroz. Leah is a committed student, an avid volunteer and a firm believer in the benefits of recreation for persons with disabilities. She is an active leader in her community and is always striving to do her best in the things she undertakes. As a current fourth year Kinesiology student at the University of Alberta, Leah aspires to obtain her Masters Degree in Physiotherapy to work with children with disabilities in a hospital setting.

Community Involvement through volunteer work has been a priority for Leah over the last six years. Her love for serving others is exemplified by her endless list of volunteer endeavors and Leah has served her community through charity fundraisers, day camps, office work, sports medicine and physiotherapy clinics as well as teaching swimming lessons to children with disabilities. For the last year, Leah has managed to balance her academic achievements with a part-time job at a Chiropractic Clinic where she assists with clerical and clinical duties. Leah has been described as "a professional and personable individual with a genuine concern and care for others". She is passionate about recreation and believes physical disabilities should not limit a person's opportunities to play and participate. She has worked with children with disabilities through the Paralympic Sports Association as well as the Alberta Children's Hospital and is motivated to improve the quality of life of the people she helps.

Through her many accomplishments, dedication, compassion and respect for individuals with disabilities, Leah Moroz is a very worthy recipient of the 2009 AABRD Undergraduate Scholarship.

Graduate Scholarship

AABRD Legacy Graduate Scholarships assist Albertans in advancing their Graduate-Level education in the area of recreation for people with disabilities (e.g., recreation administration, adapted physical education, rehabilitation medicine or other related programs).

Kyoung June Yi

Kyoung June Li is a PhD Program candidate in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta in the field of Adapted Physical Activity. He is committed to people with disabilities through his research, writing, work as an activity consultant at the Steadward Centre for Personal and Physical Achievement, and his numerous volunteer activities in the Edmonton community.

With a strong passion for the inclusion of persons with disabilities into mainstream opportunities for improved quality of life, Kyoung June epitomizes the ideal candidate for this Award. He spreads the message of the importance of physical activity for people with disabilities and inclusive practices in sport, recreation and active living.

Many programs and organizations have benefitted from his outstanding volunteer activity and fundraising commitments. He spends countless hours as a coach and participant for a wheelchair ball hockey team, basketball, and self-defense. Kyoung June coordinated the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event for the last three years. He holds black belts in both judo and taekwondo. He has rounded out his experiences as a tenor in the United and Hallelujah Choirs, and as a Heritage Festival volunteer through the Edmonton Korean Church and Canadian Associations.

Kyoung June achieved numerous scholarships and awards to further his studies in both in Korea and Canada, and published a multitude of articles and research papers. Highlights of his young career have been opportunities to present unique lectures on adapted physical activity and inclusive physical education at Yonsei University and Sookmyoung Women's University in Korea.

Kyoung is bright, committed to academia, his community, and people with disabilities. His enthusiasm and energy continue to expand his professional abilities and enhance his rapport with colleagues and participants alike. Kyoung June Li is a deserving recipient of the 2009 AABRD Graduate Scholarship Award.

ARPA Awards and Scholarships

Halladay Memorial Scholarship

To recognize a student enrolled in any undergraduate program related to recreation and parks, who has contributed to recreation and/or parks services through volunteer activities, work experience, studies and involvement in ARPA. This award is given in memory of Jacqueline Diane Halladay, 1959 – 1981, to honour “one who gave so much”. Jacqui served on ARPA’s Board of Directors from 1979 – 1980 and was instrumental in initiating the Student Standing Committee. Jacqui’s enthusiasm and inquisitiveness during Board meetings provided a fresh dimension which continually challenged the ‘veterans’.

Joshua Koehli

Joshua volunteered at Camp Cadicasu Summer Camp in Bragg Creek for three summers, during which he worked with youth in an outdoor environment – hiking, backpacking, and leading on-site games and activities. For the past two years he has worked at Edmonton’s Royal Glenora Club promoting active lifestyles by coordinating adult fitness programs and assisting with kids summer fitness programs.

Josh is currently a University of Alberta student completing a Bachelor of Physical Education with a concentration in Cultural and Managerial Studies of Sport and Leisure. He recently completed a practicum at the Alberta Centre for Active Living, an organization that works closely with ARPA to improve the quality of life of Alberta citizens. Josh is an ARPA student member, who has attended several presentations and training workshops sponsored by the Association.

Josh has been described as enthusiastic; a “go getter” that is a positive role model with an eager and curious mind, a passion for recreation and a drive to lead and engage people. He is perceived as a change agent who wants people of all ages to be more physically active, recreate more, and live

happier, healthier lives. ARPA is pleased to recognize Joshua Koehli as this year's recipient of the Halladay Memorial Student Award.

Excellence in Youth Development Award

This annual award recognizes excellence in recreation projects reflective of the principles of youth development where youth are themselves involved in planning and making decisions. It originated from the successful 2003 National youth Development through Recreation Services Symposium held in Calgary. The award includes \$2,000 cash recognition to support future development needs of the winning project.

SOGO Calgary

Inspired by an opportunity for youth to carry the Olympic flame 400m as part of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, Calgary agencies and youth launched SOGO Calgary in 2008. Twenty youth ambassadors and their adult representatives from organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary, Calgary YMCA, City of Calgary, and Child and Youth Friendly Calgary participate in recreational activities and initiatives to promote increased activity levels among youth.

Youth from each agency plan and make decisions regarding the hosting of monthly physical activities and healthy group meals, benefitting from opportunities to build strong peer relationships, positive relationships with caring adults, try new activities often for the first time, and give back to the community by encouraging other youth to be more active and eat healthy.

In the words of one youth participant, we have "an opportunity to expand our leadership and team building skills and to explore the many and varied activities that our organizations offer. I have expanded my horizons and met many new people in the process. I am honoured to have the opportunity to share with you the amazing experience that SOGO Calgary has given me. It is an organization run by many dedicated advisors and very dynamic youth."

Because of the innovation and hard work of everyone involved, as well as the support that each agency provides, youth are themselves creating and improving the quality of life for other youth in Calgary. It is with great pleasure that we offer SOGO Calgary the Excellence in Youth Development Award.

ARPA Merit Award

The prestigious Merit Award honours individuals or groups who have contributed significantly to ARPA through recreation or parks development in Alberta. Nominees may be practitioners, volunteer leaders or board members in any recreation or park related agency.

Diane Dunn

Diane Dunn is a strong advocate for recreation in Alberta and a proven leader in her field. While raising her two children, Diane started volunteering for one of Edmonton's community leagues, then an additional five years with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, which ignited her passion for community development with a true grass roots approach.

Diane is a strong arts and community development advocate and in her role as a Community Recreation Coordinator for the City of Edmonton, represents a calibre of professional skills,

Backgrounder



experience and "aura", that is greatly appreciated by both the community and her colleagues. She was instrumental in rallying several stakeholders, inspiring them to actively participate in an innovative collection of programs designed to foster respect and appreciation for Edmonton's most treasured and vulnerable historic resource – Old Strathcona. What makes Diane even more valued is her willingness to share those skills, mentor new staff, and lend her support when asked, but more often, when needed.

Diane was an ARPA board member and served on the executive as secretary for two years. As chair of the Education Committee, she advocated strongly for the association's role to ensure members experience a strong and enriching professional development program through the provision of workshops, conference programs, and liaison with post-secondary institutions. At that time, she participated in the first membership needs assessment to enable the association to understand and then meet the professional development needs of recreation and parks practitioners.

As program chair for several ARPA Annual Conferences, Diane continually "raised the bar", ensuring her colleagues from across the province, Canada, and diverse disciplines benefited from a rich, balanced and inspiring educational experience. She always strived for the "wow-factor" keynote, for which our association has come to be recognized.

Diane is fully committed to life-long learning, apparent by her annual attendance and active participation in the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, as well as the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association. Travel and training support from her municipal corporation often required her to invest personally in membership, registration and accommodation costs.

Those who know Diane will have experienced first hand her contagious enthusiasm, commitment to excellence, and an unwavering desire to improve the quality of life in Alberta's communities. Diane is truly a recreation professional and a deserving candidate for ARPA's prestigious Award of Merit.

A.V. Pettigrew Award

To recognize communities in Alberta that have contributed the most to improving the quality of life of their citizens through recreation and parks – in areas of programs, services, facilities, parks and open spaces, or a combination thereof.

ARPA inaugurated this award in 1972 in honour of Albert (Bert) Victor Pettigrew. Known to many in Alberta and Western Canada as "Mr. Recreation", Bert retired from the Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department after 26 years of devoted service to Edmonton citizens. He was a founding and charter member of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, dedicated to serving the people of Alberta through his profession.

Town of Blackfalds

"A Nice Place To Grow" is a tagline that seems somewhat of an understatement for the Town of Blackfalds. The community has seen its population double to 5,610 people since the turn of the millennium. Of that total, approximately 20% of the population is less than eleven years of age. All this youth and vitality has translated into a community teeming with expectations. Residents demanded more than just a bedroom/commuter town; they wanted a sense of place and belonging to call home. Through careful planning and innovative resourcing, the Town of Blackfalds has delivered just that.

The success of this bustling town's recreation programs and services are a result of solid planning, which provided a framework for growth, development standards and a sustainable funding strategy.

Backgrounder



A decade ago, Blackfalds invested wisely in an Open Space Master Plan, a Community Needs Assessment Plan, and Neighborhood Development Design Standards documents. In 2002, opportunity struck with rapid growth in commercial and industrial development – a much needed tax base to support the growth of recreation services in the town. This newfound revenue, coupled with the implementation of a facilities and open space levy on local residential developers, positioned Blackfalds to begin execution of their careful planning.

Today, residents enjoy a host of new and revitalized amenities, which include a new Community Civic & Cultural Centre, a renewed community hall, an upgraded ice arena with multi-purpose community spaces, and a rejuvenated All-Star park facility. The initial stages of trail development link the community to the Trans Canada Trail Network. During an evening stroll you will come across a water spray park, picnic areas, a skateboard park, play structure and gazebo features cradled in barrier free and environmentally sustainable parks.

At the heart of Blackfalds rapid development is a small team of Community Services staff. Together with unwavering support from Town Council and a passionate Recreation, Parks and Culture Board, they have worked tirelessly to ignite the spirit of the residents of Blackfalds. While top notch facilities provide the bricks and mortar of a town, Blackfalds is living proof that it's the people who breathe life into a community. Connecting service and youth groups, sport organizations, seniors clubs, social agencies and parent groups has been the key to injecting the sense of pride so important in the evolution of a community.

The Town of Blackfalds deserves to receive the A.V. Pettigrew Award in recognition of its forward thinking and planning to provide top quality recreation opportunities within a culture of community pride.