



## ***Media Release***

### **2009/2010 NOCA Volunteer, Club Recognition, Honorary Life, and Ice Technician Awards Presented**

**June 24, 2010** – On Sunday June 13, 2010, the Northern Ontario Curling Association presented three Volunteer awards, a Curling Club Recognition award, and two Honorary Life Memberships to deserving recipients, while the Ontario Curling Council presented two Ice Technician awards. Highlights of the nominations follow.

#### **2009/2010 NOCA Volunteer Award Winners:**

**Serge Bastien from the Iroquois Falls Curling Club** sits as a member on the Board of Directors for the Iroquois Falls Curling Club in charge of house items, dealing with everything to do with the ice, the rocks, the equipment as well as the general facilities. Serge is our resident “handyman” at the club. He is constantly presenting us with new and innovative ideas such as a “Spring Bash” dance on the arena surface once the ice was out to commemorate the beginning of the non-curling season. Along with this idea came the building of a stage that could be used by not only the curling club, but any clubs or facilities in town. One of Serge’s other many talents is his culinary skills. He has used these skills several times to delight the club members and bonspielers with amazing taste sensations and interesting meals.

**Morris Stoyka from the Fort William Curling Club** has been a long time member of the Fort William Curling Club. Over the years he has assisted with installing and painting ice, continually helping with the maintenance of the club by providing expertise and assistance with any electrical issue. Morris is a past president of the FWCC and has devoted a number of years to the Board of Directors. He has been involved as the Chair, Co-Chair, Committee Chair or Committee member for the 1994 Northern Ontario Men’s Provincials, 2003 Continental Cup, Junior Nationals 2006, 2003 Karcher Northern Ontario Junior Provincials, 2009 Men’s Regional Playdowns, 2009 Junior Provincial Playdowns and is the Chair for the 2011 Dominion Men’s Provincial Championship. Morris has also been a long time member and volunteer/organizer of the “Morning Classes” at the Tim Horton’s Brier. For anyone who has been to a Men’s Provincial Playdowns in the last decade, Mr. Stoyka and his comrades have been a consistent support for any Thunder Bay teams competing at that level.

**Jayne Santerre from the Terrace Bay Curling Club** is always willing to help out in many duties of the club. She would organize and Chair the bonspiels, take care of the kitchen, advertise events for the club, book the caterer, oversee the draw schedule, prizes, and music, organize raffles during bonspiels, take photos of bonspiel divisional winners and writes up the article and sends it to the local newspaper, sets up collection funds for people in need, organized the making of custom Canadian earrings sold at our Ladies Bonspiel with profits donated to the Superior Special Olympics Club, attended all Executive meetings, and put numerous hours into the club taking care of the bar. She has been a member of the Terrace Bay Curling Club for over 25 years, is kind and considerate of others and the friendly face you meet when you come into our club.

## 2009/2010 Club Recognition Award:

**The Fort William Curling Club** earned the NOCA Club Recognition Award for 2010. The FWCC showed initiative in developing programs and making accessibility possible in order to build their membership. Forward thinking by their board along with the acceptance of change and help by their members/volunteers has made the changes work for the betterment of the club. The FWCC was the first in Thunder Bay to institute an Instructional League, introduced Wheelchair curling in the 2005/2006 season, started a Special Olympic program 1989/1999 season, and sponsors and hosts the Bearskin Airlines Hope Classic. This bonspiel has raised \$1,882,000 over the past 14 years to support breast cancer here in Thunder Bay.

## Honorary Life Membership:

**Jan Pula** became a NOCA representative on the Curl Ontario Board three years ago and assumed the Chair position for the past year and a half. During that period, Jan guided Curl Ontario through the transition to the Ontario Curling Council. The responsibility for development was transferred to the OCA and NOCA. Both of these tasks required exceptional leadership.

Jan has coached five Junior Women's teams to the Northern Ontario Championship. At the Canadian Championships, these teams have represented Northern Ontario well and compiled winning records. She was instrumental in organizing a curling league for Laurentian University and has coached men's and women's teams at LU. The LU women's team won a bronze medal at the national university championships in 2009. Jan has participated in two Canadian Senior and two Canadian Masters Championships as the Northern Ontario representative.

**Rob Sinclair** was instrumental in guiding the NWOCA into the new Northern Ontario Curling Association in 2007. He was a key member of the amalgamation committee then continued as the Region 1 Director during the first two years of the NOCA. During that time he was a member of the Competitions Committee that had a large workload in those formative years. His contributions to the amalgamation and the new NOCA were important and significant.

Rob was President of the Fort William Curling Club for two years and President of the NWOCA on two occasions. He curled on the Canadian team in the 2009 Strathcona Cup. His contributions to curling across our "province" and especially in the Northwest, make him a worthy candidate for an honorary life membership.

## Pat O. Reid Ice Technician Awards:

Ryan Lafraniere, Ontario Curling Council Board member, presented 2009 and 2010 Pat O. Reid Ice Technician Awards to **Tom Leonard (2009) and Ian Fisher (2010)**. Tom is a Provincial Ice Technician for the NOCA and Ice Technician at the Sudbury CC, and Ian is the Manager and Icemaker at the Soo Curlers Association. Both have provided leadership over the years by conducting Ice Technician courses, and are available as consultants for NOCA clubs. Tom and Ian have worked at provincial and national events, and are valuable resources to the NOCA with all of their knowledge and expertise.

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