



Tuesday, November 23, 2004

## **ARPA Recognizes the Ron Gorgichuk of Two Hills for Outstanding Contributions to Recreation and Parks in Alberta**

(Edmonton, AB) The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association takes great pride in recognizing Ron Gorgichuk with the 2004 ARPA Merit Award! This outstanding individual has made amazing contributions to improving the quality of life of Albertans through recreation and parks services.

The prestigious ARPA 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.

We hope 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.

Ron's passion for recreation is strong. He brought this passion, along with an outstanding work ethic, from his 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.

Ron Gorgichuk has had a career that covered a wide spectrum yet maintained a singular focus. His various 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. Whether consulting with a sport or recreation group or representing the provincial government on national issues, improving quality of life through recreation has been his mission.

Some of Ron's 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.

Ron's 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.

Ron's commitment to recreation and healthy lifestyles is also very obvious with his personal passion for, and commitment, to physical activity. There is no stronger advocate from personal example to professional practitioner than Ron.

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."*

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