



CITY OF
PRINCE GEORGE

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

“Volunteer Bios”

Recreation Award 2010

Aaron Svendsen

Aaron has been an enthusiastic and tireless volunteer for the College Heights Community Association for many years. Over the past 15 years Aaron has volunteered in a variety of capacities including: coaching T-Ball, taking registrations for over 40 Community Association programs, helping at the Kids Good as New Sale and at the Breakfast with Santa.

Aaron is the type of volunteer that is the first to arrive and the last to leave. He is the “head cook” at the Breakfast with Santa and has flipped more pancakes and sizzled more sausages that anyone can count.

Aaron recently started a “Boys Time” program where he teaches boys ages 8 – 11 how to maintain a bike, build a birdhouse and use tools properly. He is also a leader for Pee Wee Gym which gives preschoolers a chance to try various recreational equipment and burn off some energy.

John Abbott

John Abbott has been volunteering with the Prince George Spruce Kings Hockey Club for an amazing 28 years. In that time he has given the Spruce Kings organization hours upon hours of his own personal time and has gone above and beyond his duties to ensure the success of the Spruce Kings over the years. John has become an integral part of the Spruce Kings organization by providing a safe and enjoyable experience for the fans at the Coliseum.

John is a tireless volunteer and is currently the Volunteer Coordinator. He recruits and schedules volunteers for all the home games and helps with set up and take down. He is always there to lend a helping hand.

John was also a huge contributor to the success of the RBC Royal Bank Cup. His role there was as Security and Host Services Coordinator.

Linda Hellenius

Linda is an invaluable member of the Prince George Fibre Arts Guild (formally known as the Prince George Weavers and Spinners Guild). She is currently the Treasurer and has served on the executive in various capacities for the past 21 years.

Linda performs her volunteer duties with diligence and care. She is always willing to pitch in when needed. She is unwavering in her support of all guild activities whether it is in fund raising, public demonstrations, sharing of fibre arts knowledge, participating in guild activities or donating resources that help the Guild’s success.

Linda’s knowledge of fibre arts and her active participation has made her a valuable and much appreciated asset to the Prince George Fibre Arts Guild.

Mike Gareau

Mike Gareau has demonstrated commitment to the Hart Highlands Winter Club and the Hart Highlands Ski Hill. He is, without a doubt, the backbone of the hill and has made the ski hill the success that it is today.

For the past 25 years Mike has held the position of President of the Hart Highlands Winter Club. The goal of this organization is to operate the ski hill and provide downhill skiing and snowboarding opportunities in a convenient location at the lowest cost possible to the community.

Mike is deeply devoted to all aspects of the ski hill operation and since 1985 has done just about everything that it takes to run and improve a ski hill. The list of his involvement includes:

- Membership
- Fundraising
- Advertizing and promotion
- Lift Operation
- Rental Shop & Ski School Operation
- Developing opportunities for disabled skiers
- The ski patrol program
- Hill grooming and maintenance
- Rental shop expansion
- Equipment maintenance
- Safety and training

Community Service Award 2010

Kerri Svendsen

Kerri has been an integral component to both the College Heights Community Association and the Girl Guides of Canada.

Kerri is an enthusiastic, organized and skilled volunteer who contributes to her community in many ways. With the College Heights Community Association she has been a leader for 10 years with the "Mini Chefs" program. As part of the "Mini Chefs" program Kerri teaches children to shop for, and prepare nutritious snacks and meals. She is also a leader with the Pee Wee Gym Program and the Parent and Tot Program. For 7 years Kerri was involved with organizing the very successful College Heights Good As New Sale with all the proceeds going to provide more programs for children and families.

Kerri is also very active in the Girl Guide movement. She has volunteered as a leader for 14 years. This involves organizing and leading fun activities to enable girls to earn merit badges and develop into environmentally active and service providing citizens.

Claude Bussieres

For the past 27 years Claude Bussieres has volunteered with many organizations throughout Prince George. Most recently he has donated his time to the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society, the French Canadian Association, the Railway and Forestry Museum, the Telephone Pioneers and the Salvation Army.

At the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society Claude has been providing interpretive services to French speaking refugees. He acts as a host for new immigrant families and delivers household items and furniture to their homes. He also mentors professional immigrants so they can adjust to their new

workplaces with confidence. New immigrants to Prince George feel very comfortable with Claude; they trust him and respect him for his advice and skills.

Claude is currently a Director on the Executive Board of the Le Cercle des Canadiens Francais and has taken on a special role of teaching seniors how to use Skype.

Rod Mulligan

Rod has been volunteering in our community for the past 29 years. His list of accomplishments includes volunteering with; Scouts Canada, the UNBC Northern Medical Program, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Caledonia Literacy Advisory Committee, Community Policing, the Hospital Auxiliary and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

Rod has found his niche in helping people. Rod's cheerful demeanor and big smile puts everyone at ease instantly. You may have come across Rod during one of this many shifts at the Hospital Auxiliary Information Desk at the front entrance of the hospital.

Rod also spends a lot of time volunteering for Community Policing. He has several roles including: Customer Service Representative where he greets customers at the office; he calls clients as part of the Friendly Phone Call Program and helps out at many Community Policy outreach events.

Sheila Watson (Presented Posthumously)

Sheila passed away on March 6th of this year and accepting the Award on her behalf was her son and daughter-in-law, Harold Watson and Denise Saunderson.

Sheila was an active, enthusiastic volunteer in Prince George for over 29 years. The list of organizations is impressive and diverse. These include: the BC Rail Fishing Derby and Slow Pitch Tournaments, Telus Pioneers, TOPS, the BC Senior Games, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, Prince George Women of the Moose, Aspen Grove Ladies Golf Club, the Brunswick Street Seniors Activity Centre and Prince George Community Policing.

During her time with Prince George Community Policing, Sheila's efficient and business like personality was a perfect fit for program coordinator and she was a fierce advocate for seniors. Sheila was always willing to lend a helping hand when hosting Community Events, and was dedicated to any position she took on. In 2005 Sheila accepted the role of Secretary for the Brunswick Street Seniors Activity Centre.

Outstanding Volunteer Award 2010

Jo-Anne Freimuller

For the past 25 years you could find Jo-Anne in one of several places. She could be chairing a Community Association Meeting, Co-Chairing a Parent Advisory Committee meeting, Coaching basketball, hardball, slow-pitch or hockey, Managing a Fastball League or Minor Hockey Team, sewing costumes for the Ukrainian Society, raising money for Dry Grad, setting up tables for a craft fair or selling raffle tickets, chocolate bars or baking for the upcoming bake sale. Jo-Anne is the perfect example of the committed, hardworking, unsung heroes of our community.

Since 1985 Jo-Anne has work tirelessly to give back to her community and to provide sporting opportunities for children and youth.

- She has been an Executive Member or Team Manager of the Prince George Slow Pitch Association for 20 years.

- Jo-Anne has been actively involved with the Meadows and WestBowl Community Associations for the past 15 years.
- For 14 years she has helped organize the DP Todd Craft Fair.
- She was the Meadows Parent Advisory Committee Co-Chair for 5 years.
- For 3 years she was the Secretary/Treasurer of the DP Todd Dry Grad Committee.
- Jo-Anne was the spearhead for the creation of the playground, basketball court & skating rink at Zimmaro Park.

Anne Martin

If you have been in Prince George anytime in the past 31 years you will have no doubt heard of Anne Martin; or if you were lucky you may have volunteered with Anne on one of her many, many committees.

Anne started volunteering in 1979 as a Community Player for the Prince George Symphony Orchestra, 2nd Violin Section.

Anne's skills and knowledge are broad and diverse and over the past 31 years she has held a variety of positions. To name a few:

- She is currently a Board Member of the Prince George Regional Performing Arts Centre Society
- She was the Founding President of the David Douglas Botanical Garden Society
- Founding member of the Prince George Minerva Foundation
- Board Member and President of the Livable Winter Cities Association
- Founding member of the CNC Fund Raising Society
- Vice Chair of the UNBC Board of Governors
- Member of the UNBC Interim Governing Council
- Member of the Prince George International Linkages Committee
- President and Director of the Two Rivers Gallery (formerly the Regional Art Gallery Association)
- Initiator of the Bridget Moran bronze statue.
- Member of the Winter City Committee
- Chair for 6 years of the highly successful Communities in Bloom Committee. Under her leadership Prince George won the National Communities in Bloom title in 2006.

Youth of the Year Award 2010

Honourable Mention -Kaitlyn Cahoon

Kaitlyn is a 17 year old Prince George Secondary student in Grade 12. She is on the Principal's list and has maintained an academic average of 93%.

Kaitlyn is a stellar piano player and has spent 10 years with the Royal Conservatory of Music and has taken University level piano courses in music history and harmony. Kaitlyn is not only musically inclined but also spent 10 years playing soccer with the Prince George Youth Soccer Association.

Volunteering has always been important to Kaitlyn. She is currently a volunteer with the Crisis Centre of Northern British Columbia. Her role is to answer the "Youth Support Line". In this position Kaitlyn has shown compassion and empathy for youth in crisis. She is dependable, professional and takes her role seriously.

Kaitlyn has also volunteered for piano concerts, Kid's Fun Fairs, special events for soccer and concession at dance festivals.

Honourable Mention- Christopher Coxson

Christopher is a grade 12 student at D.P. Todd Secondary School. Christopher has been on the Principal's List and last year won the Grade 11 Top Academic Award with a 97% average. Christopher devotes some of his school time to tutoring fellow students in Chemistry and Math.

Christopher has excelled not only in academics but also in music. He plays clarinet in the DP Todd Senior Concert Band and he plays trombone in the Senior Jazz Band. He also volunteers his time as part of the Prince George Community Band.

Another volunteer role Christopher has taken on is that of Search and Rescue. He is one of the youngest members of the society and he has nevertheless shown a capacity and hunger for learning that is surpassed by few. His commitment to public safety, community education and citizenship is remarkable. In fact, Christopher was a key component of a recent high-profile rescue of a Prince George man from Fang Cave. Christopher kept his cool through the ordeal and stepped up to this harrowing task in cold, dark, slippery conditions. His actions directly helped to save a man's life. Christopher has a maturity beyond his years.

Youth of the Year- Sufey Chen

Sufey is a 16 year old first year UNBC student. Sufey Chen not only volunteers for over 15 organizations, but she also skipped 3 grades and completed both grades 11 and 12 in one year while remaining on the Honor Roll.

Sufey's main passions are performing arts and debating. For the past 3 years Sufey has won first place in the School District 57 speech contests and qualified for the provincial debate tournament for the past several years.

Sufey's love of music is demonstrated by her efforts in achieving a Grade 10 level in piano. She teaches piano to both children and adults. Sufey has performed as a stage actor, Chinese lion dancer and figure skater. Most recently she was the Founder, Director and Producer of the very successful "PG's Got Talent". She rented the Prince George Playhouse and filled it to capacity showcasing PG's talent. As a leader she was able to motivate, delegate and inspire a whole cast of volunteering youth to put on an amazing talent show. During the show there were 25 performers, 20 artists, 50 volunteers and 250 audience members.

Sufey also volunteers for 27 Million Voices as an Event Coordinator. This organization raises funds and awareness for human trafficking and specifically to stop children from being bought and sold to work in cocoa plants in West Africa.

Some of Sufey's other volunteer organizations include:

- Prince George Symphony Orchestra
- The Red Cross
- The YMCA
- The Exploration Place
- The Caledonia Nordic Ski Club and
- The Salvation Army