



## News Release

---

Monday, October 24, 2005

### ARPA Salutes Excellence in the Field of Recreation and Parks

**Edmonton, AB** – ARPA acknowledged nine award and scholarship recipients at an awards luncheon hosted in conjunction with the 2005 National Parks and Recreation Conference and Associated National Symposia. The award winners include community volunteers, professionals/practitioners and post-secondary students who have made outstanding contributions to the recreation and parks sector.

His Honour, Lieutenant Governor Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, provided an inspiring opening address to the 900 delegates in attendance at the ceremony, followed by the presentation of a specific award or scholarship to each of the recipients as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ▪ AABRD Undergraduate Scholarship       | <b>Nerida Davis</b> (Calgary)                            |
| ▪ AABRD Graduate Scholarship            | <b>Nancy Cavaliere</b> (Edmonton)                        |
| ▪ Halladay Memorial Student Award       | <b>Candice Hundebly</b> (Red Deer)                       |
| ▪ Parks Excellence Award                | <b>City of Red Deer</b>                                  |
| ▪ Excellence In Youth Development Award | <b>Jasper Adventure Club for Kids</b> (Jasper)           |
| ▪ Merit Award                           | <b>Dave Breckon</b> (Calgary)                            |
| ▪ Merit Award                           | <b>Darrell Melvie</b> (Edson / Yellowhead County)        |
| ▪ A.V. Pettigrew Award                  | <b>Dow Centennial Centre</b> (City of Fort Saskatchewan) |
| ▪ Wild Rose Award                       | <b>Dr. Tim Burton</b> (High River)                       |

“We are pleased to salute these individuals, organizations and communities that demonstrate their dedication and commitment to improve the quality of life of all Albertans,” explains Kay Kenny, ARPA President. “Recreation and parks are vital to the development and sustainability of healthy individuals, communities and environments. This is an important opportunity to acknowledge and showcase these leaders – past, present and future – who make this all possible.”

ARPA (pronounced A.R.P.A.) is a provincial, not-for-profit, charitable organization made up of volunteers committed to building healthy citizens and communities in Alberta through recreation, sport, arts, culture and parks. Serving Albertans since 1952, ARPA members include community and public recreation agencies, educators, corporate elected members, lay members and student members. A new Recreation for Life Foundation was recently launched to help ARPA build into Alberta’s future. As ARPA’s fundraising body, Recreation for Life will assist in increasing ARPA’s capacity and ensuring its sustainability for years to come.

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

-More-

For more information contact:

Kay Kenny  
President

Barb Ursuliak  
Awards Committee Chair

Ph: (403) 358-7520  
Fx: (403) 314-4900  
E-Mail: [Kay.Kenny@reddeer.ca](mailto:Kay.Kenny@reddeer.ca)

Ph: (780)  
E-Mail: [Barb.Ursuliak@edmonton.ca](mailto:Barb.Ursuliak@edmonton.ca)

# Backgrounder

---

## AABRD 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.

These two AABRD Legacy Scholarships (graduate: up to \$5000 and undergraduate: up to \$1500) are to assist Albertans to advance their education in the areas of recreation for people with disabilities (e.g., recreation administration, adapted physical education, rehabilitation medicine or other related programs).

Recognizes academic achievements, contributions to, and endeavours in advancing the field of recreation for people with disabilities.

Selection Criteria - Selection is based on the following considerations:

- Academic Record
- Alberta Residency
- Related Course Work
- Memberships, Awards and Distinctions
- Work/Volunteer Experience in the field of recreation for persons with disabilities
- Future Plans

## AABRD UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

### *Nerida Davis*

Nerida recently finished her Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation from the University of Calgary. Her list of academic accomplishments is lengthy and includes the Mount Royal College Deans List, and recipient of: the Jason Lange Memorial Scholarship, the Robert Wychkam Award, the UBC Excellence Award, the Alberta Rutherford Scholarship and High School Honor Roll.

It was Nerida's long list of passionate volunteer work with individuals with disabilities that made her application outstanding. This Level 2 Ski Instructor was a natural to volunteer with Canadian Association of Disabled Skiers. She learned life skills from her students as they taught her to be creative and open to new ideas and innovations. This volunteer work helped her focus her interest in the area of vocational support and environmental modifications. It was with this mutual respect that Nerida now plans on continuing her studies and obtaining a Masters of Occupational Therapy.

Using her gentle caring guidance, Nerida helped inspire a visibly impaired youth to take on the challenge of tackling an expert ski run. Achieving this feat transformed the youth from a quiet girl into an outgoing individual full of self-confidence. Her latest project demonstrated her passion and interest in working with youth by translating children's ghost stories into Braille. This gesture was invaluable to the children so they would have something to share with friends at summer camp.

"Instructor", "guide" and "mentor" were words used to describe Nerida by those who were touched by her. To quote from Lorie Puliam, Instructor - Adapted Wellness Program for Disability, University of Calgary:

## **News Release**

---

"To further adapted wellness growth and maintain quality and high standards in Canada, we need to promote people like Nerida and, there are some individuals who were born into their role of service to others and she is one of the rare individuals who know their calling".

It is with great pleasure that we recognize Nerida Davis as the 2005 recipient of the AABRD Legacy Undergraduate Scholarship.

### **AABRD GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

#### ***Nancy Cavaliere***

The AABRD Graduate Scholarship Award recognizes individuals whose goal is to undertake research in the area of physical activity and recreation for persons with a disability. Nancy has completed her Masters' Degree in Adapted Physical Activity in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta and is now embarking on her Doctoral Degree in the same area. It was her work as a board member, activity instructor, program director and presenter that made Nancy an excellent recipient of this year's AABRD Graduate Award.

Nancy has been a presenter at workshops on topics such as "Investigating children's perceptions of competitive, cooperative and individual activities, a first step towards understanding the impact of competitive games from the perspective of children with a disability" and, "Board development: Focus on roles, responsibilities, and policy governance workshop for the Paralympics Sports Association". She has also authored a paper that "examined the paradigmatic assumptions and implications for the study and treatment of children with autism in adapted physical activity".

Nancy has been the recipient of several athletic and academic awards. Her athletic awards include; Female Rookie Athlete of the Year and Most Valuable Player from Grant McEwen. Her academic awards include the Margaret Ellis Undergraduate Scholarship in Adapted Physical Activities, the Dean's Honour List and, the Alexander Rutherford Academic Scholarship.

It is the result of her studies, her volunteer and paid work, combined with her own sport achievements that lead Nancy towards her Doctoral Degree which involves: "exploring how youth with disability formulate perceptions of competence the impact of competitive, noncompetitive, integrated and segregated settings on perceived competence and inclusion and, the effects of including able-bodied athletes in disability sport on young athletes' perception of self".

We wish Nancy best wishes in achieving her future goals and are pleased to recognize her as the 2005 AABRD Legacy Graduate Scholarship recipient.

### **HALLADAY MEMORIAL STUDENT AWARD**

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 with a value of \$1000 scholarship 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'.

Selection Criteria - The student must be a member of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association and must be registered full-time in any year of a post secondary program related to recreation or parks. If the recipient is a graduating student, the scholarship portion of the Award will be paid upon evidence of graduation. If the recipient is a continuing student, the scholarship funds will be paid on evidence of continuing full-time registration in the program of study.

# News Release

---

## ***Candice Hundebly***

The Halladay Award gives ARPA the opportunity to recognize academic excellence, volunteer efforts and Association support by emerging leaders in the recreation sector. This will be the second consecutive year that Candice has received the Halladay Memorial Student Award and this reflects her continued dedication and contributions which made her the deserving recipient of the Halladay Memorial Student Award in 2004.

Her academic achievements, along with her contributions to recreation, have both been outstanding. Academically, Candice was on the President's Honour Roll at Red Deer College. Her extensive volunteer work in the past year includes: President of the Red Deer College Recreation and Leisure Society, ARPA Student Representative on the ARPA Board, member of the ARPA Marketing and Communications Committee, Chairperson of the 2005 Recky Revelry, Leader of New Sweden Mission Church Music Team, and volunteer with the Central Alberta Special Equestrians. This is not to overshadow her volunteer experiences prior to 2004 including being a member of Red Deer College Recreation and Leisure Society - Social Committee, planning the Capernwray Youth Retreat, and the Vancouver Missions Fest along with additional volunteer work with ARPA.

It is not surprising that Candice's rural background has allowed her to have diverse recreation experiences where she developed a love of the outdoors, including becoming an avid horseback rider.

It is with great pride that ARPA recognizes Candice Hundebly as the recipient of the 2005 Halladay Memorial Student Award.

## **PARKS EXCELLENCE AWARD**

This award was initiated by ARPA's Parks and Open Space Network to recognize achievements or innovative ideas for parks and open space operations and increase the profile of the parks and open space professionals in Alberta.

Selection Criteria – Applicants may represent but are not limited to the following areas: municipalities, private enterprise, not-for-profit groups, educational and healthcare institutions and golf courses. Achievements and innovations will be judged utilizing the "Benefits of Recreation: Personal, Social, Economic, Environmental" as evaluation tools.

## ***City of Red Deer***

The City of Red Deer has had long term dedication to the planning and maintenance of a healthy natural environment within an urban setting. Red Deer has an array of beautiful parks and natural green spaces. The parks offer a place for both quiet retreats and action packed getaways. Citizens take pride in neighborhood green spaces and value the trails systems and numerous amenities and facilities available within the City.

Some of the highlights from Red Deer's parks system are a water playground, mountain bike park, western ranch and a wildlife sanctuary. Biking, paddling, skating, cross country skiing, athletics, bird watching, picnics and peaceful walks can all be enjoyed in various parks, facilities and trails along streams, creeks and the Red Deer River.

Since 1970, the City of Red Deer has been working on the development of their parks system. It strives to preserve, develop and maintain the City's parks and green spaces through services such as Urban Forestry; Turf, Tree and Shrub Maintenance; Parks Construction; Ecological Services; Trails and Pathways, Playgrounds and Cemetery Operations.

## **News Release**

---

Red Deer urban parks and open spaces provide relief for the stresses of urban living, and contribute to well being and improved mental health for residents. Parks, open spaces and natural areas meet a strong and growing desire for natural, environment-bases and nature interpretation.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the City of Red Deer as the recipient of the 2005 Parks Excellence Award.

### **EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

This is the inaugural year for this annual award that will recognize excellence in projects that focus on youth recognition using a youth development model. The award is being implemented as a result of the successful 2003 National Youth Development through Recreation Services Symposium held in Calgary. The award includes a cash recognition of \$2,000 to support future development of the winning project.

Selection Criteria – The criteria would be reflective of the principles of youth development (youth ages 12 to 18) and recreation and must reflect the following requirements: the project's focus must be youth recreation; the project would be a partnership or involve a collaboration of organizations and agencies involved with youth; one member of the partnership must be an ARPA member; and youth, themselves, must be directly involved in the planning/decision making of the project.

#### ***Jasper Adventure Club for Kids (JACK)***

JACK was formed by a few motivated youth and through the collaborative efforts of Parks Canada, Jasper Jr/Sr. High School, E'cole Desrochers, Community Outreach Services, RCMP and parents of the youth. The goal was to start a group that would utilize Jasper National Park's most sought after attractions and amenities and give youth something meaningful and educational to put their energy into.

JACK started in 2004 and it's goals where developed by surveying local youth about the need for organized outdoor adventure events. This program involves all ages of youth by either participation or by involvement in planning and implementation of activities. Through this program JACK has been able to promote exercise, healthy lifestyles, and healthy choices to youth. It also exposes youth to outdoor/ environmental awareness, adventure and activities. JACK also encourages youth to work in collaboration when organizing and implementing their activities.

Some of the successes JACK has had thus far are creating a climbing course, kayaking and rafting courses, cross-country ski trips, the Great Polar Bear Race and a Glow in the Dark Night Skate.

JACK has given youth a positive perception of themselves, raised self-esteem, and given them the confidence and the know-how to go out and play safely in Jasper National Park.

It is with great pride that ARPA recognizes the Jasper Adventure Club for Kids the 2005 Excellence in Youth Development Award.

### **MERIT AWARD**

This 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.

Selection Criteria - The nominee must be a current member of ARPA and have made outstanding contributions towards furthering the goals of ARPA.

## **News Release**

---

### ***Dave Breckon and Darrell Melvie***

It is with great pleasure that ARPA will be recognizing two outstanding individuals for the ARPA Merit Award this year – Dave Breckon and Darrell Melvie. Both of these individuals have been monumental in the resurgence of ARPA since 1999.

Back in 1999, the ARPA Board of Directors conducted a major organizational review of ARPA where tough questions were discussed such as the viability and need for ARPA and whether there would be a continued existence of the Association. As President at the time of this review, Dave Breckon was instrumental in guiding the Board through this vital time of reflection and then rebirth. The Board of Directors reaffirmed a direction for ARPA and set forth a new mission, vision and strategic plan. Since 2002, Dave has assumed lead work in an ARPA advocacy and lobbying initiative for the provincial government reinstatement of the Urban Parks Program and the creation of a Countryside Parks and Recreation Areas Program.

Darrell Melvie was one of the many volunteers that picked up the torch and took the challenge that the Board of Directors laid out in 1999. His dedication to the Association and the countless hours he has committed has contributed greatly to the growth of ARPA over the past five years. Darrell has been instrumental in ARPA's leading-edge work in community recreation infrastructure inventorying and facility assessments. This work has led to improved understanding of recreation facility retrofit needs throughout the province. Darrell has been an ARPA Board Member for 5 years, and has served as ARPA Board Secretary and Chair of ARPA's Infrastructure and Utilities Committee.

It is with great honour that ARPA would like to recognize Dave Breckon and Darrell Melvie as the co-recipients of the 2005 ARPA Merit Award.

### **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.

In honour of Albert (Bert) Victor Pettigrew. Known to many in Alberta and Western Canada as “Mr. Recreation” or the “Dean of Recreation”, Bert retired in October 1972 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. In honour of his years of service to people of Alberta and his profession, the ARPA inaugurated the A.V. Pettigrew Award in 1972.

Selection Criteria - The community must have made a significant impact on improving the quality of citizens' lives through recreation and parks.

### ***Dow Centennial Centre: City of Fort Saskatchewan***

The Dow Centennial Centre is a perfect showcase of a commitment to improving the quality of life within a community through recreation and culture development. The City of Fort Saskatchewan did a remarkable job of recruiting volunteers, consulting with the public, securing corporate support and engaging local government and not-for-profit agencies to construct a \$22 million dollar facility where culture and recreation are truly intertwined. Out of their fundraising campaign, \$7.3 million dollars was raised to implement the dream of a leisure centre that would provide a new and unique home for the local arts community.

The estimated half a million visitors per year provides outstanding opportunities and exposure to the local business community. The facility is also the home of 9 tenants and user groups. Amenities of the Sherritt Cultural Pavilion Centre include: Alberta Lottery Fund Art Gallery, 550 seat Shell Performing Arts Theatre, Lions Mane and Lions Pride Banquet Rooms, Scotia Bank Painting and Arts Studio,

## News Release

---

Waiward Steel Pottery Guild and Senator Tommy Banks Green Room. The Landrex Recreational Pavilion features: Sherritt - CEP NHL size ice arena, Agrium Indoor Soccer Field, ATCO gym, Apple Fitness Centre, ATB Financial Family Leisure Ice, Umicore Indoor Fitness Track, Fort Saskatchewan Shoppers Drug Mart Saunas, Fort Saskatchewan Kinettes Steam Rooms, Judo and Gymnastics Flip Factory, ICU Optical and Hearing Peek-Caboose Play Station, Auggie's Place Child-minding Centre for Kids, CUPE Local 843 Union Square Life-size Chessboard. Now, that is a successful sponsorship drive!

In the first six months of operation, 2000 pass holders used the Apple Fitness Centre alone. Since the grand opening of the Centre in September 2004, there have been countless lives influenced by the increased accessibility to recreation and culture. High attendance was expected of this well crafted centre that was designed by Hutchinson Architects with both urban and rural residents in mind, as it has outstanding support from surrounding towns of Bon Accord, Gibbons, Bruderheim and the Counties of Lamont and Strathcona.

The most significant aspect of the Dow Centennial Centre is the incorporation of new technologies to achieve energy conservation, saving operating costs over the next 5 to 8 years.

Above all, this Centre is clearly committed to increasing the quality of life of the citizens in and surrounding the City of Fort Saskatchewan and has been successful every step of the way. The list of recreational provisions goes on and on and it is obvious that the Centre was built with everyone in mind.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize the Dow Centennial Centre as the 2005 A.V. Pettigrew Award recipient for the amazing improvements to recreation, parks and culture services in the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

## WILD ROSE AWARD

The prestigious Wild Rose Award recognizes individuals or community service organizations and their dedication to recreation and parks, be it professional, lay or philosophic. It may be awarded to recognize long service, professional or significant personal involvement in support of recreation or parks endeavours on a provincial level.

Selection Criteria - The nominee must have made a significant or outstanding contribution for long service, professional or personal involvement in support of recreation, culture, or parks endeavours. Local and regional contributions are recognized however, impact at the provincial level is required.

### ***Dr. Tim Burton***

Dr. Tim Burton has made significant contributions to the field of recreation and parks over the past 30 years. The work he has done researching and writing as a University of Alberta professor has influenced students and professionals across Alberta, Canada and the globe. He has been a leader into the twenty-first century of leisure education and research.

Dr. Burton had a distinguished 21-year teaching career at the University of Alberta, during which time he taught over 5000 students and spread the word of educational excellence and the importance of recreation. He held many titles during his time at the University of Alberta including Chair of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies (1979-1988); Associate Dean (1991-1994) and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation (1997). During his academic career, he held 47 research grants and was the author of six books and the editor of five more directed to both academic and general audiences. He also authored more than twenty monographs and research reports.

## **News Release**

---

He belongs or has belonged to many leisure related organizations including the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies, the World Leisure and Recreation Association and the Academy of Leisure Sciences and is currently on the Board of Directors with the Community Planners Association of Alberta.

Dr. Burton has also taught in Britain, the United States and eastern Canada. Not only has his scholarly expertise contributed to leisure studies within academia, but he has also contributed to recreation, culture and parks policies in Alberta municipalities throughout the 1970's and 1980's. His work led to many advancements in the field of recreation and parks during the 1990's and into the new century.

Most recently, as ARPA Project Manager, Dr. Burton has overseen an extensive analysis of the Alberta Recreation Industry Labour Market - the results of which will, no doubt, have lasting impact on the future growth and development of recreation and parks in this province.

It is most appropriate that Dr. Tim Burton be recognized to receive this prestigious 2005 Wild Rose Award for his tremendous contributions and his professional commitment to the field of recreation and parks provincially, nationally, and internationally.