



Monday, November 22, 2004

ARPA Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to Recreation and Parks in Alberta

(Edmonton, AB) The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association takes great pride in recognizing our 2004 Award winners! These outstanding individuals and groups have made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life of Albertans through recreation and parks services.

As a part of their Annual Conference and Energize Workshop, ARPA held their annual President's Awards Banquet at the Jasper Park Lodge. This annual event recognizes both individuals and groups which have made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life, health and wellness of Albertans through recreation and parks.

Receiving awards this year were:

Lindamarie Gossen – AABRD Legacy Undergraduate Scholarship

Karen Robinson – AABRD Legacy Graduate Scholarship

Camp Health, Hope & Happiness – AABRD Legacy Award

Candice Hundebly – Halladay Memorial Award

Chevron Texaco Learning Pathway in the City of Calgary – ARPA Parks Excellence Award

Active Edmonton Steering Committee – A.V. Pettigrew Award

Mayor's Youth Council of the City of Calgary – Excellence in Youth Development Award

Ron Gorgichuk – ARPA Merit Award

Please review the attached information sheets for complete details on each Award and this year's recipient.

ARPA is a provincial, not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to improving the health, quality of life and well being of Albertans through recreation, sport, arts, culture and parks. ARPA members include community and public recreation agencies along with corporate sector representatives, individual professionals, elected officials, recreation volunteers and students. ARPA has been providing recreation leadership in Alberta since 1951.

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Backgrounder

AABRD Legacy Undergraduate Scholarship

- Scholarship assists Albertans to advance their education in the areas of recreation for people with disabilities

2004 Recipient Lindamarie Gossen

- proven her dedication to her community and to persons with disabilities.
- As a mother of two autistic sons, a special needs foster daughter, as well as operating a consulting business to aid families with children who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- currently completing her third year at Mount Royal College, - degree in rehabilitation
- maintaining a 3.5 GPA and accelerating her studies by completing two years worth of course work in one year
- member of the Disability Studies Student Society, a volunteer mentor, and a leader in the Christmas fundraiser, sits on the Academic Council, Program Policy Committee.
- She is a voice in the student community and has helped better student life at Mount Royal College.
- volunteering in the Opening Gaits Therapeutic Riding Society, Autism Calgary Society, North Haven Community Association, Scouts Canada, and Cambrian Heights Elementary School.

ABRD Legacy Graduate Scholarship

- Scholarship assists Albertans to advance their education in the areas of recreation for people with disabilities

2004 Recipient Karen Robinson

- graduate from the Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology and Physical Education - Laurier University,
- outstanding record of academic success and practical experiences
- working and volunteering for various disability organizations including Ontario March of Dimes
- strong leadership skills and research experiences gained from completing her undergraduate honours thesis
- two years ago enrolled in a Masters Degree program at the University of Alberta, specializing in Adapted Physical Activity.
- involved with numerous research projects at the University;
- acted as a physical activity leader for two University-based programs tailored for children with disabilities;
- worked as a primary instructor for two movement activity courses - one at the University of Alberta and the other at King's University College;
- worked as a personal ABA therapist for a young boy with autism; spent six weeks in Ghana, Africa as a researcher with Right to Play;
- acted as the temporary Executive Director for SportAbility Alberta while a colleague was en route to the Paralympics.

AABRD Legacy Award

- Awards recognizes achievements by individuals, communities and organizations that strive to advance integrated recreation opportunities for people with disabilities.

2004 Recipient Camp Health, Hope & Happiness

- opened in 1959
- operates on a budget of \$1.3 million
- year-round facility with fully equipped medical center, hotel and dormitory style rooms, commercial kitchen and dining hall
- provides the wonderful camping experience for citizens who have been faced with physical, systemic or attitudinal barriers.
- the ratio of campers to paid counsellors is amazingly 1:3 (one counsellor for every three campers).
- In 2004 - had 796 people with disabilities and those deemed medically fragile to one of their summer camps.
- Campers ranged in age from 6-101
- Campers from every part of Alberta as well as the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Northern British Columbia.



Backgrounder

Halladay Memorial Student Award

- recognizes 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.

2004 Recipient Candice Hundebly

- great passion for recreation and parks
 - volunteering for ARPA's Communications and Marketing Committee
 - current President of the Red Deer College Recreation and Leisure Society.
 - outstanding academic record
 - Red Deer College President's Honour Roll
 - Red Deer College K.I.T.E. Award - recognizes top achieving, all-around best students in the College.
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ARPA Parks Excellence Award

- recognizes achievements or innovative ideas for parks and open space operations

Chevron Texaco Learning Pathway in the City of Calgary

- ChevronTexaco Learning Pathway, launched in 2003
 - result of a unique partnership of three founding partners: Chevron Texaco, the Parks Foundation and the City of Calgary Parks.
 - When the Prince's Island Redevelopment Master Plan recommended the east end of the island be developed as a constructed wetland to manage storm water the added value of using the park system for a learning pathway became a natural integration.
 - reconstructed wetland role was to be instrumental in settling out solids, removal of nutrients and filtering and absorbing toxins.
 - important improvement to water quality lead to an excellent opportunity to "tell a story".
 - grew into an interpretive facility that provides citizens and youth (kindergarten through grade twelve) with an environment for studying hydrologic cycle, storm water origins and impacts, urban infrastructure dealing with storm water and constructed wetland development.
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A.V. Pettigrew Award

- 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.

Active Edmonton Steering Committee

- Active Edmonton is an exciting and important new project for Edmonton and Alberta.
- Under the guidance of Mayor Bill Smith, the Steering Committee was able to bring together 35 community leaders to begin planning a project that would create a healthier more physically active city.
- unique is that it was Mayor Bill Smith who brought together key community groups and high profile leaders to represent, mix of governments, health and education institutions including both School Boards, the University of Alberta, Capital Health, physical activity specialists business and numerous others to work on the Active Edmonton Steering Committee.
- set out an aggressive, targeted and well-researched program to be completed by 2008. Steering Committee members were asked to be active with their time, funding and network of contacts to make "Edmonton the Most Active City in Canada"
- Success since the launch on May, 2003 includes the following:
 - Provided resource information to over 700,000 people through monthly events and displays
 - Distribution of the Active Edmonton Guide to over 560,000 households and community facilities
 - Aggressive Media Campaign to inform Edmontonians on benefits of an "active lifestyle"
 - Dedication of staff from City of Edmonton, Capital Health, and the Alberta Centre for Active Living
 - Research and evaluation of the initiative is the responsibility of 3 groups - University of Alberta, Edmonton Community Services and Capital Health

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- Over 100 volunteers / personal trainers / committee volunteers
- Resource dissemination by Edmonton and Catholic School Boards, Edmonton Community Services, YMCA, Running Room, United Cycle, U of A and all 35 Committee members

Excellence in Youth Development Award

- Inaugural presentation
- recognizes excellence in projects that focus on youth recognition using a youth development model
- implemented as a result of the successful 2003 National Youth Development through Recreation Services Symposium held in Calgary.

Mayor's Youth Council of the City of Calgary

- The Mayor's Youth Council is a program of "child and youth friendly Calgary" in partnership with the City of Calgary Corporate Youth Strategy.
- Council represents the voice of Calgary's youth while advising the Mayor and City departments.
- an excellent example of creating a win/win situation for the youth in the community and using facilities.
- Through a "youth endorsement" survey, youth get together and evaluate facilities and business units on their youth accessibility.
- information is then provided to the facilities or business units, accolades are given as well as any assistance in changes that the business may want to make.

ARPA Merit Award

- prestigious ARPA Merit Award honours individuals or groups who have contributed significantly to ARPA through recreation or parks development in Alberta.

2004 Recipient - Ron Gorgichuk

- ARPA hopes that in honouring Ron Gorgichuk with this year's Award of Merit, ARPA, is in a small way, acknowledging the lasting impact and the tremendous contribution he has made to the field of recreation, not just in Alberta, but also at a national and international level.
- home in Two Hills, Alberta. Throughout his career, the influence of his family, his faith, and the community he grew up in has impacted his career.
- positions with the Alberta Government and the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation (ASRPWF) have all had a common denominator: improving quality of life through recreation.
- professional accomplishments include: Manager, Recreation Section, ACD; development of the Active Lifestyle Portfolio through his work at the ASRPWF; member and key supporter of the Recreation Corridors Legislative Review process; key influencer in connecting parks and recreation to health promotion; member of the National Recreation Round Table on Research; advocate and key influencer for ARPA's Infrastructure Inventory Initiative.
- volunteer involvement with team handball evolved from player to coach to advocate to administrator and finally to representing Team Handball on the international stage as its representative on the Canadian Olympic Committee.
- commitment to recreation and healthy lifestyles is also very obvious with his personal passion for, and commitment, to physical activity.
- In summary, perhaps a couple of quotes from some of his colleagues say it best:
 - "I believe that he symbolizes all that ARPA stands for and, that he has made a significant contribution to recreation in Alberta that will continue to be felt for many years to come."
 - "Ron Gorgichuk has been an unwavering supporter of ARPA. Even in some difficult times for the Association he provided the guidance and insight that allowed the Association to move forward. Ron is a true "champion" for our Association and we value his contribution not only to recreation and parks development but specifically to ARPA."