

Recreation Nova Scotia

Awards Dinner

&  
Reception  
2011

Thursday, October 13th, 2011  
Digby Pines, Digby, Nova Scotia



HEALTHIER FUTURES *through* RECREATION



# Awards Dinner & Ceremony 2011

Emcee: **Jean Brittain**

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On behalf of Recreation Nova Scotia, we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the 2011 award recipients for their contributions to the recreation sector, our province and to our communities. Today we celebrate the outstanding contributions of practitioners, communities, businesses, agencies and volunteers from Nova Scotia who continue to advance the work of recreation.

We wish you continued success in the future.

# HIGH FIVE® Award

## HIGH FIVE® Nova Scotia Trainer Excellence Award

Recognizes a HIGH FIVE® trainer's sustained commitment to HIGH FIVE® training excellence and contribution to HIGH FIVE® development and delivery in Nova Scotia.

# Recreation Nova Scotia Award Categories

The Recreation Nova Scotia awards were initiated to pay tribute to those exceptional individuals, organizations, facilities and communities who, through their efforts and skills, made outstanding contributions towards the betterment of the recreation movement in Nova Scotia. This year we are delighted to present recipients in seven of these categories.

## President's Award of Distinction

Created in 2010, the President's Award of Distinction is selected by the RNS Board of Directors and recognizes exceptional contributions or a long-term commitment to the advancement of recreation in Nova Scotia. The award can be presented to individuals, organizations, corporations or governments. There is no limit to the number of recipients that can be recognized each year. The Board can decide not to give out the award in any particular year. The award is used to profile a strategic contribution usually in a related sector such as public health, social policy, commercial enterprise or charitable efforts. Recipients are determined through an internal process by the RNS Board of Directors.

## Facility Excellence Award

Recognizes contribution of improvements and access provisions of a universal nature to facilities and/or environments. The recipient will have:

- made a substantial effort to achieve universal barrier-free design, and
- demonstrated evidence of the inclusion of universal barrier-free features in facility design.

## Bluenose Achievement Award

Presented to volunteers or community organizations to recognize outstanding achievements in the improvement of recreation/leisure opportunities locally, regionally or provincially. The nominee should reflect the community's healthier future through activities and services that promote the value and benefits of recreation.

## Mayflower Community Cooperation Award

Presented to communities and municipalities that have shown outstanding cooperation for the improvement of recreation/leisure opportunities in the community. The recipient could be a community or an area within a municipality that has demonstrated creativity in initiating new projects that will lead to healthier futures in promoting, ensuring or advancing active lifestyles.

## Outstanding Volunteer Award

This prestigious award was launched in 2008 to commemorate Recreation Nova Scotia's 10th Anniversary. This award honours an individual who has contributed significantly as a volunteer to Recreation Nova Scotia and made outstanding contributions towards furthering the goals of Recreation Nova Scotia.

## Professional Achievement Award

Presented to the individuals and groups of professionals employed in the parks, recreation and/ or leisure field. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the profession. The contribution will have enhanced the public impact of the field locally, provincially and/or nationally. The focus of the award is in the promotion of the values and benefits of recreation/leisure incorporating volunteerism and inclusion as well as a commitment to the field.

## The Honorary Life Membership Award

The highest award presented by Recreation Nova Scotia honours individuals who have made a significant contribution for over 20 years to parks and recreation in Nova Scotia. The nominee will have promoted the values and benefits of parks and recreation through services in the parks, recreation/leisure area; contributed to Recreation Nova Scotia and other similar organizations; and shown outstanding contributions above the ordinary.

# The HIGH FIVE® 2011 Awards

## HIGH FIVE® Nova Scotia Trainer Excellence Award

### David Brown

Since becoming a HIGH FIVE® Trainer in 2008, David Brown has been delivering high quality training workshops for a variety of organizations throughout Nova Scotia.

David is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Physical Education. David's coaching career began as a teenager when he trained and coached with the Truro Flyers Trampoline Club. While studying at UNB he took over the reins of the Fredericton Eagles Gymnastics Club which grew to be the largest all boys club in the province before merging into the Fredericton Gymnastics Club. In 1988, he accepted the position as Head Coach of the YMCA Spartans Gymnastics Club in Truro. Over the next 15 years, David coached children and adults from diapers to the National Team. He has been head coach of the New Brunswick Men's Gymnastic Team and a member of the Canadian National Gymnastics Team coaching staff. Throughout this time he developed many new programs for kids using gymnastics as the medium. He earned Course Conductor status for both Gymnastics and Trampoline and for the past 20 years has delivered many workshops throughout Atlantic Canada. Throughout his years of coaching and program development, he realized that the HIGH FIVE® Principles and Guidelines were always to be found in the most successful programs so becoming a HIGH FIVE® trainer was a natural next step.

For the past three years David has facilitated HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development workshops to program staff throughout the Fundy Region and to students at the Nova Scotia Community

College. His willingness to take on this role at NSCC has ensured that many students graduate with HIGH FIVE® certification, making them better prepared for the work force. David has also delivered HIGH FIVE® SPORT workshops to students working at sport camps at Dalhousie University, to hockey coaches in Antigonish and to municipal summer program staff. David's passion for quality sport experiences for children is so evident in his workshops!

David is a great role model as a Trainer – a knowledgeable, enthusiastic leader who is able to effectively and consistently put the HIGH FIVE® principles into practice while facilitating his workshops.

In all of his courses, David has had high praise from his participants. Comments from participants include – “one of the best workshops I have ever attended!” ... “Very entertaining facilitator” ... “lots of laughs!” ... “The time flew by” ... and .... “I learned a lot!”

David puts the HIGH FIVE® principles into practice everyday as Recreation Director for the Municipality of East Hants and as a dedicated husband to Barb and father of five great children! He strives to achieve quality experiences for children through his commitment to training excellence. We are proud to present David Brown with the HIGH FIVE® Nova Scotia Trainer Excellence Award – 2011.

# President's Award of Distinction

## Canadian Tire Jumpstart

Canadian Tire Jumpstart is a national charitable program that helps financially disadvantaged kids participate in organized sport and recreation. They help cover registration, equipment and/or transportation costs.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart has an extensive, national network of more than 310 local chapters. Chapter members are volunteers who are committed to helping get kids active and healthy. They work in partnership with other local non-profit organizations to discreetly identify kids with the greatest need in their community. Canadian Tire Jumpstart then covers registration, equipment and/or transportation costs to help them participate in a sport or recreational activity of their choice.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart also lends support to unique initiatives aimed at increasing access to sport and recreation programs.

Since their launch in 2005, Canadian Tire Jumpstart has given 348,800 kids across Canada the chance to play. In Nova Scotia, over 10,000 kids have received financial assistance from Canadian Tire Jumpstart to participate in organized sport and recreation. In total, these Nova Scotian kids received over \$1.2 million in assistance. Canadian Tire Jumpstart helped equip these kids for life, because by participating in organized sport and recreation, their chance for success in life has now been increased. These kids discover and participate. They gain self-confidence. They develop self-esteem. They learn leadership skills. Their lives become richer. This is the power of Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Because the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program makes it that much easier for kids to play, they are very deserving of the 2011 President's Award of Distinction.

# Facility of Excellence Award

For over a decade, Camp reachAbility has been committed to providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Nova Scotian youth and adults with disabilities. With two camp locations in the province, one in the Valley region and the other in Cape Breton, this non-profit organization has been dedicated to removing both attitudinal and architectural barriers for persons with disabilities in our province. Camp reachAbility's continued application of universal access designs and barrier free considerations have made their facilities a welcoming and safe environment for its participants. They also offer accessibility through attitude, providing an empowering experience for the campers and ensuring that no one is left out.

In addition to the camps (serving over 350 Nova Scotians this past year alone), reachAbility's new organic community garden has shown a unique commitment to creating barrier-free recreation and nutritional opportunities for persons with disabilities. Participants are given the chance to take charge of their own nutrition and learn skills that will carry over in all aspects of their lives. It is with great pleasure that we present the 2011 Facility of Excellence Award to Camp reachAbility.

# Bluenose Achievement Award

## Cape Breton Credit Union Basketball Association

Through the cooperation of Public Health Services, the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and the Credit Unions of Cape Breton, a dedicated group of volunteers has been able to create an opportunity for athletes in its community to play competitive basketball in an organized setting.

Despite the immense popularity of basketball in the Cape Breton area, the region lacked a structured and well-organized league for players to take part in. What began as an idea from within Public Health Services quickly became a vision of a long term sustainable league that would promote an active lifestyle, sportsmanship and teamwork.

The Cape Breton Credit Union Basketball Association (CBCUBA) has placed an emphasis on making the league more accessible to the majority of community members. The league has raised funds through a number of grants and fundraising initiatives, lowering the cost for its participants and allowing a greater number of athletes to take part.

The partnership between the Credit Unions of Cape Breton and the league has been successful for both sides. The league has been supported by local radio and newspaper outlets by printing games results and including them in on-air updates. The league has also received a great deal of support from the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Recreation Department and the community at large.

The CBCUBA held its first annual fun-raiser during Action Week in Sydney this past year. The event featured an all star game, a three point shootout, games for children, and prize giveaways for the audience. The event also raised donations on behalf of a local food bank, staying with the ideology that the basketball league should benefit the community as a whole.

We are pleased to present the Cape Breton Credit Union Basketball Association with the 2011 Bluenose Achievement Award.

# Bluenose Achievement Award

## St. Margaret's Centre

The St. Margaret's Centre has been the focal point of recreation and leisure services throughout the communities of St. Margaret's Bay, Tantallon and Hammonds Plains since it opened its doors 24 years ago. The Centre has shown a continued commitment to improvements in the area of universal access and in developing recreational opportunities for the entire community.

The St. Margaret's Centre was the host for the 2011 Canada Winter Games figure skating and short track speed skating competitions. The Centre worked closely with the Canada Games Universal Access Committee to evaluate and improve the Centre in the area of universal access. Many of these upgrades were made without the financial support of the 2011 Canada Games Host Society.

The response during the games was incredible, with many patrons commenting on the welcoming nature and comfortable environment that had been created through the facility upgrades and the large group of volunteers who were involved in the event.

The Centre has fostered collaboration and cooperation among agencies and organizations that are involved in the social and recreational well-being of the community. The Centre has enhanced the quality of life of its community by ensuring that programs and services offered within the centre meet quality program standards and by creating an inclusive facility.

The facility now boasts a full size gymnasium, an Olympic sized (200'x100') arena, an additional ice surface (85'x100') with seating for approximately 1,000 spectators, a fitness centre, a heated outdoor swimming pool and programming for all ages.

We are proud to present the 2011 Bluenose Achievement Award to the St. Margaret's Centre.

# Bluenose Achievement Award

## East Hants Sportsplex Board of Directors

The East Hants Arena Association is a volunteer group of citizens formed in the mid 1940s who built the original Lantz Arena that opened its doors in 1948. The arena, or “East Hants Barn” as it was fondly referred to, was heavily used by hockey teams and skaters. Due to high demand and the passage of time, the Arena was due to be replaced by the late 1980’s. The Arena Association began the process of raising funds and constructing the current East Hants Sportsplex as it exists today. It opened in early 1993, and has been one of the most utilized ice surfaces in the region ever since.

In the years following the opening of the facility, the Association realized that the community’s demand for ice time and other recreational opportunities would necessitate the expansion of the Sportsplex. This would include the addition of a second ice surface, and several other types of resources within the building. In 1997, the Arena Association began efforts to expand the Sportsplex and in 2004, a dedicated committee was formed to focus exclusively on the project.

This dream is now becoming a reality. Today, thanks to the work and dedication of this group of volunteers, construction is currently underway on the \$15 million dollar expansion project. The expansion project means construction of a second ice surface, a new indoor soccer field house with a walking/running track, a community meeting room and updated dressing rooms. These new facilities will be a welcome addition to the community, not only for the athletes and youth in the area, but for other community groups including seniors who will now be able to enjoy a place to walk year round.

The work of the East Hants Sportsplex Board of Directors and other volunteers in the community have helped to ensure that the future of this area is one that will include an active, healthy population. It is for that reason that we are proud to award the 2011 Bluenose Achievement award to this group.

# Mayflower Community Cooperation Award

## The Annapolis Society for Youth-Friendly Public Spaces

Five years ago, two teens from the Annapolis Royal area approached their town's recreation director to see if they could get a place to skateboard. What has happened over the last five years in order to turn that dream into a reality is a shining example of hard work, determination and the power of youth and adults working together within a community.

This process of building local support for the project became an ongoing task for the group of youth and adults that formed the Annapolis Society for Youth-Friendly Public Spaces. Working in partnership, their vision was to create a public space that was welcoming to people of all ages to represent the whole of the surrounding community, and have, at the heart of it, a world-class concrete skateboarding facility.

They worked with a professional design firm to ensure that the park would suit the needs of riders of all abilities and meet the aesthetic standards of the community. The goal of building an inclusive park for all residents to enjoy was never lost despite the many roadblocks they faced along the way. They worked hard to fundraise from the community and secure government and private-sector funding.

The Annapolis Youth Park was officially opened on June 25, 2011. Since then, the park has become *the* youth recreation centre for the region. The group has created much more than just a skate park. The community has benefited by overcoming negative stereotypes by witnessing the incredible spirit of the youth involved and what they were willing to do when faced with a challenge. Through their leadership today, they have left behind a positive recreation legacy for generations to come.

Because the youth in Annapolis Royal took this bold leadership role in their community, we are happy to present the Mayflower Community Cooperation Award to The Annapolis Society for Youth-Friendly Public Spaces.

# Outstanding Volunteer Award

## Brenda Robertson

To say that Brenda Robertson volunteers with Recreation Nova Scotia is a huge understatement! Her name is more or less synonymous with our provincial organization. Not only is Brenda an award winning professor preparing the next generation of professionals, but she finds time in her busy schedule to provide valuable support and leadership to RNS staff and members.

Brenda has served on the Board of Directors of RNS, and assumed the position of President in 2008/09. During her presidency, she led the Board in the development of an extensive social marketing strategy entitled Recreation: the Power and Potential. She also assisted in the development of key messages for presentation to a newly formed government. That was also the year the Recreation for All Association was launched and two new Executive Directors were hired. A busy year indeed under Brenda's leadership.

There were a few committees that Brenda participated on as a board member that she's continued to support. Brenda assisted with a research proposal looking at the labour needs and concerns relating to the recreation sector. She's also been working on a proposal for RNS to develop a high level training module for Senior Recreation Professionals, just one of the deliverables from the Education and Training Committee.

Brenda lent her research skills to RNS in the development of the Coaching Pilot Project. Conducting this research illustrated the issues uncovered throughout the sport system and among community coaches that relate to and hinder the development of community level coach capacity. This project lives on through the gathering of stakeholders in the coming months.

A student membership gathering was co-chaired by Brenda. She has always championed the voice and role of RNS' student members.

For many years, Brenda organized the Research Forum at the RNS Conference. The Forum brought together local researchers to present their evidence-based findings of topics relating to the delivery of recreation and related services.

Many Spring Symposiums were held with the helpful planning that Brenda contributed. Some, a lot more than others! These gatherings provided the opportunity for recreation professionals to come together to focus discussion on a particular topic such as Youth at Risk, The Changing Face of Municipal Recreation, Zero-Based Thinking and the Past, Present and Future of Recreation.

With the assistance of Rick Gilbert and Debby Smith, Brenda co-authored a document entitled "The Core and Edges of Recreation". This document talks about the need to find the edges of our field, those places where new realities meet existing knowledge, understanding and capacity. It also discusses consideration of our core strengths and how the changes we are facing lead us to consider what, at this time, the world is calling us to do. This paper was so well received and respected nationally that Rick presented it to a delegation at a pre-National Summit Symposium in BC this past May.

Brenda has been a trusted mentor and confidant to three Executive Directors. The path is well-worn between the RNS office and Brenda's office at Acadia. Many thanks for all your support and guidance, Brenda!

Brenda Robertson is a very deserving recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Volunteer Award!

# Professional Achievement Award

## Bob Powell

Bob Powell has worked in the recreation field for over 30 years. Throughout his professional career, Bob has shown outstanding leadership qualities and is known to his colleagues and friends as being passionate about recreation and the value it brings to the individual, the family and the community.

Bob knows the importance of finding balance, keeping things fun and the consistency in which you should approach every project with. Throughout his career, he has always felt inclined to go that extra mile.

Bob served as Bridgetown's Recreation Director from 1986 to 2005, where he worked to ensure facility improvements and helped implement and nurture countless projects. Since 2005, he has been the Manager of Recreation in the Digby area where he's had a similar impact. The scope of Bob's contributions to the field of Recreation goes well beyond these two positions.

Bob is the founding president of the Arena Managers Association of Nova Scotia, now known as the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia (RFANS). He is also a founding member of the Bridgetown Cider Fest, an annual September event.

Bob has volunteered his time and shown incredible leadership with a long list of events and causes over the years. These include but are certainly not limited to: The 2010 Canadian Men's and Women's Senior Curling Championship, the Valley Recreation Coordinator's and Director's Association, the Valley Coaching Conferences, the NS Trails Conference, Diby Area softball, baseball and teeball, the Valley Senior Games and many more.

He's also shown a tremendous amount of support for RNS, chairing and co-chairing a number of conferences over the years and supporting and participating in the annual Recreation Nova Scotia Golf Tournament since its inception. He even won a division in 2004!

Both Bob and his wife, Chris, have lived a life of recreation and finding balance. Bob's passions are his grandkids, Daphne and Nathan, and when he has free time he can be found in his gardens or fly fishing.

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2011 Professional Achievement Award to Bob Powell.

# Honorary Life Membership Award

## Flip Hochman

Landing on the shores of faraway Guysborough by way of New York in the early 1970's, Flip Hochman has been a staple in the recreation profession over the last 37 years in his own community and beyond.

Throughout his career, Flip has been dedicated to emphasizing the importance of recreation in the lives of his community's citizens. This can often be a tough task in a rural setting, where competition for scarce resources is often fierce. However Flip's professionalism, diplomacy and integrity have allowed him to thrive.

During his role as Recreation Director for the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, Flip has developed and implemented countless programs that have reached all sectors of his community. He has always been willing to lend his time and efforts to coaching soccer, fastball, swimming and tennis. There is also a large network of senior's clubs that are supported by his department.

On a national level, Flip served as President of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), an organization that is the voice of parks and recreation in our country. He continues to offer his expertise to CPRA as RNS board rep.

Flip also has left a legacy of recreation facilities that now populate the rural landscape of Guysborough Municipality. New tennis courts, fitness centres, swimming pools, multi-use facilities and environmentally friendly structures and environments have all been built during Flip's tenure. He's currently leading the charge to have a new arena built in the area. Flip has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the citizens in his area have received ample recreational opportunities, and his work will allow future generations to do so as well.

We are pleased to present the 2011 Honorary Life Membership Award to Flip Hochman.





