



## Media Release

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For immediate release

### Saluting our best... the Saskatchewan Sport Awards

Sask Sport Inc. today announced the finalists for the 2006 Athlete of the Year Awards and the recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Recognition Awards. The awards will be presented at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards Dinner on Wednesday, March 21 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

The awards are designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievements in amateur sport during 2006 as well as the generous individuals who volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of amateur sport.

“Sask Sport would like to congratulate all of the athletes and volunteers who were nominated for their significant accomplishments,” said Don MacAulay, Sask Sport Inc. President. “These awards acknowledge the importance of sport in our communities and our lives. These athletes and volunteers have shown dedication, perseverance and commitment – qualities that have helped them reach world-class goals.”

The Athlete of the Year Awards are divided into six categories – Master, Youth Male, Youth Female, Male, Female and Team. Nominees for the Athlete of the Year Awards are submitted to Sask Sport Inc. by the Provincial Sport Governing Bodies. The Awards and Recognition Committee reviewed 39 nominations for the Athlete of the Year Award, and then narrowed this list to three finalists in each category. The volunteer Presidents of the Provincial Sport Governing Bodies and the Saskatchewan sports media will then vote to select a winner in each category. The votes will be compiled and audited by The Virtus Group, and the winner in each category will be declared at the awards dinner.

In addition, there are three Volunteer Recognition Award recipients selected by the Sask Sport Inc. Awards and Recognition Committee from a total of nine nominations.

#### **The finalists for the Athlete of the Year Award are:**

**Master: Mary Brown**, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.; **Milos Kostic**, Regina, Saskatchewan Triathlon Association Corporation; **Ted Rowan**, Martensville, Saskatchewan Athletics.

**Youth Male: Cory Hall**, Regina, Saskatchewan Baseball Association; **Cole Miller**, Regina, Saskatchewan Diving Inc.; **Daniel Olver**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association.

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**Youth Female: Jessica Guenther**, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan; **Kaylyn Kyle**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Soccer Association; **Brianne Theisen**, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Athletics.

**Male: Simon Bairu**, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics; **Rusty Malinoski**, Humboldt, Water Ski and Wakeboard Saskatchewan; **Justin Warsylewicz**, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association.

**Female: Colette Bourgonje**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association; **Sarah Crooks**, Saskatoon, Basketball Saskatchewan; **Alexandra Wrubleski**, Regina, Saskatchewan Cycling Association.

**Team: Mandy Selzer Junior Women's Curling Team**, Balgonie, Saskatchewan Curling Association, **Team of Andrew Knorr and Alex Brazill – Junior Men's Pair and Double**, Saskatchewan Rowing Association, **Regina Squids Senior Men's Water Polo Team**, Water Polo Saskatchewan Inc.

The recipients of the **Volunteer Recognition Award** are: **Jeff Butt**, Moose Jaw, Special Olympics Saskatchewan; **Lorraine Johnson**, Regina, Synchro Saskatchewan and **Stuart McDonald**, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan.

To obtain tickets for the dinner contact 780-9300 in Regina or 975-0800 in Saskatoon.

Special thanks to the award sponsors: Global TV, McMaster Photographers, Saskatchewan Lotteries and the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan.

Biographies on all the finalists and nominees for the Athlete of the Year Awards and the recipients of the Volunteer Recognition Awards are attached.

For more information contact Pat Rediger at (306) 780-9307 or email [prediger@sasksport.sk.ca](mailto:prediger@sasksport.sk.ca).

*For the latest in amateur sport news visit [www.sasksport.sk.ca](http://www.sasksport.sk.ca)*

## Master Athlete of the Year Nominees

### The finalists are:

#### **Mary Brown, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.**

Brown won gold medals in the 50m and 100m freestyle at the Canadian Masters Swimming Championships in Calgary. She finished second in the 50m and 200m backstroke as well as in the 50m breaststroke and the 100m individual medley. Brown set a provincial record at the competition in the 75-79 age group in the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle. Brown competed at the FINA Masters World Championships in Palo Alto, California where she set provincial records in the 50m and 100m freestyle and the 200m backstroke.

#### **Milos Kostic, Regina, Saskatchewan Triathlon Association**

Kostic won first place in five of the events he competed in this year. He set course records in the Canada Ironman in Penticton, B.C. and the Ford Ironman World Championship in Kona, HI, in the 65-69 age group. He won the Regina Beach Triathlon in July and the Queen City Marathon and finished second in the Ford Ironman at Coeur d'Alane, Idaho.

#### **Ted Rowan, Martensville, Saskatchewan Athletics**

Rowan started and ended the year breaking records. He won four gold medals at the Saskatchewan Masters Championships in shot put and discus and set new high jump and javelin records. He set a Canadian record by running 7.76 seconds in the 50m. Rowan received a silver medal in the 200m at St. George, Utah, and also set a Saskatchewan Masters record in high jump at the event. Rowan, who's in the 70-74 age group, also took home the Masters Male Award for Saskatchewan Athletics.

## Youth Male Athlete of the Year Nominees

### The finalists are:

#### **Cory Hall, Regina, Saskatchewan Baseball Association**

Hall competed in the World Junior Baseball Championships in Cuba as a member of the national team. He made the roster after tryouts in Florida and the Dominican Republic where he did not give up an earned run. In Cuba, he helped Canada defeat Team Italy, pitching seven shutout innings with seven strikeouts. He won the bronze-medal game against Team Mexico pitching seven innings with a 2.57 ERA and five strikeouts.

#### **Cole Miller, Regina, Saskatchewan Diving Inc.**

Cole Miller brought home 10 gold medals from competitions in 1m, 3m and platform diving as well as capturing a position on Canada's Junior National Team. Miller was named Most Outstanding 12-13 Male Athlete at the 2006 Speedo Junior National Diving

Championship in Edmonton. He was also awarded Male All Star in his age category at the China – USA AAU – Canada Diving All Star competition in Shanghai.

**Daniel Olver, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**

Olver won gold medals in freestyle and Greco Roman at the Juvenile National Wrestling Championships in Edmonton. He qualified for the Junior World Championships in Guatemala after winning a gold medal in freestyle at the Junior Nationals in Fredericton. At the World's, he placed 16<sup>th</sup> and was named Saskatchewan's Wrestling Juvenile and Junior Male Athlete of the year.

**The other nominees were:**

**Jason Blakley, Regina, Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

Blakley was the starting goalie for the under-16 provincial team in 2006. He led the team to three shutout ties against B.C., Quebec and Ontario. He played the indoor soccer season with the University of Regina Men's Team and the outdoor season with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies team. He was also selected to play with the National U17 Men's Team at the Caribbean Youth Cup in Trinidad and Tobago. Blakley was the starting goalie for four of the six games leading the Canadian team to wins against Bermuda (10-0) and El Salvador (2-1) and a tie with Panama.

**Sean Fleming, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics**

Fleming took home a gold medal and a personal best at the Canadian Junior Championships for the 5000m. He also won gold medals in the 1500m and 3000m and a bronze in the 800m at an event in Moose Jaw. Fleming represented Canada at the World Junior Cross Country Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, ranking 74<sup>th</sup> overall and finishing as the number two Canadian. He finished fifth out of 129 runners at the Canadian Junior Cross Country Championships in Vancouver and took home a silver medal in the Branch Championships Team Competition.

**Andrew Knorr, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Rowing Association**

Knorr achieved first-place finishes at provincial, national and international levels in 2006. At the North Western International Rowing Association (NWIRA) championships in Duluth, MN he won first in both the Junior Men's and the Senior Men's. At the National Rowing Championships in Welland, ON., he won first place in the JM2x and took second in the JM2. He took first place in the JM2x and the JM2 at the Saskatchewan Rowing Association Provincial Team Selection Camp. Knorr also attained second place finishes at the Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) Junior Speed Order Regatta and the RCA Selection Camp.

**Jayd Lukenchuck, Saskatoon, Gymnastics Saskatchewan**

Lukenchuck brought home a bronze medal in team and parallel bars at the Junior Pan Am Gymnastics Championships in Gatineau, Quebec. At the Elite Canada Competition he received three first-place standings in all around, rings and vault. He also brought home

silver in horizontal bar. At the Canadian Gymnastics Championships he took home gold in horizontal bar, three silvers in floor, rings and parallel bars and a bronze in vault. At the Jurassic Classic he took home first place in horizontal bar and third in floor. He swept away the competition at the Saskatchewan Gymnastics Championships, taking gold in all five events he entered: all around, rings, vault, horizontal bar and floor.

## **Youth Female Athlete of the Year Nominees**

### **The finalists are:**

#### **Jessica Guenther, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan**

Guenther achieved first place in every event she entered at the Saskatchewan Invitational 2006, the 2006 Tier 6/7 Provincial Championships and the Western Canadian Championships. Events included: 15 and under: figures, solo championships, solo routine finals and 16 and over team championships. At the Canadian Espoir Championships, she placed second in figures and solo routine for her age group and attained a bronze in solo championship. Her team took home gold in the championship event. Guenther qualified for the National Team, attending the COMO Cup - ASUA Pan American Age Group Synchronized Swimming Championships in Oaxtepec, Mexico. Guenther placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the figures event and her team won gold in the championship event.

#### **Brianne Theisen, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Athletics**

Theisen won the gold medal in the Heptathlon event at the Canadian Junior Championship. Her performance set a New Sask. Junior Native and Open record. She represented Canada at the World Junior Championship in Beijing, China in Heptathlon and finished 17<sup>th</sup>. Earlier in the year she won gold medals in the 200m, 80m hurdles, long jump and high jump at the Provincial High School Championships in Moose Jaw. She also won the javelin, long jump and placed second in hurdles at the Junior Provincial Championships.

#### **Kaylyn Kyle, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

As a member of the National Team, Kyle competed in the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) U20 Women's World Championship in Russia. She was also a member of the U20 National Team at the Helsinki Finland International Friendlies. Kyle was a member of the U20 Training Camp and Friendlies USA and Brazil National Teams in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. She was selected for both the U18 National Team Camp in Vancouver and the Senior World Cup Invitation for Camp and Friendlies in the USA against National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 Universities.

### **The other nominees were:**

#### **Sydney Byrns, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Sailing Clubs Association**

Byrns placed first in her category at the National Youth Championships defeating 23 competitors and qualifying for the National Youth Team. She placed third at the National

Senior Championships and was third overall at the Provincial Championships. Byrns also finished second overall at the Provincial Youth Championships.

**Danielle Priel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

Priel achieved first place at the Provincial Team Trials in Saskatoon. She went on to compete at the Canadian Team Trials in Regina and took second place against 24 other athletes. At the 27<sup>th</sup> World Baton Twirling Championships in Rome, Italy she placed 15<sup>th</sup> against 36 other athletes from 18 countries.

**Tessa-Rae Omelchenko, North Battleford, Saskatchewan WTF Taekwon-Do**

At the Junior Nationals, Omelchenko placed first in sparring, qualifying her to advance to the Junior World Championships in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. She competed against athletes from 34 other countries and placed in the top 16. At the Provincials and Manitoba Opens, she achieved five first place standings in sparring and form and one second place. She also competed in invitational competitions, including the Prairie Wild Fire, where she garnered two more first place finishes, and the K.H. Min Invitational in Edmonton where she achieved second and third place standings.

**Jacqueline Rennebohm, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.**

Rennebohm claimed gold medals in the 50m and 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke, 100m butterfly and the 200 individual medley at the Swimmers With A Disability (SWAD) Canada-USA National Championships in San Antonio, Texas. Her performance earned her a spot on Team Canada to the International Paralympics World Championships in Durban, South Africa. At the Worlds she took seventh place in the 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke, eighth in the 100m freestyle and ninth-place in the 200m individual medley. Earlier in the year she finished second, third and fifth, among others, at the 2006 SWAD Canadian Open.

## **Male Athlete of the Year Nominees**

**The finalists are:**

**Simon Bairu, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics**

Bairu won his fifth consecutive Canadian Senior Cross Country Championships, tying the Canadian record for the most consecutive senior wins. He won a bronze medal at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Sacramento, CA in the 10,000m. He won another bronze as part of the branch/region senior men's Team Championships in Vancouver. Bairu won the 10km Canadian Road Championships in Ottawa, and he broke his Saskatchewan Native and Open record at a meet in Belgium.

**Rusty Malinoski, Humboldt, Water Ski and Wakeboard Saskatchewan**

Malinoski won first place at the Wakeboard World Cup in Beijing, China, eclipsing 49 other athletes. He also took home the top spot at the Wakeboard Tour Event in Portland, OR. He won second-place finishes at the Wakeboard Tour Event in Reno, NV and the

Wakeboard World Championships in Ft. Worth, TX. Malinoski finished the year by grabbing another first place at the Pro-Am Wakeboard Championships in Marathon, FL.

**Justin Warsylewicz, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association**

Warsylewicz won the silver medal in team pursuit at the Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. He placed 24<sup>th</sup> in the 5000m and 27<sup>th</sup> in the 1500m. He ranks first in the World Cup overall standings in team pursuit; 27<sup>th</sup> overall in both the 5000m and 10000m. He ranks second in Canada in the 10,000m, third in the 5000m and fourth in the 1500m. He was fifth in the Continental Championships Overall Ranking. Warsylewicz placed second in both the 5000m and 10000m events at the Canadian Single Distances Championships. At the World Speed Skating Championships, he placed 19<sup>th</sup> in the 500m and 14<sup>th</sup> in the 1500m.

**The other nominees were:**

**Tars Bakos, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Fencing Association**

Bakos won first place at the Canadian Selection Circuit #1 in Montreal and followed with another first place at the Senior National Championships. He secured a seventh place win against 105 other athletes in Vancouver at the Coup du Monde Peter Bakonyi and was 29<sup>th</sup> in a field of 96 athletes at the Copa Mundial de Puerto Rico.

**Mark Hanson, Regina, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.**

Hanson secured his sixth consecutive national title in men's hyper weight sparring at the National Taekwon-Do Championships in Quebec City. He won the gold medal in the same category at the Western Canadian Championships in March and again in November. He also received a bronze medal in third degree patterns in the former. At the World Cup in Benidorm, Spain, Hanson won bronze medals in hyper weight and team sparring. He also captured gold and bronze at the Saskatchewan Cup Championships.

**Drew Heidt, Kerrobert, Saskatchewan Curling Association**

As the lead, Heidt was first at the Canadian University Curling Championship in a 12-team round robin qualifying him to compete at the world level. He also placed first playing second at the Target Junior Men's Provincial Curling Championship in an eight-team triple knockout. Playing second, he also won the Kindersley Saskatchewan Curling Association Mixed Curling Provincial Championship in a 16-team, triple-knockout page system playoff.

**Cory Niefer, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Provincial Small Bore Association**

Niefer placed sixth at the XVIII Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia. In Munich, Germany he placed 35<sup>th</sup> at the World Cup. At the World Shooting Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, Niefer placed 59<sup>th</sup> in a field of 122 competitors from 344 countries.

## Female Athlete of the Year Nominees

### The finalists are:

#### **Colette Bourgonje, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association**

Bourgonje captured bronze medals in the 5km freestyle and 10km classic Nordic Sit-ski at the Paralympic Games in Torino, Italy; she was also sixth in the 2.5km freestyle. At the World Cup in Lillehammer, Norway, she placed fourth in the 2.5 km and the 10 km, and was seventh in the sprint. Bourgonje attained four recognition awards at the World Cup Series in Torino.

#### **Sarah Crooks, Saskatoon, Basketball Saskatchewan**

Crooks won the Nan Copp Award for CIS Player of the Year and was a CIS First Team All Canadian. She was the CIS rebounding leader and second-leading scorer. She was named the Canada West Most Valuable Player and Defensive Player of the Year. She was also a Canada West First Team All-Star, Crooks ranked third in field goal shooting and blocked shots, and was eighth in free-throw shooting and steals. Crooks was named Canada West Athlete of the Week three times. Her team won the Central Division and were the Canada West Champions for the first time. Crooks is currently the only CIS player on the national team, where she has been a member for the past two years.

#### **Alexandra Wrubleski, Regina, Saskatchewan Cycling Association**

Wrubleski won five medals at the Road National Championships in Quebec City. She captured two gold medals in the individual time trial in elite women and under 23 women. She also crossed the finish line first in the road race women and under 23 women, garnering another two gold medals. She finished second in the criterium, finishing the event with a silver medal. Wrubleski is the first Saskatchewan cycling athlete to win these titles. At the Cycling Road World Championships in Austria, she placed 23<sup>rd</sup> in a field of 120 athletes.

### The other nominees were:

#### **Kia Byers, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan – Flatwater**

Byers won four gold-medal finishes at the National Championships in Regina in K4, K2 and K1 and first overall as well as a silver in the K2 and bronze in the K1. At the International Regatta in Bydgoszcz, Poland, she claimed second, third and ninth place-finishes. Byers received two more second-place finishes at the Herdecker Canoe Regatta in Herdecker, Germany, along with third and fourth-place finishes. She began the year qualifying for the National U23 Team at the National Team Trials #2 in Montreal where she received two more second and one third-place finish.

#### **Casey Berry, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

Berry placed first at the Canadian Team Trials in Regina in a field of 11 athletes from five provinces. At the World Baton Twirling Championships in Rome, she ranked 11<sup>th</sup>

against 30 other competitors from 18 countries. At home in Saskatoon, she won gold at the Provincial Team Trials.

**Jillian Gallays, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**

Gallays emerged as the gold-medal winner from the Junior Nationals in Fredericton, N.B. Her performance qualified her to attend the Junior World Championships in Guatemala. At the international competition she placed fifth in a field of 17 athletes and was named the Saskatchewan Wrestling Junior Female Athlete of the Year.

**Kelsie Hendry, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics**

Hendry finished second in pole vault at the Open Meet in Reno, Nevada. She secured an eighth-place finish at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia. Hendry won the Women's Invitational Pole Vault at the Knights of Columbus Indoor Games, earning her the title of Saskatchewan Athlete of the Meet. At the National Senior Championships in Ottawa Hendry finished fourth. She won the Senior Women Pole Vault title at the Senior Provincial Championships.

**Kerry Simpson, Melville, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association**

Simpson is ranked second overall both nationally in the 500m and internationally in team pursuit. She competed in the Torino, Italy Winter Olympics placing 21<sup>st</sup> in the 500m. She came fourth, fifth and sixth respectively Calgary in the 500m, 1500m and 1000m events at the Canadian Single Distances Championships. She also competed in the 500m and 1000m events at the World Sprint Championships in Heerenveen, Netherlands, placing 20<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Chelsea Stone, Regina, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.**

Stone brought home a gold medal in third degree patterns and a silver in lightweight sparring at the National Taekwon-Do Championships in Quebec City. She won gold medals at the Western Canadian Championships in lightweight sparring and third degree patterns. At the March Western Canadians, she took home gold and silver. At the Saskatchewan Cup Championships, she won gold in lightweight sparring and bronze in third degree patterns.

### **Team of the Year Nominees**

**The finalists are:**

**Mandy Selzer Junior Women's Curling Team, Balgonie, Saskatchewan Curling Association**

The Mandy Selzer curling team finished an exceptional year with a silver medal from the World Junior Women's Curling Championship in Jeonju, South Korea. The Selzers: Skip Mandy, Third Erin and Lead Megan joined Second, Kristen Mitchell, Alternate Penny Roy and Coach Ken Bakken in winning first in two previous competitions to make it to the World Championships. The team won the Target Junior Women's Provincial in

Regina and then won the M & M Junior Women's Canadian Championship in Thunder Bay, ON.

**Regina Squids Senior Men's Water Polo Team, Water Polo Saskatchewan Inc.**

The team placed first in four of the six events they entered in 2006. They achieved 2-2, 4-0 and 2-0 records at three separate Canadian Water Polo League (CWPL) regional competitions, attaining two gold medals and one silver. At the Canada Cup in Victoria, B.C., they placed second with a record of 4-1. At the CWPL regional competition in Regina, they achieved first place and advanced to the finals in Montreal. At the national competition they won gold with a 3-0 record to claim Saskatchewan's first-ever National Senior Men's Championship. Team member Kevin Graham was awarded All Star, Most Valuable Player and top Scorer; Noah Miller was named an All Star; and Robin Randall was an All Star and Most Valuable Goalie.

**Junior Men's Team of Andrew Knorr and Alex Brazill, Saskatchewan Rowing Association**

Team members Andrew Knorr and Alex Brazill placed first in the Junior Men's double (JM2x) and second in the Junior Men's Pair (JM2) at the National Rowing Championships. At the Saskatchewan Rowing Association Provincial Team Selection Camp, the team won gold in both the JM2x and the JM2.

**The other nominees were:**

**Cattown Wrestling Club – Cadet Team, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**

The team won first place at the Cadet Male National Championships and the Cadet Female National Championships, both in Fredericton, N.B. At the Male Championships, they won gold in a field of nine teams from seven provinces. At the Female Championships they won gold competing against eight teams from four other provinces.

**Team of Kayla McKinnon and Sara Thibeault, Regina, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

The team captured first place at the Provincial Team Trials. At the Canadian Team Trials they competed against teams from five provinces and won gold. They qualified for the World Baton Twirling Championships in Rome, Italy, and placed fifth in a field of 15 teams from 15 countries.

**U14 AC Tigers, Regina, Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

The team placed first at the PSL Finals held in Saskatoon. Their performance earned them a spot in the Club Nationals, in Toronto where the team captured fourth place. They also placed second in their league.

## Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients

### **Jeff Butt, Moose Jaw, Special Olympics Saskatchewan**

Butt has been involved with Special Olympics Saskatchewan (SOS) for the past decade as a volunteer coach. He coaches the SOS-Moose Jaw powerlifting team on a weekly basis and has done so since the beginning of his involvement with SOS. His experience as head coach of Special Olympics powerlifting has enabled him to share the best of the sport with athletes in Moose Jaw. He was the SOS Team Saskatchewan Head Coach for the 2002 Nationals in Prince Albert and the National Summer Games in Brandon, Man., in 2006 where his athletes set records and performed personal bests. Butt creates programs for every level of lifter. He is also Team Canada's Head Coach for powerlifting. Butt is a program director for Citizens All where he develops programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities; a fitness and recreation coordinator with the local YMCA/YWCA and works as a group activity aide at the Valley View Centre.

### **Lorraine Johnson, Regina, Synchro Saskatchewan**

Johnson has been a volunteer with Synchro Saskatchewan for the past 24 years. She began training as an official in 1991, taking the Star Examiner I and II certification course and has since obtained her J-TACS Level III certification and is also a Level III Referee. Johnson has judged at numerous provincial competitions over the past 11 years and officiated at many interprovincial and national championships including: the 2001 Synchro Canada National Championships, the 2003 Jeux Canada Winter Games, the 2005 Espoir 15 and Under National Championships and the 2006 Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Yukon (MASY) Challenge. Johnson was the Officials' Chair for Synchro Saskatchewan for seven years and was innovative in designing a new scoring program. She is starting her eighth year on the organization's board of directors and her second year as president of the provincial section. From 2000-2003, Johnson was vice president of sport development. She has also served as chair of the Sask First Management Committee and continues to manage the Synchro Sask. membership database.

### **Stuart McDonald, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**

McDonald was chair of the host organizing committee for the 2006 Canadian National Sprint Canoe Kayak Championships and the 2006 CanMas Championships; the largest annual sprint canoe kayak regatta in Canada. He was also the sport leader and chair of the host committee for the canoe kayak portion of the 2005 Canada Summer Games. McDonald began lobbying for the deepening of Wascana Lake as early as the mid-1990s and followed the plan through to its fruition. At the club level, McDonald has held numerous positions including: chief official, starter, referee and race scheduler for the annual Canada Day Regatta. He was the Commodore of the Wascana Racing Canoe Club for several years and the secretary of the Regina Canoe and Kayak association from 1994-1999. McDonald has served as a team trainer, race scheduler, chief official and vice president of the dragon boat festival. He has officiated at many Western Canadian regattas as well as conducted officials training clinics.

The other nominees were:

**Dennis Uhrich, North Battleford, Saskatchewan Provincial Rifle Association**

Uhrich has held several positions within the Saskatchewan Provincial Rifle Association, including president for three years. During his tenure as president, he hosted a visiting Great Britain Rifle Team and was instrumental in the purchase and building of the North Star Rifle range near Nokomis. Uhrich is responsible for operating the target system which includes liaising and training markers. As a Level II coaching course conductor, he trained numerous coaches and held clinics for clubs and cadet units. He coached an Army Cadet Shooting Team for 10 years. Uhrich has also officiated at Cadet Zone, Provincial and Cadet National competitions. He served as an executive and council member of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association and a board member of the Saskatchewan Provincial Small Bore Association.

**Jeff Whiting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association**

Whiting has been selected as the National Developmental Team Coach and coaches national team athletes Colette Bourgonje, Joe Harrison and Kelsi Paul. He is the Cross Country Canada (CCC) Disabled Developmental Coach and is the only Level IV certified athlete with a disability cross country coach. Whiting is the coordinator for the coaching and athlete development committee and the Level I and II course conductor and facilitator. He is also the representative for Skiing for Disabled on the Saskatchewan Ski Association (SASKI) board of directors. Whiting won the 2006 Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association Volunteer of the Year. He works closely with Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan in accelerometers. He won the SASKI Award of Merit for promotion and leadership in developing cross country ski trails in the Nisbet Provincial Forest.

**Russ Warner, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Squash Inc.**

Warner is a familiar face at the YMCA in Saskatoon, where he spends countless hours developing and organizing squash. He has coordinated the Squash Ladder and the Squash League for several years. He also found time to paint and decorate the centre. He won the YMCA Volunteer of the Year Award in 2005. He has a top five ranking in the squash competition ladder, yet always finds time to play with juniors and less-experienced players. He organizes the kick-off and closing tournaments and for the past eight years has been the key organizer of October Boast, a squash tournament.

**Christina Krismer, Regina, Saskatchewan Golf Association**

Krismer has served as a Course Rating Volunteer for more than 130 course ratings over 12 years. During this time she has also served as a Course Rating Team Leader for nearly 100 course ratings. Krismer was elected to the Saskatchewan Ladies Golf Association (SLGA) board as the Assistant Director of Course Rating and Handicapping in 1995; from 1997-99 she was SLGA Director of Course Rating and Handicapping. In 1999 and

2000, she co-chaired the Course Rating Committee with the Saskatchewan Golf Association (SGA). Krismer has served as the Course Rating Workshop Instructor and Handicap System Seminar Instructor for several years. From 2000-03 she served on the Canadian Ladies Golf Association Board of Directors as the Director of Course Rating and Handicapping. In 1999 she chaired a committee that hosted the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala for the Royal Regina Golf Club. She also coached the Sheldon-Williams High School girls and boys golf team for six years.

### **John Myrah, Regina, Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

Myrah was named the 2006 Saskatchewan Soccer Association Volunteer of the Year. He was also nominated for the 2006 Sask Soccer Senior Coach of the Year and the David Newsham Award. He has been a coach – head and assistant – for 15 teams in the Regina East United Soccer Club every year since 2001. In the 2001-02 indoor season, he was the assistant coach for the Division 1 under-12 boys who won gold in the League, Shield and Provincial competitions. He was head coach for the 2004-2005 indoor Division 2 under-16 girls (Tsunami), under-16 boys (Lazio) and he was the assistant coach for the division 1 under-16 boys (Samba); the former two teams won gold and silver in Shields and the latter won silver in Provincials. He has also been involved in the Super Soccer Skills Clinics since 2000. Myrah has fulfilled a variety of roles for the Regina East United Soccer Club Technical Committee including organizer of player evaluations, player placement and team formation.

### **Judy Warick, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics**

Warick has a long history in athletics as an athlete, organizer, coach, manager and official. She has coached and managed the Century Track Club since 1983. She is the lead organizer for the province-wide Century Cross County Meet and the Century Indoor Elementary Relays, which attract over 2,000 participants annually. She has also coached the track and field component and held clinics for the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association 55+ Organization. Warick was the Provincial Director for the Canadian Masters Athletic Association (CMAA) from 1989 to 2005. She is the Saskatchewan Officials Committee (SOC) vertical jumps coordinator responsible for officials' recruitment and running clinics. Warick has been a Level V Athletics Canada Vertical Jumps Official since 1989, which is the highest attainable level. She's also officiated at two Canada Games, the World Youth Games and the Canadian Junior and Senior Championships, among others. She has been on the Organizing Committee for the Canadian Masters Championships twice. She also finds time to officiate at numerous local, school and provincial track and field meets.