

**GIVING US A  
SPORTING CHANCE  
THE STORY OF SASK SPORT**

**LYNN GIDLICK**



# GIVING US A SPORTING CHANCE

## THE STORY OF SASK SPORT

LYNN GIDLICK

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 1

**INTRODUCTION .....1**

## CHAPTER 2

**SPORT AND RECREATION IN SASKATCHEWAN:**

**THE EARLY DAYS .....13**

## CHAPTER 3

**HOW LOTTERIES BECAME THE MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR**

**SPORT, CULTURE AND RECREATION IN SASKATCHEWAN. ....31**

## CHAPTER 4

**BUILDING THE FOUNDATION .....51**

## CHAPTER 5

**THE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGES OF GROWTH ..... 79**

## CHAPTER 6

**THE BATTLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL**

**OF THE LOTTERY SYSTEM .....107**

## CHAPTER 7

**SPORT FOR ALL: MAKING AMATEUR**

**SPORT MORE INCLUSIVE .....125**

## CHAPTER 8

**HELPING ATHLETES TO EXCEL ON PROVINCIAL,**

**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGES .....163**

## CHAPTER 9

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE ..... 209**

SASK SPORT PRESIDENTS

**223**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**235**

OTHER BOOKS PUBLISHED

**239**

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

**243**

NOTES

**247**

INDEX

**261**





## INTRODUCTION

This book might not have come into being had it not been for a chance encounter at the 2006 Sask Sport Annual General Meeting. Ian Cook was attending the annual sport gathering on behalf of Racquetball Saskatchewan, one of the amateur sport federation's seventy-plus members, which include provincial sport governing bodies, like that for racquetball and numerous multi-sport organizations, such as the Saskatchewan Games Council and the kinesiology departments of the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan, that provide core services to the broader sport community. During a break in the proceedings, Cook was asked to put his name forward for a board position. Sask Sport Assistant General Manager Paul Barnby spotted Cook and said, "You've been coming to these meetings for a long time. Why don't you run?" Cook took him up on the suggestion and was elected to the board. Like many people who find themselves sitting around the Sask Sport board table for the first time, Cook

had no idea what he had signed up for. All he knew was that he was passionate about promoting amateur sport and he was up for a new challenge. Sport had made a big difference in his life while he was growing up in Regina's Cathedral area. He knew firsthand the role that participating in healthy sport and recreation activities could have in contributing to self-esteem and fostering leadership qualities, community development and cooperation to achieve common goals.

Cook remembered feeling overwhelmed after his first few board meetings. "I had no idea of the scope of this organization," he said. He knew that funding from the provincial lottery supported sport, culture and recreation in Saskatchewan. He did not know, however, that Sask Sport actually *ran* the lottery or that it was the volunteer sport community that had built the lottery infrastructure in the province. "I think most people in the sport community think Sask Sport is a government organization. They don't



know it's actually a volunteer-led and -driven organization and that it runs the lottery," said the quiet-spoken, unassuming Regina businessman. "When I agreed to sit on the Sask Sport board, I didn't know I had agreed to help oversee a non-profit organization with gross revenues at that time exceeding \$150 million plus a year."<sup>1</sup>

As Cook got to know more about Sask Sport, he came to realize that Saskatchewan's amateur sport system is unique in Canada, indeed, in the world. Other jurisdictions use revenue from lotteries and other forms of gaming to finance amateur sport, but Saskatchewan is the only place where authority has been devolved from the government to the voluntary sector to operate the lottery as well as oversee distribution of its profits. Since 1974, the provincial government has licensed Sask Sport to act as its sales and marketing arm with the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. Other governments chose to have much more direct roles in lottery operations within their borders. Saskatchewan opted to let the volunteer sector use the provincial lottery as a fundraiser for sport, culture and recreation.<sup>2</sup>

But Sask Sport's relationship with the provincial lottery goes much further than just overseeing the business aspects of the operation. The amateur sport federation harnessed the volunteer power of Saskatchewan citizens to set up the lottery distribution system in the province. No government money was invested in establishing the lottery. For much of

the lottery's history, tickets were sold by volunteers sitting at kiosks at fair grounds and in malls and peddled at community events and business to business. Sask Sport marketing staff had the daunting task of coordinating a volunteer sales force located throughout the province. Every aspect of the business had to be fully transparent and meet the highest standards of accountability. Once lottery tickets were able to be sold electronically, volunteers were able to step away from selling them directly. As of 2015, there is a network of 852 lottery ticket centres throughout Saskatchewan.<sup>3</sup>

Not only does the provincial sport federation run the lottery as the primary fundraiser for amateur sport, culture and recreation in Saskatchewan, but it also plays a significant role in coordinating the volunteers who adjudicate funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation (Trust Fund), created in 1974 when the lottery was established. Volunteer committees from Sask Sport, SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association review all funding requests and play a central role in the oversight, direction and management of the Trust Fund. The three umbrella organizations provide direct funding to more than 1,000 communities, rural municipalities, First Nations and non-profit organizations. Through these agencies, over 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups receive funding and provide a wide range of programs and services to more than 600,000 registered members across the province.<sup>4</sup>

Ian Cook continued to learn more about Sask Sport by serving as vice-president of the organization's lottery division, sitting on the provincial KidSport Committee which raises money so that less privileged children can participate in amateur sport and undertaking other volunteer responsibilities, all of which culminated in his serving as president in 2008–09. By this time, Cook understood that almost every facet of the amateur sport system in Saskatchewan could be linked in some way, either directly or indirectly, to the umbrella organization with which he had become involved — whether it was a grassroots developmental activity or a high-performance sport. He recognized that the lottery turned the system's wheels. He was intrigued and wanted to know how and why the volunteer sport sector had come to be in charge of developing and maintaining such a successful fundraiser. Cook also started to feel the conviction that senior staff felt in arguing that the fundraiser should remain with the sport, culture and recreation community. How, he wondered, had Sask Sport been able to *keep* the lottery in the volunteer sector for so long when everywhere else in the country, governments had moved lotteries into their own bureaucracies?

Cook became convinced that a book should be written about the history and evolution of the organization that he had come to appreciate so much. Fortunately, he found another champion for recording Sask Sport's history and legacy in former president Don MacAulay. MacAulay sat on



Ian Cook, Lynn Gidluck and Don MacAulay with Joe Kanuka (Sask Sport President 1973–74) and Guy Simonis (First CEO of the Western Canada Lottery). Courtesy June Ann Kanuka.

Sask Sport's Board of Directors on two occasions. The first time, early in the organization's history, he sat on the board for only a few months because he had to step down when he accepted a position with the Government of Saskatchewan. For most of his career, MacAulay worked in the areas of sport, culture, recreation and parks — starting in Estevan, where he spent eight years working as a recreation consultant. He later moved to Saskatoon and then Regina, where he continued to accept ever more challenging positions with the province. MacAulay understood and appreciated the relationship that the provincial government and Sask Sport continued to maintain and develop to fund these important sectors.

MacAulay continued to have enthusiasm for the work that Sask Sport was doing long after he retired. He had the opportunity to sit on the Board of Directors a second time, in 2003, which led to a stint as president in 2006–07.

That was when he first got to know Cook and learn about his idea to record Sask Sport's history. In 2009, after a few years of lobbying, Cook and MacAulay were successful in convincing the Board of Directors and management of Sask Sport to go ahead with the project and hire a researcher/writer to chronicle its history. There was some urgency to move forward with the book since many of the people who could provide insight were well into their twilight years (and sadly, some had already passed on). For the writer to make sense of the fragmented and incomplete archival records, it would be necessary to talk to as many volunteers, staff, civil servants and political leaders as possible who had contributed to the growth and development of Sask Sport and the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation sectors over the years.

More than ninety interviews were conducted between March 2011 and February 2014 and the information from these conversations forms the core of this book. As readers will see, the voices of these key participants are sprinkled liberally throughout the book. Care was taken to talk to participants from various entry points in the amateur sport system from all periods and political administrations, from the early 1970s to 2015. The interview data were supplemented from a number of other sources, including Sask Sport's organizational files, which contained policy papers, planning documents, minutes and action items arising from executive and board meetings,



Glenn Tuck, long-time champion of sport, culture and recreation in Saskatchewan. Courtesy SSI.

internal memos and other materials dating back to the late 1960s, when the idea of creating a federation to act as the collective voice for amateur sport was still in its infancy. The archival papers of two former Saskatchewan premiers and three cabinet ministers responsible for the lottery legislation were also examined.

The ability to develop a rich and nuanced description of how Sask Sport and the amateur sport system were developed and evolved was enhanced by having access to the original source materials of two researchers who did studies in areas that touched on some of the historical background of Sask Sport and the sport, culture and recreation sectors. Dr. Ernie Nicholls kept detailed files on the early history of Sask Sport for his 1982 doctoral dissertation, which compared amateur sport federations in Western Canada.<sup>5</sup> A number of years later, Elva Nixon conducted a series of interviews with some of the same



people whom Nicholls interviewed for his study and with others whom he had not, for the book that she co-wrote on the history of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.<sup>6</sup> It was particularly fortunate, for instance, that both Nicholls and Nixon interviewed Bill Clarke, the man whom many people interviewed for this book credit as the “architect” of the Saskatchewan Lotteries system. Clarke, a long-time civil servant and champion of amateur sport, passed away in 2000.

This book has also been made richer by the contributions of Glenn Tuck. He worked for many years as a civil servant to help build the sport, culture and recreation infrastructure in Saskatchewan. After he left government, Tuck was hired by Sask Sport to work on a number of special projects. When he retired, one of his many projects was to start gathering material on the organization’s history. Like Ian Cook and Don MacAulay, he recognized the importance of sharing Sask Sport’s history; like Elva Nixon and Ernie Nicholls, he understood the significance of Bill Clarke’s contribution to the history of Sask Sport. Tuck’s interview with Clarke, as well as the box of historical information that he collected on the history of amateur sport in Saskatchewan, proved to be valuable to this book. Sadly, Tuck passed away on May 8, 1998. Those who knew him know that he would have contributed to the content of this book and been one of the first people to read it.

In the pages that follow, readers will learn about a

remarkable story of ordinary people working together to develop, sustain and improve the amateur sport system in Saskatchewan — a system that is unique in Canada, indeed in the world, and that many of those interviewed for this project believe is looked on with envy by their counterparts in other jurisdictions. Perhaps former civil servant Ken Alecxe said it best when interviewed for this book:

*With the lotteries and government, it is a really good example of how people can work very effectively together by embracing community, giving them the means to do their work but still having lines of accountability, still making sure that regular communication and dialogue is there that allows whatever the changing public policy parameters of the day might be, they’re communicated, they’re understood, there’s feedback and there’s give and take as to what can be done, what can be accomplished.... Government can get a lot done in terms of its public policy mandate through an enormous community-based group like the lottery system. So when I look at the lotteries, I don’t see a lottery system, I see an enormous enabled volunteer community providing activities that are the envy of this country. Everywhere I’ve gone it’s been, wow, you guys have all that stuff going on, that’s amazing.<sup>7</sup>*



Dorothy Josephson, Sask Sport President (1996–97).  
Courtesy Susan McGillivray.

6

As avid volunteer and former Sask Sport president Dorothy Josephson put it, “It’s about more than sport. It’s participation that most people would not have a chance to experience unless they were senior policy analysts or some elected officials.” Josephson is proud of the role that she played, along with so many other volunteers over the years, in oversight of the amateur sport system in Saskatchewan. Volunteers who understand the needs of their individual communities, she contended, shoulder the responsibility for what, in most other jurisdictions, falls on the shoulders of senior policy analysts or elected officials. She concluded that “We [volunteers] are in pretty good positions to actually have influence on public policy for sport and how sport is delivered in the province.”<sup>8</sup>

This amateur sport system in Saskatchewan, as Ken Alecxe and Dorothy Josephson described it, did

not develop overnight. It is the result of an evolutionary process covering over forty-plus years. It is the story of a collaborative relationship between the provincial government and the voluntary sector that began before Sask Sport as an organization was even formed. It started with a government committed to building an infrastructure throughout the province to promote, develop and enhance sport, culture and recreation and willing to invest in these areas. It continued with a provincial decision to put the volunteer sport federation in charge of running the provincial lottery as a fundraiser for these sectors.

Over the years, as lottery fund revenues continued to increase and the province faced growing fiscal pressures, the government devolved its program and funding responsibilities in the area of amateur sport exclusively to Sask Sport and the lottery system. A small number of government staff play a policy role and help to negotiate the terms of the lottery licence agreements, but civil servants are no longer charged with organizing sporting events or managing programs, as they once were. Even funding that comes from the federal government through bilateral agreements merely flows through the province and is administered by Sask Sport. Events formerly run by the province, such as the Saskatchewan Games, now exist as non-profit organizations — funded and supported by Sask Sport.

Sask Sport General Manager Jim Burnett is quick to give credit to the provincial government for understanding

the wisdom of empowering people who are passionate about improving their communities and the amateur sport system to determine public policy priorities: “Other provinces kept sport within government and built up a big bureaucracy. In Saskatchewan, government pushed amateur sport into the community.”<sup>9</sup>

This book provides an overview of the collaborative arrangement between the government and the amateur sport community in Saskatchewan and how this relationship has evolved and flourished over the years. Chapter 2 provides an overview of amateur sport in Saskatchewan up to the formation of the sports federation in 1972. As we will see, the Saskatchewan government in the mid-1960s had the foresight to begin facilitating greater participation in sport, culture and recreation at the community level. Civil servants such as Don MacAulay were hired to work in communities throughout the province, helping enable volunteers to create programs driven by local needs. The provincial government also played a key role in convincing provincial sport organizations of the need to come together as a collective to address common needs.

Chapter 3 provides the “big picture” of how lotteries developed in Canada and why Saskatchewan chose a path so different from the rest of the country when it came to managing its provincial lottery. Chapter 4 pieces together the incredible story of how Sask Sport harnessed the power

of volunteers to establish the lottery system in Saskatchewan and develop granting programs and mechanisms that transcend politics and are adjudicated in the best interests of the community at large. As Colin Maxwell, who served as a cabinet minister in the Progressive Conservative government from 1986 to 1990, put it, “Part of the strength of the system was and still is, is that it is not partisan, because the decisions are not being made by elected officials.”<sup>10</sup> He contended, as did other political leaders interviewed for this book, that volunteers are in a much better position than government bureaucrats to judge the relative merits of individual grant applications and the public priorities of amateur sport.

Furthermore, Sask Sport, through its ability to leverage the volunteer community, has always kept administration costs to a minimum. As Bruce Medhurst, a civil servant who worked closely with voluntary sport, culture and recreation communities for more than thirty-two years on behalf of the provincial government, noted, “The lottery system is run by volunteers. You’ve got good, dedicated volunteers. For government to do it, it would cost five times more than what it costs for Sask Sport and the globals to do it. Economically, it just makes a lot of sense to keep it that way.”<sup>11</sup>

Chapter 5 traces the excitement and challenges that came with the continued growth of lottery revenues. Numerous programs that Sask Sport’s member

organizations and Saskatchewan athletes have come to rely on can be traced to the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, when staff and volunteers came up with innovative ideas on how to best utilize lottery profits. Programs such as the Trust Initiatives Program, later renamed the Community Grant Program, as well as the Member Assistance Program were developed to deliver seed money directly to the community level. It was during this period that many of the provincial sport governing bodies were able to hire staff for the first time. Money became available so that a full range of services could be offered to member organizations, including administrative support, training, volunteer recognition and ancillary services such as sports medicine.

8

Chapter 6 outlines the pressures that Sask Sport faced between 1986 and 1993 to maintain control of the provincial lottery. Fiscal challenges that the government was experiencing meant that it was looking at every available avenue for revenues to fund government services. There was real fear during this period that the province would fundamentally change the lottery system. Again, Sask Sport, its members and its umbrella partners in culture and recreation responded with creativity, working together to prove to the government and the public, that they could operate the lottery system more efficiently than government could. Also, maintaining *ownership* of the funding mechanism was something that the people of Saskatchewan valued and was in the best interests of the broader public.



Dick White, Sask Sport President (1994–95).  
Courtesy Archives and Special Collections, U of R.

Chapter 7 examines the steps that Sask Sport started to make in the late 1980s, and carried on throughout the 1990s until the present, to address inequities in the amateur sport system. Although there is much work left to make sport more inclusive and provide more opportunities for children facing barriers to participation, important strides have been made by cooperating with First Nations and Métis communities. This chapter examines Sask Sport's



efforts to include the Aboriginal community in coming up with solutions to problems created by short-sighted and devastating government policies of the past, such as the residential school program. Joint efforts have led to a number of community-based programs that are making slow but steady progress in increasing the participation of Aboriginal youth and other marginalized communities in sport, culture and recreation activities. Through the development of programs such as the Tribal Council Coordinator Program, the Northern Community Schools Program, KidSport Saskatchewan and the Dream Brokers Program, Sask Sport continues to work with community partners to come up with creative solutions to difficult issues which keep large numbers of Saskatchewan citizens from benefiting from participation in amateur sport.

As Dick White, the director of athletics at the University of Regina who served as the president of Sask Sport in 1994–95, noted, to have a successful sport system, support also needs to be provided to those athletes who rise to the top. “You need the people at the very top because I think they inspire others,” said White. “How many kids took up speed skating when they saw Catriona Le May Doan do amazing things? It’s those kinds of things that get people excited. You know — my generation watching *Hockey Night in Canada* on Saturdays — how many people wanted to be a hockey player and scored winning goals on their street?”<sup>12</sup>

Chapter 8 provides an overview of the programs and

support provided to Saskatchewan athletes to help them progress through the amateur sports system and shine on provincial, national and international stages. The chapter also takes a look at the history of various multi-sport events in the province, such as the Saskatchewan Games, the Western Canada Games and the Canada Games. Sask Sport’s role in supporting these types of sporting events, as well as its backing of high-performance sports that takes place at the universities or outside the purview of the Olympic movement or university system, are also reviewed.

Finally, Chapter 9 focuses on efforts made in the last number of years to build on the work done by previous generations to sustain and improve the amateur sport system in Saskatchewan. Board members and staff at Sask Sport have always understood the need to respond to changing circumstances and they have been able to do so because of their close links with member organizations. As we will see in this chapter, Sask Sport and the volunteer sport community have met with a number of challenges in recent years, ranging from the need to respond to issues such as harassment and sexual abuse in sport to rising rates of childhood obesity and the need to streamline and improve administrative services within the sport system.

The book concludes with reflections on the main challenges facing Sask Sport and the amateur sport community in the years to come. It also briefly looks back at some of the major accomplishments of sport volunteers

over the years, cautioning those who care about the future of sport in Saskatchewan to take the time to understand, celebrate and continue to support and build upon their shared history. As Ian Cook, who more than anyone else pushed for this book to be written, said,

*Many people in the amateur sport community don't know what they're a part of. For Sask Sport to continue to grow, it needs to be supported. Its members need to understand more fully where they came from and how they need to work with Sask Sport like the volunteers who founded this organization and built it to where it is at today. That's the only way to maintain the system and make it even better for our children and their children's children.*<sup>13</sup>

My hope is that this book will help to get that message across.

— Lynn Gidluck



Canadian PGA Tour star and Weyburn, Saskatchewan native Graham DeLaet pictured in Regina in July 2006. Courtesy Leader Post.



Kia Byers, a five-time World Cup medalist and two-time national record holder for canoeing and kayaking. Courtesy Leader Post/Bryan Schlosser.





Hannah Green from La Ronge, competing in the 2014 Saskatchewan Winter Games in Prince Albert. Courtesy Sask Games Council.



## SPORT AND RECREATION IN SASKATCHEWAN: THE EARLY DAYS

**A**mateur sport has a long and proud history in Saskatchewan, beginning even before Europeans settled this province with games played by First Nations people, such as lacrosse. Lacrosse became popular with non-Aboriginal people too, in the mid-1800s, and was one of the first team sports played on the prairies and across the country. The National Lacrosse Association of Canada became the country's first national sport governing body in 1867.<sup>1</sup> Canadian sports are also indebted to Aboriginal culture for the toboggan, snowshoe and canoe. It was through their close contact with the first peoples that European settlers adopted the activities that utilized these pieces of equipment.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to lacrosse, sports such as cricket, horse racing, rugby, football (soccer) and baseball (all introduced by British settlers) quickly became popular during the

1880s. Dozens of towns boasted their own men's and, in some cases, women's baseball teams already by the turn of the century. More often than not, however, sport remained in the realm of recreation through activities such as hide-and-seek, horseshoes, marbles, tag, dodgeball, catch and skipping rope. There were few formal leagues or teams for which one could try out. During the winter months, skating, sleighing, skiing and many snow games were popular. But it was curling that quickly became one of the most popular activities on the prairies. From the 1880s to 1904, the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland's North-West Territories branch controlled Saskatchewan curling, helping to organize the first bonspiel in Regina in 1892. Regina featured its first curling club in 1889 and, soon after, Qu'Appelle and Indian Head built their own clubs. They eventually teamed up with Regina to form the Royal

Caledonian Curling Association, which changed its name to the Saskatchewan Curling Association in 1904. By the First World War, many communities had their own curling rinks.<sup>3</sup>

Hockey also has a long and proud history in Saskatchewan. The first reported hockey competition took place in 1894 between teams from Regina and Moose Jaw, with Regina winning two of the three games. By the end of the nineteenth century, Prince Albert, Moosomin, Saskatoon, Rosthern, Indian Head, Qu'Appelle and many other towns located along railway lines boasted competitive men's hockey teams, and in 1906 the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association was formed. Football too had early roots, evolving from the game of rugby. It was first played in Saskatchewan by members of the North-West Mounted Police as early as 1886 but was played only sporadically for the next two decades.<sup>4</sup>

One of the first attempts to organize sport at a national level came in 1909 with formation of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (AAU). The AAU was created as an umbrella organization to govern sports, including track and field, swimming, boxing, wrestling and other Olympic sports. Saskatchewan was one of the first provinces to form an AAU affiliate. In the early days, there were not many events to govern, but the AAU played a role in the selection of athletes and teams to advance to the Canadian Olympic trials. Each sport set its own membership rates and club

affiliation fees, collected sanction fees for meets, kept records of performances and issued certificates of performances.<sup>5</sup>

The onset of the First World War put a damper on sport activities as communities focused their energies on the war effort. However, one sport organization which actually stemmed from the war was the Junior Provincial Hockey League, formed by the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association in 1917 to fill the gap left by senior players who had enlisted as soldiers. For a short time in the 1920s, Saskatchewan even had a professional hockey team, the Regina Capitals, which came within one game of playing in the Stanley Cup final. Unfortunately, the franchise was sold to Portland in 1926. In the 1920s, boxing also became a popular sport in Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw. Moose Jaw's Jack Reddick went on to become the Canadian light-heavyweight champion, while Regina's Jackie Lewis was the provincial and western boxing champion. Tennis also started to thrive in several communities along the Canadian National Railway (CNR) thanks to O.J. Rowe, assistant superintendent of the CNR in Biggar and later superintendent for western Canada. Rowe was passionate about tennis and requested that his employer fund tennis courts in numerous communities in the province. Support from the government was limited at this time. One of the few examples of provincial support to Saskatchewan athletes was a \$600 grant in 1926 to



Dr. Balfour Kirkpatrick, a national leader in the fitness movement and long-serving University of Saskatchewan Kinesiology professor. Courtesy SSHF.

allow Saskatchewan wrestling champion James Trifunov to attend the 1928 Olympic Games. Although he was the national bantamweight wrestling champion, he was not originally invited to be a member of the Olympic wrestling team. His bronze medal convinced the Saskatchewan government that this was a good investment.<sup>6</sup>

Although the hard times of the 1930s meant that there were limited recreation and sporting programs available, Regina's rowing and canoeing athletes still managed to capture several awards at the Canadian Henley and Northwestern United States regattas, thanks to Harry

Duckett's instruction, devotion and skill. Saskatchewan's first municipal indoor pool was also constructed in Moose Jaw in 1932. The Moose Jaw Natatorium was a state-of-the-art facility for its time, despite problems with hot minerals corroding the pipes and making the water murky. The reality of the times, however, was that most Saskatchewan residents spent their leisure time on inexpensive forms of recreation such as dances and picnics. Travel between neighbouring communities for sport and recreation decreased. Schools and communities had little money for sport and recreation budgets, so young people were forced to return to games such as kick-the-can, red-light and shinny, in which the puck was improvised from any material available, including the fabled frozen horse manure.<sup>7</sup>

The beginning of the Second World War in 1939 also slowed the growth of sport and recreation activities. Cadet corps programs were initiated to attract young people to join the war, but all other sports and non-war-related activities were discouraged by school boards. Government officials thought that physical training was important for the war effort and this view led to the National Physical Fitness Act of Canada in 1944. According to Saskatchewan sport volunteers Hank and Fyola Lorenzen, the school exercise program during this era consisted of half an hour a week of marching, boot camp style, on a school playground.<sup>8</sup>

Also in 1944, Saskatchewan voters elected the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation party led by

Tommy Douglas. With the offer of assistance from the federal government, the new provincial government created a Physical Fitness Division within its Department of Health. The division was in operation by January 1945, and its first leader was Dr. Balfour Kirkpatrick. He had been a keen member of the Huskies track and field team while he did his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Saskatchewan. This marked a new era of government involvement in sport activities, and was the first formal recognition of the role that the province should take in promoting and encouraging sport-related services.<sup>9</sup>

This was an exciting era for sport in Saskatchewan. The end of the Second World War sparked more attention nationally, provincially and municipally in increasing leisure and recreation services and facilities. Sport fields, parks, rinks, civic centres and pools sprang up around the province. As military bases closed down, many of their indoor facilities were moved, renovated and put to good use in communities across the province.<sup>10</sup> Because most of the work that the province was doing in the area of physical fitness dealt with the school-age population, the division was moved to the Department of Education in 1948 and renamed the Saskatchewan Recreation Movement. This was also the year that Dr. Kirkpatrick left the province and Wally Stinson, who had served as his administrative assistant, became department head.<sup>11</sup>

The year 1948 also saw the creation of the



Wally Stinson, one of the driving forces behind Saskatchewan's early recreation movement and founders of the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association. Courtesy SSHF.

Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA). The SHSAA was the parent provincial organization for all high school sports activities. "Wally Stinson was the driving force and principal leader in the establishment of the SHSAA," said Dr. Howard Nixon. "This association ensured that all boys and girls, regardless of their locale, would have a chance to excel."<sup>12</sup> Through the SHSAA, provincial government staff helped to organize and operate several district high school athletic associations. Small grants were available to district groups and the provincial body for football, track and field, basketball, tennis and curling. More importantly, however, provincial government staff provided administrative and organizational support to the SHSAA. Staff also started instructing at teacher institutes



Western Canadian champion barrel jumper, "Dare Devil Downey". Clarence Downey was instrumental in organizing the Saskatoon Speed Skating Club in 1942. Courtesy SSHF.



through the University of Saskatchewan's summer school and other organizations to improve coaching and physical education instruction in Saskatchewan schools.<sup>13</sup>

The province also began to put more effort into supporting the Saskatchewan branch of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (AAUC) in the postwar years. The Saskatchewan chapter of the AAUC was another organization in which civil servants such as Stinson played an active role. Provincial government employees carried out secretarial work for the AAUC and helped to organize western Canadian championships, dominion championships and national trials associated with the Commonwealth and Olympic Games. Nixon noted that his friend Stinson put his heart and soul into this position, travelling extensively to organize and facilitate meetings: "It was no streetcar trip from Regina to Swift Current, to Saskatoon, or to North Battleford -- it was miles and hours of risky and lonely travel." Former Saskatchewan premier Allan Blakeney echoed those sentiments, characterizing Stinson as "a towering figure in physical education in Saskatchewan and in Canada."<sup>15</sup>

Occasionally, funds were made available to the AAUC to help Saskatchewan athletes attend Canadian Olympic and Commonwealth Games trials held outside Saskatchewan. Some support was also given directly to provincial sport organizations, usually in the form of sponsorship for coaching and refereeing clinics and courses.

The sports that usually benefited from provincial support, however, were the "have" sports such as hockey and curling and a small number of other groups, because to apply for grants groups needed existing organizational structures, established programs and even a measure of self-support.<sup>16</sup>

### THE 1950S: THE "GOLDEN YEARS"

The 1950s provided further growth in sport and recreation. A number of community recreation grant programs were offered through the Division of Physical Fitness and Recreation but, with the repeal of the National Physical Fitness Act, most of these grants were discontinued in 1954. Although no further money was forthcoming from federal resources, the province nevertheless maintained its commitment to sport and recreation, largely through grants from the 1955 Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee. Community halls and recreation facilities were built throughout the province and the committee was successful in attracting a number of major sporting events to the province, including the Macdonald Brier Dominion Curling Championships, the Western Canadian Volleyball Championships and the North American Figure Skating Championships.<sup>17</sup>

The Saskatchewan AAU was highly visible in 1953 when Saskatoon made a bid to host the Canadian Track and Field Championships at Griffiths Stadium during Saskatchewan's jubilee celebrations in 1955. The event was

so successful that Saskatchewan was seen as a qualified host community for other national championships. Although the AAU served a useful role in sport management, a number of sport organizations decided in the late 1960s to secede from this national body, believing that they could run their sports better under their own management.<sup>18</sup>

Support for sport and recreation was given a further boost in 1956 when the province introduced a new health and physical education curriculum. This led to gymnasiums being built in elementary schools and teachers becoming skilled in the new program. Especially in rural areas, gymnasiums were tremendous assets because they provided the opportunity for year-round activities for children. A recreational leadership program, which offered participants the chance to learn more about sport and athletics, program planning and administration and arts and crafts, was also initiated by the province to support the new physical education objectives.<sup>19</sup>

## THE 1960S AND WINDS OF CHANGE

Change was in the air in the 1960s and nowhere was this more evident than in the area of amateur sport. Canadians had more disposable income than ever before and more time for leisure activities. By this time, two-thirds of the population owned a television. *Hockey Night in Canada* was the most popular tv sport program in the country.



Bill Clarke, offensive and defensive tackle for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, 1951–64 and “architect” of the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system in Saskatchewan. Heenan, Courtesy SSHF.

Canadians and others around the world enviously watched Soviet athletes head to the Olympic podium. And, horror of horrors, the Russians continued to beat Canada in international ice hockey competitions. A Saskatchewan native son, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, was the first national leader to see the power of sport to unify Canadians. He came by this passion honestly. He had paid his own way to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. At the time, he noted the favourable international image that the games gave Germany. He believed that similar benefits could occur in other countries and vowed to promote amateur sport as a source of national pride in Canada if given the opportunity.<sup>20</sup>



Mayor Sid Buckfold and J. J. Charlebois, President of the 1971 Canada Winter Games, greeting former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker when he arrived in Saskatoon to watch the Games. Courtesy City of Saskatoon Archives, CWG-003-001.

The 1960s also represented a change in the social assistance practices of Canadian governments. Canadians now welcomed financial support such as “baby bonuses” and supported government efforts in the areas of fitness and amateur sport. The situation was much different from 1943, when the National Physical Fitness Act — enacted to promote physical activity to ensure that Canadians were prepared for war — was soundly criticized by citizens who did not want the government to become involved with or dictate in any way their participation in fitness programs.<sup>21</sup>

The first real change came in 1961 when Diefenbaker’s government passed the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act (Bill C-131). For the first time, significant public funds would be used to encourage, promote and develop fitness and amateur sport. The government created the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate to administer funds to be used, among other things, to create national teams

to replace the club teams that had represented Canada at national and international competitions. The new sport bureaucracy also established the Canada Games, providing financial support for athletes’ training and travel.<sup>22</sup>

Since the provinces were called on to administer the federal funds, federal-provincial agreements were signed and plans made to move the sport agenda forward. Athletes, their families and their coaches across the nation anxiously awaited their first opportunity to gather and compete against the best teams and individuals in Canada. More than 1,800 athletes from ten provinces and two territories would gather in Quebec City in February 1967 for the first Canada Games, competing in fifteen sports. From that point forward, the Canada Games would be held every two years, alternating between summer and winter, and be a key event in the development of Canadian athletes.<sup>23</sup>

“The Canada Games were the thing that really projected us into the future by forcing us to form organizations. No provincial association was allowed to participate in the games unless they were registered and affiliated with a national association,” said Bill Clarke, who worked for the provincial government. “So right away the games provided a tremendous stimulus for sport development in Saskatchewan. We’d go out into the country and in the cities and talk to people and there were some organizations, but they didn’t speak to one another. This kind of got them speaking to one another.”<sup>24</sup>



Clarke would go on to become the central liaison between the sport community and the provincial government for almost two decades, arguably becoming one of the strongest advocates for amateur sport in Saskatchewan's history. He ran unsuccessfully for the federal Liberals in 1966. Many people knowledgeable of his contributions as a civil servant believe it was fortunate that Clarke lost that election and went to work in the new provincial Youth Agency, because he did so much more for the cause of amateur sport by working in the provincial government than he could have been as a backbench member of Parliament.

Clarke was a large man with a commanding presence, standing six foot four inches tall and weighing over 235 pounds.<sup>25</sup> He was best known publicly for his career with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He played offensive and defensive tackle for fourteen years for the Green and White (eight seasons as defensive captain), was twice named to the Canadian Football League's Western All-Star Team and twice nominated for most valuable player.<sup>26</sup> He also made a name for himself in the curling world, skipping the winning rink from Scott Collegiate in the first officially sanctioned Canadian Junior Men's Curling Championship, held in Quebec City in 1950. At that time, the event was known as the National Schoolboys Championship.<sup>27</sup>

Amateur sport had another huge champion in Cy MacDonald. He was one of the youngest members elected in the Liberal sweep led by Ross Thatcher in 1964.



Dr. Howard Nixon, lifelong supporter of sport education and youth involvement in physical activity. Courtesy SSHF.

MacDonald taught English and coached football and hockey at Notre Dame College in Wilcox for fifteen years before being recruited by Thatcher and Father Athol Murray to run for the Liberals. MacDonald was quickly named minister of welfare and youth and given the responsibility for leading a major initiative to expand physical, cultural and social activities for young people throughout the province.<sup>28</sup>

In 1965, legislation known as the Saskatchewan Youth Act was introduced and subsequently passed by the provincial legislature. The act provided for the establishment of a Youth Review Committee to study the needs and aspirations of Saskatchewan young people.<sup>29</sup>

Dr. Howard Nixon of the University of Saskatchewan's School of Physical Education was seconded to undertake this study and prepare a report that would establish the guidelines for a new government agency to act as an intermediary among other government departments, municipal authorities, school officials and volunteer organizations.<sup>30</sup>

It was fortunate for amateur sport that someone like Nixon, who had such a strong background in and passion for sport, was a leading force in the provincial government's push to improve opportunities for youth in the province. He competed in football, swimming, gymnastics and wrestling while doing his university undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia. When he returned to Saskatchewan to teach at the University of Saskatchewan, after completing his master's degree and PhD at the University of Indiana, he coached swimming and wrestling. His tireless volunteer efforts and dedication in promoting sport, provincially and nationally, earned him the respect and admiration of people from across the country.<sup>31</sup>

Nixon and his team used many avenues to gather data. Through questionnaires, seminars and personal interviews, they reviewed the mandates and actions of all government departments and agencies that had roles in, or could be called on to address, the needs of young people. They visited more than 118 communities to get firsthand

viewpoints on the gaps. They undertook an extensive study of youth programs in other parts of North America and Europe and visited other provinces that had already initiated steps to develop innovative youth programs. To supplement the work that Nixon was doing, a Youth Review Committee was also appointed, chaired by Dr. Lloyd Barber, dean of commerce at the University of Saskatchewan. The committee held hearings throughout the province and accepted 242 briefs from individuals and organizations that addressed the needs of young people.<sup>32</sup>

The recommendations of the committee led to establishment of the Provincial Youth Agency in 1966. As an editorial in the *Leader-Post* reported, the vote on the second reading of the Saskatchewan Youth Act was one of the rare occasions when there was unanimity in the legislature. "Not one dissenting vote was cast against providing the government with the necessary powers to provide grants and take other steps to implement the recommendations contained in the 250-page report of the provincial youth review committee."<sup>33</sup>

Nixon and Barber's report was the blueprint for the present system of recreation delivery in Saskatchewan, recommending that the province be divided into eleven regions, organized on the basis of population density. Regional coordinators (government employees) were placed in each region.<sup>34</sup> As Barber stressed in a letter to the minister, the main theme of their report, *Youth: A*

*Study in Our Times*, was that the government should act as a facilitating agent rather than a program agency. “In my estimation,” Barber wrote, “the success of the Youth Agency rests on the philosophic proposition that individuals desire an opportunity to assist themselves to develop their own talents and abilities. It is a fundamental error for a state or a collectivity of individuals to suggest that they can do for people what it is the responsibility of people to do for themselves.”<sup>35</sup>

Once Nixon and Barber were done their work and had returned to their jobs at the university, Glenn Tuck was put in charge of the team of civil servants hired to implement their recommendations and carry out the mandate of the Provincial Youth Agency. Tuck was born in Alberta and graduated from the University of Alberta, where he specialized in physical education. After teaching physical education and math at the School of Agriculture in Vermilion, Alberta, he came to Saskatchewan in 1955. He was the recreation director and superintendent of parks and recreation for the City of Prince Albert for five years before joining the provincial government in 1960 as a regional supervisor for Fitness, Recreation and Continuing Education in west-central Saskatchewan. In 1964, he became a provincial recreation and athletic consultant. Tuck would spend most of his life promoting and developing sport, culture and recreation in Saskatchewan.<sup>36</sup> Roy Ellis, who reported to Tuck, was hired

as the director of regional field services — his primary responsibilities being to oversee the regional coordinators in their work with community leaders to establish local and regional recreation boards across the province.<sup>37</sup> Ellis was born and raised in Moose Jaw, where he was aquatic program supervisor and director of the YMCA. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. After the war, he moved to Saskatoon, where he taught remedial physical education at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital. He held several other positions in the field of recreation in Saskatoon, including assistant recreation director for the City of Saskatoon, recreation director of St. Mary’s Parish and superintendent of recreation classes in the Saskatoon separate school system, before joining the provincial government in 1960 as a regional recreation supervisor in the south-central area.<sup>38</sup> Ellis, Tuck and many of the other people hired by the Youth Agency had long histories of involvement in the recreation movement in Saskatchewan and played roles in establishment of the Saskatchewan Recreation Association in 1961, renamed the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association in 1967 to acknowledge the important role that parks play in the field of recreation.<sup>39</sup>

Once the Youth Agency was established, Tuck and Ellis and their small team of eager coordinators quickly got to work meeting with hundreds of municipal councils across the province to inform them about a number of new

grants meant to assist in the development of programs to meet the unique needs of individual communities.<sup>40</sup> Support was provided to develop regional recreation organizations. There was a Community Recreation Leadership Initiating Grant to assist communities to employ full-time staff, and there was a Community Junior Development Grant. One of the most popular grants, the Lighted School House Grant, was meant to encourage local communities to use their school facilities for sport, culture and recreation activities after school hours. Since only established recreation boards were allowed to apply for these grants, this provided communities with the incentive to organize.<sup>41</sup>

Recreation boards were set up as committees of municipal councils. The policy of the Youth Agency was to encourage regional associations and recreation boards to determine their own purpose and function. Regional coordinators were expected to be facilitators, not only helping volunteers to complete inventories of existing facilities, sport and athletic organizations and social, cultural and church associations already providing youth and recreation activities in their communities, but also, more importantly, identifying what was lacking and which grants were available to address these needs. Civil servants were not there to dictate a centralized vision of which programs communities should offer. When meeting with volunteers, Youth Agency staff were expected to relay the key message that “Each community is different

and therefore the needs are different, the answers are different.”<sup>42</sup> As Roy Ellis explained, the grants that the government was offering were not large: “They were truly incentive grants. What that little incentive meant was that we could go in and talk to them. They could sit down and discuss. We never pushed them to get a grant.”<sup>43</sup> As a result of the stimulus provided by these grants, there was a tremendous growth in recreation boards in the late 1960s.<sup>44</sup>

Gary Mather was hired by the Youth Agency to do this kind of work. He began his career as a civil servant in the west-central community of Rosetown. Like most other regional coordinators, Mather found it fulfilling to empower volunteers by helping to set up recreation boards and regional associations to take advantage of government grants that would enrich their communities.<sup>45</sup> From 1966, when Mather started with the Youth Agency, to 1969, when he moved to Regina to begin a new job as a sport consultant, the number of recreation boards expanded from seventy-three to 415, recreation directors from twelve to forty-two and regional associations from two to eleven.<sup>46</sup>

## ORGANIZING AMATEUR SPORT

When Mather moved to Regina in 1969, his focus changed to sport. In addition to facilitating community recreation, the Youth Agency played a key role in coordinating and supporting the participation of Saskatchewan athletes in large-scale amateur sporting events such as the Canada



Games. To have participates in the Canada Games, each sport needed a provincial organization. “One of my jobs,” said Mather, “was to go out and get people together and develop sport organizations and, once a provincial association was formed, to work with them to try to develop them. At the time, we were providing grants to get them off the ground.”<sup>47</sup> A number of available grant programs provided funding to provincial sport groups to hold leadership clinics and workshops and expand programs and services, and assisted communities to hold smaller-scale sport events.<sup>48</sup>

One initiative that the Youth Agency undertook early in its mandate was to organize a multidisciplinary sport conference at Saskatchewan House in Regina so that groups could start working together to address common problems. Bill Clarke asked Wally Stinson to chair that first meeting. Stinson said that Clarke asked him to bring up the idea of forming a sport federation to represent the collective interests of sports<sup>49</sup> although, according to Clarke, the time was not yet right. Many of the groups that attended this meeting were still unsure of the role of the Youth Agency. They were fearful that it would take over sports and that individual associations would lose their autonomy. “They came and they said, ‘We don’t want any part of this heavy power play that’s going on.’ I don’t think it was a power play,” said Clarke. “I think it was a sincere effort, but, at the same time, the organizations just kind of went into a shell

and started protecting themselves.”<sup>50</sup>

The next attempt to get sport organizations to work together was not a direct effort to form a federation but came out of the Youth Agency’s support for a sport administration centre. This was in direct response to the appeal by three of the larger associations in the province, the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association (SAHA), the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), for office space, administrative assistance, part-time management and secretarial services. The groups believed that a single office would reduce costs and provide better coordination of school and community recreation and sport programs.<sup>51</sup>

In October 1969, these three organizations formally incorporated a new umbrella organization to meet these needs: Saskatchewan Sport and Recreation Unlimited (SSRU). This was the first sport administration centre in Canada. It was soon followed by the one in Ottawa for national sport and recreation associations. Years later, when Bill Clarke was interviewed about early sport development in the province, he said, “This was one of the smartest moves we made. I remember I ended up being the secretary-treasurer — it was a wonderful job — we had no money.”<sup>52</sup> Although Clarke might have joked at the time about the new organization not having any money, he was quick to add that

*The administration centre became the real key upon which we could build the infrastructure because we could provide some printing services and some office space and some regular phone numbers and some answering services. This allowed the volunteers to do what they did best — to teach, to coach, or [to] participate — and it gave them a chance to let someone else do the administration work.*<sup>53</sup>

The three founding members shared office space and offered limited services to other provincial associations. A brochure was mailed out informing groups about the SSRU and its services to member organizations. This brochure resulted in the application for membership from two other provincial associations — the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association and the Saskatchewan Camping Association. The following year, during a conference on sport at which thirty-two provincial sport governing bodies were represented, the services of the SSRU were pointed out to delegates and there was an upsurge of interest in the organization. It was about this time that the Saskatchewan Baseball Association also joined the SSRU to take advantage of the services offered.<sup>54</sup>

The beginnings of the SSRU were modest. An article written a few years later for the organization's newsletter describes the original building at 2054 Broad Street, in Regina, as very crowded and "attic-like" and "slightly less

than palatial." Printing was done on a borrowed Gestetner machine and funding was handled by the Saskatchewan Department of Culture and Youth.<sup>55</sup> The first of a series of moves occurred in 1972, when offices were relocated to 1950 Broad Street. A full-time printing operator was hired to run a printing press and expanded photocopying equipment.<sup>56</sup> By this time, SSRU had fifteen members, five of which shared office space at the new location.<sup>57</sup>

Bill Clarke and the provincial government did not drop the idea of establishing a sport federation. Clarke called on Hank Lorenzen, a Regina-based architect active in the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association, to help him get feedback on forming a federation. Lorenzen and Clarke visited several sport groups in the period leading up to the fourth provincial conference on sport convened by the Youth Agency in the fall of 1970. It was not hard to convince Lorenzen of the need to form a sport federation. He had attended the previous conferences organized by the Youth Agency. Lorenzen said that many of the sport groups were starting to see that, although they had unique problems, they also had many common concerns:

*They had equipment problems, facilities problems, they had personnel problems — they couldn't always get enough volunteers to run their show and some outfits that were quite small required a huge number of volunteers. Others were really big and had lots of people*

*helping them and hardly needed any volunteers. They were so well organized. Somehow it all came out in these discussions that we should develop some kind of a sport federation that could find the things that were common to everyone . . . and have a voice that would speak for the whole sport community.*<sup>58</sup>

“We tried to form it [Sask Sport] through the administration centre, but people were kind of paranoid that we were going to try to take some power away from them — that they ran their own organizations,” said Clarke. “They didn’t need any interference — just money. And that was a hard point to get across, that we weren’t trying to interfere with how they ran their sport organizations — we were just trying to provide more help.”<sup>59</sup>

Both Cas Pielak and Joe Kanuka were adamant that the government should play a limited role in running sport organizations. Pielak was president of Baseball Saskatchewan in the 1970s and would go on to play the same role with Baseball Canada, a position that he would hold for ten years. Later he was appointed secretary-general of the International Baseball Federation and played a pivotal role in introducing baseball to the Olympics.<sup>60</sup> Kanuka was a prominent Regina lawyer and an avid volunteer and sport supporter. He was a founding member and the first president of the Saskatchewan Amateur Football Association. In the late 1960s, he was a member

of the Canadian Junior Football Association Committee that laid the groundwork for the Canadian Junior Football League, of which he became the first commissioner in 1972. Kanuka was also active on the board of the Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club and even team manager for a time. He also volunteered his legal skills to help many sport organizations incorporate, including the Queen City Track and Field Club and the Queen City Gymnastics Club, among others.<sup>61</sup>

Both Kanuka and Pielak vividly recalled the first time that they met each other, in the hallway of the SSRU office. Kanuka was just leaving a meeting with Bill Clarke and Glenn Tuck in which he had made a strong case that, if there was to be a sport federation, it should have no role in programming — its only goal should be to raise funds so that individual sport groups could run their own operations. Pielak was leaving his office as Kanuka, Clarke and Tuck were finishing their meeting and Kanuka asked him, “What do you think Sask Sport should do for you? Are they going to tell you what to do?” Pielak said, “No way — funding is the only thing I want from them.”<sup>62</sup>

Tuck from the Saskatchewan Youth Agency chaired the provincial conference a few months later (fall 1970). This was the meeting in which the push for developing a multi-sport federation really gained momentum. Sixty-three delegates from more than thirty sport governing bodies shared their thoughts on what kind of assistance

they needed to help their sports develop and how to gain more appeal for sport among the wider community. One of the most important outcomes of this meeting was a resolution presented by Ches Anderson and Harry Robbins directing the Youth Agency to work with a Steering Committee of representatives of sport governing bodies to research examples of sport federations already in existence in Canada, Europe and the United States, with the aim of developing a federation in Saskatchewan. Delegates were enthused about what such a federation could provide, including a coordinated fundraising program and increased access to grants.<sup>63</sup>

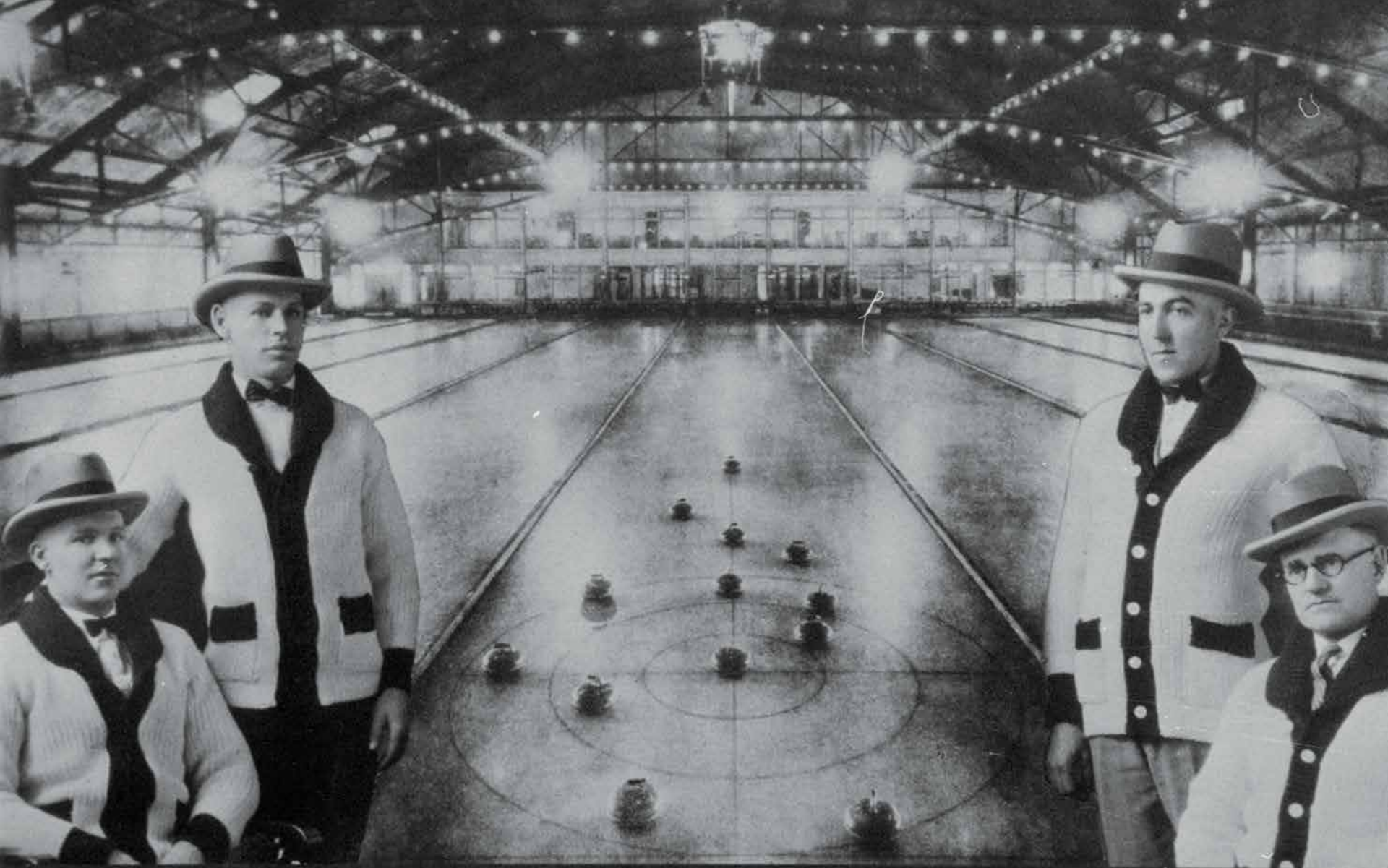
They saw the day when there would be full-time administrative personnel and shared administrative services, direction and assistance in media relations, more opportunities for participation and competition in all sports, certified coaching programs and training centres. These were big dreams about which the Steering Committee was excited. The committee was led by Hank Lorenzen. Joining him were Jack MacKenzie, Ken Bowren, Fraser Hodgson, Howie Atkinson, Roger Derby and Ches Anderson.<sup>64</sup>

The Volunteer Committee spent considerable time that year gathering information on how other sport federations were set up and preparing recommendations for what effectively would be the founding meeting of their new sport collective. Lorenzen chaired the meeting,

which took place on September 25 and 26, 1971, in Regina at the Vagabond Motor Inn (now the Travelodge on south Albert Street). More than eighty delegates from thirty-six provincial sport associations showed up for the inaugural event. The meeting broke into a number of smaller groups, each considering an aspect of what sport organizations could get involved in and what a sport federation could foster and develop. A draft constitution and bylaws were agreed to, a proposed structure for the new federation was discussed and it was agreed that the new organization would work closely with the government but remain independent from it. The focus would be on both developing programs for recreational participants and developing and supporting competitive athletes.<sup>65</sup>

Four provincial sport bodies — swimming, football, fastball and wrestling — became Sask Sport Inc.'s charter members, but by the following year the list had grown to forty-seven members. One of the first orders of business following the founding meeting was to seek funding from the federal government, via the Youth Agency. The Agency had already committed to funding for the six months of operation up to the annual meeting and the costs of the meeting. The Management Committee agreed that it should request further funding for an executive secretary and program costs for the 1972–73 fiscal year.<sup>66</sup>





THE BARKWELL RINK - YELLOW GRASS - SASK.

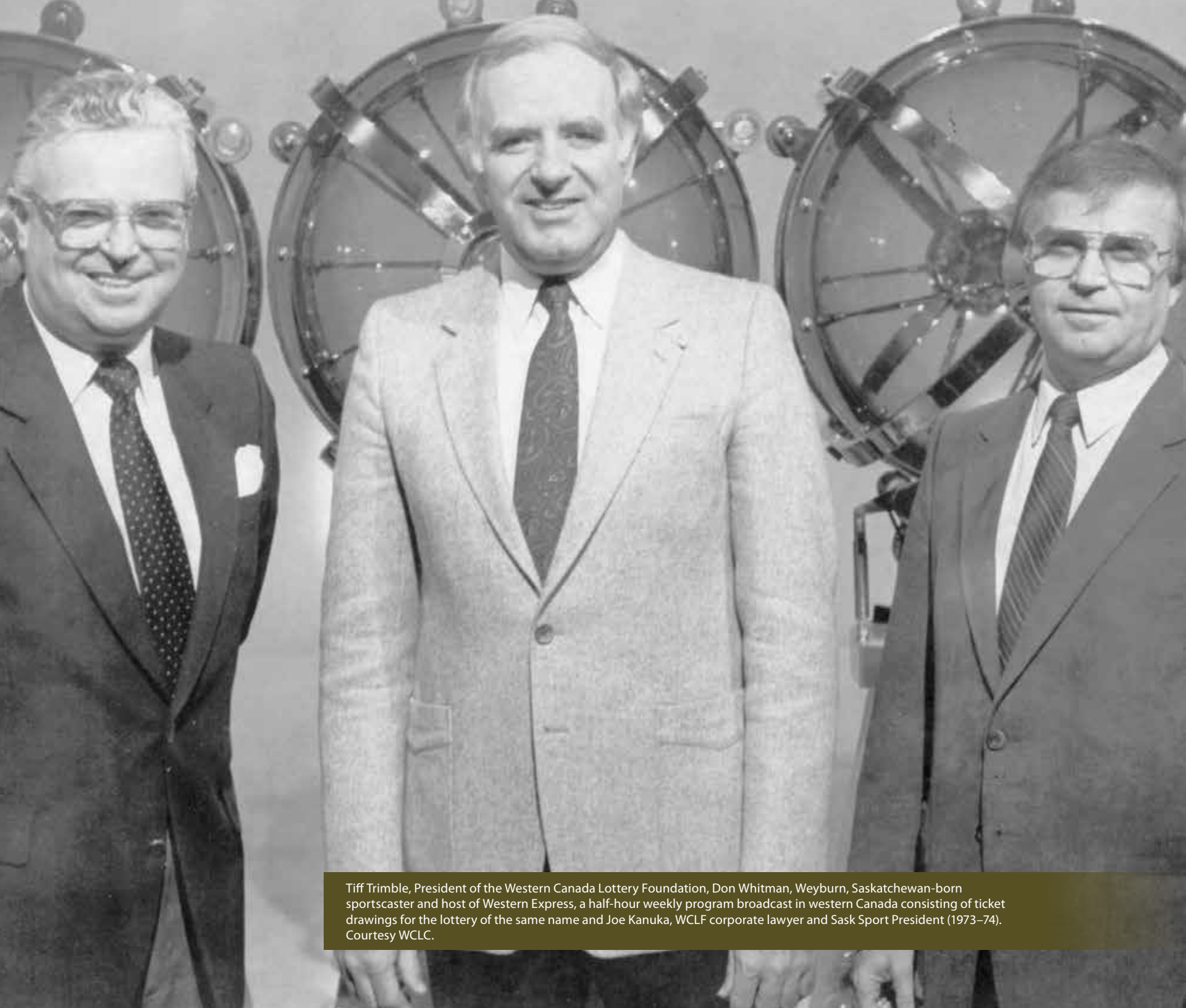
1927 Champion Curlers of Western Canada - Winners of McDonald Brian Playdowns

H.J. Wilkin 3rd

A.E. Hill Lead

O.S. Barkwell Skip

D.H. Hay 2nd



Tiff Trimble, President of the Western Canada Lottery Foundation, Don Whitman, Weyburn, Saskatchewan-born sportscaster and host of Western Express, a half-hour weekly program broadcast in western Canada consisting of ticket drawings for the lottery of the same name and Joe Kanuka, WCLF corporate lawyer and Sask Sport President (1973–74). Courtesy WCLC.

## HOW LOTTERIES BECAME THE MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR SPORT, CULTURE AND RECREATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

**E**ven with the thousands of volunteers who keep the system running, sports come with price tags, especially once they move beyond the recreational or community level to the competitive level. Athlete development, training of coaches and officials, equipment and uniforms and travel to intercommunity and out-of-province competitions all cost money. For instance, in 1947, the Saskatoon Hilltops total club receipts were \$11,000, with expenses of \$10,650. There were no hotel costs because Regina games were day trips by bus and a playoff trip to Winnipeg would be by train, on which players would spend a night each way in sleeping cars. By the early 1970s, the costs of running the team had escalated to between \$65,000 and \$80,000.<sup>1</sup> The rising costs of activities signalled to sport leaders that, to increase opportunities for more young people in their communities to participate in sport, to train to their potential and to shine

on provincial, national and even international stages, they had to get into serious fundraising mode. To many people, not just those in Saskatchewan, the answer to this dilemma seemed to lie with lotteries, bingos and other forms of legalized gaming.

### QUEBEC LEADS THE CHARGE

Thanks largely to the efforts of Québec, the Trudeau government introduced changes to the Criminal Code of Canada in 1969 to legalize gambling. Before these amendments, most forms of gambling were illegal in Canada. The exceptions were horse racing; small lotteries, raffles and bingos; carnival games at fairs and exhibitions; and other minor bets for sporting events, in private poker games, or between individuals. With these changes, certain groups or individuals could legally operate lotteries: the

government of Canada; the government of a province (by itself or with other provinces); charitable or religious organizations; agricultural fairs; or individuals holding a permit issued by a province.<sup>2</sup>

Québec had been particularly vocal over the years in pushing for government-sanctioned and -run lotteries, but the massive bills incurred from Expo '67 caused it to up the ante. The City of Montreal came up with an ingenious idea to help pay off its debt. Visitors to and residents of Montreal were given the opportunity to demonstrate that, if they loved the city, they would be willing to become “voluntary taxpayers” as a way to ensure that the city remained a national tourism gem. For a two-dollar contribution, the general public was eligible to participate in prize draws (referred to as “tax returns”). Of course, Mayor Jean Drapeau’s “voluntary tax” was a lottery in everything but name. Drapeau was willing to flout the law, hoping that widespread public support for the new venture would be enough for the federal government to change the Criminal Code or look the other way. Soon Sherbrooke and Québec City initiated similar “voluntary tax” measures.<sup>3</sup>

The Québec lotteries were eventually struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada for contravening the Criminal Code, but during this period Pierre Trudeau, then minister of justice in the Liberal government of Lester Pearson, was contemplating changes to the act that would legalize lottery schemes. When Parliament was dissolved in 1968 for the

general election, the legislative changes were temporarily shelved. When the Liberals were re-elected, this time under the stewardship of Trudeau, the Criminal Code was amended to allow both federal and provincial governments to become involved in gambling ventures.<sup>4</sup>

When these changes were made, Minister of Justice John Turner explained that the establishment of lotteries would no longer be a question of criminal law but a matter of public policy. This meant that the government of each province would have to go before its own legislature and seek the approval of its own electorate. “You decide,” he said, “in terms of the public opinion of your own people in the province whether you want a lottery scheme. If you do, the conditions that you attach to such a scheme are a provincial matter.” He added that the federal government at that time had no intention of getting into the lottery business.<sup>5</sup>

Not surprisingly, Québec was the first province to take advantage of the liberalized rules around gambling. By the time the new gambling laws came into effect January 1, 1970, the Québec legislature had already passed third reading of a bill creating Loto Québec and the new crown corporation became operational the same day.<sup>6</sup> Loto Québec soon convinced Montreal and Sherbrooke to transfer all of their “voluntary taxes” to it. This meant that Loto Québec already had a pool of money and could begin having draws soon after setting up shop. The arrangement



also suited the cities fine because they had been ordered by the courts to return all of their “voluntary taxes,” and the administrative costs to do so would have been more than what they had taken in. Loto Québec hired experienced people from Montreal who had been laid off from the “voluntary tax” division.<sup>7</sup>

### **WESTERN CANADA GETS ONBOARD**

In western Canada, Manitoba first pushed the idea of lotteries as a way to fund amateur sport. Guy Simonis helped to found the Manitoba Sports Federation in 1969 after introducing organized water polo to Canada and Manitoba.<sup>8</sup> Simonis, originally from the Netherlands, had been involved with the sports federation there before emigrating to Canada in 1954 and he knew that significant revenue had been generated for amateur sport through Sports Toto lotteries in his home country. Simonis convinced the rest of his board and volunteers with the Manitoba Sports Federation to venture into the lottery business in 1971 with their own Sports Toto. He described this first foray into lotteries as a “miserable failure,” yet he had hoped that the Manitoba Sports Toto would lay the groundwork for a lottery system in western Canada, which would one day become a multi-million-dollar support system for amateur sport and other public initiatives.<sup>9</sup>

A little farther west, people in the amateur sport community in Saskatchewan were also looking at



Hugh Tait, co-chair of the 1971 Canada Winter Games held in Saskatoon and one of the masterminds behind the highly successful Lucky Dog Lottery. Courtesy Saskatoon Hilltops.

lotteries as a promising fundraiser. Saskatchewan’s first major lottery was the Winter Games Lucky Dog Lottery.<sup>10</sup> The driving force behind it was Hugh Tait, one of the co-chairs of the games. He was well known in the amateur sport world in Saskatoon. He lent his organizational skills and fundraising abilities to many sports, serving as treasurer for the Knights of Columbus Indoor Games for a number of years and as a committee member for five National Track and Field Championships. He was also closely associated with the Saskatoon Merchants softball team, the Saskatoon Five Pin Bowling Association and the



The Lucky Dog Lottery, Saskatchewan's first major lottery, raised \$225,000 for the 1971 Canada Winter Games in Saskatoon. Courtesy Saskatoon Public Library.

Optimist Swim Club. It was his connection with junior football and the Saskatoon Hilltops, however, for which Tait was most well known. He had been one of the founders of the Hilltops in 1947 and had served as the club's president in 1948.<sup>11</sup>

"Hugh Tait was a well-known city shaker and he decided as a fundraiser for the 1971 Canada Games that he'd run a lottery," said Don McDonald, also a long-time volunteer with and supporter of the Saskatoon Hilltops. "When Hugh Tait got up and said something, people listened. If you had Hugh on your side, you were away. Well, he got a fellow called George Adolf, who was a Hilltop director, to act as chairman of the lottery. When the lottery was over and all the tickets were gathered up, they were kept at the Hilltop clubhouse."<sup>12</sup> Over \$300,000 was raised for the Winter Games (plus sizable profits in

commissions for the selling agents).<sup>13</sup> Largely thanks to the Lucky Dog Lottery, the Winter Games put \$225,000 into Saskatoon city coffers.<sup>14</sup>

When the Winter Games were over, Tait thought that the Lucky Dog Lottery should not be allowed to fold. With the help of Ed Henick, also an icon in the world of amateur football in Saskatoon, the lottery went on to become an important plank in the Saskatoon Hilltops financial platform. Henick was the driving sales force behind the lottery. "Ed ran the lottery for years out of the back of his butcher shop on 20th Street and Avenue I," said McDonald, who sat on the Hilltops Board of Directors during much of this period. "He said that he'd run the lottery for the Hilltops, but he would have to come away from the meat market to do it. So he did that, but he still had to work Saturdays in the meat market." McDonald said that Henick ran a huge mail-order operation out of the back office of the butcher shop for years. "He had twenty-two girls working for him, mailing tickets out all over the place. One year the Hilltops made \$90,000 on his ticket sales." According to McDonald, there was not a more staunch supporter of the Hilltops than Henick and the money that he made from selling lottery tickets on the team's behalf helped to make it the organization that it is today — one of the top junior football clubs in Canada.<sup>15</sup>

In the meantime, other people in the province were also carefully examining how lotteries could be harnessed



For his lifetime of dedication to sport Gordon W. Staseson received many awards. He is pictured here in 1993 when he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Roughriders' Plaza of Honour. Courtesy SSHF.

for their own fundraising purposes. One such person was Gord Staseson, president of the Regina Exhibition Association. “The Lucky Dog Lottery was very successful,” said Staseson. “We watched it very closely because we wanted to become involved in lotteries in order to raise the rest of the money we needed to construct the AgriDome in Regina.” Staseson said that Premier Ross Thatcher was very reluctant to see a proliferation of lotteries. “He didn’t believe in that kind of fundraising, so it took a lot of coaxing and convincing from his colleagues to get him to approve our lottery licence.”

*We were finally able to convince the premier to support us on the basis that we would support exhibitions in Saskatchewan and so our first lottery licence was issued to the Saskatchewan “A” fairs ([the] Saskatoon Exhibition and the Regina Exhibition) and eleven “B” fairs — smaller centres like North Battleford, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Weyburn, Estevan, etc. They weren’t as interested in supporting the “A” fairs, but they were very interested in the survival of the “B” fairs because they were all struggling.*

“We decided to model our lottery on the Irish Sweepstakes,” said Staseson. “Both Saskatoon and Regina were big in the thoroughbred horse racing at that time and our young manager, who happened to be my son-in-law, the late John Griffin, organized our first Saskatchewan Derby Sweepstakes based on a horse race.” Organizations such as the Saskatchewan Roughriders and Saskatoon Hilltops earned commissions from selling tickets for the Exhibition Association’s Derby Sweepstakes. Staseson said that Ed Henick, in addition to running the lottery for the Hilltops, became one of the biggest distributors for the Derby Sweepstakes. “He created a network and sold tickets all over Canada and around the world even though the law was that we weren’t supposed to sell outside the province. He raised a tremendous amount of money for the Saskatoon Hilltops.”<sup>16</sup>

There was clearly a buzz in the air around lotteries during the early 1970s. Few non-profit organizations hoping to raise funds for their programs or services could ignore the potential revenue to be raised by selling lottery tickets. A debate began within organizations — big and small — in all parts of the province about whether they should participate in this new form of fundraising. Many people, especially those who came from the social democratic tradition of the New Democratic Party and its predecessor, the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, had serious ethical issues about making money from gambling. To people like Premier Allan Blakeney, lottery tickets were a tax on the poor and a way to sell dreams when there was no realistic likelihood of their realization.<sup>17</sup>

The same debate occurred among members of Saskatchewan's new sport federation, also looking at avenues to raise money for its members. "There were people who really believed that amateur sport was so important that it should be supported by tax dollars. It shouldn't just be hung on the back of something like a lottery. The big decision that had to be made somewhere along the line," said Paul Barnby, Sask Sport assistant general manager, "was whether their focus should be on lobbying for government grants funded by the tax base or whether the sport community should become self-sufficient through fundraising initiatives like lotteries."<sup>18</sup>

## FORMATION OF THE WESTERN CANADA LOTTERY FOUNDATION

At the same time that Sask Sport was working hard to demonstrate its ability to operate successfully a large-scale lottery, the government of Saskatchewan was having discussions with the governments of Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia about joining forces to market lotteries on a regional basis. The western provinces, led by Manitoba, wanted to squeeze the federal government out of the lottery marketplace to ensure that ticket sales went to provincial coffers.<sup>19</sup> Guy Simonis, the first person to lead the Western Canada Lottery Foundation when it was formed in 1974, believed that the provinces owe a debt of gratitude to Manitoba's minister of sports, Larry Desjardins, who led the charge in seeing that revenue from lotteries and future forms of gambling remained in provincial coffers.<sup>20</sup> Desjardins was a two-way tackle for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers but had also made a name for himself in the baseball and hockey worlds. He was a semi-professional, left-handed pitcher and first baseman for teams such as the St. Boniface Juveniles and St. Paul's College and he played hockey for the St. Boniface Junior Canadiens (later becoming president and general manager of the team). Desjardins was also a local scout for the Montreal Canadiens and Boston Bruins; he was among the first to scout European players at the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, France.<sup>21</sup>

Simonis said that Desjardins convinced him to lead a new sport division within his ministry. “In order to combine sports and the lottery, I was made an official of the government. I had to resign as president of the Manitoba Sports Federation. You can’t be giver and receiver at the same time.” His primary responsibility was to develop lotteries. Simonis recalled the day that he attended a meeting with Desjardins and Ed Schreyer, premier of Manitoba. The topic of lotteries came up and Schreyer said to Desjardins, “I’m giving you an impossible task and that is to get all four western provinces to agree on something.” As Simonis explained it, “There was no point in setting up a lottery in every province because we would just be beating the hell out of each other.” From that day forward, one of his main jobs was to work with his minister to convince the other western provinces of the benefits of combining forces to market lotteries collectively. “The provinces couldn’t even agree on the day of the week,” said Simonis, “so this was a daunting task.”<sup>22</sup> It was not hard to get Alberta to cooperate. The Alberta government wanted to raise money for the Commonwealth Games, scheduled to take place in Edmonton in 1978, so it showed an interest early on in the idea of a western Canadian lottery. However, the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton’s Klondike Days already had successful lotteries. As Simonis explained, “These were powerful, powerful people. They were the makers and breakers in both cities — politically and financially — and

Horst Schmidt, who was minister at the time, could not do these people out of their lottery.” So, when Alberta agreed to be part of the Western Canada Lottery, rather than being led by the government, it would be represented by a triumvirate of the Stampede, Klondike Days and Commonwealth Games.<sup>23</sup>

Getting British Columbia and Saskatchewan on board was a much more difficult task in the beginning. Both provinces were led by New Democratic Party (NDP) governments. The NDP had taken a strong stand federally against legalizing gambling in 1969. Federal leader Tommy Douglas summed up the NDP’s arguments, speaking in the House of Commons:

*If governments in Canada need more revenue, then that revenue ought to be collected from people on the basis of their ability to pay and according to the size of their income. It ought not to be obtained by appealing to the avarice of individuals or holding out hopes to people who have very little chance of improving their lot by buying lottery tickets. This is a complete reversal of the whole idea of fiscal policy in Canada.*<sup>24</sup>

Manitoba was also led by the NDP at this time and the government caucus, like those in British Columbia and Saskatchewan, also had members with sentiments similar to those of Douglas about the “evils” of gambling. Simonis



attributed Manitoba's perceived "about face" to the forceful personality of Desjardins. "Larry was really a Liberal," said Simonis.

*He ran as a Liberal candidate in Saint Boniface and when the NDP was elected, with the young Schreyer at the helm, they were one or two seats short and Desjardins crossed the floor. Desjardins was very much against the grain of the cabinet. There were many people within the cabinet who thought the lottery was pestilence, but Desjardins had a great relationship with Schreyer — almost as father-son. He convinced Schreyer it was a good thing.<sup>25</sup>*

38

In Saskatchewan, Allan Blakeney and many others in his caucus were personally opposed to government-sponsored gambling. However, they were eventually convinced to get onboard. As the former premier recalled,

*In the 1970s, when the western provinces were organizing the Western Canada Lotteries, Saskatchewan declined to take part. It was not long before we found that there was a widespread sale of lottery tickets in Saskatchewan by agents acting for the Manitoba and Alberta lotteries. We felt we had to join in and we did. We declined to do it through any overt government department or agency.<sup>26</sup>*

When Bill No. 122, An Act Respecting Lotteries, was introduced in the Saskatchewan legislature in 1974, Premier Blakeney made it clear that it was not the intention of his government to get into the lottery business. The premier expressed sympathy with opposition members who had discomfort in promoting lotteries as a method of financing major government programs and he claimed that his government had developed an approach that was "as good a compromise as we can get," since neither the government nor private individuals would be promoting the sale of lottery tickets to generate revenue for themselves. Blakeney emphasized that there would be no direct government revenue coming from lotteries. The only benefit to the government would be indirect in the sense that organizations would receive funding from the provincial lottery system that might otherwise lobby the government for money.<sup>27</sup>

Minister of Culture and Youth Ed Tchorzewski, further noted that the Lottery Act was intended as a fundraising tool for sport, culture and recreation organizations. "In passing this Bill there is an answer for many sport, recreation and cultural and leisure time agencies and their continual search for raising funds to finance ever-increasing demands and improvements in programming," the minister said. "These agencies have all experienced the problem in sufficient revenues to fulfil their financial needs and are willing to work to raise such

money if a fundraising tool is put in their hands.”<sup>28</sup>

Cy MacDonald, Liberal member for the constituency of Milestone, seconded Tchorzewski’s motion to move second reading of the Lottery Act, giving his whole-hearted endorsement of the bill. He could not resist, however, making a jab at the NDP for being, in his mind, too slow in moving on this front. “I would suggest that the Minister get off his backside and get a lottery going in the Province of Saskatchewan as soon as possible,” said MacDonald.

*Sask Sport has been promoting this concept for several years. I think they are willing and ready to take the marketing responsibility for this. I think it would be one of the major benefits to amateur sport in the Province of Saskatchewan. If we are going to really promote amateur sport we are going to have a major initiation of capital facilities. I am thinking of Olympic-size swimming pools, tennis courts and so forth. . . . This has been under discussion in Saskatchewan for four or five years. For some strange reason we seem to be sitting on our backsides.*<sup>29</sup>

When the documents were signed that brought the Western Canada Lottery Foundation (WCLF) into being, many officials asked, “How big is this going to be?” Guy Simonis, as the new general manager of the WCLF, was the first to reply. “Guy was cautious in his answer to the

provincial ministers and estimated total net revenues in the vicinity of \$10 million,” said Joe Kanuka. “The ministers had difficulty with this figure and turned to me because I was the new corporation’s lawyer. They just couldn’t visualize that much money.” His response was to tell the ministers that he thought Simonis was wrong: “I said, ‘I think it’s going to be closer to \$25 million.’”<sup>30</sup> Still not comfortable, the ministers asked government representative Bill Clarke, who said that it was likely to be closer to \$50 million. As it turned out, net lottery revenue for the WCLF’s first year in business totalled \$21 million, but the corporation surpassed Clarke’s estimate of \$50 million in its fourth year of operation.<sup>31</sup>

## AT “WAR” WITH THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC LOTTERY

The Western Canada Lottery was officially formed in May 1974 and at just about the same time the Olympic Lottery was created by the federal government to help fund the 1976 Montreal Olympics in a fashion similar to the way Germany had financed the games in Munich.<sup>32</sup> The Olympic Lottery Corporation (known by its French initials as COJO) was created as a non-profit, federally chartered, organization in August 1973 as a subsidiary of the Olympic Organizing Committee.<sup>33</sup> The federal government stipulated that COJO could not sell tickets in any province until that province passed an order-in-council permitting their sale. “In a sense,” said Simonis,

*the provinces had a stranglehold — Ontario was oblivious at the time, they had no idea — and Québec was only too pleased. So that left the western provinces. Larry [the Manitoba minister] reasoned that once these guys were in and set up a structure they'd never leave again. The fight was on about whose field of taxation this was. That was the crux. Nothing else mattered. Whose field of taxation was it?*<sup>34</sup>

In the beginning, only six provinces agreed to participate in the Olympic Lottery — Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Québec — as well as the Northwest Territories, but when the rest of the provinces saw the proceeds that could be made they were all in for the second draw. During the first Olympic Lottery, Québec received \$740,793 as a contribution to amateur sport and Ontario received more than \$368,000. The Olympic Lottery was ten times as successful as the most optimistic forecasts.<sup>35</sup> Ninety-five percent of the net income went to the Olympic Organizing Committee. Nine draws were held between April 1974 and August 1976. Net profits from lottery sales totalled \$235 million and represented 54 percent of all COJO revenue. The remaining 5 percent (fifty cents of every ten-dollar ticket) went to participating provinces for tickets sold in their territories and was earmarked for amateur sports.<sup>36</sup>

Saskatchewan was the last province to pass an order-

in-council to permit the sale of Olympic Lottery tickets. It did so only after an arrangement was made to allow each partner in the Western Canada Lottery Foundation to be the exclusive distributor of tickets within its own province. Established retail outlets and mail subscribers would only be known to Sask Sport and the other Western Canada Lottery marketing organizations. This was an important victory for the WCLF because it wanted to prevent the Olympic Lottery organizers from attempting to continue the lottery beyond 1976 in western Canada.<sup>37</sup>

## AT “WAR” WITH LOTO CANADA

When the last draw was made for the Olympic Lottery, the provinces thought that this was the end of competition at the national level. “We were shocked,” said Simonis. “We thought the thing was at an end. There was legislation that it was at an end. We had an agreement that it was at an end.”<sup>38</sup> Bill C-94, setting Loto Canada up as a federal crown corporation, was passed by Parliament on June 22, 1976. It was sold to the country as a way to further the cause of amateur sport in Canada. The legislation decreed that 82.5 percent of the proceeds from Loto Canada would help to defray the deficit of the 1976 Olympic Games and help to finance the XI Commonwealth Games to be held in Edmonton in 1978. A further 12.5 percent of the profits would go to the provinces in proportion to the number of tickets sold, and the remaining 5



Saskatchewan Lotteries team members, 1987–88, left to right, Paul Barnby, Kenda Richards, Raelene Miller, Norbert Thurmeier, Richard Gutor, Harvey Stebner and Ron Taylor. Courtesy WCLC.

percent would be used by the federal government to fund physical fitness, amateur sport and recreation programs.<sup>39</sup> The lottery offered by Loto Canada was similar to the Olympic Lottery. The ticket price was ten dollars, with a top prize of \$1 million drawn bimonthly, and tickets would be sold in all regions of the country.<sup>40</sup>

By this time, the Ontario government was also in the lottery business, having realized that lotteries could represent a lot of money and not wanting to leave this field of taxation to the federal government. As a result, the Ontario Lottery Corporation (OLC) was formed in 1975. Jean-Marc Lafaille has a vivid memory of the fights waged by the provinces to keep the federal government from making any inroads into the lottery field. He began his lottery career as secretary of the board and legal adviser

to Loto Québec, a position that he held from January 1970 to June 1976. Shortly after, he became the first general manager of a new regional lottery launched by the four Atlantic provinces. “I was then on the side of the provinces against Québec and the federal government on the future of the Olympic Lottery.”<sup>41</sup>

Lafaille said that throughout 1975 two negotiations took place concurrently. The objective of Québec’s minister of finance was to raise money through the Olympic Lottery to pay for the \$300 million deficit of the Montreal Olympics. So Québec signed a deal, without the knowledge of the other provinces, to give a three-year extension to the Olympic Lottery (1977–79). “The other provinces were upset and rightly so. They were well aware that once in the field the federal government would never withdraw,” said Lafaille. “So, during a short period of time, from 1975 to 1979, Québec was in bed with the Federal government.”<sup>42</sup>

In August 1976, the WCLF and OLC joined together to launch the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation (ILC) and introduced a five-dollar lottery to compete with Loto Canada’s ten-dollar lottery. In December of that year, the Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC) held its first draw and in November the Parti Québécois was elected in Québec. Atlantic Canada joined the ILC the next year. “Now,” said Lafaille, “everybody was in except Québec.” Shortly after, he returned to Québec as president of Loto Québec. “It was easy for me to convince Jacques Parizeau (then Minister of

Finance) that Québec could not leave this field of taxation to the Federal government, so Québec changed camps and decided to join the ILC.”<sup>43</sup>

Lafaille’s close friend Guy Simonis with the WCLF said that one person who deserves a lot of credit for ensuring that the lotteries remained the exclusive sphere of the provinces was Saskatchewan’s own Joe Kanuka. “Joe had a brilliant legal mind,” said Simonis.

*He won some very important victories for us legally. For example, when the federal government said they were going to impose a lottery on the provinces and we resisted. And then we — on Joe’s advice — we said, “No, YOU are not going to get our retailers. You will NOT get our retailers.” Don’t forget that was 17,000 retailers across the country. . . . So they took us to court and with all their money and all their power they lost. They took us on in Manitoba, in BC, in each province and Joe fought all four battles and won all of them.”<sup>44</sup>*

Kanuka had originally sat around the WCLF table in his capacity as president of Sask Sport, attending the meetings and, along with Bill Clarke, representing Saskatchewan. Kanuka recalled the last meeting that he attended as the Sask Sport representative: “I told them, ‘This is my last meeting, I’m done.’ They said, ‘No, we’ll make you our legal counsel.’ I told them, ‘No, thank you — when I am involved

in legal counselling, I get paid.’ Then someone said, ‘Well, we’ll pay you, then,’ and I said, ‘That’s different, then.’ So then they hired me as their legal counsel.” Simonis quickly added that Kanuka had played such an important role around the WCLF table that nobody wanted to see him go.<sup>45</sup>

Because the provinces were so steadfast in their goal of not allowing the federal government to get a toehold in the lottery business and ensured that it was unable to secure a good retail network, Loto Canada sales were a far cry from the revenues of the Olympic Lottery. In their annual report for 1977–78, management spoke in grand terms about the efforts they had undertaken to anticipate consumer tastes and diversify and expand their product line. They proudly pointed out that, even in the face of what they worded as “aggressive competition,” they had developed a national distribution network that included most of the country’s financial institutions. But this was an annual report after all and there was no disguising the actual numbers. Although Loto Canada’s managers could do their best to sugar-coat the results, they had to admit that sales for its second draw in March 1977 barely covered costs.<sup>46</sup>

But diminishing returns did not stop the federal government from continuing to urge Canadians to buy tickets from Loto Canada, which served as an important tool of propaganda for the federal government in Québec. As one chronicler of this time period noted, the federal crown had “beaten the drum and raised its banners at all





Automated draw machines, late 1970s. Courtesy WCLC.

major sports events.”<sup>47</sup> In May 1978, Loto Canada went even farther down this path by signing a deal with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to make two dozen lottery specials (twelve each in French and English), at a cost of \$2 million plus corporation salaries. The French network featured well-known French performer Robert Charlebois. Starting in September, the CBC and Loto Canada began to co-produce shows wrapped around the live lottery draws that would pre-empt the *Tommy Hunter Show* and be broadcast every fourth Friday.<sup>48</sup> At one point, Jean Chrétien even publicly stated that he did not care whether the crown corporation lost millions in its lottery battles with the provinces, especially against Loto Québec, because he believed that Loto Canada was a means to strengthen Québecers’ attachment to Canada due to the support being

provided for hundreds of local events, popular festivals and live concerts across Québec.<sup>49</sup>

It seemed that the federal government would stop at nothing to stay in the lottery game, even violating its own rules around government tendering processes. The next big trend for lotteries was a game in which players got to pick their own numbers. This type of game held a powerful appeal to players, said Simonis, because they believed that they could be the authors of their own success: “Many players believe in the occult; the thought that there is magic in numbers, birthdays, lucky numbers.”<sup>50</sup> Ontario and Québec decided to work together to introduce such a game. They would control 75 percent of the market. Cooperation with Québec was now possible because of the change in government. Loto Québec’s president said that it was much easier to convince Jacques Parizeau, the new finance minister, of the folly of continuing to back the national lottery. Parizeau understood that Québec stood to make more money over the long term by protecting the interests of Loto Québec, said Lafaille. That is why, he added, they decided to team up with Ontario in the spring of 1978 to adopt a new online system for lotteries.<sup>51</sup>

Bids for the joint Loto Québec and OLC contract for computer terminals closed on July 7 and the provinces expected to begin the new computerized lottery in March 1979.<sup>52</sup> In the race to be the first out of the starting gate for a new pick-your-own-number lottery system, Loto

Canada knew that it had to move fast. There was no time for the public tendering process, which could take several months and signal to the provinces that Loto Canada would continue indefinitely rather than terminate operations at the close of 1979, as originally planned. Loto Canada signed a \$23 million deal with an American firm to supply computer terminals and programs.<sup>53</sup> Loto Canada's behind-the-scenes manoeuvring did not remain secret for long. The US-based General Instrument of Canada, in its excitement to celebrate such a lucrative contract, hosted a cocktail reception to announce the big deal at a meeting of industry executives attending a conference put on by the North American Association of State and Provincial Lottery Directors. The head of the WCLF was in the room: no more shrimp cocktail for the Canadian lottery titan and his Quebec and Ontario counterparts, also in attendance. A flurry of phone calls home to Canada resulted in a frenzy of media attention and furious provincial leaders.<sup>54</sup>

Seemingly unperturbed, federal minister Iona Campagnolo responded by saying that the contract had been awarded without calling for tenders because the federal government wanted to beat Ontario and Quebec in establishing computerized numbers games. She told the House of Commons that constraints of time and confidentiality explained why the government had circumvented the tendering process. The expedited process would allow Loto Canada to hold its first computerized



After 1976 a new method of selling tickets called the “bearer ticket system” was implemented. The new process ensured full accountability because every ticket sold was now automatically entered into the draw. Volunteers no longer had to scramble to mail purchased tickets to the Western Canada Lottery office in Winnipeg. Courtesy WCLC.

numbers game in November — well ahead of when Ontario and Quebec were scheduled to have their system ready.<sup>55</sup> But it was not full steam ahead for Loto Canada. The premiers held their annual meeting that August in Regina and one of the key items on the agenda was the future of Loto Canada.<sup>56</sup> The federal government was eventually forced to acquiesce to the provinces, resulting in a \$13.8 million breach-of-contract bill from the software supplier.<sup>57</sup>

A particularly damning exposé was aired a few months later by CBC Television: *A Gamble that Didn't Pay Off*. The national television network accused Loto Canada of wasting more than \$37 million of taxpayers' dollars.<sup>58</sup> The federal government refuted the number, arguing that the cost to Canadians for “rationalizing” the lottery industry was actually much lower. Indignant in her reply

to accusations made by Conservative critic Perrin Beatty, Campagnolo said that

*Anyone involved in business knows that if you have a large business such as the corporation of Loto Canada, the corporation of Ontario and the corporation of Québec, involved in a business undertaking, in order to rationalize the market between the two there is a cost involved. That cost will be considerably less than has been suggested by the media and by the honourable member.*<sup>59</sup>

The minister made it clear that the federal government had no intention of getting out of the lottery business, but it was willing to call a truce so that both levels of government could benefit from the gambling industry. Ottawa proposed a deal whereby it would wind up its lottery project if the provinces relinquished lotteries costing ten dollars or more per ticket after 1979. The provinces reluctantly accepted this arrangement.<sup>60</sup> But, of course, the story does not end there. The official opposition, the Progressive Conservative Party, continued to wage a fierce attack against the government for its mismanagement of Loto Canada. The party promised to wind up operations of Loto Canada if elected. Canadians went to the polls in May 1979 and in a political upset that surprised many, Joe Clark and the Conservatives won a minority government. Clark was officially sworn in as prime minister on June 4.<sup>61</sup>

His minority government would last only seven months and his tenure as prime minister might not be remembered for much other than briefly humiliating Pierre Trudeau, but Clark's victory was cause for celebration within provincial lottery circles. True to his word, shortly after taking office, Clark assigned his new sport minister, Steve Paproski, the job of negotiating a deal with the provinces to get out of Loto Canada. The Tories initially demanded \$60 million annually in exchange for handing over exclusive jurisdiction of the gambling turf, but they settled for \$24 million in 1980 indexed yearly to the consumer price index.<sup>62</sup> The final agreement was inked in August 1979. Loto Canada would stop selling tickets as of December 31 and wind up its operations as quickly as legal, financial and administrative requirements would permit.<sup>63</sup>

Not surprisingly, Trudeau and his badly wounded Liberal opposition team were outraged by Clark's deal with the provinces. Chrétien, interviewed by *Globe and Mail* columnist Hugh Winsor, saw Loto Canada as an important symbol of Canadian nationalism that the Tory government "gave" away:

*Every month there was a big show on national TV with singers from Québec and British Columbia and Newfoundland together and millions of Canadians were watching, full of Canadian pride. . . . There was an important symbol at every kiosk — people bought*

*a ticket with a Canadian flag. They gave it away to the provinces. Not only did they lose the \$300 million (annual revenue), but they didn't even get a thank-you.*<sup>64</sup>

Trudeau, then the opposition leader, referred to Clark as a head waiter, serving up large-scale giveaways of powers to the ten premiers. Loto Canada was just one of a number of examples, he suggested, of the Conservatives' plan to decentralize the country and dilute the power of the federal government. Trudeau said that this was not the Liberal idea of what a federal government should be but was closer to what Québec premier René Lévesque was advocating. Furthermore, Trudeau argued, the decision to hand over Loto Canada to the provinces had far-reaching implications for the future of sport and culture in the country. This decision, he foreshadowed, could mean that the federal government would get completely out of the fields of sport and culture in the future.<sup>65</sup>

## AT "WAR" WITH THE CANADIAN SPORTS POOL CORPORATION

Joe Clark's budget came before a confidence vote on December 13, 1979 and his government was defeated. Three weeks earlier Pierre Trudeau had announced his intention to step down as Liberal leader, but with no new leader in place and an election looming the Liberals convinced him to change his mind. Once the votes were tallied in the

February 1980 election, Trudeau was sent back to 24 Sussex Drive with a majority government.<sup>66</sup> Shortly after the Liberals took over from the Conservatives, his new minister of fitness and amateur sport, Gerald Regan, in an interview with the *Globe and Mail*, confirmed that the federal government was investigating all options for getting back into the gambling business.<sup>67</sup> The Liberals questioned the legal validity of the agreement that Clark had signed with the provinces. Although a letter had been signed between the federal government and the provinces, a formal order-in-council concerning the matter had never been issued and parts of the agreement were described as "vague and incomplete."<sup>68</sup>

While lawyers investigated the legality of the agreement, the federal government refused to deposit the cheques coming in from the provinces and froze money to sport and culture. The Conservative critic for culture and sport, Steve Paproski, the chief negotiator with the provinces on the 1979 deal, questioned this tactic in an exchange with the minister in the House of Commons. "It is my understanding," insinuated Paproski, "that the sport department is virtually bankrupt and the cultural and artistic communities seriously require money for symphonies and little theatres." The minister replied by saying that the country's sport and cultural communities would be in a much better financial situation if the Conservatives had not given away Loto Canada, netting

\$80 million a year, before, as Regan worded it, “the most disastrous piece of negotiation since the Brooklyn Bridge was sold.”<sup>69</sup>

Eventually, the federal government must have been advised by its legal team that the Clark agreement withstood the acid test, because it reluctantly started accepting the \$6 million quarterly cheques coming in from the provinces. Minister of Communications Francis Fox announced on August 28, 1980, that the government had decided not to challenge the deal in the courts or in negotiations with the provinces. The Liberals made it clear that amateur sport and the arts were on the losing end of the Tory deal. The government agreed to abide by the terms of the Clark agreement and divide the money from the provinces equally between sport and the arts but made it clear that the \$13.2 million that each sector would receive in 1980 was nowhere near the \$90 million a year — all spent on sport — that Loto Canada used to provide before the Conservatives decided that the federal government should not be in the lottery business.<sup>70</sup>

Much to many people’s surprise, though, rather than winding down operations and exiting the gambling field, as the Clark agreement had stipulated, Loto Canada quietly hired consultants, using funds from unclaimed prize winners, to research and develop new avenues for the federal government to get back into the gambling industry. In August 1981, cabinet decided that a sports pool would be

operated by a new federal crown corporation. Legislation was introduced the following spring to create the Canadian Sports Pool Corporation.<sup>71</sup> Proceeds from the new crown corporation would help to finance Ottawa’s contribution to the Calgary Winter Olympics and fitness and amateur sport. Money would also be directed to arts and culture as well as medical and health research.<sup>72</sup>

As one source described it, this new crown corporation was “supposed to be Ottawa’s Golden Goose, the game that would lead the federal government back into the lottery gravy. Instead it turned into the Golden Turkey.”<sup>73</sup> Not surprisingly, the chairman of the rival Interprovincial Lottery Corporation, Jean-Marc Lafaille, had little good to say about the new lottery option:

*We told them even before they began, that their sports pool would lose money. [It was] a bad product. It should never have been set up in the first place. The game [was] far too complicated for people who [didn’t] follow baseball assiduously to understand and there [were] too many elements of chance in it for the few people who [did]. People like their lotteries simple.*<sup>74</sup>

Lafaille proved to be correct. The federal government had problems with its Sports Pool almost from the beginning. *Globe and Mail* columnist Jeffrey Simpson characterized it as a “fiscal swamp”<sup>75</sup> and a “cesspool of Liberal



patronage and incompetence.”<sup>76</sup> Another *Globe and Mail* story reported a long list of high-profile Liberals on Loto Canada’s payroll.<sup>77</sup> Concerns of this nature were also raised in July 1984 by the auditor general.<sup>78</sup>

This provided the Conservative Party with the opportunity to make lotteries an election issue. This time an exciting new leader, Brian Mulroney, took the issue on, like his predecessor Joe Clark, with gusto. As Mulroney often quipped during the 1984 election campaign, “Would you vote for a government that can’t even make money on a lottery?”<sup>79</sup> Jeffrey Simpson, writing in his column in the *Globe and Mail* the day after the Mulroney government announced that the Sports Pool would be wound up, called the patronage “unconscionable.”<sup>80</sup>

Ottawa’s original goal with the Sports Pool was to raise \$400 million for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. Instead, it cost taxpayers over \$45 million. Jake Epp, the minister of national health and welfare, reported to the House of Commons that the Sports Pool Corporation had average losses of \$1 million and \$1.5 million per week and had spent \$10.5 million for start-up funding. He also noted that the federal government had loaned the corporation another \$20 million to keep it solvent.<sup>81</sup> As one writer so aptly put it, “Sport Select Baseball could easily find its place in the *Guinness Book of Records*, or in *Believe It or Not*, as the lottery that ran up the most colossal deficit in the shortest possible time.”<sup>82</sup>

Lafaille said that the only way to truly understand why the federal government went to such extremes to stay in the lottery business and was willing to lose much money on lotteries is to understand the larger political motivation of Trudeau, Chrétien and others in the Liberal Party:

*They believed that, if the federal government could impose a more visible image of the government of Canada across the country and in Québec in particular, this would result in improving the feeling of belonging to Canada, counteracting the feeling of being Québec first or Alberta first. The way to improve this Canadian feeling was to create federal institutions with a bias in their mandate to promote national unity and to develop the feeling of being proud to be Canadian. Loto Canada, Petro Canada, Air Canada, Radio-Canada, Canada Post, et cetera, were all institutions that were part of this approach.*<sup>83</sup>



Cassandra Brassard during a 200 meter swim at the Regina Optimist Dolphins' Michelle Moore Invitational swim meet held at the Lawson Aquatic Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan on Sunday May 27, 2012. Courtesy Leader Post/Michael Bell.





Hugh Morris was named Saskatchewan Soccer Association's Volunteer of the Year in 2004. He was the David Newsham Outstanding Volunteer winner in 2012 and was awarded a Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Soccer Association in 2014. He is pictured here in his role as head coach for Team Saskatchewan during the 2005 Canada Games held in Regina. Courtesy Sask Games Council.

## BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

The 1970s were exciting times for Sask Sport. The sport federation grew from a concept in a few leaders' minds to a strong and vital organization that experienced rapid growth, as did many of the provincial sport governing bodies that were its members. From 1973, which marked the new non-profit organization's first full year of operation, until the end of the decade, membership grew from forty-seven sport associations to seventy-five. Volunteer involvement also dramatically increased. In 1973, a core group of nine stood for election to the Board of Directors. In 1979, forty-seven volunteers were actively involved in running the organization. The continued growth of lottery revenues enabled many new programs and projects to be implemented. In 1974, the first year of the lottery, \$157,000 in grants were adjudicated. By the close of the decade, more than \$6.6 million had been distributed to sport, culture and recreation groups throughout the province.<sup>1</sup> The results were impressive, but they did not

arise overnight. Reaching this level of success required a great deal of hard work and perseverance by staff and volunteers of the new umbrella organization and the amateur sport community.

### GROWING PAINS IN THE NEW SPORT FEDERATION

A new provincial government led by Allan Blakeney and the New Democratic Party was elected on June 23, 1971, just a few months after Sask Sport's founding meeting. Gary Mather, one of the many civil servants who developed a close relationship with the staff and volunteers of the sport federation over the years, believed that the transition to the new government was relatively smooth. He credited the NDP government for having the wisdom to maintain and enhance the momentum that Ross Thatcher and the Liberals had started with the Youth Agency to develop the capacity of sport, culture and recreation throughout the province. The new NDP government elevated the Youth

Agency to department status, putting Ed Tchorzewski in charge of the new Ministry of Culture and Youth in 1972.<sup>2</sup>

Tchorzewski was a teacher in the public school system in Humboldt when he decided to run as a candidate in the provincial election in 1971.<sup>3</sup> At 28, he was the youngest member of the government caucus, but early sport and recreation volunteers and civil servants employed in the sector remember him as a passionate champion for amateur sport. Lorne Lasuita got to know Tchorzewski well. Lasuita was the first graduate of the Recreation Technology program offered through the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology at the campus in Saskatoon. He began his career as the parks and recreation director for the Town of Humboldt and then got a job as a regional consultant for the province, a position that he held from 1975 to 1988, at which time he assumed the position of multi-sport games consultant with the government. He remained in this post until 2004. “Ed Tchorzewski was my MLA, so I got to know him personally. He had a strong passion for the sport community.”<sup>4</sup>

Sask Sport was still in its infancy when the NDP came to office, relying heavily on a small grant from the government to become established and remain operational. The young organization barely had enough money to hire someone on a part-time basis. Fortunately, R.C. “Scotty” Livingstone had recently retired from a job in the financial field. He was the right person for the job because he did not



Known more for the impact he had in turning the Regina Rams into a winning team, R.C. “Scotty” Livingstone was also Sask Sport’s first Executive Director. Courtesy SSHF.

need to rely on a full-time income. More importantly, though, he was a real champion for amateur sport. Joe Kanuka (Sask Sport president in 1973–74) described Livingstone as the “Godfather of the Regina Rams” and credited him for recruiting Kanuka as a volunteer.<sup>5</sup> Bob Hughes, in his history of the Rams, said that when Livingstone joined the football club’s executive in 1961 and was named vice-president, “the impact he would ultimately have on the organization would be as profound as it was timely.”<sup>6</sup>

Kanuka was a big fan of the Rams and an even bigger fan of Livingstone. He said that his law firm told him when he was just starting out that he should become involved in the community. But volunteering for the Rams



was not quite what it had in mind. “They told me the Rams were nothing but a bunch of juvenile delinquents,” said Kanuka who replied, “You told me to get involved in the community. The Rams don’t get anything from the community. This is what I want to do.” Kanuka was one of many people who bought into Livingstone’s vision for the Rams. Livingstone wanted to turn the Rams into an organization that was not only a winning team but also one that was well respected and played a major role in the community.<sup>7</sup>

Paul Barnby, also a long-time volunteer for the Rams, seconded Kanuka’s assessment of Livingstone’s importance to the club. “Scotty played an instrumental role in building the Rams clubhouse and training facilities at Mount Pleasant,” said Barnby. “More importantly, he recruited Gord Currie as coach.”<sup>8</sup> Currie started the winning tradition for the club in 1966 when he led the team to the national title, which had eluded Regina junior football for more than twenty-eight years. Eventually, the first practice field for the Rams at Mount Pleasant was named in his honour, and Scotty Livingstone Field remained the primary practice site for the team until it joined the University of Regina in 1999. The Rams also introduced a scholarship to honour his many contributions to the team. The Scotty Livingstone Scholarship is awarded each year to a second-year postsecondary student who displays leadership, commitment and loyalty.<sup>9</sup>

Livingstone tackled his job at Sask Sport with the same level of passion as he did volunteering for the Regina Rams. Sask Sport was officially incorporated under the Societies Act on January 20, 1972 and when the members met for its first annual general meeting in March, a number of detailed and well-researched position papers on program options had been prepared. One report detailed the state of sport facilities in the province and the national and international standards necessary to send a strong team to the Montreal Olympics in 1976. Another report focused on ideas for improving communications with members and the public, such as publishing a newsletter, organizing media conferences on a regular basis and establishing communication links with national and provincial organizations.<sup>10</sup>

The most hotly debated topic at the annual meeting that March, however, was fundraising. In his opening remarks, chairman Hank Lorenzen alluded to a tension in the Management Committee over how much time should be devoted to fundraising. Some in the organization believed that it had to be the primary focus — that without sufficient money program needs would remain pipe dreams. Others believed that it was the role of the government to fund amateur sports. Lorenzen indicated that the Management Committee had come up with a compromise. Sask Sport would continue to investigate fundraising options to make the organization self-sufficient, but it would not exhaust

itself with raising money and leave little energy for the development of programs and services.<sup>11</sup>

The discussion on fundraising centred on the potential of lotteries for the future of amateur sport. Livingstone presented information on three types of lotteries. One option was to follow in the footsteps of the Manitoba Sports Federation and organize a sportstoto or “toto” as it was commonly known. Manitoba was the first jurisdiction in North America to experiment with this form of lottery. The Manitoba Toto allowed participants to pick winning National Hockey League (NHL) teams. Toto players would pay from one dollar to six dollars for a form on which twelve weekend hockey games were printed. A second option discussed was called “Sportstally,” also based on sport events. For every 100 tickets sold, the prize pool was thirty-five dollars. The sponsor (Emerson Printers) would be paid thirty-five dollars and sport clubs would be left with thirty dollars. This option, along with the Manitoba model, required much more up-front risk for the sport federation than the third option — a sweepstakes lottery similar to the Lucky Dog Lottery, which had raised money for the Canada Winter Games.<sup>12</sup>

At the end of the day, delegates chose to take a more cautious approach for their first foray into the world of lotteries. The budget presented to them by the Management Committee (which projected \$30,000 in revenue from a lottery and \$10,000 from government grants) was rejected.

The membership directed Sask Sport to operate on a minimum expense basis until sources of revenue were more certain. Participation in lotteries was not completely ruled out. Approval was given for the organization to become an agent for the Regina Exhibition Association’s Saskatchewan Derby Sweepstakes, which would earn it commissions on ticket sales.<sup>13</sup>

Shortly after the annual meeting, Don MacAulay from the Saskatchewan Camping Association resigned from the Board of Directors to accept a job in the Department of Culture and Youth. Because Sask Sport was still very dependent on operating grants from the government, this new position placed MacAulay in a conflict of interest. A new person, Joe Kanuka, who had drafted Sask Sport’s constitution and bylaws, as well as rules of membership eligibility and voting procedures, took MacAulay’s place at the board table.<sup>14</sup> Shortly after Kanuka joined the board, he got a call from Bill Clarke, then director of the Sport division in the Department of Culture and Youth. Clarke had an interesting proposition for him.

Clarke filled in Kanuka on the future of lottery expansion in Canada, as he saw it. The former Saskatchewan Roughrider star and amateur sport champion knew from discussions with his counterparts in the government of Manitoba that that province wanted Saskatchewan to join it and the other western provinces in setting up a regional corporation to better control, regulate and

benefit from lotteries. Clarke also knew that many people in the government caucus, including the premier, were not keen on direct involvement of the government in the lottery business. If Sask Sport played its cards right, Clarke informed Kanuka, then the sport federation could position itself as a good alternative to the government in running the provincial lottery and representing Saskatchewan at the board table of the new lottery collective. This would be tough to do unless Sask Sport could demonstrate that it was capable of operating a successful lottery.<sup>15</sup>

Clarke convinced Kanuka to use his influence on the Sask Sport board to make a request for a grant to hire a full-time executive director whose primary responsibility would be to raise funds for the amateur sport community through a large-scale lottery, similar to the Derby Sweepstakes organized by the Regina Exhibition Association (for which Sask Sport had agreed to sell tickets).<sup>16</sup> Just as Clarke recommended, the Sask Sport Management Committee wrote a letter to the provincial government with this request on July 28, 1972.<sup>17</sup> Clarke had his work cut out for him. First he had to convince his boss — Deputy Minister Frank Bogdasavich — that Sask Sport was not planning to run programs that would overlap with the mandate of the department. In a memo prepared for the minister shortly after the request to run a lottery was received, Bogdasavich noted that “I am not prepared to make a final recommendation to the Minister concerning a major lottery



Fyola and Hank Lorenzen, sitting around the same table they had in 1972–73 when they mailed Derby Sweepstakes tickets as a fundraiser for Sask Sport. Photo taken by author.

for Sask Sport until the issue around ‘programs’ . . . has been resolved.” Bogdasavich told the minister that he had instructed department officials to work with Sask Sport to resolve the issue.<sup>18</sup>

In the meantime, Hank Lorenzen was trying to organize Sask Sport’s next Annual General Meeting, with no support at the time from the provincial government and no word on when Sask Sport might hear back from the government about the request for assistance. “I had three of my volleyball players working in an office downtown,” said Lorenzen, “and these girls did all the typing, all the contacts with the sport governing bodies, everything, prepared all the minutes and whatnot that would be read out at the meeting. So we ran the second meeting virtually without the department.”<sup>19</sup>

While all the “backroom” discussions were taking place, led largely by Joe Kanuka and Cas Pielak, the organization was doing its best to earn commissions from selling tickets for the Exhibition Association’s Derby Sweepstakes. This limited foray into the lottery business was a taxing and time-consuming job for Livingstone and the steadfast group of volunteers sitting on the Board of Directors. Sask Sport barely had enough money to pay Livingstone’s half-time salary, so there was a lot of pressure on the volunteers. Tickets had to be distributed to the sport governing bodies and associations, which in turn would designate people in their organizations willing to line up ticket sellers and see that ticket stubs and cash were returned by the draw deadlines.<sup>20</sup>

Hank and Fyola Lorenzen said that everyone in their address book got a letter that year, with a book of tickets, requesting that they fill them out and send them back with the money as a way to support amateur sport in Saskatchewan. “Scotty came to our house with his Christmas card list and address book and we mailed letters to everyone we knew.”<sup>21</sup> Despite the best efforts of Livingstone and volunteers such as the Lorenzens, anticipated revenue from lottery ticket sales was not realized and dependence on government grants continued. The Derby Sweepstakes yielded disappointing returns of only \$1,204.<sup>22</sup>

Eventually, Joe Kanuka was able to work with Bill Clarke to convince the deputy minister of Culture and

Youth that Sask Sport was not planning on undertaking programs that would overlap with those of the department. Kanuka had always been clear in his perspective that Sask Sport should not get into the business of developing sport programs — that job, he believed, should be left to the individual sports. Kanuka found a kindred spirit in baseball volunteer Cas Pielak. Both men had to work hard to convince the government that, though some members of Sask Sport’s board were talking about developing programs, they were not in the majority.<sup>23</sup>

After getting the deputy minister on board, Clarke still had many other challenges in convincing the government to grant Sask Sport a licence to operate a one-time lottery — let alone that it should be considered the province’s marketing agent for a new Western Canada Lottery. Clarke had a difficult time convincing the Office of the Attorney General to grant Sask Sport a licence to run a major lottery. The Regina Exhibition Association was lobbying hard for more opportunities to run further lotteries and positioning itself as the province’s representative for the Western Canada Lottery. The main advantage of the Exhibition Association over Sask Sport was that it already had a proven track record in running successful lotteries.

Attorney General Roy Romanow was advised by his deputy minister — Roy Meldrum — not to grant Sask Sport a licence to operate a large lottery. “It is very doubtful,”

wrote Meldrum, “that the organization in question has any assets to take care of the prizes in the event that the lottery promotion was not successful. In the case of the Regina Exhibition Association they did have assets sufficient to enable them to make up any deficiencies in their first lottery.” Furthermore, Meldrum noted, cabinet was being asked to approve a request from the Regina and Saskatoon Fair Boards to operate an additional lottery on the 1973 Silver Broom. Given that the Regina Exhibition already had experience in running two large lotteries, perhaps a better alternative than granting Sask Sport a licence to run its own lottery was suggesting that the Exhibition Association run a larger lottery that would share a quarter of the proceeds with Sask Sport or sport associations, and a quarter with the cultural community.<sup>24</sup>

Romanow was also trying to convince his cabinet colleagues of the benefits for the government of taking a more hands-on approach to the new industry. He favoured the approach that Manitoba was taking with lotteries. In a memo sent to Ed Tchorzewski in August 1972, Romanow wrote that “It is my view that the Government of Saskatchewan should be looking at licensing only one lottery through a Crown Corporation such as a Saskatchewan Lotteries Commission. Any profits which are obtained through this Lotteries Commission could then be parcelled out to organizations such as Sask Sport and other cultural organizations.”<sup>25</sup>

Not only was it a major policy decision for the government to agree to participate in lotteries beyond smaller, charity-run affairs at all, but Clarke also had to face critics such as Romanow, who were pushing for a completely different policy approach to lotteries. “It was unbelievable what we had to go through to eventually get it,” Clarke recalled. “The chairman of the Legislative Review Committee was a United Church minister, Reverend Alex Taylor, . . . and as soon as we’d say ‘lotteries’ he’d get up and leave the room.”<sup>26</sup>

### **“HOW SWEET IT IS”**

It was not until mid-January 1973 that the Department of Culture and Youth finally provided Sask Sport with a formal response to the letter written in July requesting funds to hire a full-time executive director. Sask Sport’s Management Committee was called to a special meeting with Frank Bogdasavich and Bill Clarke; at this meeting the department offered the amateur sport federation a one-year grant of \$23,500 for the next year of operations. A press release issued a few weeks later indicated that Sask Sport would use the grant to employ a full-time executive director and support staff. There was no mention in the news release that the executive director’s primary responsibility would be to organize a lottery. The decision whether to grant Sask Sport a licence to run a lottery had yet to be agreed on by cabinet.<sup>27</sup> At the meeting, the





Richard “Dick” Teece was Sask Sport’s first full-time Executive Director. He was hired in 1973 and remained in the position until 1980. Courtesy SSI.

department also pledged to pay Sask Sport’s office rent in the Saskatchewan Sport and Recreation Unlimited office for one year. Although no promises were made about Sask Sport’s potential role in a regional lottery with Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, Deputy Minister Frank Bogdasavich indicated that Minister Tchorzewski was scheduled to meet with his counterparts the following week in Victoria to discuss the issue.<sup>28</sup>

Sask Sport went straight to work to find the right person as its new executive director. Hank and Fyola Lorenzen were on the Hiring Committee and believed that they found the perfect candidate in Richard “Dick” Teece, offered a full-time position with the organization in spring 1973. Teece had a degree in physical education from the University of Saskatchewan. When he moved to Regina, he got involved in the local sport community right away. He

worked for a while as the aquatics director at the University of Regina and then took a position with the Association for the Mentally Retarded (now the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living).

When Teece started with Sask Sport, the new president made it clear that securing a licence to run a large-scale lottery was his top priority. “Joe Kanuka was the President,” said Teece.

*He kept saying we can have all the dreams and policies that we want, but without money we can’t do anything. So, therefore, we have to concentrate on the lottery and get it operational. You have to remember that all the amateur sports at that particular time were kitchen table operations. They had very small budgets — two or three thousand dollars at most. Other than hockey and curling and a couple of other sports, operations were on a very small scale. Money, more than anything else, was what they needed.<sup>29</sup>*

The Office of the Attorney General was still reluctant to grant a licence to Sask Sport for a lottery because the organization did not have any resources in the bank to cover the costs of the prize money if sales projections were not met. The only way that the government could be convinced to grant a licence was if volunteers from the sport federation were willing to put their own money on



First official draw for Saskatchewan Sweetstakes Lottery, Jan. 3, 1974. Minister of Culture and Youth, Ed Tchorzewski and Joe Kanuka, President of Sask Sport. Courtesy SSHF.

the line as a guarantee. Cas Pielak and Joe Kanuka agreed to sign a promissory note for \$100,000. Pielak was in the Maritimes for a baseball federation meeting when Kanuka and bank officials faxed him the signing deal.

*We had no money. We put our signatures up. If we would have lost it, I don't know what I would have done. Bill Clarke said to me the government would help us out. I said, "Yeah, sure they will." Then I got thinking and I'm down east and my wife and little boy are up here and [I] said, "What the hell — all I can lose is my wife and boy," because I had nothing else.<sup>30</sup>*

It took until July 31 for cabinet to meet and agree to license Sask Sport to operate a provincial lottery, which would

commence September 1, 1973. The minutes from the cabinet meeting also indicated that, "Based upon discussions with officials in other western provinces and dependent upon the success of the Sask Sport Lottery, consideration be given to a possible future Western Canadian lottery."<sup>31</sup>

Sask Sport was given a year to prove itself capable of running a major lottery. It was granted a one-time licence to run the Saskatchewan Sweetstakes. Although Kanuka gave all the credit to Clarke for masterminding the opportunity for Sask Sport to become a major player in the lottery business, he did say that he had come up with the slogan used to market the lottery: "How sweet it is." The lottery was conducted for approximately ten months beginning in November 1973, with the first draw taking place on January 3, 1974. The provincial government and Sask Sport, when they were negotiating the terms of the lottery licence, agreed that 50 percent of any profits would go to Sask Sport since it was assuming all of the risks of the lottery. Forty percent would go to the cultural community and 10 percent would go to recreation since that sector was already well organized and received considerable government support.<sup>32</sup>

Before Sask Sport could convince the government to grant the licence, it had to work out a deal with the Regina Exhibition Association to "share" the lottery markets in the province. The Management Committee met with Gord Staseson and the Regina Exhibition board and hammered out an agreement to ensure the two lotteries did not conflict. It

was agreed that Sask Sport's Sweetstakes Lottery would take place in the winter months and that the Derby Sweepstakes would keep the summer market.<sup>33</sup> Once this deal was worked out, the *really* hard work began. The organization had only a few months to do everything in its power to set up a ticket distribution system and ensure that the lottery was a success.

The man Sask Sport turned to to oversee lottery operations was none other than Hugh Tait, who had been so successful in raising money for the 1971 Canada Games through the Lucky Dog Lottery. A separate committee of the Board of Directors was created to provide direction and oversee the lottery division; one of its first orders of business was to convince Tait to accept the job. Board member Wally Stinson was given this task. According to him, Tait was the logical person for the position:

*Hugh Tait was a great money raiser for sport. He was general manager for Sterling Distributors — every time money was needed for sport it was Hugh who got it. He was connected with anything and everything in sport — Hilltops, Winter Games, the 1958 Commonwealth Game trials, the first big track and field champions[hips]. Tait said, "How much do you want? Three thousand?" He raised \$10,000. Canadian Gymnastics Championships — Hugh raised the money. He had contacts all over the province.*<sup>34</sup>



Because of his previous experience selling lottery tickets for the 1971 Canada Games and the Saskatoon Hilltops, Ed Henick was a logical choice to enlist in helping get Sask Sport's first lottery off-the-ground. Courtesy Saskatoon Hilltops and Bonnie McMurtry.

"Hugh's job was to oversee the day-to-day operations of the lottery and the Henick brothers (Ed and Norm) helped us get it set up and going," said Dick Teece. "They already had a good marketing system set up because of their previous experience selling lottery tickets on behalf of the Saskatoon Hilltops, so we hired them to help with sales."<sup>35</sup> The Sweetstakes was a simple lottery that sold one-dollar tickets for the chance to win cash prizes totalling \$100,000. This was in the days before electronic draws. Buyers wrote their name, address and telephone number on a ticket stub deposited in a ticket drum. Winners were then drawn from all of the stubs collected. The Sweetstakes Lottery was an overwhelming success for Sask Sport. Final

audited statements showed that \$274,516 had been earned as commissions by the 101 selling agents throughout the province and net profit to the Trust Fund, to be split among the volunteer sport, culture and recreation sectors, was \$197,443.<sup>36</sup> The Management Committee at Sask Sport had reason to be proud. Because of the sheer grit and commitment of volunteers, Sask Sport was able to prove to the government that it was capable of operating a lottery of this magnitude. When it had started, there was no money even to print the initial lottery tickets, so a number of the individual sport groups and other charities had taken out personal bank loans of \$10,000 to pay for the tickets.<sup>37</sup>

Dennis Stafford was one of Sask Sport's top-selling agents for the Sweetstakes Lottery. He had been transferred to Regina to work for CKCK Television in the late 1960s. Stafford said that everyone told him that he wouldn't like Regina and would be back in Alberta shortly: "I got here and found out about all the beautiful lakes and stuff around here that nobody tells you about. Within three years, I became president of the Saskatchewan Tourism Association."<sup>38</sup> That was the non-profit organization that he chose to be the recipient of the charitable commissions from the lottery tickets that he sold. The commissions allowed the association to open up an office in the Western Development Museum and hire staff to promote the province, which Stafford was proud to have helped make happen.

As he noted,

*In the early days of the lotteries, you didn't have to account for your books. You could get as many books as you wanted and mail them out to everyone on your contact list. Gradually what happened is that they started tightening up on the tickets, so we couldn't just mail out the books anymore. That was after about two or three years. At one stage in the game, I had about six or seven people working for me just processing books of tickets.<sup>39</sup>*

Stafford said that he was the second largest user of the post office, behind Sears. He had a rate of return of just under 30 percent. He developed his mailing lists by purchasing used ticket stubs from fraternal organizations of which he was a member: "I was a Shriner. I was an Elk. I bought a bunch of ticket stubs from a guy from Halifax. After a while, word spread that I was willing to purchase these stubs. I'd pay forty or fifty bucks cash for them. Some guys you could just buy them a jug."<sup>40</sup>

## THE WESTERN CANADA LOTTERY FOUNDATION

While Hugh Tait, the Henick brothers and others such as Dennis Stafford were busy selling tickets and signing up community organizations to serve as a distribution network, the provincial government was finalizing a deal

with the other western provinces to form the Western Canada Lottery Foundation. In his capacity as president of Sask Sport, Cas Pielak sent a letter to Minister Tchorzewski dated May 10, 1974, asking that Sask Sport become the official marketing authority for the foundation.<sup>41</sup>

The Western Canada Lottery Foundation was formed as a non-profit organization owned and operated by the four western provinces. It was an equal partnership, set up by the provinces to extract the most out of the economies of scale by sharing expenses and collaborating on central systems, ticket printing and game design. Bylaws stipulated that the provinces could sell tickets only within their boundaries. Each province retained the right to market and distribute tickets in its own way. Profits in each jurisdiction would stay there. The governments of British Columbia and Manitoba chose to have a much more direct role in lottery operations. Government employees would liaise with and oversee activities of the WCLF in their provinces. For the first number of years, Alberta left marketing of the lottery to the exhibition associations but eventually moved this function into the government. Saskatchewan opted to leave all day-to-day decisions on how the lottery should be run to Sask Sport.<sup>42</sup>

As Bill Clarke explained, the lottery would be approached much differently by the Saskatchewan government than by the other three members of the WCLF:



Ed Tchorzewski (Minister of Culture and Youth, 1972–77), Past Presidents Joe Kanuka (1973–74), Myril Offet (1975–76) and Cas Pielak (1974–75) at a tournament to raise funds for the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. Courtesy Cas Pielak.

*Sask Sport really puts up all the money, the front money. Sask Sport takes all the risk. The government takes none of the risk. Sask Sport is designated by the government and in the designation it is said that Sask Sport must establish a Trust Fund, net profits of which would be distributed in a manner prescribed by the minister in charge, to those organizations designated by the Minister of Culture and Youth.*<sup>43</sup>

With Hugh Tait living in Saskatoon, the decision was made to locate the provincial marketing office of Saskatchewan Lotteries and the Western Canada Lottery Foundation there, with a smaller office in Regina. It was a very busy and at times stressful year for the volunteers and staff at Sask Sport. President Cas Pielak was worried about the





Saskatchewan Lotteries mascot – Lottoman was a fixture of parades and events during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Courtesy SSL.

direction in which the organization was going. He thought that there were breakdowns in communication with the Saskatoon staff. In a report to the Management Committee of the Board of Directors prior to the 1975 Annual General Meeting, Pielak told his colleagues, “I think the lottery has become too big for the chairman to run lotteries.” He was concerned that nobody was setting policies. This meant that everybody was setting individual policies and going down different paths. “I think we all know what happens when this takes place,” he wrote. Pielak believed that the way to address the problem was to set up a subcommittee of the Board of Directors to run the Lottery division.<sup>44</sup> The

Management Committee agreed with his assessment, so they put forward a change to the Sask Sport constitution to form a lottery board at the March 1975 AGM. At the meeting, Pielak told Sask Sport members that the Management Committee thought this change was necessary because the lottery was no longer a small business: “The lottery today is working with a million dollars a year. The planning for tomorrow could have the lottery turning over five million dollars a year and netting somewhere in the neighbourhood of one million dollars a year.”<sup>45</sup>

Saskatchewan Lotteries continued to experience phenomenal growth. Shortly after the new lottery board was put in place, Tait decided that it was time to retire, so one of the first jobs was to find a replacement for him as manager of lottery operations. The man to whom they turned was Bob Ritchie. His background was in retail sales — selling shoes — but his volunteer work with swimming, football and baseball helped him to land the job with Sask Sport and the provincial lottery. Lottery staff continued to grow and in August 1976 Jim Burnett was hired in the Regina office.<sup>46</sup>

“My job was to go pound on doors and ask confectionaries and convenience stores whether they would be interested in retailing lottery tickets,” said Burnett. “The first month or two they chased me out of the stores. The only ones that didn’t chase me out of the stores were the Chinese confectionaries and restaurants. They had been selling Irish Sweepstakes tickets and other tickets under

the counter long before lotteries were ever legalized in Canada, so they understood the potential.”

Burnett said that it was not long after this that the floodgates opened and all the people who had shut the door in his face were phoning him back and saying they would like another visit. “After the first couple of months, signing up retailers wasn’t as difficult. In fact, they started to request . . . to become retailers. We went from hundreds of retailers . . . to probably a thousand people retailing tickets, because everybody wanted in.<sup>47</sup> Thousands of the people selling these tickets were raising some money for their individual sport clubs or charity. Every sport person had a book of tickets on them and ran around selling them.

It was like a people machine. It wasn’t just sport, culture and recreation, but volunteer non-profit groups from the four corners of the province,” said Burnett. “There were thousands of people like Leanne Gusway, who sold hundreds of thousands of tickets over the years, to raise money for their special projects — in Leanne’s case, it was for the Hostelling Association to refurbish Turgeon House.”<sup>48</sup>

As Keith Rogers, who worked as a sport consultant with the Department of Culture and Youth, said,

*In the first few years, it was such a pittance of money and it was an awful, awful, lot of work because it was mostly individuals that went out and sold tickets and*



Volunteers like John and MayBelle Austin helped establish the retail network for Saskatchewan Lotteries. Courtesy John Austin.

*kids weren’t allowed to sell them, so you couldn’t put your swim club out there and canvass. It was awful because every week they had to turn in this money. It was all tracked manually.<sup>49</sup>*

As difficult as it was, those individuals and organizations that kept at it soon learned that there was a lot of money to be made in commissions from ticket sales. As Bill Clarke said, Saskatchewan paid a notably high commission compared with those other provinces which viewed the lottery as a fundraising opportunity for the government itself. “Ontario’s total commission to retailer and distributor would not reach eight cents on the buck,” said Clarke, whereas Saskatchewan paid twenty cents because

the provincial government wanted to provide the volunteer community groups and everyone distributing the tickets with the extra opportunity to raise funds by selling. “It’s a self-help concept.”<sup>50</sup>

The husband-and-wife team of John and MayBelle Austin of Moose Jaw was representative of the volunteers who helped to establish the lottery system in Saskatchewan. Some 230 community groups, such as the Saskatchewan Recreation Association, for which the Austins were raising money, purchased tickets from the Western Canada Lottery through Sask Sport. These groups in turn sold tickets to retailers at a predetermined price, retaining their commission. To purchase these tickets, they had to be authorized by Sask Sport and be a registered non-profit organization.<sup>51</sup>

The first five draws in the Western Canada Lottery were run under the registered ticket system.<sup>52</sup> As Bob Ritchie explained, “With registered tickets, we printed books, stamped them and then sent them to as many people as we could. It didn’t cost us anything to distribute them all over. What came back is what we were concerned with.”<sup>53</sup>

As the lottery system evolved, it moved away from this method of selling tickets to what was known as the “bearer ticket system.” The new system, implemented in 1975, ensured full accountability of tickets because every ticket was automatically entered in the draw. Customers did not have to worry that their tickets might be lost in the mail

or not sent to the WCLF by vendors in time for the draws.<sup>54</sup>

Aside from dealing with issues of accountability, there were other benefits to switching to the new bearer ticket system. As Cas Pielak reported to the Sask Sport Board of Directors, under the old system a few associations, which could hire professional people to sell for them and which had large mail-order operations, were earning the lion’s share of commissions. “What was worse,” Pielak said, “was that the salaries of these people were the largest portion of the commissions retained by their organization. It became evident that something had to be done to get the rest of the volunteer organizations selling lottery tickets in order to get most of the money retained by the non-profit organizations.” As Pielak saw it, the new system meant that nobody now had an advantage over anyone else and Sask Sport was better able to ensure that lottery money was spread around to as many volunteer organizations as possible.<sup>55</sup>

The switch to the new system also solved another headache for Sask Sport. As Paul Barnby and Jim Burnett recalled, they got letters from at least six American attorneys general during the early years of the lotteries complaining about some of the large operators. “They were selling tickets all over the world,” Barnby said. “I think at one time Ed Henick with the Hilltops had over a million names on Rolodex files at the back of the butcher shop. No one was more committed to raising money for sport and their local communities than guys like Ed Henick, but the

big operators like him eventually got us in hot water.”

“At one point, there were two semi loads of mail seized by the United States Postal Service in Atlanta,” Burnett added. “We finally had to tell them that they weren’t allowed to sell any of our tickets through their mail order operation anymore.”<sup>56</sup>

Although there were clear advantages in using the new system, there were serious implications for volunteers because they now had to purchase tickets from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) branches across the province. “You went in and had to buy them,” said voluntary lottery retailer John Austin. “You had to put up money up front and of course the inventory started getting pretty big so we didn’t have the money to do it. So then you had to sign a personal note at the bank and they would advance the money to us on a loan basis.”<sup>57</sup> Austin was employed by the Department of Culture and Youth during these years as a regional consultant. It was not part of his formal job description to sell lottery tickets for the Saskatchewan Recreation Association, even though in his professional life he worked with the Association to try and strengthen recreational opportunities throughout the province. He believed so passionately in this organization’s goals that he and his wife set up a lottery distribution system in Moose Jaw and southwestern Saskatchewan on its behalf. The operation raised thousands of dollars.

“The government may feel that the lottery system

belongs to them because they have the power to change it,” said Austin. “But it was the volunteers who built up the system. . . . The government in Saskatchewan created a lottery system that is really unique — developed by and run by volunteers. This is something we should all be proud of.”<sup>58</sup>

## **MORE COMPLICATIONS FOR THE LOTTERY SYSTEM**

Another issue that Sask Sport and the provincial government had to contend with was what to do with the Regina Exhibition Association, which was still running its own Super Loto. The original arrangement, that Sask Sport would concentrate sales of its lottery products during the winter months and leave the summer months to the Exhibition Association, was not going to work any longer. As Saskatchewan’s representative to the Western Canada Lottery, Sask Sport had to move forward with year-round sales of the Provincial and the weekly Western Express. The Exhibition Association had made a lot of money on lotteries and was not willing to exit the business unless it could negotiate an agreement guaranteeing it a continued stake in the growing gambling business.<sup>59</sup>

“We negotiated for several months with representatives of the sport community the possibility of selling our franchise to the provincial government,” recalled Gord Staseson, president of the Regina Exhibition Association during these years. “The writing was on the wall. It was a business decision based on the



Phyllis Pogany, who retired from Sask Sport in 2005, was an integral part of the early efforts to streamline processes in Saskatchewan Lotteries. Courtesy SSL.

realization that our opportunities had been shut off by the other provinces' opposition to us flooding their market with our tickets." Staseson recalled the day that he got a call from Minister Ed Tchorzewski, who said, "We've got a big problem. I've got a letter from the attorney general in BC — you have to stop selling tickets there immediately." "It was plain to see," said Staseson, "that if we were restricted to our own borders we wouldn't make any money. The exhibition in Saskatoon desperately wanted a share of the payment for selling our franchise. And so with that urging and my concern . . . we were going to be a dead duck anyway."<sup>60</sup>

The result was an agreement reached in November 1976 that the exhibition boards would discontinue their own lottery operations. As a result of this agreement,

the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibition Associations would receive an annual payment of \$310,000. The exhibition boards also agreed to become retailers of Sask Sport's lottery tickets. This meant that lottery tickets would now be sold at all events that the exhibition associations put on, such as winter fairs, livestock shows, home shows, hockey games, curling bonspiels, 4-H and field days.<sup>61</sup>

### THE SASK SPORT "SWEAT SHOP"

In addition to coordinating lottery operations in Saskatchewan on behalf of the provincial government, Sask Sport became a distributor of lottery tickets itself, as a way to raise money for programs to benefit its growing membership. When the deal was signed with the Regina Exhibition Association, fifty metal filing cabinets were delivered to what was dubbed by staff as the "Sweat Shop." Phyllis Pogany was one of the first people hired to work there. She said that she had no idea what she was in for when she answered an ad in the *Leader-Post* for a position as receptionist for the Western Canada Lottery: Saskatchewan Division. "I thought — I can be a receptionist for a lottery. How hard can it be?" said Pogany, who said she was just happy to have a job. All through high school, she had held a part-time job as a bookkeeper for a number of local businesses — skills that she would put to good use.<sup>62</sup>



“Those cabinets were filled with over 10,000 pieces of wrinkled paper — half on the floor — half in the filing cabinet,” recalled Pogany.<sup>63</sup> It was her job, said Jim Burnett, to straighten that mess up, take out the duplicates and maintain an up-to-date mailing list.<sup>64</sup> When she started, Pogany was the only person in the Regina office most days. Gord Lang joined the organization in February 1977, just a few months after Burnett did, and the two of them spent most of their time “in the field” — meeting with the distributors and community groups selling lottery tickets. The tickets had to be ordered from Winnipeg and were then distributed to the groups through CIBC branches.

Pogany noted:

*There were no coffee breaks or lunch breaks. If I had to go to the washroom, I'd lock the front door so I could go to the back and go to the washroom. I did this because once I came back and there was a distributor sitting at the desk waiting for me. It scared the bejesus out of me because I had a cash box.*

She said that one of the first things Burnett told her when he hired her was always to treat the lottery money as if it was her own money. He told her, “If you never lose sight of that, you’ll do okay.”<sup>65</sup>

Lottery staff members did their best to make it as easy as possible for volunteer groups to sell tickets. Early

on, many organizations recognized that the best place to sell lottery tickets was at a mall. So Sask Sport provided them with tables that folded up. “They’d come into the office if they could get a retail location in a mall and request a table and their tickets and then would bring back the table and tickets on Monday,” said Jim Burnett. “We probably had about fifty of those units. Then we got fancy and had steel legs and product markings on them. The whole thing fit into a little briefcase. We also had a little cabaña that we sent out to all the fairs and exhibitions. The roof would pop up, it had speakers all around, and we hit every fair.”<sup>66</sup>

Eventually, Sask Sport was forced to take a more direct role in selling tickets at mall locations, not because it set out to take money from the groups, but because mall managers were finding it too difficult to manage the hundreds of non-profit organizations calling to arrange times when they could sell tickets. Many of the groups had scheduling problems, with volunteers failing to show up to operate the kiosks. As more and more lottery products came on the market, it was also becoming difficult to bring volunteers up-to-speed on all aspects of the lottery operation. Because of these problems, the sport federation took over the operation of kiosks from the non-profit groups in 1977. Despite this takeover, Sask Sport continued to distribute profits to the groups previously involved in each community where a kiosk existed.<sup>67</sup>

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOTTERIES TRUST FUND

While a team of people was busy establishing the provincial lottery as a fundraiser for sport, culture and recreation, other volunteers and staff were busy determining the best way to distribute the money generated. Minister of Culture and Youth Ed Tchorzewski asked Sask Sport to develop a committee to determine priorities and criteria for use of the lottery profits and to form a trust fund to administer the money.<sup>68</sup>

The Trust Fund Advisory Committee was created in the fall of 1973. It was made up of eleven representatives: a chairman appointed by Sask Sport, five other members appointed by Sask Sport, four members from the cultural community and one representative from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. Because the cultural community was not organized under an umbrella group like sport and recreation were, Sask Sport was tasked with appointing the four cultural representatives, which it did reluctantly, in consultation with the Cultural Activities Branch of the Department of Culture and Youth. Three subcommittees representing the three areas were created and given the job of determining the criteria for funding and developing procedures for requesting funds. Applications would be reviewed first at the subcommittee level and, if acceptable, recommended to the full Advisory Committee, which would review all applications. Applications that got the stamp of approval from the

Advisory Committee were then submitted to Sask Sport for release of money from the Trust Fund. Final approval of the creation and structure of the Trust Fund was received from delegates to Sask Sport's AGM in March 1974.<sup>69</sup>

According to Dick Teece, Executive Director of Sask Sport at the time, one of the biggest problems in these early days was managing people's perceptions of how much money there really was from lotteries. "Everyone thought we had a lot more money than we really did," said Teece. "We had something like \$92,000 in total to distribute that first year and requests came in for millions of dollars. It was a bit rough when we had to say no to most of these people."<sup>70</sup> At its first "screening" meeting in October 1974, the Advisory Committee created guidelines for applying for lottery funds. The committee decided that all organizations that applied for funds had to be registered under the Societies Act of Saskatchewan, had to submit a master program budget for the organization as well as an audited financial statement for the past operating year and had to demonstrate that they could provide some form of self-help to the project. All requests for sport activities had to be submitted by the provincial sport governing bodies as part of their overall programs. Requests from recreation boards and regional recreation boards had to be submitted to the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) for inclusion in its program requests. Other provincial bodies of a recreational nature could apply directly to the Trust



Brian Fern, Sask Sport President, 1977–79 with John Brennan, President of the Administration Centre. Courtesy SSI.

Fund. Culture was defined to include arts, multiculturalism and cultural conservation (museums and galleries). Since the cultural world did not have an umbrella group to represent its interests like sport did with Sask Sport and recreation did with the SPRA, requests could be made directly to the Trust Fund. However, the Sask Sport Trust (later renamed the Lottery Trust Fund) determined that, where provincial organizations existed, requests had to be submitted by the appropriate body. The Trust Committee also decided that it would not support applications for projects already supported by other agencies, such as the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Saskatchewan Department of Culture and Youth, the Canada Council and the Federal Secretary of State. Funding was meant to support amateur groups and projects that would increase community

involvement in the arts and cultural areas and to arts and cultural organizations in their initial year of development.<sup>71</sup>

Dr. Brian Fern recalled the first meeting of the Trust Fund's Sport Committee that he attended in 1975. "Our job was to disburse this money," he said. "We'd sit down and open the applications at the meeting. We got applications written on envelopes, on bits of scraps of paper, on all kinds of things. That was very entertaining. There was no standard form which set out what we wanted to see and gave the groups a framework with which they could respond." This was not to be the case for long. After this meeting, Fern wrote a letter to Ken Bowren, chairman of the Trust Fund, recommending that they work on developing a standard application form to provide organizations with a framework with which to respond.<sup>72</sup> Bowren wrote back and said that he thought this was a good idea, so at the next meeting the trust volunteers came up with some structure. "There are actually some things that all sport governing bodies end up doing," said Fern. "They host some kind of events on a regular basis or a periodic tournament, they coach people, they referee or umpire or whatever term you want to use for this kind of thing and they hold clinics for those kind[s] of things in order to help develop that activity. People respond to structure."<sup>73</sup>

Fern was not blaming the groups or the trust for doing anything wrong. "We were all volunteers," he said. "We had no prior experience and we all came from

our different backgrounds. Some were farmers. Some were accountants. Some were like me with no particular expertise in this area, so we had to sit down together and work things out.” As for the groups, he said, they were just making a pitch for money. They had no idea how much money there was and what it could be used for. “They just knew there was some money — so let’s throw our hat in the ring and see what happens.” Once some structure was developed, the trust meetings became much easier to administer. The volunteers could do all the work in one day. “We still had some rather entertaining submissions at times,” Fern said. Another point that he and others stressed as they tried to bring order to the business of disbursing lottery dollars was that they did not want to give people 100 percent of what they were asking for — even when there were not enough applications to consume the money available to distribute. “Matching funds dollar for dollar requires them to make a commitment. So, if we were going to give them some funds, they had to belly up to the bar with the other half of it and, if they could produce that, then we would go for it.”<sup>74</sup>

In the area of sport, the Trust Fund decided that the immediate priorities for lottery money would be providing grants to provincial sport governing bodies to hire executive/technical directors and to provide out-of-province travel assistance. Organizations such as the Saskatchewan Baseball Association, the Canadian Amateur

Swimming Association and the Royal Life Saving Society, the Saskatchewan section of the Canadian Figure Skating Association and the Saskatchewan Soccer Association were quick to apply for money to hire staff to bring their organizations to a whole new level of professionalism. For the first time, many sport organizations could also access funds to send athletes to regional and national championships, attend special training camps and allow coaches and officials to attend national clinics at which they could upgrade their skills. On the cultural front, groups such as the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, and 25th Street House and Persephone theatres were also able to hire staff.<sup>75</sup>

Teece said that it was a bit easier for sport and recreation to determine how to distribute their shares of lottery dollars:

*We were a bit more organized than the cultural people were, so we had a better feel for what our people needed. So we set up travel grants, administration grants and grants for executive directors. We sort of superimposed that onto the cultural side for a while just to get things going, but we held a lot of meetings with the recreation and cultural groups. We sat them down and said, “We’ve got this money, we have to spend it, what are your ideas?” We told them that, until they sorted out what they wanted to do with the money,*

*this is what we were going to do. We did a little bit of ramming from the top.*<sup>76</sup>

The Trust Fund had categorical grants back then. This meant a lot of paperwork and time spent by volunteers going over applications. Phyllis Pogany and Paul Barnby vividly recalled these early Trust Fund meetings. Pogany said, “I used to think — I would never volunteer for this organization because they work you to death. The meetings would sometimes go on to two or three in the morning.” The groups would get together on a Friday night, sport in one room, culture in another and recreation in another. Then the three groups would reassemble on Sunday and approve all the work that each committee had done. Not only this, but also it soon became, in their minds, a “bookkeeping nightmare.”<sup>77</sup> Eventually, as the Trust Fund and organizations matured, they could be more flexible. As Dick Teece said, “About three years in, the recreation and cultural groups said that they thought things were a little bit too rigid for them because their organizations preferred other things. Sport was saying, ‘This is nice, but we really like global money instead because it helps our whole organization,’ so we started to loosen up the criteria.”<sup>78</sup>

## ORGANIZING THE CULTURAL WORLD

In the first few years of the lottery, Sask Sport employed a staff person to provide administrative support to the Cultural



Paul Barnby, Sask Sport Assistant General Manager, joined the amateur sport federation in 1977, then headed up the Trust Division. Courtesy SSI.

Committee of the Lottery Trust Fund. Sask Sport also had the job of appointing cultural volunteers to the Adjudication Committee. Even though staff at Sask Sport had faith in the credibility and abilities of people recommended by Louis Julé and others who worked for the Cultural Activities branch in the department, they were uneasy with this level of involvement in the cultural world because they recognized that this was not their area of expertise.

Paul Barnby, who joined Sask Sport in 1977 to head the Trust Division, said

*Sask Sport was doing its best, but . . . we were sports people — the sport federation was in charge of handing out grants to the cultural world. In consultation with people like Louis Julé from the Department of Culture*



*and Youth, we appointed some great people to the Cultural Committee that awarded the grants — folks who were just as dedicated and hard working as our sport volunteers were. But we always thought it would be better if they had their own organization making these kinds of decisions — the people who are interested in that area and had knowledge in that area should make up their own policies and programs.*<sup>79</sup>

Barnby, when he joined Sask Sport, had recently graduated from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. At that time, Laurentian was the only university in the country to offer a business degree specializing in sport administration. He became the main point person who volunteers and staff in the sport, culture and recreation communities got to know at Sask Sport because of his role in delivering the Treasurer's Seminar and Accounting Consultant Service Program as well as in providing counselling information to those applying to the Lottery Trust Fund.<sup>80</sup> According to Barnby, Sask Sport thought that it was in the best interests of the province's cultural communities for them to take a greater role in developing the criteria for grant applications and determining priorities for how lottery dollars could best be used to stimulate culture.<sup>81</sup>

Paul Rezansoff was one of the people appointed to the Cultural Committee of the Lottery Trust Fund.

As Rezansoff was quick to point out, Saskatchewan was already a leader in the country when it came to arts programming even before the decision was made to direct lottery funding to community-based volunteer groups. In 1948, the province set up the Saskatchewan Arts Board, a public arts agency operating and granting funds at arm's length from the government. The Arts Board, modeled after the British Arts Council, was the first organization of its kind in North America. Many provinces would not see such a government arts agency until decades later. The Arts Board launched a number of programs to make the arts available to people across the province and foster the development of community arts organizations. By the mid-1960s, various local councils and arts organizations were set up to develop their own programming. By 1968, the Arts Board also had a unique Permanent Visual Art Collection, the Saskatchewan School of the Arts at Fort San each summer, consulting services and grant programs.<sup>82</sup>

In 1968, a group of volunteers representing eight community arts councils in the province set up the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC). Although the original purpose of the arts councils was to sponsor the Festival of the Arts initiated by the Saskatchewan Arts Board and to work in their local communities to develop interest in the arts, volunteers decided that they should form a provincial organization to help them organize and coordinate programs. The

Saskatchewan Arts Board provided the initial funding necessary to establish OSAC.<sup>83</sup>

Rezansoff was a young sculptor and art teacher who became very involved with OSAC and other local, provincial and national organizations whose goal was to develop and promote the arts. Rezansoff gave up a promising career in football to become a teacher at Swift Current Comprehensive High School, where he taught for twenty-four years. One of his first of many accomplishments when he moved to Swift Current was to work with the Allied Arts Council to establish a volunteer art gallery where his students could showcase their own art and view the work of visiting artists.<sup>84</sup> Through this involvement, Rezansoff was appointed to the Saskatchewan Arts Board, becoming vice-chair in 1974 and chair from 1975 to 1978.

“This put me right in the middle of things,” said Rezansoff, who vividly recalled the discussions going on in the early days on lotteries as a funding source for sport, culture and recreation.

*The professional community was adamant that they didn't want gambling money. They felt that they wanted stable funding from the government rather than taking a chance that gambling money wouldn't work out. They thought that money for the arts should come from the heart of government rather than from the fringe or when they'd have extra money coming in that*



Marguerite Gallaway was Executive Director of the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils when, with the help of lottery funding, it became one of the strongest artistic networks in Canada. Courtesy Estevan Mercury.

*they didn't know what to do with. So the professional community decided that they'd stay with government and [that] the amateur groups could get the revenue from lotteries.*<sup>85</sup>

Rezansoff said that the lottery money really put the amateur organizations on the map in Saskatchewan. “In Saskatchewan, the professional companies have basically been in Regina and Saskatoon, so there was always this kind of rural/urban split. With lottery funding, they were no longer necessarily the poor cousin of the professional groups. The lotteries ended up helping OSAC and helping all the various other organizations like the music educators

and the drama associations.”<sup>86</sup> Another long-time volunteer and champion for the arts in Saskatchewan, Marguerite Gallaway, was delighted to see lottery funding start flowing to local communities such as Estevan, where she moved to accept a teaching position after finishing an education degree at the University of Saskatchewan. Gallaway quickly became active in promoting the arts in her new community:

*I was always defensive of rural Saskatchewan because I said our taxes go to support the Centre of the Arts, the Regina Symphony and the Globe Theatre — provincial money — so why shouldn't people in rural Saskatchewan be able to access that same quality of the arts? That's why the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils was set up — not to serve Regina and Saskatoon but to serve the two-thirds of the province that was being shut out of a lot of these opportunities.*

Gallaway recalled the day that she was “recruited” to work for OSAC:

*The Arts Board would pay for us to have a meeting of all arts councils once or twice a year. I remember at this meeting that the Arts Board representative said to us, “If you're going to be an organization get busy and do something, or we're not going to have any more meetings,” to which a number of the arts council*

*members said, “Well, we need some paid help because volunteers are spread around the province.”*

The meeting was quickly adjourned and Gallaway was asked if she would take on the job of executive director. “This totally caught me by surprise,” she said. “I guess I was initiating things that they were impressed with that no other arts council was doing. It was a wonderful challenge and something I loved.”<sup>87</sup>

Thanks to lottery funding, Gallaway, through her work with OSAC, exposed people throughout Saskatchewan to renowned performers and artists, such as the Canadian Brass and Frank Mills, opera legends Maureen Forrester and Jon Vickers and even the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. “The lottery system in Saskatchewan enabled the people in local communities to create a cultural component in their communities that didn't exist before,” said Gallaway. Performances funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries could be held in communities as small as 300 as well as in the larger centres. The strength of the lottery system, Gallaway believed, is that local people are empowered: “The lottery system enabled local people to make their own decisions. They get what they want, not what somebody in government thinks they should have and that's crucial. Every community might do things and have things a little different.”<sup>88</sup>

Developing processes and mechanisms to allow communities across the province to benefit from lottery



Paul Fudge, first Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations (SaskCulture's predecessor) and huge champion of the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system. Courtesy Paul Fudge.

dollars when the cultural community was so fractured proved to be challenging. One of the people who understood the unique issues facing Sask Sport and the provincial government in trying to distribute lottery funds to the cultural community was Paul Fudge. He moved to Saskatchewan in 1967 from England, beginning his career as a teacher at Regina's Scott Collegiate. There he met Louis Julé, who had been recruited to lead the new Cultural Activities Branch of the Department of Culture and Youth. Fudge left his teaching job at about the same time — when he was hired to develop an education and extension for the MacKenzie Art Gallery. In 1976, Julé called on his old friend, encouraging him to join the department.

“There was never the same level of tension between the sport and recreation folks,” Fudge recalled. “They had

a structure in place with their umbrella organizations. But with the cultural guys they had no umbrella and there were all these voices out there — some of which thought they were more important.” Not only was there friction between the amateur and professional arts communities, he said, but also culture had a broad mandate: “Culture was defined by government as being arts, heritage and multiculturalism. Sask Sport, together with the department, had determined that lottery funding was best geared to provincial associations. The question became — well, which cultural organizations should be recognized on the minister's designated list?”

About 75 percent of the groups were obvious, Fudge said. Groups such as the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, the Saskatchewan Craft Council and OSAC, the Saskatchewan Multicultural Council and the Saskatchewan Museums Association were obvious ones. “The problem came from the groups on the periphery, because everyone wanted to be part of the matter due to the amount of money that came to be available through the lotteries.”<sup>89</sup>

Paul Rezansoff was one of the people who helped Sask Sport and the provincial government determine which cultural organizations should be placed on the minister's eligibility list and helped to make decisions on how to distribute the 40 percent of lottery profits designated for culture. Because of his volunteer work with the Swift Current Arts Council and the Saskatchewan Arts Board,

he was called to sit on the Lotteries Trust Committee. Although Rezansoff believed that he and the other appointees were making decisions in the best interests of the overall cultural community, he was concerned that, without a structure of accountability rooted in a larger membership base, all kinds of problems could occur. As he said, “The fairness of that kind of a situation becomes questionable. It becomes more of — can I get on that committee and can I make some decisions that are going to affect my interests in the process?”<sup>90</sup>

Marguerite Gallaway agreed and, like her friend and colleague from Swift Current, came to understand the need to organize the arts community: “It was Sask Sport that told us ‘You have to get your act together.’ Paul Barnby would tell us that we had no one to collectively speak for us and if we wanted to keep our share of the Lottery Trust Fund we had to have a strong voice. They pushed us, for our own good.”<sup>91</sup> The result was formation of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations (SCCO) in 1980. Gallaway, along with a group of other volunteers, agreed to pull together the new organization. Their first challenge was to work with Sask Sport to get funding and hire someone to lead the new umbrella group. The person whom everyone agreed was most up to the challenge was Paul Fudge, who by this time was working at the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

After the SCCO was formed, Fudge recalled, there

were people whom he referred to as real “naysayers,” who thought that the new umbrella structure was being pushed on them, saying that they were on board because they had come to realize that it was not just about funding.

*It was about planning for the future, bringing people together and having a voice for government, because up until that point if the cultural community wanted to go to government to clarify some position there was no mechanism for that. All of those organizations kind of did their own thing, whereas suddenly when SCCO came into being . . . there was a voice that could go and sit down and say we represent the cultural community.*

77

As Fudge noted, “There has always been a tension between sport, culture and recreation.”<sup>92</sup> Many individuals and organizations in the cultural community, even today, remain uncomfortable associating themselves with gambling money and would be more comfortable receiving money through the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Despite the challenges, however, leaders of the three umbrella organizations recognized early on that any differences of opinion about direction of the system should be ironed out behind closed doors. Open and ongoing communication among the three partners was seen as crucial to maintaining and continuing to improve the system.





Diane Jones Konihowski, Saskatchewan pentathlete who won two gold medals at two Pan-American Games and represented Canada at two summer Olympics. Courtesy SSHF.

TRIAL  
COMP#  
PERF

## THE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGES OF GROWTH

During Sask Sport's first years of operation, there was little time for the staff to focus on much except the development and growth of the provincial lottery and the establishment of the Trust Fund to administer the grants made possible from their fundraising efforts. "We did a couple of things," said Dick Teece, the executive director during this period. "We put together a directory of all the sport organizations. We ran a few media seminars to help the sport governing bodies use the media and we started putting out a calendar of events. We worked with CKCK Television on an amateur sport show every Saturday. These were the quick things — the easy fixes that helped get the membership active."<sup>1</sup>

Although the small team of employees at Sask Sport was largely preoccupied for the first few years with establishing the lottery, volunteers still represented the sport federation in numerous capacities in the community. As Bill Clarke (leading the Sport division in the Department

of Culture and Youth) explained, the sport federation's volunteers played key advisory roles and provided on-the-ground support to the civil servants hired to organize the various multi-sport events, to develop and certify coaches and officials and to help hire provincial coaches.<sup>2</sup>

One order of business at the first Sask Sport Annual General Meeting was to establish a Program Committee to work with the provincial and municipal authorities to organize and conduct the Saskatchewan Games Program. As President Hank Lorenzen noted in a letter to the Provincial Youth Agency in April 1972, Sask Sport accepted the responsibility of selecting the site for the Saskatchewan Games and would assess the briefs received from bidding cities. The committee would visit each city, study its facilities and recommend which city was best equipped to handle the games. In the same letter, Lorenzen reported that volunteer committees had been set up to research and develop provincial standards and leadership training, prepare

selections for the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and set up an Archives Committee to gather historical sports data. Volunteers like Lorenzen also remained active, of course, in the sport governing bodies that they represented.<sup>3</sup>

When delegates met at the AGM from March 21 to 23, 1975, however, most of them believed that the time had come to focus on developing programs and services for the sport community. The hopes and dreams of establishing a successful fundraiser for amateur sport had paid off. Outgoing President Cas Pielak reported at the meeting that more than \$600,000 had been raised by the Sweetstakes Lottery and Western Canada Lottery.<sup>4</sup> Don Burgess, who was a Vice-President that year, echoed Pielak in his report to delegates: “Most of us are pleased and excited about the success of the Saskatchewan Sweetstakes and the Western Canada Lottery — and justly so. We are seeing thousands of dollars being made available to our programs. The future in the ‘lottery business’ looks bright.”<sup>5</sup>

One of the key points that Burgess gave in his report, however, was that it would be easy for the government to say, “Look, they have made \$200,000 on that project, they can finance their own programs.” He cautioned members of the amateur sport community about becoming too dependent on lottery proceeds. He also stressed the need to continue looking for other fundraising avenues. “Not only do we desperately need the funds generated by the lottery,” he said, “but we literally need millions more.”<sup>6</sup>



Dr. Ernie Nicholls, professor of sport administration and sport history, University of Regina and a volunteer who helped establish programs at Sask Sport in the 1970s. Courtesy Archives and Special Collections, U of R.

Despite accepting his cautionary advice, Sask Sport staff and volunteers were able to breathe a sigh of relief and pat themselves on their backs for a job well done. A Program Committee was created and they looked to Dr. Ernie Nicholls to chair it.

Nicholls was a professor of sport administration and sport history at the University of Regina. He was well known in sporting circles as a coach for U of R Cougars basketball, volleyball, cross country and curling and as the director of intramurals at the university. He refereed basketball at local, university, national and international levels and served on boards of directors for various

provincial and national sport governing bodies, such as soccer, volleyball and basketball. He spent two terms on Sask Sport's Board of Directors and was the founder of the Team Handball Association.<sup>7</sup>

Nicholls and the Program Committee conducted a survey of the provincial sport governing bodies to determine the types of programs and services that they wanted. The results of this survey were compared with the original list of member requirements generated in the sport conferences of 1970 and 1971 that had led to the formation of Sask Sport. They were found to be basically the same. However, with the fundamental need for money removed, members' priorities had changed somewhat. The committee learned that communication and promotion had now become key concerns.<sup>8</sup>

With this in mind, the Liaison Program was designed to improve communication between Sask Sport and member associations. All board members were assigned at least five organizations that he or she would be responsible for under the program.<sup>9</sup> Sask Sport also started publishing a regular newsletter for members. The first issue went out to the membership in August 1976.<sup>10</sup> The newsletter evolved over the years into a sports magazine called *Saskatchewan Sports Action*, later renamed *Saskatchewan Player*. Another promotional tool developed for the membership was the Sask Action Program. It was originally designed to provide member organizations with a coordinated marketing

package of posters, press releases and radio and television materials for the promotion of individual sports events.<sup>11</sup>

While consulting with members, the Program Committee also learned that many of them wanted to earn extra money for their program needs by selling lottery tickets, but the upfront money needed to purchase tickets was preventing this.<sup>12</sup> Sask Sport moved quickly to offer members an interest-free loan that allowed them to borrow up to \$1,000 to establish an inventory of lottery tickets.<sup>13</sup>

The Program Committee also went right to work on the perennial issue of accounting and record keeping. A need had been clearly identified by numerous sport governing bodies for ongoing accounting services, to assist them in setting up appropriate systems for financial record keeping, as well as seminars to train volunteer treasurers. Sport administration seminars were held in 1976 in Regina and Saskatoon to help executive members of amateur sport bodies improve their skills in budget preparation, financial reporting, fundraising and marketing and promotion of amateur sport.<sup>14</sup>

Sask Sport took a further step in programming in 1977. Dr. Don Clark, another University of Regina recruit, received a phone call from President of the Board of Management Dr. Brian Fern. Clark had been elected to the board at the AGM that spring. Fern explained to him that the sport federation was undergoing change. Now that the lottery was well established and there were clear



Don and Ann Clark both served on Sask Sport's board of directors and have made major contributions to amateur sport in Saskatchewan. Courtesy Clark family.

guidelines for the Trust Fund, the organization believed that it was time to realign board personnel so that there would be three vice-chair positions: lottery, trust and program.<sup>15</sup>

Fern and others on the board thought that Clark was the ideal person for the newly created position of vice-president of programs.<sup>16</sup> Like his colleague Nicholls, Clark was a professor in the Department of Physical Education at the University of Regina, the precursor of the Faculty of Physical Activity Studies (now the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies). He was also the head wrestling coach at the university.<sup>17</sup> Clark had served as President of the Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association (SAWA) since 1973 and his volunteer work with SAWA had led him to become a founding member of Sask Sport.<sup>18</sup>

“We started to look at better coordination of the existing programs that Sask Sport had and then the development of new programs to better the overall performance of the individual sport governing bodies,” said Clark. “One of the things we started that year was the fall conference, which was tied in with volunteer recognition.” Since volunteers had always been the backbone of amateur sport in Saskatchewan and across the country, Clark believed, as did others, that formal recognition of this support was important for Sask Sport. “The volunteer awards and the fall conference really helped in terms of getting more support and more involvement with the provincial sport governing bodies. It really helped to improve the liaison and get them more involved with Sask Sport.”<sup>19</sup>

The sport federation sponsored two delegates from each member organization to attend the first annual fall conference and awards dinner, held in 1977. Recruitment, retention and rewarding of volunteers was the theme selected for the conference, which incorporated a banquet to honour outstanding coaches, officials and sport administrators.<sup>20</sup> The event was well attended. Thirty-two individuals were honoured for their personal achievements and their contributions to Saskatchewan sport. Eight people received certificates recognizing outstanding contributions as volunteers in amateur sport in the areas of administration, coaching and officiating.<sup>21</sup> Every year since then, Sask Sport has taken steps to formally recognize the contributions that



volunteers make to the amateur sport community.

Sask Sport recognized that it had to do much more than just honour volunteers if it was to continue to develop in the province. With more funds at its disposal, it could now turn its attention to further developing and enhancing training opportunities for volunteer sport administrators. A questionnaire circulated at the 1979 AGM asked members to prioritize areas in which amateur sport volunteers needed help. The three areas of greatest priority identified were how to handle the financial affairs of an association, how best to organize an association and how to implement the planning process. During the year, a series of written modules was developed and workshops were piloted with four member associations. This was the launch of the Sport Administration Development Program.<sup>22</sup>

Gail Todd (then Mackrill) joined the Sask Sport Board of Directors in 1977 and became President in 1979. As the Executive Director of the Royal Canadian Lifesaving Society, she was knowledgeable about the needs of small non-profit organizations and the challenges of working with volunteers. She also coached volleyball and handball at the University of Regina for a period of time, and worked as a substitute teacher and sessional lecturer. She was a logical person to teach the module on working with volunteers. “It doesn’t matter if you’re in sport, culture, or recreation — your volunteers need to know how to do their finances. They need to know how to run their Annual General Meetings,

how to structure their organizations. They need to know about bylaws, policies and procedures.”<sup>23</sup>

Over the years, the training program has been refined and now Sask Sport offers sport administrators and volunteers a full range of educational opportunities, including the chance to obtain a certificate in professional business leadership for sport administrators. The program is offered in both Regina and Saskatoon through the University of Regina Business and Professional Development Centre for Continuing Education. It consists of seven courses over a three-year period. Salaried employees from active and affiliated members of Sask Sport are eligible to be reimbursed registration fees for two individuals per organization if all seven of the courses are completed. Registration rates are kept low (\$200 per course at this writing).<sup>24</sup>

## **MOVING FROM THE KITCHEN TABLE**

For the first twenty years of its history, Sask Sport was just one of many tenants that leased space from a separate non-profit entity called Saskatchewan Sport and Recreation Unlimited (SSRU). The administration centre, as it came to be known, opened its doors in 1969 in a crowded, attic-like office at 2054 Broad Street. Hank Lorenzen, Sask Sport’s first president, recalled that the space was less than adequate. Lorenzen wrote a letter to Bill Clarke in the Department of Culture and Youth and

voiced his concerns: “The present offices are filthy. There is a considerable amount of repair work required. The work spaces are inadequately lit. The washrooms stink and traffic circulation is not good.”<sup>25</sup> The first of three moves occurred in 1972, when offices were relocated to 1950 Broad Street. A full-time printing operator was hired to run a newly acquired printing press and expanded photocopying equipment.<sup>26</sup> By 1974, several other associations had expressed an interest in office space, so SSRU made another move to accommodate them. The new location at 1915 South Railway Street had 8,600 square feet and a full-time administrator, bookkeeper and typist-receptionist were hired. Member organizations hired full-time executive directors and provincial coaches.<sup>27</sup>

Jim Burnett recalled that most of the walls at 1915 South Railway Street were covered with burlap that they painted brown: “The best part of the whole building was that Molson’s had a fancy sign on the one door upstairs. The rest of it was all burlap. It was dirty, stinky, dusty.” Cas Pielak, who also spent a considerable amount of time at the SSRU building because of his volunteer work with Saskatchewan Baseball, recalled the many street people and prostitutes that they had to pass by on their way to the offices: “I wouldn’t have recommended it to anybody, but when you don’t have the money that’s how you start.”<sup>28</sup>

Judy Sarson (then Seaman) worked out of the South Railway Street offices for the Amateur Basketball

Association of Saskatchewan. She remembered her days working in the Administration Centre fondly, even though it was in a rough part of the city and Regina Police Services advised her to call them before she was leaving to ensure that she got to her car safely.

*What was great about all of this was we were all there together and so you learned from each other. The South Railway office provided this fabulous sense of sharing. How do you do this? What’s your contact in that school? We had all just graduated from university, we probably played the sport a lot, probably hadn’t coached a whole bunch ourselves — I really appreciated the fact that we were all in the same place. I eventually thought we needed a newsletter, so next to me was soccer I think. They already had a newsletter. How do you do it? What about this? And then when I went to distribute it, because there was no email back then, they provided printing services right there in the office. . . . It was a great sense of community. It was a great job.”<sup>29</sup>*

One person who played a critical role in helping to create a sense of community at the administration centre during these years was Wilma Williams, one of the first employees hired by Sask Sport. People who worked with her described her as the organization’s “matriarch” or “glue” who kept people together. Paul Barnby remembered how eager he



Wilma Williams, considered by many people to be the “matriarch” of Sask Sport. Courtesy SSI.

was to become involved in the community when he first moved to Regina from Ontario. As a long-time football fan, Barnby had intended to become involved with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He says that Williams convinced him to devote his time to junior football instead, because it had a greater need for volunteers. She introduced him to Gary Mather and to her son-in-law, Don McDougall, on the Board of Directors of the Regina Rams, and these men shared their enthusiasm for the up-and-coming team with the new Saskatchewan resident.<sup>30</sup>

Wayne Young was hired as the executive director of SSRU in December 1976. He saw the organization go through many changes in its efforts to serve Saskatchewan non-profits. “Our mandate was to provide low-cost office space and to have a print shop, have computer services,

have board room facilities and on and on.” There were two types of members, said Young, full members and associate members. “The only difference between the two was that full membership allowed you access to office space and the right to vote at the annual meeting. Any registered non-profit organization could purchase an associate membership and make use of the low-cost administrative services we provided.”<sup>31</sup>

Young was with SSRU not quite a year before he and the Board of Directors came to the conclusion that they needed to find yet another new location. By then, 1915 South Railway Street housed more than ninety full-time residents. Printing and secretarial services had expanded and the space for the Sports Hall of Fame was clearly inadequate. With growing demands from other groups for services and space, they stepped up their efforts to find a new home.<sup>32</sup> In the meantime, Sask Sport’s Lottery Committee decided that they could not wait until SSRU found a larger location, so they moved out sooner. A building was rented at 1102 Angus Street.<sup>33</sup> The lottery operation would eventually outgrow this space too, causing it to move again in 1979 to 2727 Parliament Avenue.<sup>34</sup>

Wayne Young and the crew at SSRU began looking in earnest for larger quarters for the rest of their tenants, including the remaining Sask Sport staff. A number of locations were considered, one of which was the Champion College building, but ultimately they decided to move



Wayne Young and his team at the Admin Centre, 1979. Courtesy SSHF.

to the historic Land Titles Building located at 2205 Victoria Avenue.<sup>35</sup> It was one of the first public buildings constructed by the Province of Saskatchewan and the first structure to be declared a heritage site under the Saskatchewan Heritage Act. After approximately \$900,000 was spent on renovations, the Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation (as SSRU was renamed) opened in September 1979.<sup>36</sup>

“When we went over there, we set up the computer services right away and we were one of the first places in Regina to have a fax machine. We paid something like \$4,000 for a machine you’d pay \$250 for today,” said Young.

*Then we set up a computer system and people from the offices could hook up to our little mainframe — just a*

*small one with a backup. Every night we’d back up all the files and then we’d file them away. It was cutting edge for the time. Then we hired someone to program all our cheques. So instead of having the bank do this, a young woman set up our computer system to program it all and print out everything.<sup>37</sup>*

It was only a few years before space at 2205 Victoria Avenue also proved to be inadequate for the non-profit organizations that the administration centre was serving. The sport federation needed a building of its own and it was time to bring all aspects of its business together under one roof. The lottery operation had significantly expanded; so had the programs and services that the amateur sport federation was able to offer its members. Sask Sport itself was in need of more space and a number of its member organizations had expressed the desire for office and administrative support. There was no room left for expansion in the Land Titles Building.<sup>38</sup>

Around this time, the Board of Directors and senior people in the government also concluded that the administrative structure of Sask Sport was in need of change. As Bill Clarke explained it, Sask Sport and the lottery had grown very quickly and it was evident to many people that the organizational structure needed to evolve to reflect the challenges that this growth presented. Clarke encouraged the Board of Directors to hire a general



Though best known for his skill playing tackle for the Saskatchewan Roughriders from 1939–1954, Toar Springstein served briefly as General Manager of Sask Sport. Courtesy SSHF.

manager. The new administrator would be responsible for bringing together the three arms of the organization: the lotteries, the Trust Fund and the program area. “Sask Sport did not have anyone, at least in our eyes, who was an overall administrator, similar to a deputy minister,” said Clarke. “There were three separate heads — and it wasn’t going to work that way for very much longer because the organization was getting too big.”<sup>39</sup>

It would take a couple of tries before Sask Sport hired the right person to steer it into the future. Gord Anderson, on the Board of Directors at the time, remembered the period well. “Bill Clarke, with his strong influence as Deputy Minister, encouraged us to hire an Executive Search

Committee to go through this big process to find the right General Manager for Sask Sport. Ultimately, we ended up with a guy from Manitoba, who was probably overqualified. He didn’t last more than a month.” When the first candidate resigned, the job was offered to the man designated during the interview process as the alternative: Toar Springstein.<sup>40</sup>

He was best known for his time spent with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Springstein played tackle with the team from 1939 to 1952, less four years of military service and a further two years when he played for the University of Manitoba football team. In 1953, he was an assistant coach and in 1954 and 1955 he was the head coach, of the Regina Dales, a team that he had captained in 1938, when they were dominion junior football champions. After Springstein retired from professional football, he joined the provincial government as an economic development consultant and later as the director of tourism. When he joined Sask Sport, he left a position as the regional manager for tourism development for the federal government.<sup>41</sup>

Springstein was in the general manager’s seat less than a year. “He didn’t like the politics of working for a volunteer Board of Directors,” said Gord Anderson, who believed that it was through mutual agreement that Springstein and Sask Sport parted ways. “It was clear,” said Anderson, “that he wasn’t happy in the position and that he wasn’t the right person to lead us into a new era.” With Springstein gone, the board decided to do the





Jim Burnett joined Sask Sport as a lottery marketing representative in 1976 and moved into the General Manager's role in 1980. Courtesy SSL.

88

hiring on its own this time. After having gone through two external candidates, board members concluded that it was better to hire someone from within the organization and they were convinced that the best person for the job was Jim Burnett. “He was the logical choice,” said Anderson, “and history has proven we made the right decision.”<sup>42</sup>

Prior to joining the Saskatchewan Lotteries team in 1976, Burnett was a member of the University of Regina Cougars wrestling team, served as the volunteer president of the Saskatchewan Wrestling Association and was the volunteer vice-president of the Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association. He also worked with the Ranch Ehrlo Home for Boys, the Department of Culture and Youth and the Department of Fitness and Amateur Sport.<sup>43</sup>

When Burnett moved into the general manager's chair, Paul Barnby, leading the Trust Division, was promoted to assistant general manager. Shortly after they assumed their new positions, the organization purchased the former Board of Education Building at 1870 Lorne Street. The building had been constructed in 1914 as the centre for the government telephone's automatic dialing system and it had been purchased by the Board of Education in 1967. Although Sask Sport bought the building, the Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation leased it back and remained responsible for providing administrative support to the tenants and maintaining the facility because of its long-standing role in providing these types of services to sport, culture and recreation organizations. At this time, the Administration Centre was still a separate entity, with its own Board of Directors.<sup>44</sup>

Acquisition of this building allowed the divisions of Sask Sport to be housed under one roof and provided, once again, badly needed office space. This was the first time since the early days on South Railway Street that the Regina office of the Lottery division was located in the same place as the sport programming and Trust Fund staff. All divisions of Sask Sport moved to the main floor of the historic property and the Western Canada Lottery Foundation depot moved into the basement. The top floor was reserved for a number of different sport associations.<sup>45</sup>

“For a while,” said Paul Barnby, “the lottery was drifting off, almost becoming its own organization, and the Board of Directors felt it was important to have closer oversight over the fundraiser.”<sup>46</sup> Doug Britton was the president that year. In his year-end report to the Board of Directors, he said that “A very positive result of this move has been to increase communication within our own organization. Our volunteers and employees have a much greater understanding of what’s going on in each of the divisions — a situation that strengthens our entire organization.”<sup>47</sup> Although bringing together all the divisions was in the best interests of the amateur sport community, it *did* mean significant changes and adjustments for Sask Sport employees.

Phyllis Pogany recalled when Jim Burnett told her that the lottery staff would be moving in with the sport staff in the new downtown location. “My entire career up to that point had been administration and lotteries. I never knew Sask Sport existed for a few years,” she said. “The job I applied for in the paper was as a receptionist for the Western Canada Lotteries: Saskatchewan Division.”<sup>48</sup> “Eventually, I found out where the money went, but in the early days we just ran day and night selling tickets. Jim Burnett and I worked for the lottery and this annoying person called Paul Barnby would phone all the time. I’d say to Jim, ‘This Paul’s on the phone again looking for money for his Trust Fund.’”<sup>49</sup>



Peter Jmaeff, Sask Sport President, 1985–86. Jmaeff is internationally known for his full-bore rifle shooting abilities. Courtesy SSHF.

Pogany could understand the rationale for having all of the organization’s staff under one roof. “I was told, ‘We’re stronger together and with economies of scale we can have far less expense and more money for the Trust Fund.’” Still, it was a huge adjustment for both employee groups to come together. Two separate corporate cultures had been developed and neither arm of the organization had a full appreciation or understanding of how mutually dependent they were on each other. “I was warned,” said Pogany, “that life was going to change.” The biggest change for her came when she was told that she would be spending a year working with John Lee and the Sask Sport program staff. “I was told, ‘You need more appreciation for sport and you need to understand how Sask Sport outside of the lottery and the trust work.’”<sup>50</sup>

As the new general manager and the rest of the staff at Sask Sport were learning to work more effectively together and beginning to sink their teeth into a number of issues, a new volunteer joined the Board of Directors — someone who brought to the table an expertise in long-range planning. In his professional life, Peter Jmaeff was the director of the Claims branch of the Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Commission. He was nominated to the board by the Saskatchewan Provincial Rifle Association. Jmaeff was an international competitor and official with the association. Helping Sask Sport to initiate a long-term planning process was one of the highlights of his years on the board. Jmaeff credits Glenn Tuck for much of the work done to move Sask Sport in this direction. Tuck joined the Sask Sport team in 1984 after a distinguished career with the provincial government. He brought a lot of knowledge and expertise to this position and was well respected by the staff and volunteers at the sport federation for his knowledge of the delivery system for sport, culture and recreation in Saskatchewan and his passion in working with volunteers to come up with innovative ideas to get people active. As director of the Provincial Youth Agency, Tuck had played a pivotal role in working with municipalities to set up recreation associations and to help small communities throughout the province become aware of government programs for sport, culture and recreation.<sup>51</sup>

“We were faced with this problem that we were growing. We were burgeoning, but we weren’t being proactive with monies coming in, so we had to find a way to do it,” said Jmaeff. “So, with my experience in business, I said, ‘You know, we can’t just go on like this — reacting — we need to develop a forward plan, a strategic plan. We can face government better if we have a clear picture of what we’re doing and where we want to go.’”<sup>52</sup> Care was taken to ensure that Sask Sport’s members were given opportunities to become actively involved in the process. The first step took place in 1981 when two questionnaires were sent out to members.<sup>53</sup>

Phyllis Pogany provided administrative support to the volunteer committees during these years. “Our voluntary committees worked like hounds that year to develop Sask Sport’s long-range plan. It was a tremendous commitment,” she said.

*We had to go to the annual meeting and be able to show the groups that this was a beneficial and necessary process that they would also have to go through — just on a different scale. We were scrambling just this far ahead of the groups we were funding — telling them how to go through the planning process — all the while we’re doing the same thing ourselves.*<sup>54</sup>

When the Long-Range Planning Committee made its first report at the 1982 AGM, the volunteers and staff of Sask

Sport demonstrated that they had done their homework. One of the most notable findings reported was that Sport Canada, Saskatchewan Culture and Youth and the universities all appeared to be moving in the direction of providing more support to elite athletes. In light of these shifts toward elite development, the committee recommended that Sask Sport take a larger role in grassroots development.<sup>55</sup>

Another major recommendation of this report was a move away from categorical grant funding and toward annual block funding. Block funding would simplify the grant process by reducing the total number of grants. The committee emphasized that the new funding method was not meant to reduce the total amount of money currently granted to the provincial sport governing bodies. There was to be a total of seven “blocks” of funding. Each block would be composed of several categories of grants. This would give the sport governing bodies more flexibility in using funds in each block and reduce administrative costs for both the Trust Fund and the sport governing bodies because there would be fewer grant applications to fill out, adjudicate and administer. With this system, funds allocated for various uses could be moved within the block but could not be transferred from one block to another. The seven blocks would be grassroots development, athlete development and training, athlete travel, coaches, officials, special projects and research and administration.<sup>56</sup>

Pat Walsh was one of the volunteers on the Long-Range Planning Committee with Peter Jmaeff, also serving a year as chairman of the Trust Fund during his time on the Board of Directors and as president in 1984–85. Walsh taught chemistry in the Saskatoon collegiate system, and mathematics and chemistry in Saskatoon Catholic high schools. He also served as assistant principal at Holy Cross and E.D. Feehan High Schools. He worked for many years for the Saskatoon Public School Division. Walsh spent numerous hours on the road travelling between Saskatoon and Regina for meetings while he was on the Board of Directors. These were the days before modern conveniences such as video conferencing. Walsh joked that Sask Sport staff felt sorry for him that he was spending so much time driving between the two cities, so they arranged for him to fly one time. “It was just my luck,” said Walsh, “that the plane crash-landed on the way home from a meeting.” He lived to tell the story, but he was reluctant to fly to meetings after that.<sup>57</sup>

Walsh liked the challenge of volunteering for Sask Sport and was passionate about trying to build more objectivity into the annual funding process. Provincial sport governing bodies were asked for comments on the first draft of the plan. The input was then analyzed and the plan was rewritten and presented at the fall conference that year. Input from the discussions at the conference was then incorporated into the final version of the plan, distributed to all provincial sport governing bodies in April 1983.<sup>58</sup>

As Jmaeff emphasized, it was no easy task to revise the funding process. “As you can imagine, you’ve got everything from the horse federation hauling horses to people needing help with their canoes. Trying to compartmentalize everybody into one category just didn’t work. So we had quite a time coming up with the categories and vetting the submissions because the ground rules weren’t firmly established. The sport community is so diverse.”<sup>59</sup> Walsh and Jmaeff and the rest of the volunteers and staff at Sask Sport were pleased to receive buy-in from the sport governing bodies on the need to develop long-term plans to be updated on a yearly basis through a revised grant application process that gave them more flexibility and demonstrated increased accountability. Jmaeff was adamant that the process should become a regular course of doing business for Sask Sport and its member organizations. “The tendency sometimes is to look at plans and put them on the shelf and let them gather dust,” he said. “We made the decision that we should renew them every year at the Annual General Meeting. It may seem a little tedious, but I think it is essential because you can’t be reactive. You have to be proactive. You’ve got to know where you’re going and what you want to do; otherwise, you don’t accomplish anything.”<sup>60</sup>

The Long-Range Planning Committee eventually evolved into a Steering Committee of the Board of Directors with the mandate to facilitate the planning process in

Sask Sport and to ensure that the plan was incorporated into all forward planning done by the organization’s various committees. Because of the turnover of volunteers and the fact that forward planning would occur at the committee level, it was important that each committee and board member become familiar with the plan during an orientation session.<sup>61</sup> Sask Sport continues to go through this process. “An important part of the work we do when we’re negotiating the terms of the lottery licence agreements is to identify strategic public priorities and ensure we are moving amateur sport in the direction our community needs and wants,” said Assistant General Manager Paul Barnby.<sup>62</sup>

## **BROADENING THE FUNDING BASE**

An important part of the long-term planning process for Sask Sport has been the need to identify opportunities to help broaden the funding base for members. “Lottery money won’t pay for it all,” said Jim Burnett. “The money that’s needed to actually have the system that we have right now requires substantial fundraising or fees from parents and children and those costs continue to go up.” The Sask Sport Board of Directors made a decision early in the organization’s history not to pursue sponsorships from the corporate community. These opportunities would be left to members to seek. As Burnett emphasized,



*Sponsorship is another source of revenue for our members, but just as important, from a more philosophical perspective, is that having their own money gives them some independence, so they can prioritize what's important to them instead of just following the rules we set for grants. Sask Sport has certain expectations . . . but its that other money, their own self-help fundraising, that makes them who they are. It's their money. They do what they want with it, given certain boundaries that non-profit organizations have to operate within.<sup>63</sup>*

With this in mind, Sask Sport has put a lot of effort into setting up services to help member organizations help themselves in their own fundraising ventures. For a time, for instance, non-profit organizations could make a tidy profit selling pull-tab, instant-win, break-open tickets. Sask Sport made the process easy for members by helping them to obtain the required licences and bulk-purchasing a variety of ticket types.<sup>64</sup> Sask Sport even ventured into the publishing world for a number of years as a way to both increase communication in sport and recreation communities and offer members the opportunity to earn money through subscriptions sales. *Saskatchewan Player* magazine was specifically designed for athletes, coaches, sport administrators, club officials, league organizers and equipment buyers.<sup>65</sup>



Gord Anderson, Sask Sport President, 1981–82 (right) presenting Don Frye, VP of the Lottery Trust Fund with a cheque. Courtesy SSL.

For a while, Sask Sport even got involved in the bingo business as another way to help the amateur sport community earn additional funds. Sask Sport partnered with the Regina Exhibition Association and forty non-profit sport organizations to offer community bingos on the Exhibition Grounds.<sup>66</sup> “We provided the management of the community bingo . . .,” said Paul Barnby. “We provided the salaries, staff, everything else that ran there and then the groups came in and ran the bingos and they took the profits and away they went. It was [a] fundraiser for them, not us.”<sup>67</sup>

For more than thirty years, Sask Sport has also coordinated the Sport Legacy Fund as a fundraising opportunity for its members. The program encourages individuals who have benefited from sport or who believe in the value of sport to contribute cash donations, monthly/annual contributions, planned gifts such as life insurance

policies or bequests, or gifts in kind such as listed securities. Since its inception, the program has raised more than \$5.8 million for amateur sport in Saskatchewan.<sup>68</sup>

This program owes its start to former Sask Sport president Gord Anderson, who joined the Board of Directors in 1979. While attending university, Anderson served as co-captain of the University of Regina wrestling team. That's where he first met Jim Burnett, the other co-captain. London Life hired Anderson through its university recruiting program. Dr. Don Clark was his wrestling coach and mentor.

*He really saved me at the university because I was struggling in engineering. He helped me switch over to education and got me a job as his research assistant. When London Life came on campus recruiting, he mentioned my name to them. I couldn't give Don Clark enough credit for my career path. He also encouraged me to get involved with sport administration. He encouraged me to serve as president of the Wrestling Association for a few years.<sup>69</sup>*

It was Anderson who encouraged Sask Sport to introduce a planned giving program. "I learned about this concept through one of my seminars and thought it had some promise for the amateur sport system," said Anderson.

*We kicked it off by encouraging past presidents to participate in it. I definitely contributed far more to sport as a businessperson and London Life agent than I ever could have as [a] physical education teacher. We attached ourselves to the National Sport Trust Fund because you have to be a nationally recognized charity in order to make the premiums deductible. It was another source of funding for sport that has continued to grow over the years.<sup>70</sup>*

## MAJOR CHANGES IN THE LOTTERY WORLD

While Sask Sport was making great strides during the late 1970s and early 1980s in improving its planning processes and initiating new programs and services for its members, major changes were looming in the lottery world. On June 12, 1982, the first nation-wide lottery game that allowed players to choose their own numbers and register them on a central computer system was launched. As with all other lottery products, each province was responsible for marketing the new LOTTO 6/49 game within its own boundaries, with revenues returned to it in proportion to sales.<sup>71</sup>

Although the new electronic game would bring big returns to the sport, culture and recreation groups that benefited from Saskatchewan Lotteries, it also meant major changes to the retail distribution system in the province. The non-profit distributor groups would no longer be



Gord Lang worked for many years as a marketing representative for Saskatchewan Lotteries. He also served as Sask Sport's President, 2007–08. Courtesy SSI.

able to issue tickets because of the need for vendors to have access to a ticket issuing and validating machine to allow them to print and issue tickets. The new technology would also allow vendors to verify tickets and immediately pay out cash prizes of up to \$200. Players' predictions would be recorded directly at the lottery office through the ticket issuing and validating machines and within seconds a player would be given a printed ticket verifying his or her prediction of which numbers would come up in the draw. The technology eliminated the need for retailers to pay up front for tickets as they had in the past. It also meant

that ticket vendors did not have to store tickets any longer or return unsold tickets to the bank. The technology also meant that vendors could no longer run portable operations. They had to work from fixed locations.<sup>72</sup> Because of these changes, Sask Sport was forced to assume complete responsibility for all ticket deliveries. A wholly-owned subsidiary organization, Sask Sport Distributors Inc., was set up to service a network of interconnected, computerized lottery centres and to improve efficiencies.<sup>73</sup>

Gord Lang is one who vividly remembers the transition to the new electronic era. Lang joined Saskatchewan Lotteries in February 1977 as a marketing representative, and worked with Jim Burnett and Phyllis Pogany in the Regina office. Part of his job consisted of meeting regularly with the lottery ticket distributors — the more than 300 community groups, such as the Lions clubs and the Roughriders, to get their ticket orders, to make sure they got their orders into the bank on time, and to explain any new games or bonus draws. Tickets had to be shipped from Winnipeg to locations throughout Saskatchewan.<sup>74</sup>

“We had just introduced the Western Express, which was every second Wednesday, then the Provincial, which was once a month, so we didn't have a whole lot of time between draws,” said Lang. “They would order their tickets and they would be shipped directly to the CIBC banks around the province. Unfortunately, the southeast corner of the province didn't have a lot of CIBC branches, so volunteers had to travel

f[a]rther to get their tickets.” Lang said that the days before automation brought other hassles too, such as when locations ran out of tickets before draw dates.

*We’d get calls saying that there were a whole bunch of tickets in Regina, for instance, but we need them in Saskatoon because they were sold out there. Then we’d make a transfer and all of a sudden one of the Regina guys would . . . [have] no tickets, so he’d phone us to ask where his tickets were. We’d say, “You weren’t using them, so they were sent to other locations.” There were all these little glitches that happened.*<sup>75</sup>

sellers,” said Pogany. “Kiosks in the malls were the best locations for selling tickets.”<sup>76</sup>

Over about a year and a half, Lang and other lottery staff met with the Board of Directors of each non-profit distributor group to sign an agreement that would see it exit the lottery business.<sup>77</sup> To reward past performance, a payment formula directly related to the historical sales generated was devised and implemented and to this day the original groups who sold lottery tickets receive commissions.<sup>78</sup>

John Austin was impressed with how Sask Sport handled the transition to the digital lottery era. Rewarding groups like the one that he volunteered for — the Saskatchewan Recreation Society — for their roles in building the lottery system was commendable. Close to \$100,000 had been raised from lottery ticket sales from his group — money that the society chose to put into an account called the John Austin Foundation. The organization eventually changed its name to the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Practitioners (SARP) and the John Austin Fund continues to be topped up by annual payments from Saskatchewan Lotteries for the roles that Austin and the organization’s early volunteers played in developing the lottery retail system.<sup>79</sup>

*“The Fund was dedicated to the development of recreation professionals,” said Austin. It provides*

96 Once Sask Sport and the other partners in the Western Canada Lottery had a firmer timeline for when LOTTO 6/49 would be introduced, it was up to people like Gord Lang to go out and meet with people like John Austin, one of the hundreds of volunteers who had built the lottery distribution system in Saskatchewan and explain the implications to them. It was no longer feasible to have so many retailers, most of whom had a large number of smaller distribution points. “It’s not like we could have all these peddlers strapping machines to their back,” said Phyllis Pogany, who worked with Lang during these heady days. Furthermore, she said, Saskatchewan was getting only 125 of these machines for the first round of allotments. “Gord and I had to rank, based on historic sales, the highest 125

*scholarships and assistance in funding clinics and workshops and the likes of that. Today the fund has somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$400,000 in it because there were good interest years in there and they would maintain it at a given value. Lottery funds are responsible for making the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Practitioners one of the few provincial organizations in Canada that can say with any confidence that if other public funding was to cease they would have a backup — a little nest egg. It was satisfying to me to know that the group that I worked with would be able to continue . . . [the] work that they were doing.<sup>80</sup>*

In 2012–13, there were 170 of these original groups still operating and putting their former distributor payments to good use in their communities. All groups are required to maintain their non-profit status and to follow up annually, indicating where funds have been spent. Originally, these groups shared \$3.6 million, but during a licence renewal in the mid-1990s the government reduced the pool of funds to \$1.6 million — less than half of what it had been at first.<sup>81</sup>

Another major change in the lottery world took place in 1985 when British Columbia withdrew from the Western Canada Lottery. This decision was announced in Saskatoon during a national meeting of lottery ministers. Rick Folk recalled this meeting well. It was the first

national ministerial meeting that he hosted. “Right at the start of the meeting we sat down and the first person to get up was the BC minister,” said Folk. “He said he had a letter for us that said ‘We’re resigning from the Western Canada Lottery.’” Folk said that this took everyone by surprise. “We had no idea this was coming,” he said. “The BC minister just dropped this bombshell and that was pretty much the end of the meeting.”<sup>82</sup>

This was a major blow to Saskatchewan Lotteries. “When you lose a big partner like that, it hurts the organization’s efficiency tremendously,” said Paul Barnby. With British Columbia out of the picture, Alberta now became the “big” player in the lottery. Alberta wanted to reap greater benefits from the lottery partnership — and at one point even threatened to leave and set up its own crown corporation like British Columbia had. Eventually, after all the dust had settled and the numbers had been run in Alberta, the province decided to continue to partner with Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Greater efficiencies could be achieved by continuing to work together.<sup>83</sup>

Meanwhile, the Saskatchewan government continued to turn to Sask Sport to run the provincial lottery and represent it on the Western Canada Lottery board. As former Saskatchewan civil servant Bruce Medhurst said, “Why would government change the way the system is run? You’ve got good, dedicated volunteers. For the government to do it would cost five times more than what Sask Sport,



SaskCulture and SPRA do it for. Economically, it just makes a lot of sense to keep it that way.”<sup>84</sup> Ross Lynd, who still works for the provincial government as of 2015, said that he had seen how sport is supported in other provinces: “The moment the money goes into the provincial coffers it becomes a machine that’s hard to spit the money out the other end and make it work. In the system that was built here, everything flows through much easier than it does through the government.”<sup>85</sup> Despite what appeared to be the obvious benefits of having the volunteer community both operate the fundraiser and set the guidelines for how the money would be spent, many challenges were faced over the years to maintain and improve the system.

## MONEY TO THE GRASSROOTS

The years immediately before and after the launch of LOTTO 6/49 were stressful for the people at Sask Sport for reasons other than just the logistical issues related to the changing technology of the lottery business. Provincial lottery revenues had steadily increased since the Western Canada Lottery was introduced in 1974. Many people in government were starting to question whether all the money from lotteries should continue to flow to sport, culture and recreation. The province began to consider directing some of the funds elsewhere. This meant that lottery licence negotiations were particularly tense during these years.<sup>86</sup>

Although Sask Sport and its umbrella partners, the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, as well as supporters in the government could certainly acknowledge that amateur sport, culture and recreation had undergone tremendous expansion and growth because of the lottery, they knew that there were still many unmet needs in their sectors. They had to come up with a plan to demonstrate to the government *what* these unmet needs were, *how* they could be addressed with increased lottery dollars and *why* it was in the best interests of everyone in the province to move in this direction.

A consultant was hired to conduct a needs assessment. “The study was undertaken in a fairly short period of time, but it was pretty extensive,” said Glenn Tuck, who oversaw the project for Sask Sport. As he said, the consultant put together a comprehensive report, gathering information from regional associations, representative communities and provincial organizations. The main questions were “What are the needs at the various levels — at the provincial level, the regional level and the community level — and what were the best methods of achieving or fulfilling those needs?” Not surprisingly, he said, needs at the grassroots level were identified as having the greatest priority.<sup>87</sup>

Until this time, the only groups eligible for lottery funding were provincially based sport, culture and

recreation organizations. “Lottery funds *did* help that kid get to the swim meet or whatever the case may be, but the funding was not seen to be getting to the community,” said Tuck. “A significant amount of money was also going to the communities through the former sales representatives of lottery tickets, who still shared in the profits, but that was very obscure to the average person on the street.”<sup>88</sup>

After extensive consultations and discussions with partner organizations, the consultant put forward recommendations for the development of a new program to allow Saskatchewan’s 800 communities, twenty-three regional recreation associations and eight zone sport councils to get direct funding for the first time.<sup>89</sup> Final details of the new program and discussions on how it would be unveiled to the public were ironed out April 19–21, 1985, at a planning workshop in Regina involving the three umbrella organizations and the Department of Culture and Recreation. Synectics ’85, as the workshop was named, was seen by many people involved in the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system as a very important meeting. Don MacAulay, working in the department at the time, vividly recalled this planning, evaluation and team-building session. “It was a chance for everyone to clear the air and figure out how we were going to work together. We left the weekend united, with everyone moving in the same direction.”<sup>90</sup>

The workshop was chaired by Dr. Howard Nixon, whose research for the provincial government in the 1960s



Lottery system partners meeting in Regina in 1985 to discuss the future of funding to sport, culture and recreation. Courtesy Don MacAulay.

had led to the Provincial Youth Agency and the recreational delivery system in Saskatchewan. Nixon, well respected by everyone in the room, was the logical person to lead the gathering. Over the weekend, the organizations involved in the provincial lottery reviewed their mandates and roles and identified common ground and gaps in service. They talked about future needs and program priorities and where government funding and lottery revenue fit in. Policies and procedures for eligibility and decertification to the minister’s eligibility list for lottery trust funding

were examined, as were ambiguities around rules related to third-party funding. The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, in particular, had numerous questions and concerns about the new Trust Initiatives Program (TIP) and how it would be administered and delivered.<sup>91</sup>

Sask Sport General Manager Jim Burnett was quick to note that SPRA and recreation volunteers in communities throughout the province recognized needs at the local level and should be credited for development of the new program.<sup>92</sup> TIP was announced on April 24, 1985 and through it every regional association, zone advisory council, or community with a recognized recreation board could now apply for lottery dollars. An Advisory Committee for TIP was set up as a subcommittee of the Lottery Trust Fund with volunteers from each of the three organizations.<sup>93</sup> Not only was the new program the *right* thing to do, since it provided money directly to communities to help beginning participants more readily, but also, according to civil servant Bill Werry, the program served other purposes: “The program provided a sense of community benefit and this was communicated back to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.” Werry believes that this program was a major reason why Sask Sport and its umbrella partners were able to thwart the movement within some government quarters to try to get lottery

revenues into the general revenue fund. This movement failed, he believes, due to the broad political support for the system because of such programs.<sup>94</sup>

The Membership Assistance Program (MAP) was another initiative developed to ensure that lottery dollars made their way directly to communities for community-based sport initiatives. The program was introduced in 1985–86 as the Sport Assistance for Grassroots Initiatives to assist provincial sport governing bodies in providing services and finances directly to members.<sup>95</sup> MAP was intended to enable these governing bodies to allocate funds directly to their respective clubs, leagues, or other affiliated members to increase the number of participants and the quality of sport development throughout the province. All such governing bodies that meet the minister’s eligibility criteria can apply for MAP funding.<sup>96</sup>

“Prior to this program, we were doing a good job of funding the provincial groups, but limited dollars were getting to the grassroots and those were the groups that were really struggling,” explained Paul Barnby. “Participation costs in sport were going up at the community level and their opportunities to fundraise were limited. They could do little beyond having bottle drives and standing in front of liquor board stores.”<sup>97</sup>

## INVESTING IN SPORT DELIVERY AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

During the early 1980s, Sask Sport and the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation started to investigate options for how the sport zones might have more impact in communities. The government and Sask Sport agreed to fund a pilot project in Zone 7. A staff person would be hired to do community outreach — basically to work with recreation directors and people at the grassroots level to bring awareness of the sport opportunities available to them. John Lee could not believe his good fortune in being hired to work in North Battleford and lead this pilot project.

Lee was a newly minted graduate of Laurentian University's Sport Administration Program. Growing up in Regina, he had always harboured dreams of having a career in a professional sport — not as an athlete but as an administrator. Instead of working behind the scenes of a professional sport team as he had envisioned, Lee ended up spending much of his career in the amateur sport world. During his summers off from university, he found employment with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. Bill Clarke was the deputy minister and he and his team of sport consultants put Lee to work doing everything from jobs that he enjoyed, such as helping to organize the Saskatchewan Summer Games in Estevan and the national Special Olympics in Regina, to those that he did not particularly care for, such as spending



John Lee started his career by helping organize the Saskatchewan Summer Games in Estevan. Courtesy SSL.

hundreds of hours looking through old *Leader-Post* articles on microfiche for someone writing a history of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. His work with the department put him in a good position when a posting came open for the job in North Battleford. “I was basically in the right place at the right time and they hired me,” said Lee.

*I spent a lot of time going out and meeting and talking to folks, trying to figure out what the problems and challenges were and what the solutions might be. I was basically brokering sporting opportunities for local communities. I was a promoter, facilitator and coordinator of sport in that zone. I learned about what kinds of programs the sport governing bodies offered*

*and figured out how to get those programs out to the communities. A lot of it was just raising awareness about how and why they should get involved. The whole idea was to get increased participation, to try and increase the performance of that zone, bringing coaches into coaching clinics, really to have a more organized, coordinated effort.*<sup>98</sup>

Alberta already had a fairly effective regional outreach system, so Saskatchewan took its lead from its neighbour to the west. North Battleford was also slated to host the Saskatchewan Summer Games in 1984, so much of Lee's focus during the two years that he was employed in Zone 7 was on working with the summer sports that would be participating in the games. The work that Lee did obviously paid off. Zone 7 had a 20.7 percent improvement over the previous games and ranked first of all districts in terms of overall points. This was the first year that the Griffiths Award for overall district improvement was presented and Zone 7 proudly accepted it. The award was named to honour E.W. "Joe" Griffiths, who for thirty-two years developed athletes at the University of Saskatchewan, where he excelled as a coach in track and field and swimming. He organized the first annual provincial high school track and field meet. Griffiths Stadium, located on the grounds of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, is named in his honour.<sup>99</sup> "For a rural zone to

place that high in a Saskatchewan Games was unheard of," said Lee. "It just shows that, if you invest in amateur sport, it will pay off. Because the Zone 7 pilot was deemed to be so successful, the decision was made to provide funding to all of the zones to hire a sport coordinator, to create an office and [to] do sport programming at the community level."<sup>100</sup>

### **A CONTINUED NEED FOR MORE SPACE**

The demand for more space continued and in 1986 the Board of Directors of Sask Sport acquired the building next door at 1860 Lorne Street. The need for both office space and a presence in Saskatoon was addressed in 1987 through a creative sponsorship agreement with John Remai.<sup>101</sup>

Leading the push to establish a presence for Sask Sport in Saskatoon was the husband-and-wife team of Bernie and Henrietta Goplen. Most people in the amateur speed skating world were well acquainted with the Goplenes. Bernie made a major contribution to sport in the field of officiating — acting as the chief timer for many events (not just speed skating but also in swimming, track and cycling). Henrietta, a competitive speed skater in her younger days, started coaching the sport when her children showed an interest in it. She also served in a number of capacities on their local speed skating club's Board of Directors and in the provincial association.<sup>102</sup>

Bernie Goplen was elected to the Sask Sport Board of Directors in 1984 and served as president in 1986–87.





Bernie Goplen, Sask Sport President, 1986–87 and his wife Henrietta. Both dedicated thousands of hours to amateur sport, especially the Saskatchewan speed skating community. Courtesy Henrietta Goplen.

Once he was sitting around the decision-making table, he began to push for Sask Sport to find a building in Saskatoon for amateur sport groups to make use of — similar to what Regina organizations had with the Administration Centre. Saskatoon-based groups had the same need for meeting and office space and administrative services. Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby recalled the day they were standing in line to have breakfast at a restaurant in a hotel in downtown Saskatoon. “We were in the city looking for office space,” said Barnby. “We had heard through a real estate agent that John Remail had a property near the airport that wasn’t listed yet which we might be interested in.” The stars aligned that morning, because the man whom Barnby and Burnett started making small talk with while waiting to be

seated for breakfast turned out to be Remail himself. “He invited us to sit at his table and once we knew who he was, we brought up the building he was trying to sell,” Burnett said. “I don’t think we were so bold as to say just then to give it to us.” But both Burnett and Barnby said that this chance encounter led to further discussions with the well-known Saskatoon businessman and ultimately led Remail to offer Sask Sport a sponsorship deal almost too good to be true.”<sup>103</sup>

“The new building made a huge difference for speed skating and for a lot of other sports,” said Henrietta Goplen.

*Before we always had to rent space and charge people when we held officials’ clinics. We were able to have so many classes there [since]. . . there was space available for us that we knew we could depend on. The sport centre also made quite a difference for Zone 6 in Saskatoon. It gave them an office and a place to call home base.*<sup>104</sup>

Throughout this period, the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Minister’s Directed Fund, continued to subsidize the Administration Centres. Sask Sport’s Board of Directors increasingly became concerned about this arrangement.

The Administration Centre and Sask Sport had their own independent Boards of Directors. Each organization had a vested interest in the same properties, which had led to duplication and in some cases conflicting services. At the AGM of the Administration Centre on July 20, 1988, a motion

was passed to integrate the Administration Centre staff and services with those of Sask Sport. Management and operation of the Administration Centre were transferred to a committee of Sask Sport consisting of two appointed representatives from each of the sports, culture and recreation umbrella organizations and one elected resident representative from each of the buildings.<sup>105</sup>

“There was a lot of animosity towards Sask Sport from the sport governing bodies and the cultural and recreational groups when we took over the administration centre,” said Phyllis Pogany, promoted to director of administration and given responsibility for managing the relationship between the Sask Sport and the former SSRU tenants. “Our goal was to provide more streamlined and cost-efficient administrative support. We set up a committee to get their input and had a lot of meetings over the years to determine how to get the costs down and provide an expanded range of services.”<sup>106</sup>

Today three buildings in Regina provide more than 30,000 square feet of office space. Saskatoon’s John V. Remail Centre serves the northern area of the province

with 18,000 square feet of space.<sup>107</sup> Over the years, Sask Sport has been pressured by a number of Regina-based members to move everyone into one building. “I looked into every old, empty building in Regina because the groups would say, ‘Oh, there’s an old warehouse on 4th Avenue and Broad Street that’s empty. It’s nice and big.’ I went into some creepy places, full of rotting floors and pigeons flying around,” said Pogany. “When the University of Regina was building its new Kinesiology and Health Studies Building, Sask Sport was encouraged to consider renting space there, but this proved not to be a feasible option for us then.”<sup>108</sup>

The answer to the question of space might be answered in part through a deal with the City of Regina and the province that will see Sask Sport lease approximately 10,000 square feet of move-in-ready office space in a new, 33,000-seat, open-air stadium at Evraz Place in Regina that began construction in 2014 and is scheduled to open in 2017. As part of the deal, Sask Sport will also be guaranteed access to the sport field for at least 600 hours per year for community sport events.<sup>109</sup>



Athletes competing in the Western Canada Summer Games held in Regina in 1987. Photo by Robert Watson. Courtesy Leader Post.



Diver Rylan Wiens of Saskatoon was named Saskatchewan Sport Awards 2013 Youth Male Athlete of the Year. Courtesy SSI.



## THE BATTLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE LOTTERY SYSTEM

On October 20, 1986, Grant Devine won a second term as Premier of Saskatchewan. After the dust settled and the Cabinet was shuffled, a new man, who would become a staunch ally of the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system, was appointed Minister of Culture and Recreation. Colin Maxwell had been elected in the Tory sweep in 1982 and he was no stranger to the world of sport. Growing up in Scotland, Maxwell had competed at a high level in track and field as well as rugby. He got a degree in physical education before moving to Canada in 1966. He started his teaching career in Smeaton, Saskatchewan, briefly working as an elementary school principal; he then moved to Melville, where he taught physical education and other subjects for six years. From there, he moved to Regina to complete a bachelor's degree in education and lecture at the University of Regina.<sup>1</sup>

After a brief stint teaching at the university, Maxwell moved to Spiritwood to work as a high school principal. It was in Spiritwood that he got his first taste of politics, serving as mayor for two terms before running as the Progressive Conservative candidate for the constituency of Turtleford in the 1982 election. In the government's first term in office, Maxwell served as Minister of Advanced Education and in 1985 he was asked by the Premier to lead the Parks and Resources portfolio. Soon into the government's second term, Culture and Recreation was combined with Parks to create a new department called Parks, Recreation and Culture.<sup>2</sup>

Maxwell admitted that, before he was appointed the Minister Responsible for Lotteries, he knew very little about the relationship between the amateur sport federation and the lottery system and how unique the Saskatchewan model



was. It did not take him long to realize the advantages of how the lottery was run in Saskatchewan. Although he had plenty of issues with the way in which the NDP had run the province before his government was elected, he gave full marks to former Premier Allan Blakeney for putting in place a system that allowed the voluntary sector to develop an effective and non-partisan mechanism for funding sport, culture and recreation in the province.

“My perspective was and still is, why mess with something that was working just fine the way it was?” said Maxwell.

*There are also a lot of programs going on and the volunteer community could do them far better than government ever could. They do them cheaper. Lottery money acts as seed money and for every dollar these volunteer groups get in grant money they raise another ten themselves among their members. It's a big multiplier effect on the economy of the province.*

These were messages that Maxwell had to deliver again and again to some of his fellow MLAs and to Treasury Board officials. He recalled the intense budget deliberations shortly after the 1986 election:

*There was a big program review that carried right on past the Christmas break into January because the*



The Honorable Colin Maxwell was recognized by many people in the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation sectors as being one of their strongest champions within government. Courtesy Maxwell family.

*budget had to be put together before spring. Up until Christmas, cabinet was meeting three or four days a week just looking at the financial situation because farm subsidies alone had dug us into a deep hole. Lotteries were one of a myriad of ideas on the table for review.<sup>3</sup>*

Maxwell said that it was tough convincing some people that the lottery system should remain the same: “Some of the elected people — and a whole bunch of officials — wanted to take lotteries and put it in with Finance, . . . [which] does not believe in dedicated taxes — they don’t sanction making

a tax for a specific purpose.” Other people, he said, thought that the money could be better spent on programs such as health care or education, not understanding that, “even if you took all of the money from the lotteries, it would be a drop in the ocean. It would be spent overnight.”<sup>4</sup>

As someone with a deep appreciation of the benefits that sport, culture and recreation bring to society, Maxwell was in full agreement with Paul Fudge, at that time in charge of cultural activities in the department. As Fudge put it,

*There will always be those who will say that lottery funds should be diverted to things like health care. My answer to that is that they already are! There is no better way to ensure the health of a society (spiritually, mentally and physically) than a well-supported sport, culture and recreation system and Saskatchewan probably has the best in the country.*<sup>5</sup>

The battle to ensure that the lottery system continued to be managed and operated by volunteers, at arm’s length from the government, during this period of intensifying fiscal pressure was waged on two fronts. Sask Sport joined forces with the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association to get their members and beneficiary groups to put pressure on the provincial government not to change the system

fundamentally and to retain the current level of funding to sport, culture and recreation.<sup>6</sup> As Jim Burnett explained,

*It’s one thing that we ran an efficient system, but how much money we made and how much money we spent on administration was not what really resonated with the politicians. They knew that there were 12,000 plus volunteer organizations out there who valued the lottery as their fundraiser. They value their independence and they value the fact that they’re making decisions that are important to them and their communities. They were not going to give up this ownership and pride in what they’d accomplished without a fight. When it mattered, they made the phone calls. They organized telephone trees and called their local MLAs or people they felt were in positions of influence. It was and still is, a powerful network.*<sup>7</sup>

While this work was carried on outside the government, officials in the department were trying to educate and appease the Treasury Board and keep the government from making full-scale changes. Colin Maxwell recalled the discussions that took place with Bill Clarke, who was his Deputy Minister by then: “Bill Clarke believed the best way to keep control of the lotteries was to offer up a huge increase in the cost of the licence that Sask Sport was going to have to pay,” Maxwell said.<sup>8</sup>

A comprehensive report was prepared for Treasury Board that summed up the benefits of having the government maintain an arm's-length relationship with the lottery system, but also recommended that the licence fee be raised from \$75,000 to \$3.4 million. Ultimately, the licence fee was raised to more than double what Clarke and the department had recommended, climbing to \$7.9 million for the year ending March 31, 1988. Further, more projects that had traditionally been funded from the government's general revenues were transferred to the lottery system. For instance, under the terms of the licence, Saskatchewan Lotteries would pick up the tab for any future competitive games programs. This amounted to \$3.5 million for the 1987 Western Canada Summer Games in Regina and just over \$4 million for the 1989 Canada Summer Games in Saskatoon. As well, more and more lottery money began to be diverted to a new Minister's Directed Fund, administered by the department.<sup>10</sup>

This fund was created in 1987 as a way for the department to fund sport, culture and recreation activities that fell outside the original list of groups that received funding from the lotteries. Initially, only provincial organizations were funded by the Lottery Trust Fund. As Burnett explained, this posed a problem because,

*Just as soon as we got going, there was a lineup of people going to government's door every day. It wasn't*

*a nefarious thing. It was just — like how do we handle all these people? They're not an organization with province-wide membership, so they don't qualify for funding from the Lottery Trust Fund. The answer became send them to the department. The department already had a process set up where they were giving out grants — this was just a logical extension of that."*

As Barnby added,

*Creating this special fund was also a way to extract a licence from the lotteries but at the same time ensure that the money remained directed to sport, culture and recreation. If Sask Sport had just paid a licence fee, there was no guarantee that it would have come back to this sector. It could have gone to health, education — a million places.<sup>11</sup>*

The financial benefit to the provincial government was raised dramatically, both directly through the lottery licence fee and indirectly through both more money being set aside for the Minister's Directed Fund and the downloading of responsibilities that the government used to fund through general revenues. This allowed Sask Sport and its army of volunteers to breath a temporary sigh of relief. Lottery revenues also had record sales growth that year thanks to LOTTO 6/49 and the Instant and Western Express.<sup>12</sup> Despite

this promising direction, Sask Sport and its umbrella partners understood that, if they wanted to maintain the system, they needed to work together to identify future funding priorities for sport, culture and recreation and to prove that they were doing a better job than the government could in running the system. They turned to an external consultant to evaluate the effectiveness of the system and provide some guidance for the future.<sup>13</sup>

### **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

A research firm was hired by the umbrella partners to review the Saskatchewan government's policy of using the volunteer community to provide funding and services to sport, culture and recreation from the Saskatchewan Lotteries program. The research took place between December 1, 1987 and March 30, 1988. A survey was sent to more than 1,100 organizations that received lottery funding. It yielded a 49 percent rate of return, far beyond the normal rate for surveys conducted by mail. This was interpreted by the consultant as a strong indication of the interest and dedication of the volunteer community. Interviews were also conducted with the presidents, executive officers, senior staff and volunteer leaders of the three umbrella organizations and with the minister, deputy minister, assistant deputy minister and program directors in the Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation.<sup>14</sup>

The study affirmed some of the benefits of how

the lottery program was administered in Saskatchewan. It pointed out that the administrative cost of the lottery program, at approximately 3 percent of sales, was the lowest in the country, noting that an increase of 3 or 4 percent in a \$100 million program would cost \$3 or \$4 million, which then would not be available to the sport, culture and recreation community. The report also applauded the umbrella partners for the decision to give more responsibility to local people aware of local needs in reviewing community-based grant applications. The report recommended that, if additional lottery funds became available, the money should be used to increase the Trust Initiatives Program and Membership Assistance Program.<sup>15</sup>

One issue that the report highlighted as problematic was the government's practice of signing one-year lottery licence agreements with Sask Sport. The consultant said that the policy of annual renewal had served the province well when management and marketing of the lottery program were in development. However, given that the lottery system was becoming more mature and complex and had established fundamental business relations with many clients, there was a need for long-term planning and policies to permit member organizations to respond to emerging needs. The consultant recommended that Sask Sport negotiate with the Saskatchewan government to obtain a five-year lottery licence.<sup>16</sup>

The report also noted that the changing role of

the government as it entered a period of fiscal restraint required more concerted efforts by the three umbrella organizations and department officials to hold improved and structured consultations, particularly in regard to the policy of transferring established programs to Sask Sport. In effect, Sask Sport and its partners in culture and recreation should have more input into long-range planning and discussions on policy. The consultant also recommended that a task force be created to develop a long-range plan for the development of sport, culture and recreation. The government responded by agreeing to set up task forces in the main areas funded by the lottery system.<sup>17</sup>

### **“YOU CAN’T TAX PEOPLE’S DREAMS”**

Many of the goals identified in these studies were implemented. One accomplishment in particular received accolades from Sask Sport and organizations funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries. In 1989, for the first time in the history of running the lotteries, a three-year licensing agreement was signed. Sask Sport and its partners were comforted to know that the government appeared to support the idea of maintaining the lottery system as a fundraiser for sport, culture and recreation. However, the province continued to struggle with rising debt and one of the biggest budget items remained health care. Sask Sport knew that it had to work hard to get the message out that sport, culture and recreation made a positive contribution to health care.

The three umbrella partners made a presentation to the Saskatchewan Commission for Directions in Health Care on March 3, 1989.<sup>18</sup> They stressed that taking lottery funds from sport, culture and recreation groups would not make an impact on rising health-care costs but lead to a significant loss in the quality of life in communities throughout the province. The health-care budget that year was \$1.3 billion and lottery profits were only about \$20 million. In their presentation, the umbrella partners stated that lottery dollars were very much a part of health care in Saskatchewan because they fostered active participation in sport, culture and recreation that led to better health.<sup>19</sup>

Jim Burnett said that, when the provincial budget came down just a few weeks later, they were completely taken aback that the government had implemented a 10 percent health-care tax on lottery tickets. Colin Maxwell shook his head when he looked back on that decision:

*I told my cabinet colleagues the industry information on schemes like this. I said the people who work in the corporation have seen attempts like this before and sales always went down. Everybody suffers. The elected people should have made the decision without listening to idiots in the Department of Finance who had tunnel vision — who, if they had gotten their way, would have had all revenue, all lottery money, go into their big black hole.<sup>20</sup>*



The new tax led to an immediate, and for some products dramatic, decrease in ticket sales. While Sask Sport's lottery team initiated a number of innovative promotional strategies to try to keep sale losses to a minimum, by the fall the umbrella partners had to sound the warning bell to lottery beneficiaries. The message was clear: losses during the summer months would likely mean funding cuts over the next eighteen months. A letter signed by the presidents of the three umbrella partners to community grant recipients made it clear: "Every organization who is involved in and receives benefits from the lottery system has a stake in promoting the sale of lottery tickets. Achieving or exceeding previous sales levels will require the best efforts of everyone in the lottery system."<sup>21</sup>

Maxwell knew just how bad the lottery tax was one afternoon when he and his wife walked through Southland Mall in Regina. He said Roy Romanow had told him how much one can learn about the political climate by strolling through crowded public venues. Romanow had confided in him that he knew the election results in 1982 would be bad for the NDP because, when he was campaigning in North Battleford, people in the mall were embarrassed to see him coming. They avoided eye contact. "Roy told me that you know you're in trouble when people don't want to look at you. If they're mad at you, that's one thing, but it is far more dangerous when they're avoiding you." Shortly after the 10 percent lottery

tax was implemented, Maxwell felt the avoidance that Romanow had described:

*People might not have been able to put a name to my face or know what portfolio I had, but my face was on the TV enough to know I was in government. People didn't want to look at me and I heard somebody saying when they were standing in line to buy a lottery ticket at a kiosk, "You can't tax people's dreams."<sup>22</sup>*

Reaction by Saskatchewan people to the lottery tax was swift and the provincial government got the message. On November 17, 1989, less than seven months after it had been introduced, the tax was rescinded. The headline in the government press release read "Government Looking at Viable Options to Hospital Tax." The government fell short of admitting just how bad an idea the tax had been, instead suggesting that it would ask Sask Sport, through its voice as an equal partner in the Western Canada Lottery Corporation, to research the concept of a lottery game dedicated to health care. Such a game never materialized. But what mattered most to the staff and volunteers at Sask Sport was that, as Maxwell said in the final line of the release, "The government listened and responded to the public voice regarding the hospital tax."<sup>23</sup>

When Maxwell was interviewed a few months later for an article in *Recreation Canada's* national publication,

he was asked about his message to the rest of Canada regarding lottery taxes. He told the writer that finance ministers across the country were always looking for new sources of revenue but that they should learn from Saskatchewan's mistake:

*Not only did we not raise the anticipated revenue for our hospitals, because that is where it was going to be directed, we lost [a] significant amount of revenue to our client groups such as sport, culture and recreation and indeed to the Government of Saskatchewan who also benefits from lottery ticket sales. . . . We saw a significant decline in sales — up to 40% decline from projections this year over last year. When we took the tax off, there was a modest recovery in sales.*

Overall, however, he said that revenue from Saskatchewan Lotteries was down about 25 percent over the previous year.<sup>24</sup>

## **GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION BRINGS MORE RESPONSIBILITIES**

It was not long after the ill-fated lottery tax episode that Maxwell left the government to take a position with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. The opportunity was too good for him to pass up. During his time in the Grant Devine government, Maxwell had overseen the designation of about 1.75 million acres of crown land under the Critical

Wildlife Habitat Protection Act and it was under his direction that Saskatchewan became the first province to participate in and commit funding to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. His accomplishments in the wildlife and parks portfolio had given him a national reputation and, as much as he loved Saskatchewan, he was lured to Ottawa, where he still lives with his wife.<sup>25</sup>

Maxwell was replaced briefly by Patricia Smith, who resigned from cabinet only a couple of months after her appointment because of health reasons. Beattie Martin took her place as Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Recreation in June 1990. Like Maxwell, Martin was also known for his sports background. He came at it from a different angle than Maxwell, however. Long-time fans of the Saskatchewan Roughriders might remember him as the popular play-by-play announcer for CKRM Radio in Regina. Growing up, it would have been difficult for Martin *not* to develop a penchant for football, being the son of Dr. Beattie Martin, the orthopaedic surgeon who was the Roughriders' doctor for a number of years and part of the original board that reorganized the club in 1948. Dr. Martin thought that Canadian talent was not recognized enough in the Canadian Football League (CFL), so he introduced a trophy in 1949 that is still given out annually to the most outstanding Canadian player in the CFL's West Division. In 1965, Beattie Jr. moved over to the CBC, where he had a twenty-five-year career as a sports broadcaster — attending

virtually every Canada Games until he left the media to run in the 1986 election.<sup>26</sup> Beattie Martin is also remembered for hosting a half-hour television series coordinated by Sask Sport that ran on CBC Television for many years. The program, *Saskatchewan Sport*, won an Actra nomination in 1981 and had a viewing audience of more than 100,000. Each week Martin interviewed players, coaches, officials and administrators — digging into all aspects of amateur sport in Saskatchewan and across Canada.<sup>27</sup>

Martin ran in former Regina Rams Head Coach Gordon Currie's old riding. Currie was well known in Saskatchewan sporting circles for guiding the Rams to six national junior football titles. He had only a short career in politics, being elected as an MLA in 1982 and serving as a minister in a number of portfolios. He chose not to run in 1986, providing the opportunity for Martin, who was looking for a new challenge by this point. The Martin family had been long-time Liberals and Beattie's uncle W.M. Martin had been the Premier of Saskatchewan from 1916 to 1922. Grant Devine's message that Liberals and Conservatives needed to work together to form a "coalition of common sense" strongly resonated with Martin, so he made the switch.<sup>28</sup> As he noted in an interview,

*Two other members of the Martin clan, my father's uncles in Ontario, were MPs . . . all Liberals, around 1890–95. But after Ross Thatcher's term in the late*

*'60's, it was apparent to me that the provincial Liberals were in decline. When Grant Devine came along, I saw him as a right-wing Liberal (my kind of guy). I was also bored with the CBC and needed to move on. They actually asked me to run in 1982, but the time wasn't right. So I waited until 1986.<sup>29</sup>*

Martin was appointed to cabinet on October 3, 1989 and given the responsibility of overseeing a new government agency called the Family Foundation. During the same cabinet shuffle, Premier Devine announced his intention to restructure and realign the lead agency in sport, culture and recreation, calling it the Department of Culture, Multiculturalism and Recreation. Operations would be streamlined and expenditures reduced.<sup>30</sup> Numerous government employees were laid off. The three umbrella organizations were invited to meet with government representatives to develop a strategy to enable the government to achieve its budget targets with the least possible disruption to sport, culture and recreation programming. The government decided to move away from most of its responsibilities of the past for direct program delivery and oversight of grants directed to the sport, recreation and culture sectors. This meant the end of the Minister's Directed Fund and most programs or other grants for which the department had been responsible. The lion's share of responsibility and decision making for sport,

culture and recreation programming would be moved to the volunteer system.<sup>31</sup>

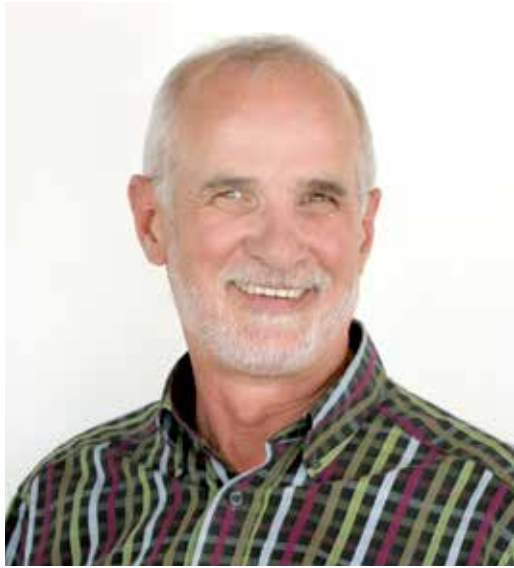
Many people both within and outside the government were not unhappy to see an end to the Minister's Directed Fund, which had grown by this time to more than \$13.8 million.<sup>32</sup> Both Dan Perrins and opposition critic Lorne Calvert recalled an exchange that took place in the legislative chamber when this decision was made. As Perrins stated, "Lorne Calvert was supporting the government's decision to get rid of this fund and one of his colleagues said to him, 'You know, you're likely going to win the next election. You could be the minister and you could have that discretionary fund — what are you doing?'"<sup>33</sup>

Gail Todd (Mackrill), who served as Sask Sport president in 1979–80, worked in Colin Maxwell's office for about eighteen months in 1988–89. She said that it was the right decision for the government to make: "We always dreaded Friday afternoons because the house rose at noon and then all these ministers and MLAs would come into the office wanting cheques for the weekend to give away." Todd would have to get on the phone with her contact in the department, Bill Werry, just as uneasy with the lack of process for how money was dispensed from this fund.<sup>34</sup> No one, including Perrins, who had counselled the government to do away with the fund as part of the lottery licence negotiations, or Calvert ever thought that the recipients of the Minister's Directed Fund were inappropriate. On the

contrary, it had funded many innovative projects in sport, culture and recreation. They just thought that there were better alternatives for distributing lottery money. The solution that the government came up with was to have Sask Sport and the lottery system take over such funding responsibilities.

The three umbrella organizations applauded the government's decision to turn over control of lottery income to them. Jeremy Morgan, general manager of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations, said that "the change means that the people who created the system and who are responsible for the income will have control over how it is used." Furthermore, Morgan emphasized, control over lottery funds by the volunteer groups would insulate them from the financial health of both provincial and municipal governments. Under the new system, traditional lottery recipients would receive 10 percent less funding than they had the previous year. Organizations that used to rely on government funding, such as the Globe Theatre, would maintain their levels of funding. As Morgan noted, many of the cultural organizations that used to be funded by the government had already suffered significant reductions in recent years, whereas groups receiving lottery funds had not experienced cutbacks.<sup>35</sup>

Morgan believes that Saskatchewan's cultural community owes a great deal of gratitude to Sask Sport for recognizing that, when the government decided to get



Jeremy Morgan, a leader in the Saskatchewan cultural community, has served as General Manager of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations, the MacKenzie Art Gallery and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Courtesy Saskatchewan Arts Board.

out of direct tax funding of sport, culture and recreation, the biggest victim of this policy would be the cultural community. “Sask Sport was very quick to understand that to keep the partnership strong there would have to be some adjustment to the funding breakdown,” he said. As the senior partner in the lottery system, said Morgan, Sask Sport could have held firm on maintaining that the largest share of lottery profits remained targeted at amateur sports. Instead, he noted, Sask Sport convinced its members that the funding formula should be revised to direct more money to culture.<sup>36</sup> The terms of the new lottery licence stipulated that funds would be distributed on the basis of 45 percent for sport, 45 percent for culture and 10 percent for recreation.<sup>37</sup>

Along with these changes came the decision on January 1, 1990, to disband the Department of Culture, Multiculturalism and Recreation and move oversight of the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system to the Family Foundation. Dan Perrins was the civil servant put in charge of leading the Family Foundation. Looking back, he said that the direction that the Devine administration was trying to take with family policy during this period was very forward looking. Some thought that the government was trying to impose a right-wing perspective on the family, but that was false. “That was the criticism, but that’s not what happened.” Instead, said Perrins, the Family Foundation was trying to strengthen communities by getting government departments to work together and look more holistically at family policy. We often forget, he said, that under the Devine administration many progressive social policies and programs were supported, including the expansion of community schools and school lunch programs.<sup>38</sup>

As Perrins explained, the Family Foundation itself had a very limited budget. Its mandate was just to develop linkages across ministries and to provide seed money and let communities come up with solutions that worked best for them. Different arrangements were made in different communities because each community had different strengths. From his perspective,



*The government saw sport, culture and recreation as another vehicle for strengthening the community, which in turn would strengthen families. There was a vehicle there to do work through sport, culture and recreation that you couldn't do in other areas because it was non-intrusive and non-stigmatizing. But you needed to make sure the system was accessible to all and had breadth to it.*<sup>39</sup>

Beattie Martin said that one of his biggest regrets as a politician was that he never had the opportunity to see the impact of programs initiated under the Family Foundation: “The Family Foundation was a first in Canada and had the great potential to reach children who were often left behind. Unfortunately, when the NDP was elected in 1991, they cancelled the program.”<sup>40</sup>

## THE BATTLE INTENSIFIES

Sask Sport and the other umbrella organizations still had not completely worked out how their mandates fit with the direction that the Family Foundation was trying to take when the 1991 provincial election was called in the fall. Fear mounted as staff and volunteers realized that once again they would have to get ready to fight to maintain control of the lottery system. As Jim Burnett said, “except for a few down periods, we have constantly had to defend the fact that this fundraiser rests with the sport, culture and

recreation community.” This fear was always more acute, he said, when there was a change in the government (or sometimes even when a different minister was assigned to the lottery portfolio), but apprehension reached a zenith when the New Democratic Party won the election on October 21, 1991.<sup>41</sup>

The key message coming from the new government was simple — the province was nearly bankrupt. Big cuts to government services and departments would be necessary to address the dire fiscal situation. Other threats also loomed on the horizon. Early in its mandate, the new government was besieged by a strong lobby from the Saskatchewan Hotels Association to allow video lottery terminals. It was uncertain what impact this new form of gaming would have on lottery sales and other fundraisers, such as bingos and break-open tickets, on which sport organizations relied heavily.

The new cabinet minister assigned to the lottery portfolio and sport, culture and recreation was Carol Teichrob. She had been brought up in a trapper's cabin north of Carrot River and educated in various locations in northeastern Saskatchewan until she moved to Saskatoon to finish high school. She had met her husband while attending the University of Saskatchewan and they had moved to a farm southwest of Saskatoon where they ran a turkey operation. Eventually, they expanded into table egg production. Teichrob first became involved in politics when

she was elected to the Council of the Rural Municipality of Corman Park in 1978. She served as Councillor and Reeve until 1990 and was first elected to the Saskatchewan legislature in 1991.<sup>42</sup>

Premier Romanow initially appointed a very small cabinet — only ten people — and Teichrob was among them. She would have the sport, culture and recreation portfolio on two different occasions. The first time was from November 1991 to June 1992, when these responsibilities were still within the Family Foundation. Her colleague Carol Carson took over the portfolio when the decision was made to dismantle the Family Foundation and move the sport, culture and recreation files to a new department, first to Community Services (March 1992 to March 1993) and then to Municipal Government (March 1993 to July 1995). Teichrob would take over the portfolio again from 1995 to September 1998.

She still remembers the day when she moved into her ministerial office. The plaque on the door read “Minister of the Family.” “I thought what — did they make a mistake? Should this be on the minister of social service’s door?” Soon after, Teichrob was introduced to Dan Perrins, who explained to her the vision for community development of the Family Foundation. Teichrob was sold on the direction that Perrins and the small team of civil servants were taking. She firmly believed that her government made a mistake when it chose to get rid of the Family Foundation.<sup>44</sup>

Shortly after she became Minister Responsible for the Family, Teichrob sat down with the presidents of the three umbrella organizations to tell them that the new government maintained the philosophy of previous administrations that lottery funds should not be used for operating core government areas such as health and education. However, she sent a strong message that the government was experiencing tough economic times and would be forced to make difficult decisions in the coming months. There would be a review of the Family Foundation and its relationship with sport, culture and recreation. Across the government, every possible source of revenue or saving, or areas that could be cut back, would be examined. Changes were definitely coming — it was just a matter of degree.<sup>45</sup>

A special committee led by Donald Gass was appointed to review the province’s financial situation. The findings of the Saskatchewan Financial Management Review Commission (or the Gass Report, as it came to be known), reported that Saskatchewan had a debt of \$12.7 billion and that the accumulated deficit was \$8.7 billion. Because of the level of public debt, the commission indicated that the government would have difficulty borrowing additional funds in the future to finance additional deficits as well as to pay the principal and interest on that debt. But it was not the state of the province’s finances that troubled Sask Sport’s

administration the most. It was alarmed by a section in the report that recommended fundamental changes to the lottery system. The Gass Report argued that lottery revenues were similar to tax revenues and other public funds and that this revenue source should not be segregated into a separate fund because this process did not allow for enough public accountability. All lottery revenue, the report argued, should be transferred to the province's general revenue fund and annual appropriations should be approved by the legislature for distribution to the sport, culture and recreation sectors. Sask Sport would still be responsible for adjudication of grants and allocation of lottery funds to the various organizations.<sup>46</sup>

Gass was not the only person who was of the opinion that lottery funds were public money. Shortly before release of the Gass Report, the provincial auditor informed Sask Sport that it should be subject to an audit because it collected and distributed public money on behalf of the government. Pat Stellek-Pratt was the President of Sask Sport the year that this battle was fought. She recalled these days vividly.

*The situation was dire. We had to get the groups to act — to get them to say that they were dependent on this money and to show how they spent the money — that it went down to the grassroots. So we sent out letters. We got on the phone. It wasn't Sask Sport and*



Glenn Reeve, Pat Stellek-Pratt and Jim Fink served on Sask Sport's Board of Directors during the years when the province was battling deficits and considering making major changes to the lottery system. Courtesy SSL.

*the globals talking. It was people at the entry level speaking. We needed the government to know that it was the volunteers who had their ears to the ground. It was the volunteers that knew what programming was needed at the local level.*<sup>47</sup>

Stellek-Pratt said that it was imperative that the recommendation that all lottery money should flow through the consolidated fund not be implemented. The issue was *not* about the financial accountability of Saskatchewan Lotteries and its beneficiaries, she stressed.<sup>48</sup> In a letter sent to Minister Teichrob, the presidents of the three umbrella organizations stated that their members were not interested in fundraising for the provincial government:

*The only way funds can be removed from the Consolidated Fund is by appropriation by the Legislature. This fundamental change in the handling of lottery money is viewed by our members as the end of volunteer organizations using the lottery as a fundraiser to assist in providing their programs. Monies received from the Consolidated Fund, even if they are generated by the lottery, will merely be viewed as government handouts causing the pride, dedication and ownership the volunteers feel to disappear.*<sup>49</sup>

Phyllis Pogany said that this was the darkest period during her thirty-plus years with Sask Sport. Managing staff was difficult during this period. Most people who work at Sask Sport are generally happy. “They love their work. It’s a wonderful corporate culture. But during these years, it was hard to keep people’s spirits up. Everyone was thinking, ‘We’re all going to lose our jobs now that the government’s going to take over the lottery. We’re all going to be without work.’ That’s very demoralizing to a group of people. That’s all they talked about.”<sup>50</sup>

Ken Pontikes, executive director of the Gass Commission, said that he was lobbied almost immediately after the report was released. He credited the groups for mounting a very effective campaign that caused the government to seek more information on the strengths and weaknesses of the lottery system in Saskatchewan

before making final decisions on recommendations in the Gass Report. Pontikes also admitted that he never truly understood the full degree of “ownership” of and commitment to the lottery system that the volunteer sport, culture and recreation groups had until he became deputy minister a few years later and negotiated his first lottery licence agreement with them. “At one point, we promised them guaranteed funding regardless of how much money they brought in — then everything else would go to government,” he said.

*They were absolutely opposed to that. They said they wanted to pay government a fee, but everything else would go to them. Their argument was that, if they had ownership of the lottery system, they would promote the tickets because that was revenue for them. This was their business. . . . They felt a sense of ownership of this money. It was more than just a source of revenue for them. They felt that they had control over it and an interest in marketing the lottery.*<sup>51</sup>

Bill Werry, also working for the provincial government during this period, characterized the need to convince other cabinet ministers, MLAs and officials in the Treasury Board and Ministry of Finance why it was not in the public’s best interest to have lottery dollars flow directly into general revenues as “the mother of all battles.” As

he saw it, if Sask Sport and its umbrella partners lost this argument, they would be little more than “a contract administrator for the government.” The sport federation and its sister organizations knew that winning this battle might take time and require some serious effort by them and their champions in the government. As a result, they proposed an alternative to the government: keep the current lottery system in place but increase the licence fee to better reflect the financial situation of the province.<sup>53</sup>

The 1992 budget did include another substantial increase in the lottery licence fee, and further funding responsibilities which used to reside with the government were passed on to the lottery system.<sup>54</sup> Another significant change introduced with the 1992 budget was the dismantling of the Family Foundation. Sport, culture and recreation now moved into the Culture and Recreation Division of a new government department called Community Services. A new minister, Carol Carson, was now at the helm.<sup>55</sup>

Associate Deputy Minister Ken Alecxe was the lead civil servant working on the lottery file during this period. It would be hard to find a government employee more supportive of how sport, culture and recreation are funded in Saskatchewan. “It was actually a very desperate time for them,” he said. “Sask Sport has always viewed itself as the custodian of community-based sport, culture and recreational activity.” As custodians, he said, they looked

at all their community resources. “Bingos were just about gone as a major revenue source and VLTs ate into lottery ticket sales. Because bingos were destroyed, the ability of people who don’t have deep pockets to actually get the money they need to put their kids through any particular cultural, sport and recreational activity was undermined.”<sup>56</sup>

Alecxe understood, as he knew Sask Sport did, how important it was to resolve concerns government officials had that they did not have enough oversight of the lottery system. A new process was developed to demonstrate that broader societal needs in the area of sport, culture and recreation could be met without moving lottery revenue into general revenue. Out of these discussions, the Lottery Strategic Review Committee, was born. Minister Carson sent a formal invitation in the spring of 1993 to Sask Sport, SPRA and SCCO asking them to work with the department to address a series of short- and long-term issues related to lotteries. Short-term recommendations were to deal with changes to the Interprovincial Lotteries Act and regulations to clarify the roles of the government and voluntary stakeholders relative to the lotteries that would signal to the Treasury Board and other critics of the system that proper legislative and financial accountability measures were in place. A working group was set up with representatives from the three umbrella organizations and the department to develop a long-term plan for provincial sports, culture and recreation. It was a busy summer for



the Interagency Committee because the minister expected to see an interim report by mid-September, with the final report to be completed by the end of October.<sup>57</sup>

Bruce Medhurst — a policy analyst in the department who had served for thirty-two years in various capacities related to sport, culture and recreation by the time of his retirement in 2004 — played an integral role in the review process. “The department and the three globals worked together on this report,” said Medhurst. “We ended up with a revised regulatory framework and a revised lottery agreement. The lottery agreement was a much different-looking document. Not only did it have a fiscal side to it [the amount of the licence fee and length of the agreement], but it had a policy side to it.”<sup>58</sup>

As Jim Burnett saw it, “the Lottery Strategic Review Committee was a perfect example of the good work that can be accomplished when volunteers and government work in true collaboration to shape public policy.”<sup>59</sup> The key message of this report was the recognition that not all people in the province were participating in sport, culture and recreation — a serious issue that Sask Sport was already working hard to address.



Jordy Guillou & Ken Ross, members of Team Saskatchewan, competing at the 2013 Canada Summer Games, Sherbrooke, QC. Courtesy Saskatchewan Games Council.



Taryn McKenzie, one of more than 400 athletes who competed for Team Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games in Regina in 2014. At the Games, McKenzie won five gold medals in athletics. Team Saskatchewan won 72 gold medals, 54 silver and 33 bronze. Courtesy Eagle Feather News.

## SPORT FOR ALL: MAKING AMATEUR SPORT MORE INCLUSIVE

Early in 1990, Paul Fudge, the director of arts, multiculturalism and cultural industries for the provincial government, met a quiet but articulate First Nations man named Greg Murdock at a United Way of Regina meeting. Murdock was the Executive Director of the Regina Friendship Centre and he was making a presentation to the United Way's Allocations Committee. Fudge was impressed by Murdock's passion and obvious commitment to the Friendship Centre and its mandate to serve the needs of Regina's indigenous community. "At the end of the meeting, we decided to meet another time to continue our conversation," said Fudge. "We started to see each other on a fairly regular basis and became friends. Greg taught me a great deal about First Nations culture."<sup>1</sup> During their many conversations over golf or lunch, Murdock shared with Fudge his thoughts on some

of the problems that First Nations and Métis communities were facing. In addition to his work with the Friendship Centre, Murdock undertook counselling for a number of First Nations organizations together with his friend Lyle Daniels. The two men had recently returned from a trip to Cumberland House, where they had facilitated a healing session with young people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-eight who grappled with alcohol and drug addiction and physical and sexual abuse.<sup>2</sup>

Murdock mentioned that

*In the evenings we would go on different outings with these young people. We had lots of fun. It was an energy outlet, but we had to organize these activities ourselves because there was no structure for them. I wasn't sure what to do with this information, so I came*



Greg Murdock, a life skills and cultural adviser living in Regina, pictured here in the late 1980s, played a pivotal role in helping Sask Sport and amateur sport communities throughout the province to start thinking about the need to become more inclusive. Courtesy SSI.

*back to Regina and I talked to Paul Fudge and told him that there were so many social problems affecting our community and [that] there was really not very much going on in the communities. Paul said that he knew people that might be able to help.<sup>3</sup>*

*“So I honour Paul Fudge. He arranged a meeting for me with Sask Sport,” said Murdock.*

*I remember sitting down and looking at these guys and thinking they looked like pretty hard-nosed people. You*

*don’t build up an organization the way they built Sask Sport without clear direction, vision, firmness. I was wondering how they were going to respond to what I would say to them. What they decided to do after all the dust cleared after our first few meetings was to bring me on the staff to advise them on what I thought needed to be done and to send me out to the different sport governing bodies to meet with the executives and advise them on the things they could do to get more participation from First Nations communities.<sup>4</sup>*

Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby were moved by their meetings with Murdock. They were not sure what the answers were, were certain that change would not be easy. But the message from Murdock was powerful, and they knew they had to start somewhere. “We hired Greg to help open doors to the Aboriginal community,” said Barnby. “He helped us pinpoint the individuals and groups that we could work with and that could ultimately provide programs and services that would benefit First Nations and Métis people.” More importantly, according to Burnett, Murdock made Sask Sport realize that its approach to the non-Aboriginal community would likely not be successful with Aboriginal communities. If progress was to be made in meeting the needs of Aboriginal people, then Sask Sport would have to learn how to do things differently. As Burnett explained,



*We were accustomed to working with groups of people who had the capacity to volunteer and do the work, so putting money in their hands to deliver programs worked. Greg helped us understand that the volunteer systems we were used to working with did not exist in Aboriginal circles because poverty had stripped these communities of their capacity. They had nothing — zero — and poverty made it worse than zero.<sup>5</sup>*

An Aboriginal Advisory Committee reporting to Sask Sport's Board of Directors was established in 1990 and Murdock started meeting with people in the sport community, challenging them to reflect on why so few Aboriginal people were taking part in their activities.<sup>6</sup> Murdock is reluctant to take credit for any advances made at Sask Sport in working with First Nations and Métis communities during the short time that he was with the organization. None of the initiatives that were developed, he stressed, would have come about or gone anywhere without support and leadership from the top of the organization.

*My approach to motivating people has always been to ask people what they think should be done to address a problem. You tell me what you think might work and then I'll give you some feedback on your ideas. That was my approach with Sask Sport, with the sport governing bodies and the different committees that*

*were set up. As a result of it, a lot of innovative ideas were tried out.<sup>7</sup>*

One initiative that Murdock was proud to be a part of was an Aboriginal role models poster campaign: "This campaign had a further reach than just the pictures themselves. I know that some of these young people were invited out to different communities as a result of being on these posters, to talk about what they were doing and how they got there." Murdock stated that people should not underestimate the power that a poster can have. He believes that seeing people from one's community profiled in a positive fashion can have a big impact.<sup>8</sup>

As effective as seemingly small actions such as a poster campaign can be, however, they are usually not enough to lead to systemic or broad change. It is Sask Sport's efforts to go beyond token gestures that make Murdock proud to be associated with the organization.

*From the very beginning, Sask Sport was very, very supportive of the idea of trying to have more Aboriginal people involved in the membership. Whenever I look back on those early times, I'm appreciative of the leadership they took. I remember being asked to come in and meet with the Board of Directors of Sask Sport. There was no question that the board wanted to do something more than what they were doing. The senior staff provided the*

*environment for things to take place. They tried to build an infrastructure. So they developed a committee that was chaired by a Sask Sport board member to oversee whatever it was that we were going to do.*

*I thought the development of an internal Sask Sport committee was significant because then it became a program versus a one-person contract to do something. In that sense, it became part of the systemic effort versus an individual's initiative. You can have all the individual initiatives that you want, but if you don't structure your organization in such a way that it becomes a part of a living organization then it's not going to be very effective in the long run.<sup>9</sup>*

Pat Stelleg-Pratt was on the Board of Directors when Murdock joined Sask Sport. She appreciated the diverse conversations at the table. "I fought really hard to have people sitting around the table who would bring a diverse set of experiences," she said. "I also remember being asked to chair the Aboriginal Initiatives Committee and I said, 'I am a blue-eyed, blonde Irish person. I'm the last person who should be chairing this committee.'" That is where two young First Nations men — Glen Pratt and Lyle Daniels — came in. They agreed to volunteer their time and insight on the new committee. Stelleg-Pratt convinced Daniels to co-chair the committee with her.<sup>10</sup>

When Greg Murdock finished his contract with Sask Sport, Daniels was encouraged to apply for the job. It was not hard to convince him to work for Sask Sport. He was excited about continuing the work that Murdock had started and that he had had a hand in directing as a volunteer. He also had personal reasons for wanting to do this work. Daniels had grown up in north-central Regina and said that participation in sport had kept him out of trouble:

*In the end, sport was the backbone of what made me who I am today. It taught me everything. Sport teaches responsibility, discipline. Sport is what kept me in school. The only reason I forced myself to get up every day to go to school was to make sure that I got at least that C average so that I could either play volleyball or football.*

Daniels was a natural athlete. When he was in grade eight, his parents moved him from Albert School, an inner-city school with a large First Nations population, to a school in Eastview, where he was the only Aboriginal person.

*I always joke about the fact that what helped me survive in there was that I was good at sports. I was able to beat everybody in sports and that gave me instant respect within the community. Sports gave me that opportunity to have that equal playing ground with everyone in the community. They couldn't make*



*fun of me because I got back at them by being better than them in any sport.<sup>11</sup>*

But Daniels knows that not all children have the natural talent that he had in sport. He worked in the field of addictions for nine years before joining Sask Sport and he knew only too well some of the difficulties in First Nations communities. This knowledge, and his belief in the impact that sport had on him, fuelled his fire to work at Sask Sport and develop a “sport for all” strategy to open doors to amateur sport for children who faced financial and social barriers to participation.

*If we go out of our way to develop something for our kids to do, they're going to stay out of trouble. They're going to stay out of prostitution, stay away from drug dealing, stay away from gangs. Back when I was a kid, that wasn't an issue. It was more that we were all poor and it just gave us something to do and kept us out of jail. Now there are more serious things in the world that our young people have to deal with, which tells me even more the importance of ensuring that there are opportunities for sport, not only for Aboriginal young people, but all young people.<sup>12</sup>*

By this time, the provincial government had become engaged in similar discussions on the need to provide more

opportunities for First Nations people to participate in sport, culture and recreation with groups such as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN). Eugene Arcand, the vice-chief responsible for sport, culture and recreation, was leading these discussions on behalf of FSIN. He was convinced that providing more opportunities for First Nations youth to participate in sport should be a priority for FSIN. Sport allowed him to escape many of the worst horrors of the residential schools he was forced to attend as a child. Arcand is from the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, and, like thousands of First Nations people across the country, he was taken away from his parents and community at a young age. He spent ten years at St. Michael's Indian Residential School in Duck Lake and one year at the Lebreton Student Residence. As a teenager, he discovered that the best way to endure the abuse of the residential schools in the 1950s and 1960s was to get involved in sport.

*We had an incredible number of First Nations athletes come out of the residential school system. It was a real refuge for us. It was one of the areas where you could put all the threats of sexual advances, threats of physical violence, away for a little while. Those that were athletically gifted were treated a lot better than those that were not. So it provided us an opportunity to work hard and excel in those areas because you got preferential treatment. In those schools, in our little*

*house leagues, there was fierce competition because they selected the travelling teams from house league players. You always wanted to be on the travelling team at residential school, in whatever sport.<sup>13</sup>*

Arcand said that these schools were like “factories” in how they developed athletes. Each school had an award system for athlete of the year — male and female. Arcand excelled at most sports and when he finished residential school he was recruited by many mainstream sport teams to play with them — fastball, hockey, even rugby. “I had no money and everything was word of mouth. They said, ‘This kid can play, he needs some help.’ So somebody would always come along and help me out. Back then it was almost like semi-pro. I got paid to play.”<sup>14</sup>

Arcand was an all-around athlete. He even won a bronze medal at the first Saskatchewan Summer Games in 1972 in soccer. The team was thrown together at the last minute.

*We had been playing together for one month max, just to compete in the Zone 7 playoffs in North Battleford. We were just a bunch of Indian kids. It was a totally alien environment for us playing in Moose Jaw. The reason we lost, truthfully, was we went drinking the night before the semi-final game. We were very dysfunctional. We lost 2:1 in that game.<sup>15</sup>*

Although Arcand was certainly not sad that the residential schools eventually closed, he said that one of the repercussions was that there was then no infrastructure left for First Nations children to get involved in sport. The community development that had taken place throughout Saskatchewan to enhance participation of children in sport, culture and recreation, in both urban and rural areas, did not occur in First Nations communities because of the restrictions of the Indian Act and the abuse and turmoil caused by the residential schools.

Arcand finished playing competitive hockey in 1981 but was still participating in track and field at a competitive level. By this time, he was married and had children and was starting to reacquaint himself with his culture. He decided that he could not continue the dysfunctional lifestyle that he had been leading. He accepted a job in Prince Albert as the director of the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. Passionate about his job there, he spent hours organizing different events — volleyball, hockey, baseball —to expose young people to healthy recreational opportunities.

In 1991, Arcand decided to have a larger impact in sport and recreation, so he decided to run for vice-chief of FSIN. When he won the election, he said, he begged Roland Crowe (Grand Chief) for the sport, culture and recreation portfolio. “He started laughing. ‘You’re a rookie. There’s no money in sport and recreation programming.’ I said, ‘I know, but we can change that. We can make a change.’”<sup>16</sup>

## THE 1993 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

Although there were tensions at times between FSIN and the provincial government, Arcand said that some positive outcomes eventually resulted. “Our relationship with the provincial government was not very good at the start. Sport, culture and recreation was a political football. Indian Affairs funding started to die out, so there was very little support from the federal government, yet the province was saying this is a federal responsibility.”<sup>17</sup> He was particularly adamant that the province should contribute to the North American Indigenous Games being held in Prince Albert in 1993. He had been Saskatchewan’s Head Coach for the inaugural Indigenous Games held in Edmonton in 1990 and had organized the Saskatchewan bid for the 1993 Games. Together with his wife Lorna, he co-chaired the Prince Albert Games.

“We were sending teams to francophone games,” Arcand said. “They sent teams to the Canada Games. They sent teams all over the place, but none of our people were on those teams,” he said. “Here we had an international event, fledgling as it was, and we couldn’t get any help.”<sup>18</sup> Eventually, after some intense discussions with government officials, from which he walked away at one point because the initial offer was insultingly low, Arcand was successful in convincing the province to fund the Prince Albert Games.

For his efforts, Arcand was named Prince Albert’s Citizen of the Year for 1993 — the major contributing

factor being the huge economic impact of the Games on the city. The North American Indigenous Games attracted 4,400 Indian, Métis and Inuit athletes and coaches from seventeen areas in North America. In his acceptance speech, Arcand said that such an honour would not have happened ten years earlier. This signalled in his mind that relations were improving between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.<sup>19</sup>

## TRIBAL COUNCIL AND FIRST NATIONS COORDINATOR PROGRAM

Dorothy Josephson got drawn into Sask Sport in 1992 when Pat Stellek-Pratt, a student in one of the classes that Josephson was teaching at the University of Regina, asked her to sit on the organization’s Audit Committee because they wanted an impartial outsider. Josephson grew up in what felt like the middle of nowhere in northern Saskatchewan: “I grew up not liking sports,” she said. “Who do you play with — the cows? I was always in awe of people who did sports. It just seemed so beyond the realm of possibility for me.”<sup>20</sup> Josephson, who became president of Sask Sport in 1996, said that she was attracted to the social side of programming at Sask Sport — programs such as the Sport for All initiative that Daniels had spearheaded.<sup>21</sup>

The relationship with the Aboriginal community was strained when Josephson started attending board meetings in the early 1990s. “It was challenging to keep the

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan at the table and talking and it was difficult to find committee members,” she said.”<sup>22</sup> But out of these challenges came innovative programs, and some existing programs were broadened to include First Nations and Métis communities. “We were pleased that First Nations leaders like Eugene Arcand continued to work with Sask Sport,” said General Manager Jim Burnett. “Together we came up with a lot of good ideas on how the lottery system could be made more inclusive.”<sup>23</sup>

In 1993, a new lottery agreement was signed with the Saskatchewan government that saw the nine provincial tribal councils that are part of FSIN added to the minister’s eligibility list. This qualified them to receive ongoing funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. This funding provided seed money to allow the tribal councils to hire sport, culture and recreation coordinators. The major objectives of the new program were: to increase the number of volunteers; to help coordinate and manage sport, culture and recreation programs and services; to provide training and opportunities in the area of leadership development; and to increase participation in First Nations communities.<sup>24</sup>

The Tribal Council and First Nations Coordinator Program has helped to elevate rates of participation and levels of competition in the First Nations Winter and Summer Games in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan First Nations Games were started in 1974 by Chief Tony Cote

and the council and membership of the Cote First Nation.<sup>25</sup> For his lifetime of service to his community, province and country, Cote received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2008 and was inducted in the builder category into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.<sup>26</sup>

There is no question among most First Nations people that the Tribal Council and First Nations Coordinator Program has had a major impact in improving the First Nations Games program in Saskatchewan. The games are not meant to segregate the communities. They are there to encourage participation of First Nations children who normally would never make the Saskatchewan Games. This is their opportunity to take sport to a higher level and then hopefully pursue mainstream sport.<sup>27</sup>

As Sask Sport board member Angella Pinay noted, because of the history of First Nations and Métis people in Canada and Saskatchewan, sometimes there is not a lot of trust. “People are looking for a place of comfort,” she said. “The First Nations Games pull communities together.” Pinay was a student in the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Saskatchewan in 1991 when she had the opportunity to work with Lyle Daniels, who had just been hired by Sask Sport. “My job with Sask Sport was the best summer job I ever had,” said Pinay. Her role was to connect the sport zones with First Nations and Métis communities. She was also responsible for developing a directory of contacts in Aboriginal communities.<sup>28</sup>



Chief Tony Cote was instrumental in the organization of the inaugural First Nations Games in 1974. Courtesy SSHF.

George Rathwell was President of Sask Sport in 2005–06. He retired as director of education for Saskatoon public schools in July 2012. He agreed with Pratt and Pinay about the importance of the First Nations Games, reminding people that the province is going through a rapid rate of urbanization. Many smaller communities cannot field teams or athletes and many of Saskatchewan’s First Nations communities are classic examples.

*Some of them are just too small to really effectively compete in the Saskatchewan Games. So why would we do that to them? You want to build confidence, not destroy it. The First Nations Games evens the playing field a bit for them and gives them that confidence.*

*Then if they excel, and many of them do, they can go on to those provincial or interprovincial and even national games. That’s going to happen, but it takes time. You’ve got to build the athleticism, you’ve got to build the trust and you’ve got to build the programming.<sup>29</sup>*

Rathwell attended a number of events when the First Nations Winter Games were held in Saskatoon in 2010. “They were very well organized and it was such a big event for their communities and their families and for their kids,” he said. “I think these Games are critical in terms of building confidence and providing kids [with] a perspective outside of the First Nations themselves. They get a chance to display their athleticism but also display their culture.”<sup>30</sup>

Rathwell is proud to have played a role in facilitating a partnership between the Saskatoon School Divisions and the Saskatoon Tribal Council to host the 2010 games. He said that working with Sask Sport broadened his horizons and he became aware of the benefits of working and sharing resources with the larger community:

*We gave them access to our gyms for athletic and support facilities . . . for sleeping but mainly for the sports. School systems not so long ago just didn’t do that kind of thing. This was a real precedent-setter in the province and made for two very successful games. I don’t think this would have happened if it had not*





Lisa Hodnefield, Coordinator for the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and Community Grant Program. Courtesy SSL.

*been for the relationships and trust built through Saskatchewan Sport's involvement in the community.*<sup>31</sup>

### COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM BROADENED

In addition to the Tribal Council and First Nations Coordinator Program, staff and volunteers for the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund broadened grant programs to address the province's changing demographics and provide greater access to underrepresented groups such as Aboriginal people and seniors. Along with changes to make it more inclusive, the program underwent a name change. Lisa Hodnefield, coordinator for the Lottery Trust Fund and Community Grant Program, remembered the number of calls that she answered the first few years when the program was still known by its original name — the Trust Initiatives Program or TIP, as it was usually referred to. She

often had to stop people mid-sentence because they thought they had reached the other TIP program in the province — the Turn in Poachers hotline. Hodnefield would explain that she could not help them with wildlife infractions — however, if they were interested in accessing lottery funds for community initiatives, they had the right person. The two programs had been launched at about the same time and because they shared the same acronym there had been public confusion almost since day one.<sup>32</sup>

Although TIP had been viewed as an overwhelming success since its creation in 1985, by 1992 economics and demographics in the province had changed such that the lottery partners, in conjunction with the Department of Municipal Government, thought it necessary to review the program to ensure that all communities had equal access to lottery funds. The basic nature of the program remained the same. Each community would still determine its own priorities for how the money would be used and continue to decide which organizations would receive the money and how much money the grants would be. The biggest change to the program was that a portion of the money now had to be used to address current social issues. Applicants would be required to demonstrate that 30 percent of the grant would be spent on activities directed at underrepresented populations such as Aboriginal people, seniors, women, the economically disadvantaged, persons with a disability and single-parent families.<sup>33</sup>

Another change made during this period was to allow communities to use up to 25 percent of the grants that they received for operational costs of their facilities. This change was made because the provincial government decided to no longer provide grants to seniors' centres to pay their utilities. "When government took that away, the community looked to us to fill part of the gap," said Hodnefield. This was a compromise, she believed, that did not destroy the integrity of the program — which had always been focused on community programming. "We don't want these grants to be facility grants because there's never enough money to fix all the roofs or furnaces, but allowing them to use a portion of their Community Grant[s] to operate their facilities helped ease some of the strains and burdens caused when the government grants were cut."<sup>34</sup>

Funds are distributed on a per capita basis to local governments — city, town, village, organized hamlet, rural municipality, Indian Band Council, or northern settlement. These authorities adjudicate applications from local non-profit, volunteer groups for programs aimed at getting more people involved in sport, culture and recreation in their communities. Intercommunity cooperation is seen as extremely important in the development of effective programs, so communities are encouraged to allocate their funds to other locales if they think that higher-quality programs can be achieved through pooled resources.<sup>35</sup> One of the greatest benefits of the program is its flexibility.

Morgan Grainger is the field consultant for SPRA in Weyburn. Prior to that, she was a recreation director in Davidson. According to Grainger, "One of the amazing things about this program is that it's able to meet the needs of each particular community instead of being a blanket thing saying that this is how it has to be. It gets some leverage or some leeway to make it work for each community's needs."<sup>36</sup>

## NORTHERN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The sport and recreation community recognized that some of the greatest needs existed in northern Saskatchewan. With this in mind, Sask Sport worked with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association to set up a Northern Recreation Coordinating Committee (NRCC) because northern residents had indicated the need and desire for community development. In 1993, this committee developed the Northern Community Development Program, funded through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program.<sup>37</sup>

A key outcome of this program was the development in 1996–97 of the Northern Community and Schools Recreation Coordinator Program. It was piloted in three northern communities (Cumberland House, La Loche and Île à la Crosse) in cooperation with Saskatchewan Education and Saskatchewan Municipal Government. The project helps northern communities



Chef de Mission Lorne Lasuita, speaking at a news conference to announce athletes for Team Saskatchewan. Courtesy Leader Post/Bryan Schlosser.

enhance sport, recreation and culture programming for community residents. The program is funded through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program. In addition to providing skill development and personal growth for participants, the program provides employment opportunities in the recreational field for northern residents. The project was the beginning of a process intended to integrate community and school frameworks for the delivery of sport, culture and recreation programs in northern Saskatchewan.<sup>38</sup>

The program was so successful that it was expanded throughout northern Saskatchewan. Today, twenty-four northern schools receive grants to hire recreation coordinators to offer community-based sport, culture and recreation programming after school, in the evenings, on

weekends and at special community and school events.<sup>39</sup> Sask Sport also assisted the NRCC in developing and implementing a northern sports development plan and working with provincial sport governing bodies to target key winter and summer sports, to develop athletes, coaches and officials.<sup>40</sup>

One outcome of the plan put together by the committee was the creation of a new northern sport zone for the Saskatchewan Games. “Geographically it was difficult for many northerners to participate in Zone 8 due to travel and other logistical reasons,” said Joe McKay, chair of the NRCC. “Often, only a few athletes would participate as Zone 8 team members, leaving many quality athletes at home. In 1995 the NRCC on behalf of northerners began investigating and working towards the creation of Zone 9.”<sup>41</sup>

Lorne Lasuita, one of the original team of civil servants employed by the government when the Saskatchewan Games were introduced, applauded volunteers such as McKay for pressing for a new zone. “Zone 8, on the map, went from Prince Albert all the way up to Uranium City,” said Lasuita. “Geography played a huge role in terms of representation from that area and the number of athletes.” The other factor that helped to solidify the argument for a new zone, said Lasuita, was that many of those athletes could not compete at the same level as Prince Albert athletes because they did not have the same expert

coaching or facilities. “So they kept coming back to us and saying, ‘We want to ensure that we have representation at the Saskatchewan Games and we can’t do it with Zone 8. We’re too big. Can we take our own district and develop a team as a Zone 9?’”<sup>42</sup>

A formal proposal submitted to the Saskatchewan Games Council was approved as a pilot project and Zone 9 made its first appearance at the 2000 Saskatchewan Summer Games, participating in athletics, canoe/kayak, soccer and softball. As Lasuita explained, the project was such a success that it was decided to make the zone permanent. “There’s still some challenges for them in terms of fielding teams and they also have challenges on the competitive side in terms of being equitable on the participation, but they also have some advantages because they have some sports that excel up there, like cross-country skiing, biathlon and canoeing,” Lasuita said.<sup>43</sup>

## **SPORT FOR ALL: OPENING DOORS TO EVERYONE**

The effort to increase participation in sport was not confined to northern Saskatchewan and Aboriginal communities. One of the accomplishments of Lyle Daniels during his time at Sask Sport was a manual, *Sport for All: Opening Doors to Everyone*,<sup>44</sup> which can be downloaded from the Sask Sport website. The manual was circulated to the provincial sport governing bodies to help them recognize barriers that prevent people from participating

and to provide concrete examples of how to eliminate such barriers. Workshops were presented to staff and volunteers throughout the province to introduce the manual and help groups to increase participation among underrepresented groups.<sup>45</sup> Although it was written in 1993, Daniels believes that it remains relevant today: “It’s all here in this document. ‘Increasing participation calls for a fresh approach — a simple three-step process — recognizing the barriers that exist, understanding the effects of those barriers and working to eliminate them.’”<sup>46</sup>

Daniels believes that Saskatchewan has done more to support First Nations and Métis sport development than any other province in Canada. He thinks, though, that there is much more that needs to be done. “We are probably the best in Canada as far as I’m concerned. We invested the most money and we’ve had the best results.” He credits initiatives such as the Tribal Council and First Nations Coordinator Program for helping the First Nations Summer and Winter Games to become bigger and better. He also thinks that Sask Sport has taken the right approach in working with First Nations communities. “Sask Sport has really good staff,” he said. “There’s reasons why there’s people that have been there twenty-five years or more. They have allowed us to be autonomous, allowed us to do what we feel is right for our own people versus taking a paternalistic approach, which I know government would have done. You do this, you need to do this.”<sup>47</sup>

But what is lacking, according to Daniels and other First Nations people, is a bridge from these games to mainstream sport. “We need to understand and be okay with the fact that the Aboriginal community is going to develop their own sport system and that it’s always going to be there, but what can we do to bridge that community and mainstream sport?,” said Daniels. “We need to get more Aboriginal coaches, volunteers and officials in the mainstream.”<sup>48</sup> Daniels says that the resources are already there. Many of them were developed in the early to mid-1990s when he was working with Sask Sport. They just need to be better utilized by mainstream sport organizations, in his view.

### **BRIDGING TO MAINSTREAM SPORT**

The Saskatchewan First Nations Games have come a long way since Chief Tony Cote started them back in 1974. “I think all we attracted was about 500 athletes and that was from all across Saskatchewan,” said Cote.<sup>49</sup> For a number of years, there was only the Summer Games, but that changed in 1980, when the first Winter Games took place. Now the Winter and Summer Games are alternated every year. The tribal councils submit bids if they are interested in hosting either games. The 2012 Winter Games, hosted by the Battlefords Agency Tribal Council in Saskatoon, attracted more than 3,500 student athletes from across the province who participated in six different sports. Saskatoon saw an

economic impact of about \$6 million.<sup>50</sup>

From their humble beginnings, Cote believes, the First Nations Games have expanded to places that he never envisioned. He pointed out that, within the Aboriginal community, national hockey and fastball tournaments have developed over the years and are now embedded in the culture and continue to grow. The roots of these events, he said, can be traced back to the inception of the Games and the commitment made by so many communities and reserves to help young people get involved. “We see a lot of our young people now playing in the major junior hockey leagues, the junior hockey leagues, and we even have people now going into the NHL. You can see it across Canada now, and Saskatchewan took a lead role in setting an example in developing minor sports,” said Cote.<sup>51</sup>

Former FSIN Vice-Chief Morley Watson shares Cote’s happiness in seeing more evidence of Aboriginal youth participating at the highest levels of sport as well as more integration with the mainstream sport system. Watson has long been active in sport as a competitor, coach, manager and supporter. He is a firm believer that First Nations people can compete at all levels in sport and he put that belief into action when he helped to found the highly successful Lebreton Eagles Junior A Hockey Club, and in 2006 when he coached the FSIN Chiefs’ midget boys softball team to a national championship. This was the first time in the history of Softball Canada that a First Nations team earned a national title.<sup>52</sup>

“A lot of small towns are joining up with First Nations now to have a team — which is good,” said Watson. “Years ago you didn’t have that. You’d have the reserve kids against the town kids and that wasn’t always healthy. I operate a junior hockey team and I have six, seven white kids playing. They keep coming back, so we must be doing something right. You didn’t see that years ago.” Watson was also encouraged to see more First Nations youth participating in the Saskatchewan Games. “We saw some First Nations winning, not that that’s important,” he said.

*Their being there is important but most importantly for them to walk away with a positive experience because in a few short years you’re going to say, “You know, the Saskatchewan Games were good for me and I’m going to coach a team that might go back. Sport is [a] builder of character and if we’re competing — winning and losing like everybody else — we gain mutual respect rather than discriminating against each other.”<sup>53</sup>*

## **ELIMINATING RACISM IN SPORT AND RECREATION**

Although leaders such as Morley Watson are quick to acknowledge the many positive things making amateur sport more inclusive and representative, he believes that there is still a long way to go. “Unfortunately, there’s still racism, and there’s no magical solution to that,” he says.<sup>54</sup> Sask Sport agrees with him that a key factor in

increasing participation by Aboriginal people (and other underrepresented groups) in sport and recreation is recognizing that racism is a key barrier and that ongoing efforts are required to educate people that racism is more than just overt discriminatory comments.

In 1993, Sask Sport joined with SPRA, the Department of Municipal Government, the University of Regina, FSIN and the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan to form the Elimination of Racism Committee. Signs which stated, “This recreation facility is a Racism-Free Zone,” were produced and distributed to recreation facilities throughout the province. The more important result, however, was the development of a leader’s manual designed to encourage sport and recreation leaders to explore their own beliefs. The manual, used in conjunction with anti-racism education workshops offered throughout the province, demonstrated to participants how discrimination is often unintentional and hard to detect. The key message of the workshops was that this type of discrimination — what has come to be referred to as “systemic racism” — is more destructive than the blatant kind because, if we do not detect it in ourselves or others, we cannot take steps to change it.<sup>55</sup>

Most Aboriginal people who have worked for or with Sask Sport agree that some improvement in societal attitudes has been achieved since these issues were first highlighted in the early 1990s. However, they indicated



that much work is still necessary to raise awareness of how traditionally accepted inequities that keep certain groups from full participation need to be constantly challenged. Because of continual turnover of board and staff members in sport organizations, anti-racism education needs to be ongoing and leaders in the sport community should work together to challenge their assumptions and learn which actions they can take to make sport and recreation more welcoming to underrepresented groups.

## KIDSPORT™ SASKATCHEWAN

A major barrier to participation in sport has always been (and likely always will be) poverty. Equipment costs, league fees and travel costs add up quickly and even middle-class families with two incomes can find it challenging to come up with the money to enable their children to participate in sport and recreation activities. Staff and volunteers from Sask Sport continually struggle with how to even the playing field for low-income children and their families. One program to address the rising costs associated with amateur sport was a new children's charity that Sport BC created in 1993. John Lee, leading Sask Sport's Sport Division at the time, along with Bob Livingston, Sask Sport's President that year, attended a meeting in British Columbia at which the KidSport movement was outlined. Both Lee and Livingston remember how enthused they were about the potential of this new charity.



The Saskatchewan Roughriders have been a big supporter of KidSport since 1998 and the partnership has raised more than one million dollars to date. Courtesy SSI.

Shortly after they returned home, Livingston reported to the Board of Directors:

*Probably because the concept wasn't conceptualized in my mind how we could make this program work in Saskatchewan, it received only a lukewarm response from the Board of Directors at the time of the presentation. I was not optimistic that a KidSport program would be implemented in Saskatchewan. However, our Program Committee, under the chairmanship of George Watson at the time, really got excited and enthused about the idea and in fact the next year they got the program going.<sup>56</sup>*

George Watson had spent most of his career as a high school teacher. He knew full well the positive effects of participation in sport on school performance and life

skills development. As someone who had sons in one of the most expensive and popular sports in Saskatchewan — hockey — Watson also understood the financial barriers that prevented many children from taking part in sport. Although he was pleased to chair the new KidSport Committee, it was a daunting job: “KidSport was a whole new concept and not all the communities we approached understood the need that was out there.”<sup>57</sup>

KidSport was set up as its own charity. Early on, the Sask Sport board decided that KidSport would be responsible for its own funding through fundraising efforts and would operate autonomously. “One of the conditions we came up with was that for any money raised in a community, 100 percent of it would go back to that community,” said Watson.<sup>58</sup> At the provincial level, Sask Sport volunteers such as Watson took the lead to get the organization up and running. The Sask Sport board decided to provide funding for staff and office space as well as seed funding for the program. At the community level, KidSport committees would be comprised entirely of volunteers from local areas.<sup>59</sup>

Watson remembers going to many meetings and trying to convince volunteer sport leaders to start local KidSport committees. In the first year of KidSport, two main local committees were formed in Regina and Saskatoon. Funds raised provincially would be dispersed to areas of the province that did not have local committees

and to help fund local committees that needed additional funds. Although the program was slow to be adopted in some communities that initially did not want the perception of having any level of poverty, the concept eventually caught on and more and more local committees were formed.<sup>60</sup> By 1999, Saskatchewan had raised \$500,000 and helped more than 5,000 kids. At the time, fifteen committees were operating.<sup>61</sup>

Dorothy Josephson was drawn to KidSport. She left the farm at fifteen and ended up getting married a year later and having two children. She was only eighteen when her marriage broke up.

*When you are in a situation like that, you don't know how much lower you can go. You're on the street and you're only eighteen and you've got no resources and two kids. You really need a social safety net to look after people and help them get back on their feet and get them into programs that will give them self-esteem.*

Josephson struggled to finish high school, then put herself through university as a single parent on social assistance. “I was lucky enough to get a bursary from something called NRIM — Non-Registered Indian and Métis — and another scholarship which was enough to get me through university,” said Josephson.<sup>62</sup> She finished a computer science degree and ended up moving to Regina because



Don McDougall, Sask Sport President in 1997–98 and Chair of KidSport Saskatchewan for numerous years. Courtesy SSL.

she could not find a job in Saskatoon. Eventually, she returned to school and got a master's degree in business administration and taught for a number of years at the University of Regina. She is now a member of the senior management team at SGI Canada.

"I was still pretty young, in my early twenties, but I picked up enough social consciousness that I understood the structures of society," said Josephson. She saw the importance of getting her children involved in sport and recreation and helping them to become accepted and involved in the community. She cannot remember when she started canoeing. "I'm a recreational canoer," she said.

*I never really considered it a sport, but somehow I ended up becoming treasurer for the Saskatchewan*

*Canoe Association. Of course, there's a canoe-kayak racing component in it, which is a pretty elite sport. I remember thinking, "This is such a traditional sport. We should do more to get inner-city kids down here." But looking at what was required by families to put their kids into that sport was a real eye opener. I realized that this was not a sport that was available to just ordinary folks because, once you get past any sort of even entry level, it becomes very expensive. This was one of the first times that it really struck home that there's a certain level of sport that's just totally beyond the reach of a lot of people.*<sup>63</sup>

Given her background and experience of raising a family as a single parent, when the Saskatchewan Canoe Association nominated Josephson to the Sask Sport board, she was drawn to the social side of the organization and its work with KidSport and other programs aimed at making sport more inclusive. "KidSport appealed to me immediately," said Josephson. "I saw it as giving people an opportunity to get a leg up on something — that first step, whether it is swim lessons or whatever — because it could be just one positive thing that turns somebody's life around. Plus, it was such a tiny little bit of light and it had such a grand vision."<sup>64</sup>

Josephson said that when she joined the KidSport Committee it only had between \$20,000 and \$40,000 to

adjudicate. “It was nothing,” she said. “It was a teaspoonful of money and it was such a big idea of a program.” She remembers having to explain the program to new committee members and seeing their look of disbelief when they found out how small it was. She would tell them, “We’re going to grow it really big. We’re going to make it work by getting more communities and we can’t collect the money ourselves. We’ve got to get these communities to start collecting the money.”<sup>65</sup>

Despite continuing challenges, KidSport has grown considerably since it was first incorporated as a non-profit charity in 1995. As of 2015, there are forty-six KidSport volunteer committees in communities across the province.<sup>66</sup> To date, KidSport has raised over \$6.3 million in Saskatchewan and helped more than 100,000 kids participate in community sport programs. Although KidSport is not limited to the Aboriginal community, approximately 80 percent of the children and youth accessing the program are First Nations and Métis.<sup>67</sup>

“KidSport Saskatchewan has gone from raising a few nickels to now raising millions and it is having a huge impact on lots of kids,” said John Lee:

*Sask Sport can also be proud of the role it played in positioning KidSport to go national so that it could try and attract different sponsorships. We encouraged this through the role we played on the Canadian Council*

*of Provincial and Territorial Sport Federations. Once we founded it in Saskatchewan, we started to push the other provinces to think about it and then coordinated it through this national group and they basically have taken it over nationally. And then each of the provinces that participate have their own KidSport membership.*<sup>68</sup>

But as Don McDougall, who was Sask Sport President in 1997–98 and has chaired the KidSport Saskatchewan Committee for numerous years, suggests,

*We’re still not happy given the total number we’d like to have, and a lot of that is dependent on how we can get the word out to those communities and individuals who need financial assistance. Some people are a little bit reluctant and others just don’t understand how to work through the system. And that’s a problem. There’s definitely a need out there.*<sup>69</sup>

## **ABORIGINAL ACTION PLAN**

Although programs such as KidSport, the Tribal Council Coordinators Program, the Northern Community Schools and Recreation Coordinator Program and the Community Grant Program had started to show some results by the end of the 1990s, the challenges of a rapidly increasing Aboriginal population convinced staff and volunteers at Sask Sport that a more concerted effort was needed to

make a real impact. With these concerns in mind, along with other efforts to address the many unmet needs in the sport, culture and recreation sectors, the sport federation urged the government to lower the lottery licence fee.<sup>70</sup> The government was receptive to Sask Sport's message and signed a new three-year Saskatchewan Lotteries licence agreement in 2000 in which the fee was reduced.<sup>71</sup>

As part of the new agreement, Sask Sport and its global partners would conduct three funding reviews, including an Aboriginal funding review. Jim Fink was President of Sask Sport when this deal was signed. "When the government asked us to do these reviews and take on additional programs, there was never any hesitation about taking them on," he said, adding that everyone was on the same page. "The interactions we had with the department and the relationship we developed with the minister w[ere] excellent."<sup>72</sup>

The Review Committee made a number of recommendations to the Lottery Strategic Review Committee and the Boards of Directors of the three umbrella partners. The recommendations included recruiting more First Nations and Métis people across the organizations and on boards, creating a strategy to communicate funding opportunities for support, and developing a best practices workbook with positive examples of programs that had enhanced First Nations and Métis access to funding. These recommendations

were worked into an Aboriginal Action Plan, which included a number of strategic initiatives to be put into effect between 2002 and 2005. The three umbrella organizations recognized that if they were going to create more opportunities for sport, culture and recreation in the Aboriginal community, they would have to build clear, coordinated communication, increase volunteer capacity in communities, implement tri-global coordination and planning and develop effective partnerships with schools.<sup>73</sup>

These goals led the Sask Sport board to develop an Aboriginal Sport Advisory Committee in 2001. The committee worked with Sask Sport staff to put together the action plan. Thirteen key sports were targeted to increase their numbers of coaches, officials, athletes, volunteers and hosting opportunities. One of the greatest achievements that year was the introduction of an urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program designed to increase opportunities for urban Aboriginal programs in sport, culture and recreation. The new program was eventually launched in six cities, with volunteer adjudication committees that included majority representation from Aboriginal communities. Sask Sport leaders also thought that there was a need to do research to better understand the systemic differences between Aboriginal people and mainstream sport organizations regarding volunteerism. To address this question, fourteen focus groups were held throughout the province and the results were presented

during the first Aboriginal Sport Development Conference held in Saskatoon in the fall of 2002.<sup>74</sup>

This conference brought together more than 220 representatives from mainstream and Aboriginal sport organizations as well as community developers. Participants shared information and discussed issues such as leadership development, the sport and education systems, youth programs and rural versus urban Aboriginal sport issues. There was agreement that a main focus should remain the development of more coaches and officials as well as entry-level programs to increase Aboriginal participation.<sup>75</sup> Another outcome of the focus group sessions and the followup discussions at this conference was the Working, Living and Playing Together program guide to assist community professionals and volunteers in developing relationships among First Nations, Métis and non-Aboriginal communities.<sup>76</sup>

The opportunity to lead the efforts to implement the recommendations in the Aboriginal Action Plan is what excited Cheryl McCallum to apply for a job advertised at Sask Sport. She had previously held a management position at SaskTel. As a Métis woman who grew up in inner-city Saskatoon, McCallum knew firsthand about the lack of sport, culture and recreation opportunities for Aboriginal people. To say that her job has been challenging would be an understatement, but the passion that she brings to her job is clear. During her first year with Sask Sport, she criss-



Cheryl McCallum, Manager Community Sport Development, Sask Sport. Courtesy SSL.

crossed the province talking to First Nations and Métis people to continue the work already started in making the amateur sport system more accessible to underrepresented populations.<sup>77</sup>

One of her responsibilities is to work with the other lottery partners, SaskCulture and SPRA. “Together,” she said, “we created a website — [saskaboriginalresources.ca](http://saskaboriginalresources.ca) — which basically explains what the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system is about, what grants are offered and what targets that community to really help them out.”<sup>78</sup> However, though McCallum knew that creating websites and developing brochures to outline grants and programs were important, the bigger challenge was to continue the work first started by Greg Murdock and carried on by others after him, to build more synergy between the provincial sport governing bodies and the Aboriginal sport system.



To build on the successes of previous decades in addressing these pressing concerns, Sask Sport issued a call to action in 2008 with a four-year strategy for Aboriginal sport development. The primary focus of the strategy was building volunteer capacity in the Aboriginal community and facilitating links with the mainstream sport system. Although in no way seeking to eliminate or replace the Aboriginal sport system and the First Nations Games, the strategy places more emphasis on ensuring that the overall provincial system is inclusive of all participants and that sport development in Aboriginal communities benefits the entire sport system. There was also the recognition that high-performance Aboriginal sport development needed to be integrated with mainstream high-performance systems while ensuring sensitivity to the unique needs of Aboriginal participants.<sup>79</sup>

An early outcome of the strategy was the creation of a new division in Sask Sport that employed First Nations and Métis people to deliver the Aboriginal Coaches and Officials Program and other sport development programs aimed at increasing Aboriginal participation. Although this new division did increase awareness in the broader sport community about the need to increase Aboriginal participation, when a funding review was done of the provincial sport governing bodies a few years later, it was clear that there remained room for improvement. The conclusion reached was that more systemic changes

needed to take place in Sask Sport to achieve real impacts in Aboriginal participation. Now, instead of having a separate unit within the organization working on this issue, all divisions in Sask Sport have Aboriginal participation goals integrated into their work plans. A new division called Community Sport Development was created. This means that, instead of having an outside unit playing an advisory role, every decision is made through an Aboriginal participation lens.<sup>80</sup>

“When we had the Aboriginal Services Unit, everything that came to [Sask] Sport and was Aboriginal fell on that plate and that wasn’t the best approach,” said McCallum, who now works as manager of the new Community Sport Development division. “This is because everybody in the amateur sport system needs to start thinking about servicing the Aboriginal community. The programs that are offered can’t remain in a silo.”<sup>81</sup> This means that the work of KidSport, the Northern Community Schools and Recreation Coordinator Program, oversight of the sport, culture and recreation districts, the Tribal Council and First Nations Coordinator Program and relationships with FSIN and Métis Nations of Saskatchewan have been brought together.

This type of thinking causes Greg Murdock, who first drew the issues in the Aboriginal community to Sask Sport’s attention more than twenty-five years ago, to hold the organization in such high regard. He sees the

approach that Sask Sport has taken in trying to work with First Nations and Métis communities as a model that other organizations should emulate. It is important for the process of change, he says, that the approach taken becomes structural and systemic.

Case in point: though the whole organization was slowly responding to the needs of the Aboriginal population, McCallum was the primary point person, going to membership meetings and talking about the need to serve the Aboriginal population. She said, “They weren’t getting the message, probably because I’m Aboriginal and they thought this was just my own thing going on.” This caused Sask Sport to rethink this approach. “Now, when a sport asks us to come out and do presentations on how to facilitate Aboriginal participation, the sport consultants do this work. We have been able to increase the buy-in because it’s not just one person in the organization doing this. We have a whole team trained to educate people on these issues.”<sup>82</sup>

Audra Young, Sask Sport president in 2010–11, says that the organizational shift that occurred in Sask Sport is significant. A twenty-five-year member of the Regina Police Service, Young has a background in human resources and equity. Sport has always been an important part of her life. This might not come as a surprise to anyone who knows her family background. She is a great-granddaughter of Paul Acoose, a world-renowned distance runner. In the early 1900s, long-distance running was a



Audra Young, President of Sask Sport, 2010–11 and Chair of Sask Sport’s Aboriginal Sport Leadership Council, is proud of the efforts the organization has taken to embrace diversity and make amateur sport in the province more inclusive. Courtesy Regina Police Services.

very popular sport. No small-town sports day in Saskatchewan was complete without a race. Locals in the southeastern Saskatchewan community of Grenfell still talk about the time the “Sakimay Indian” beat the town favourite. Before Acoose got to the starting line, he had to run twelve miles from the reserve into town — what he considered just a warmup to the race. In his debut as a professional runner in 1909, Acoose beat the famed English runner Fred Appleby in a fifteen-mile race. Appleby did not like losing to Young’s great-grandfather so he demanded a rematch. Only a short distance into the race, someone threw tacks on the track to stop Acoose, who wore thin-soled moccasins when he ran. He completed the race with thumbtacks piercing his feet.<sup>83</sup>



Paul Acoose, a world-renowned distance runner from the Sakimay First Nation, was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1993. Courtesy SSHF.

Although Young never reached the pinnacle of success in her sport that her great-grandfather did, which to her would have been to play for Team Canada, volleyball remains an important part of her life. “I made my dream happen in another way. I helped start a women’s police team.” She also parlayed her love for sport into an involvement with Sask Sport. She wanted to continue the work done by others in keeping an eye out for the children who are getting missed and do not have the same

advantages that she had growing up. “I was empowered by my community, by my family, but if I was someone who didn’t have these advantages, there are programs like the Aboriginal Community Grant program, the Tribal Council and First Nations Coordinator [Program] and others.”<sup>84</sup>

Young vividly remembers the first time she went to a meeting at the Sask Sport office in Regina on 1870 Lorne Street. She had been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Community Initiatives Fund, which Sask Sport administered on behalf of the provincial government. At first, she was apprehensive and not sure what she had gotten herself into: “I walk down this hallway with all these photos of Sask Sport’s past presidents on the wall. I can see that there are a few women on the wall, but the volume of white males on those walls is overwhelming for an Indian person coming into this organization.” It did not take her long, however, to feel comfortable in the room. Young gravitated to the committee members who had been appointed by Sask Sport: Don McDougall and Kevin Scott. It became clear to Young that they shared a similar philosophy about the power of sport to build better communities. She also came to appreciate Sask Sport for the efficient way that it administered this Fund. “I knew that the books were tighter than a drum. I never had a concern about my name, being a police officer and an Indian woman - Audra Young, a wife, a mother - being associated with the financial decisions that we’d make. I knew it was secure.”<sup>85</sup>

Young sat on this committee for seven years. When she was approached to be on the Sask Sport Board of Directors, she did so without hesitation. By now, she had started to see the hallway to their boardroom through different eyes. She now saw it as a hallway of honour. “We honour our elders as much. Our culture is very much, to an outsider looking in, a masculine-directed and -controlled culture of ceremonies,” she said. “When I got into that room, I realized that we were all about the same thing. I lost the chip on my shoulder.”<sup>86</sup> She quickly came to realize that the people in the room and the past presidents represented in portraits that lined that intimidating hallway embodied the same spirit as she did. They all believed passionately in how sport can open doors for people — as did her parents and many others on the Cowessess reserve.

“The community I came from was all about how do you get our kids through school and how do you empower them? They knew that sport drives leadership and builds better communities,” Young said.

*All my best friends from the reserve are successful — teachers, lawyers. You know, it’s amazing and we’re all finely tuned athletes because the community committed to us. When you come from a reserve, you can feel a little inferior. When I played sports against non-Aboriginal teams and we would trounce them,*

*I looked at that as a feather in my cap. You just take that another step further with your education, with employment, with your future. Sport did that for us. It helped me become successful in life.*

“Sask Sport was like home for me,” Young said.

*It made sense to me. It is amazing what they’ve done and it’s amazing to see how a group of motivated people were able to create such an amazing model of community development that recognizes that one-size-fits-all strategies don’t work. You get motivated community members that say “We see your criteria, but it’s not fitting us,” and they are empowered to make the necessary changes to make it work for them. They know their community better than we ever possibly could, but what Sask Sport can offer them is that sage advice. This worked well for this community, which is similar to yours.”<sup>87</sup>*

Young applauds Sask Sport for its efforts to bring everyone to the table: “The Aboriginal file has been integrated throughout the organization. I can exist in every facet of this organization. We’re not just at the corner of the table anymore. There are public service agencies that can’t do this. This is an amazing feat.” Aboriginal sport development, Young truly believes, is not just a special

project for Sask Sport, because First Nations and Métis people are involved in planning: “There are organizations that have been around for hundreds of years that don’t understand representation or diversity hiring.”<sup>88</sup>

Like Audra Young, Angella Pinay is also a volleyball player. She grew up across the field from Audra, and embodies the same passion for sport. For as long as Pinay can remember, she has been either a participant or a coach in the First Nations Games. She is soft spoken and small, but on the volleyball court she is a force. She jokes that nobody told her she had to be tall to be a volleyball player until she got off the reserve. She says that Young might have had the height on her, but she had the speed.

*I banged on the door of Volleyball Saskatchewan and said I’d be interested in sitting on the Sask Sport board. There are all these programs that are occurring that will support our youth. I’m just here to keep the momentum going and look for other opportunities . . . to be more inclusive and to be speaking this language at the different committees that I’m part of as being a member of the board.*<sup>89</sup>

Pinay believes that it is important for Sask Sport to provide ongoing education in the mainstream sport community about where the Aboriginal community is coming from and what it is healing from:

*A lot of people don’t realize that the whole residential school thing was a government policy. Some people think that First Nations people just chose to put their kids there. Once you have an understanding of how the residential schools have impacted First Nations communities, it starts building understanding. There also needs to be an understanding that, when you’re born with the dominant skin colour, you don’t even realize the privileges that you come with. You can go into a bank and don’t feel that people are going to look at you funny, or you go into a store and don’t see that somebody might be following you around in the store.*<sup>90</sup>

One of Pinay’s biggest concerns is about the growing urban Aboriginal community: “It’s harder when you live in the city to become aware of things like the First Nations Games,” said Pinay. “If you don’t have that connection to your reserve community, how do you participate in those events? If you live on a reserve, people go by the band office, or they’ll be at the school. Information will be circulated.” The same is true with access to mainstream sport: “How do they find out about the programs that are available? You have to have parents or family members who know where to look for information and what questions to ask.”<sup>91</sup> One answer to the questions that Pinay raised about urban Aboriginal youth might be an innovative program that started out as a pilot project using legacy funds from

the 2005 Canada Summer Games. Dream Brokers was so successful that, once the legacy funds were depleted in 2010, the community partners convinced Sask Sport to continue to run and even expand the program.

## DREAM BROKERS

Rob Currie becomes animated when he talks about Dream Brokers, which provides an opportunity for inner-city children and youth to participate in sport and cultural activities. His eyes sparkle and he becomes emotional. It is clear that the program strikes a personal chord with him. Dream Brokers was launched in 2006 with a Canada Games contribution of \$530,000. Regina Catholic and Public School Boards and the City of Regina contributed another \$240,000 worth of in-kind support — office equipment and space, supplies and administrative and facility support.<sup>92</sup>

To Currie, Dream Brokers is the perfect example of what can happen when people from different agencies, backgrounds and perspectives come together in the true spirit of cooperation to tackle a problem creatively.<sup>93</sup> The program is also an example of how cities and provinces can benefit from playing host to national sporting events. Currie was asked to sit on the volunteer executive for the Canada Games as Vice-President of Sport by his long-time friend, architect Bob Ellard, the President of the games and a former Sask Sport board member. Currie's involvement



Rob Currie, credited by many as being one of the “masterminds” behind the Dream Brokers Program. Courtesy SSHF.

with the Canada Games started in 2001 when he travelled to Ottawa with Ellard and another close friend, Mo Bundon, Senior Vice-President with Harvard Developments, to connect with the group that had just hosted the London, Ontario Games to learn from their experiences. More than 6,000 people were recruited as volunteers for the Canada Games. Over 3,500 athletes and close to 900 coaches and managers, along with thousands of family members and friends, flocked to Regina, Moose Jaw, Lumsden and Saskatchewan Beach from August 6 to 20, 2005.<sup>94</sup>

“Leading up to the Games, we built this infrastructure that looked at creating a wonderful competition opportunity for all the participants who were coming to Regina in 2005,” said Currie, “As we neared the competition,” said Currie, “a conversation started to take place as to what we would do with any legacy finances realized from the Games.”<sup>95</sup>



“In the beginning, we wanted to make \$1 million. We didn’t know if that was going to be achievable,” said Ellard, who noted that the Host Committee had hoped to match the \$1.1 million profit generated by the 1989 Canada Summer Games in Saskatoon.<sup>96</sup> The Games were a success on all fronts. Upgrades were made to seventeen sport venues, Wascana Lake was deepened and the Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport and the Credit Union EventPlex were built — a capital legacy worth \$6.1 million. Approximately \$800,000 in assets, such as sport equipment, tents and sheds, were made available to community organizations. On top of all these things, the Games generated a profit of more than \$3.2 million. Partnerships with other stakeholders, including municipal and provincial governments, the University of Regina and Sask Sport, provided an additional \$2.5 million to support the Building Dreams and Champions Legacy Program, which would assist a wide range of youth sport, cultural and coaching programs.<sup>97</sup>

Bob Ellard gathered a group together, which included Rob Currie, Mo Bundon, John Lee (general manager of the Games), Bob Linner from the City of Regina, Mark Bracken from Sask Sport and a number of representatives from key game sponsors. Currie was principal of Sacred Heart Community School in Regina, an inner-city school with a student population of about 400, about 85 percent of whom came from First Nations, Métis and low-income families.

He was passionate about getting more of his student body and other less privileged children involved in sport, culture and recreation. The group brainstormed ideas about what to do with money raised from the games. The conversation carried on while Ellard, Currie and Bundon were rowing on Wascana Lake, an activity that the three friends did together on a regular basis.

Out of these blue-sky sessions came the idea of hiring staff to connect with the schools, people who would act as the liaisons or “Dream Brokers” to connect families with existing programs. At one point, Currie said, he counted about eighty agencies, just in north-central Regina, all doing good work but often working in isolation. The group did not want to waste legacy funds by duplicating programs that already existed.

*What was missing from a school perspective was somebody to connect the agencies with the families. We weren’t necessarily needing more money to provide the equipment or pay for the lessons because KidSport and a number of agencies had funds available. The students just needed somebody who could connect them to the opportunities already existing in our city — someone who could help them with the registration forms and facilitate transportation to the activities.<sup>98</sup>*

Joe Daniels was working with Sask Sport at the time and

like Currie he was excited by the potential of this new program to help families which faced barriers in getting their children involved in existing activities. Daniels, a member of the Gordon First Nation, was born and raised in inner-city Regina. Like others before him who worked at Sask Sport, he credits sport for keeping him on the right track. “If it wasn’t for sport, I’d either be dead or in jail,” he said. “That’s the truth of my life.”<sup>99</sup>

The most important aspect of the Dream Brokers Program, according to Daniels, is that it teaches people how to access the sport, culture and recreation system. Many people do not know how to engage the system, he emphasized. They do not know what is available and how to access programs and services. As Daniels explained, seemingly simple things such as filling out registration forms and finding ways to get to an activity can be pretty daunting to many people. The program points out where the opportunities are and supports people in trying new activities. Dream Brokers often accompany children to an activity and make sure that their first visit is a welcoming experience. Currie agrees with Daniels about the importance of teaching families how to engage the system. “You have to remember that many families won’t ask,” he stressed. “The confidence, the assertiveness, or even the hope is not there and so they just work with what they have directly in front of them. They are good, respectful people. Many just don’t want to be perceived as expecting a

handout. The Dream Brokers step forward and respectfully get them connected and engaged.”<sup>100</sup>

“It is a Dream Broker’s responsibility to understand where the opportunities are, to inform the parents and inform the agencies and [to] bring the two of them together,” said Currie. The Dream Brokers also act as go-to persons for teachers, who might not have the time or knowledge of the resources available on how to get students involved in extracurricular activities. “Teachers know that the more engaged children are in after-school activities the more engaged they are in school and the less opportunity there is to find negative behaviours,” said Currie. “In order to be eligible for the Dream Broker incentive, you have to attend school. When students do, they’re applauded, awarded, affirmed and there’s an incentive realized.”

*We wanted to place the Dream Brokers in schools to become part of the school culture, so the school divisions agreed to provide space, phone access and some administrative supplies. Sask Sport agreed to take care of all the accounting requirements and oversee the program. The city agreed to provide promotion and support of its existing programs to the Dream Brokers and waive fees for registrants. Sask Sport also worked with its KidSport program to ensure that it was being utilized more frequently.*<sup>101</sup>

The program had some growing pains. Currie said that some of the vision was lost when personnel involved with the start-up changed jobs. He moved to a new position within the Regina Catholic School Division; his counterpart, Dave Hutchison, moved to a different portfolio within Regina Public Schools; Dana Fulkerson left the City of Regina and started working with Reach, a food services program in north-central Regina; and Joe Daniels, the Sask Sport representative, accepted a job with FSIN. The Dream Brokers themselves also started changing.

Another challenge was that the first Dream Brokers, because they had office space in the schools, started thinking in terms of being educators. “We had to keep reminding them that holidays for the kids was their work time,” Currie said. “Summer for the kids was their work time. And their work was not 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., like the teachers and school staff. Even though they’re located in the school building, they’re not tied to the school day. Their work is with the communities. They are not school staff. They’re community workers located in schools.”<sup>102</sup> Another issue in the first couple of years was that a lot of money was spent to transport kids to and from various activities. “We were spending a lot of money on taxis because it was the most convenient and direct way to get kids involved, but we found that that was using up a high percentage of the legacy money that we had,” said Currie. The challenge of finding transportation for kids wanting

to participate in the program, while at times difficult, has been a way to bridge Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. As Sask Sport General Manager Jim Burnett said, “The sport governing bodies want to get less privileged kids in their communities involved. They just don’t know how to do this. When you approach them with concrete ways of how they can help, they are quick to step up to the plate.”<sup>103</sup>

Currie praises Sask Sport for acting as liaison between the various sport groups and Dream Brokers. One example that he cited is the work done with Football Saskatchewan, which “started to offer football clinics on Mosaic property at Taylor Field in the summer. The Dream Brokers did the promotion, got the students there and Football Saskatchewan ran the clinics, in some cases with Rams or Rider players. That was heart-warming.”<sup>104</sup>

Currie gives full marks for this program to Ellard, who did not want to have just buildings and equipment as the legacy of the 2005 Canada Summer Games. “He wanted to have a project that would have an impact into the future.” The Dream Brokers Program proved to be such a success that, at the end of the four years when the money from the Canada Games was spent, everyone turned to Sask Sport to take over the program and expand it to other communities. At that point, none of the partners involved with Dream Brokers except Sask Sport was in a position to take over the program. As Currie explained, school division funding

changed, so they did not have the flexibility or resources to put more or new money into the program. Community activities, he said, do not fit the mandate of the school system because they are considered extracurricular — which meant having to address the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation. The City of Regina was also not in a position to take on another staffing responsibility or program initiative.

*Collectively, the group looked to Sask Sport, who initially told us they weren't in the business of running community programs. "We're here to support others who do that work." But this model didn't work for the city or the school divisions, so thankfully Sask Sport agreed to take the program on because they were the only player at the table who seemed flexible enough to make it happen.*<sup>105</sup>

Sask Sport not only decided to continue to fund the Dream Brokers program in Regina but also expanded it to Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

George Rathwell retired in July 2012 as Director of Education for the Saskatoon School Board. He had been a member of Sask Sport's Board of Directors from 2003 to 2007, serving as president in 2005–06. When he left the board, he said, "Listen, if there is ever an opportunity to bring things into Saskatoon into our school system, just give me a call." Sure enough, Rathwell got a call a few years

later asking for his help in expanding the Dream Brokers program to Saskatoon.<sup>106</sup>

Rathwell attributes the success of the program to the fact that Sask Sport hired tremendous role models, such as Michael Linklater, for Dream Broker positions. "People trust him and respect him for what he's accomplished in life. So we've been lucky in landing a guy like that."<sup>107</sup> Linklater joined the Dream Brokers Saskatoon team in 2011 and during his time there he delivered a powerful message to the children whom he met, and continued to meet through his work as a Sask Sport employee and his volunteer work to promote the First Nations Games.

Linklater participated in cross-country, track, volleyball and basketball throughout high school and excelled in all four, but he really left his mark on basketball.<sup>108</sup> He was the captain of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Basketball Team and led it to its first Canadian Interuniversity Sport title in 2009–10. He said that sport saved his life and taught him communication skills, added to his self-esteem and developed his character. "It kept me away from negative things and made me who I am today. I learned how to win with class and lose with dignity."<sup>109</sup> He added that through sport he learned valuable life lessons, such as pushing himself and working as a team, that are applicable to everyday life. He has travelled all over North America to meet people and play basketball at an elite level.<sup>110</sup>



Michael Linklater, captain of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies basketball team which won the Canadian Interuniversity Sport title in 2009–10. Courtesy SSI.

But Linklater says that he was destined to fail. He was born to an alcoholic mother, had an alcoholic grandmother and never knew his father. He has seen his birth mother only a few dozen times and was raised by his grandmother's sister and her family. He had trouble in school beginning at the elementary level and needed an extra year to pass high school. He was a teenage father. His best friend was killed in a fight at a party, by a guy with whom he was also buddies. Despite everything that stood in his way, Linklater refused to let the negative aspects of his

life define him or stop him from pursuing his dreams.<sup>111</sup>

Linklater and the other young people who have been hired as Dream Brokers are making real differences in their communities, said Rathwell.

*We've married the program to learning. . . . We've opened up those two schools to provide summer programming so [that] the gyms are open. But that's half day and then the other half day the school system pays for a teacher so that some of these kids that really need that extra help in the summer, and lose some of their literacy and numeracy skills over the summer, are getting a couple of hours [of] instruction a day [and] a couple of hours in the gym a day. It's that powerful. It levels the playing field a little bit, in more ways than one.<sup>112</sup>*

Rob Currie was thrilled that a program which started out as a kitchen table conversation that continued while he and his friends were rowing around Wascana Lake has thrived and grown. He was delighted to hear that Dream Brokers had expanded into Prince Albert, saying that he could hardly wait to call Bob Ellard, who now lives in Calgary, to tell him the good news.

## OPENING DOORS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Another segment of the Saskatchewan population that faces significant barriers to engaging in sport and recreational

activities is people with disabilities. Saskatchewan has the second-highest rate (14.5 percent) in Canada of people who live with disabilities. Nationally, only 3 percent of people with disabilities are active in organized sport. This is something that Sask Sport hopes to change through two programs established in 2010. The Adaptive Sport Equipment and Club Development Grants provide financial assistance for the purchase of adapted sport equipment and to support adaptive sport club development so that more people with disabilities can participate in organized sport programs in Saskatchewan. Active or affiliate members of Sask Sport are eligible to apply for support; in addition, member organizations can partner with local or community organizations/clubs to further develop capacity for adaptive sport programming in the province.<sup>113</sup>

One person pleased to see Sask Sport make investments in these programs is Paralympian legend Colette Bourgonje. She is one of Canada's most decorated athletes, with three silver and seven bronze medals to her name. She's also among the few Paralympic athletes who have medalled at both the Winter Games and the Summer Games, Bourgonje grew up in Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan and as a teenager she focused on track and field, twice attending national championships. In her final year of high school, in 1980, a car accident left her with a broken back, paralyzed from the waist down. Being confined to a wheelchair did not deter her from



Paralympian legend Colette Bourgonje competing at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Courtesy Canadian Paralympic Committee.

pursuing her love of sport. If anything, it made her more determined and in 1984, while attending the University of Saskatchewan, where she was studying to be an elementary school teacher, she acquired her first racing chair.<sup>114</sup>

After a number of years representing Canada as a wheelchair racer, Bourgonje found a new love in cross-country skiing: “I found cross-country skiing in 1991



and winter came alive for me again. When you're in a wheelchair, your balance is gone because snow presents challenges."<sup>115</sup> The one thing that might come close to rivalling her passion for sport is teaching, especially outdoor education. Bourgonje spent fifteen years teaching part time while maintaining the demanding training schedule that high-performance athletes need to succeed. Most of that time was spent in inner-city schools in Saskatoon. Although she had to put her formal teaching career on the back burner for the last few years as a Paralympian, she was still an educator through a part-time job at Sask Ski.

Through her work with Sask Ski, Bourgonje gave talks in schools and other community venues to promote skiing and healthy lifestyles. She found particular pleasure in helping to identify people who can benefit from the programs offered in Saskatchewan to assist people with disabilities to participate in sport. She exuded excitement as she talked about introducing children to sit-skiing: "I took a sit ski up to Christopher Lake, to a little girl in who had never had the chance to go out with her family, who are all able bodied. People's lives can change with a piece of equipment that allows them the chance to go outside and enjoy nature with their families." Bourgonje also spoke about a little boy who went out on a sit ski and then told his teacher that he had seen animal tracks in the snow for the first time. "He was able to enjoy winter and experience the

beauty of the outdoors for the first time — something most people take for granted. The bottom line," she stressed, "is that you want children to lead healthy, active lives and programs like these help remove barriers. If you don't have the equipment or the knowledge about it or how to do it, these are barriers we need to conquer — just giving people with disabilities the power to do these kinds of things."<sup>116</sup>

## IMPROVING THE SYSTEM OF DELIVERY

The partnership in northern Saskatchewan that fostered so many innovative programs also precipitated a major rethinking of how sport, culture and recreation services are delivered at the community level. In 2002, the Northern Recreation Coordinating Committee recommended that new governance models be considered to provide more effective service delivery. At about the same time, volunteers and staff in southeastern Saskatchewan also began considering different ways of working together. Patty Williams originally worked for the Zone 1 Sports Council and later became executive director of the new consolidated entity that emerged from these discussions. She said that the zone sports council and the regional recreation associations had collaborated for several years, often facing similar challenges and overlapping mandates. Volunteers had to be found for four separate boards as well as full- or part-time staff. "The basis of our discussion was administration," she said. "We were trying to develop these

four boards, their policies and their funding guidelines. All sorts of things were similar and there was overlapping work. We thought administratively we could become more efficient and save money and time. The main idea was not to bring in less money from our grant programs, but to use that money more effectively.”<sup>117</sup>

Out of these discussions came the idea for the three regional recreation associations and the Zone 1 Sports Council that Williams was working for to approach the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund to fund a pilot project in which they would submit a single application and work collaboratively to ensure that funds were used in the most cost-effective ways possible. This led to the Southeast Saskatchewan Association for Culture, Recreation and Sport. The pilot project was deemed a success after promising signs of the benefits and advantages to be achieved by an integrated structure for sport, culture and recreation services. The new organization was added to the Minister’s eligibility list for funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries and the original four groups were removed.<sup>118</sup>

This positive experience with amalgamation convinced other people involved in sport, culture and recreation programming that the system of delivery in the province could benefit from re-examination. The pilot project in the southeast, however, was only one reason why volunteers were more open to considering change. Now that the system was mature, the umbrella organizations

thought that it was time to examine its structures and functions to ensure that it was providing services and leadership efficiently and effectively. The provincial government had also just eliminated most of its regional staff, choosing to concentrate on policy development. All of these circumstances led Sask Sport, SPRA and SaskCulture in 2005 to develop a more collaborative provincial delivery system. *Building Better Communities* was the title given to the review of the system.<sup>119</sup>

Bruce Medhurst, who had just retired from the provincial government, in which he had spent the last half of his career working on policy in the lottery-funded sectors and community, was involved in this process. Between November 2004 and March 2005, Medhurst and the team of people assembled to work on this project criss-crossed the province to meet with volunteers and staff involved in delivering sport, culture and recreation programs and discuss options for restructuring the regional and zone delivery system that might better meet current and future needs.<sup>120</sup>

The province had created twenty-three regional recreation associations in the late 1960s and early 1970s to deliver programs throughout the province. Funding of these organizations was transferred from the government to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund in 1982. Eight zone sports councils had been established in 1972 to support the Saskatchewan Games. At the time, the regional services

boundaries of the former Department of Culture and Youth were used for the program, with two or three rural regions comprising a zone and Saskatoon and Regina forming their own zones. The number grew to nine in 2003 with a new zone in northern Saskatchewan. Funding of the zone sports councils was transferred to the Lotteries Trust Fund in 1991.<sup>121</sup>

Once the provincial government decided to remove civil servants from sport, culture and recreation programming, the role of these regional associations was unclear. As Medhurst described it, “We had all these structures out there that were getting lottery funding. Some of them had part-time staff, some didn’t. The volunteers were doing a good job — trying their best — but the structures to support them were not particularly effective anymore.” The question became, said Medhurst, “Could programs and services be provided in a more efficient manner?”<sup>122</sup>

The consultations led to a discussion paper that outlined possible structural changes to the region and zone delivery system. The paper was released in April 2005 and further consultations took place until June. The key recommendation was that a volunteer-driven “district” delivery structure be created to serve sport, culture and recreation in the future. Dennis Garreck served on the Building Better Communities Committee as SaskCulture’s representative along with Randy Durovick from SPRA and Mark Bracken from Sask Sport. As Garreck noted, the regional recreation associations had been set up more than thirty years earlier by the province as

consultation areas for the government and they were trying to do things that they used to do when government resources and staff were available to them. “The volunteer board and the part-time staff people just weren’t able to do what government used to do.”<sup>123</sup>

The final report contained a number of recommendations, but the most important called for the nine zone sports councils and twenty-three regional recreation associations to merge into nine new and separate district organizations. The first district to form officially under the new program was the Northern District for Sport, Culture and Recreation. It formed on August 9, 2006, as an amalgamation of the Sagastew, Beaver River, Neyanun, Clearwater and Athabasca Recreation Associations and the Zone 9 Sports Council. By February 2009, all nine districts had been established.<sup>124</sup>

At first, said Garreck, many people were not necessarily keen on this process: “Initially, there was a lot of turf protection. Some of the regions and the zones had money in the bank and they were unsure how their assets would be protected if they merged with each other. There was a lot of mediation and negotiation that went on.”<sup>125</sup> Communities are still adjusting to the changes, and challenges remain in delivering sport, culture and recreation programs at the community level, but one champion of the new system is Rob Boulding of Birch Hills.

Boulding has worked in the recreation field for

over twenty-five years as a program supervisor for Prince Albert, as a recreation director for Birch Hills and currently as a field consultant with SPRA. He believes that the Building Better Communities process has been really positive for the district where he lives. Boulding watched what happened in the north and in the southeast:

*I wanted Lakeland District to be the next district to form because we had a number of inefficient organizations. They were lottery funded, but they weren't functioning very well. We had some really strong people who didn't want to sit on these boards that were not functioning, but once we made this transition all of a sudden some really good people stepped up and we formed an excellent team. Now we've got a strong and efficient organization in the Prince Albert area. The district has an executive director and some recreation professionals and we partner with them all the time. We serve our communities better.<sup>126</sup>*



Courtesy Leader Post/Don Healy.



Clayton Gerein, Sask Sport's Male Athlete of the Year in 1987, 1996 and 2001, retired from competitive racing after the 2008 Beijing paralympics. He passed away at age 45 in 2010. Courtesy SSI.

## HELPING ATHLETES TO EXCEL ON PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGES

People get involved in sport for many reasons. Some participate for the fun of it, for the pleasure of spending leisure time with friends. Others are convinced to join a team or start a physical activity because a family member, friend, or teacher who loves a sport or feels strongly about the importance of an active lifestyle encourages them. Some people seem to be born with a competitive spirit. Sport comes easy to them and as long as they have opportunities, little needs to be done to convince them to participate. They love competition and the thrill of winning a game or achieving a personal best inspires them to work harder.

Saskatchewan has many homegrown sport heroes. Football is the only sport that has a professional team in the province, but Saskatchewan athletes regularly rise to national and international stages in many other sports. No

other jurisdiction, for instance, matches Saskatchewan's per capita record of producing National Hockey League (NHL) players. In an average season, nearly fifty players from Saskatchewan lace up their skates and play with NHL teams and many legendary players (past and present) got their start in small towns and cities across the province.<sup>1</sup> Saskatchewan-born curlers and speed skaters are also a permanent fixture at the highest levels of their sport. Curling superstars such as the Sandra Schmirler rink and speed skaters such as Catriona Le May Doan and Jeremy Wotherspoon have all made the province proud. Other sport legends, such as Graham DeLaet (hailed by many authorities to be one of the best golfers in the world) and Andrew Albers (who pitched for the Minnesota Twins), proudly call Saskatchewan home. Athletes such as DeLaet and Albers have overcome the odds to excel at sports





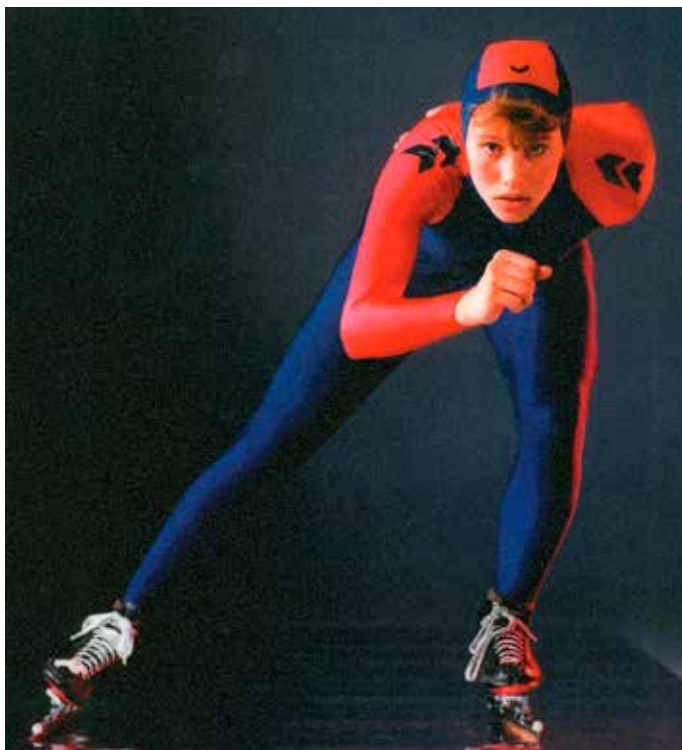
The Sandra Schmirler rink, Olympic Gold Medal curling champions in 1998. Designer Photography, courtesy SSHF.

that people in Saskatchewan can play for only a few short months of the year, and even then often at the whim of rain and wind.

To develop in their sport, many of Saskatchewan's most promising athletes have to leave the province. In a province that until recently has had trouble maintaining a population of over a million people, Saskatchewan simply does not have the coaching and facilities for many sports that more populous provinces have. When they leave, athletes who move up in the world of sport are usually quick to acknowledge their roots. Sport fans from Saskatchewan relish moments when athletes from their home province acknowledge where they got their start. As Le May Doan stood on the podium and was awarded the

gold medal for the 500-metre speed skating event at the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, she held a flag in each hand, one for her country and one for her home province. As the national anthem was sung, she waved both the Canadian flag and the Saskatchewan flag, flashing her trademark smile.<sup>2</sup>

Saskatchewan sport fans were once again proud when the charismatic speed skater was selected to be the flag-bearer for the opening ceremonies of the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002 — an honour bestowed more for an athlete's personal reputation and character than for his or her competitive record. Le May Doan did not let the province down. This time she became the first Canadian to win gold in back-to-back Olympics in an individual sport. As in her first trip to the Olympic podium, she did not forget to acknowledge her birthplace. From the stands, her brother-in-law Kevin threw her a Canadian flag. "Nobody was allowed to bring long poles into the Oval, for security reasons, so it had a short handle," she noted. "I picked it up and Kevin was yelling and pointing, so I looked . . . and just for a second, it was upside down. The Canadian flag! Oops," she said. Kevin also tossed her a Saskatchewan flag. "I carried that as well," said Le May Doan, who noted that her mom had brought the same flag to every Olympics — to Lillehammer, to Nagano — and she had given it to Kevin to throw. "So I picked it up. And everybody's yelling and screaming, the whole place is in an uproar. But the thing I



Two-time Olympic gold medalist Catriona Le May Doan skated in her first speed skating competition at the age of ten as a member of the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club. Top photo courtesy SSHF. Bottom photo courtesy SSI.

didn't realize until weeks later when I went to Saskatoon, because then people told me: 'When you carried the Saskatchewan flag? It was upside down! It was upside down the whole time!'"<sup>3</sup>

Le May Doan checked the photos and, sure enough. "You can see the green and the yellow and yes, that's the flag — but it's upside down! Everybody in Saskatoon said, 'Aw, who cares? What matters is that you carried it.'" While she carried the flags, her husband, Bart, was standing inside The Oval. She had skated half a lap when he handed her his cowboy hat. "I took his cowboy hat and put it on my head and I skated the rest of the victory lap like that — with the music blaring, carrying this huge Canadian flag and this tiny Saskatchewan flag and wearing Bart's big, black cowboy hat."<sup>4</sup> For her fans back home, these images are forever seared into their memories — the quintessential Olympic moment.

"My roots are in Saskatchewan and I wanted to show that I took pride in where I grew up."<sup>5</sup> Le May Doan moved to Calgary in 1988 to train with the national speed-skating team and continues to reside there. She recognizes, however, that it was not just hard work, determination and talent that got her to the podium. She knows that family support, and a vast volunteer network, were critical in allowing her to pursue her athletic dream of going to the Olympics. For Le May Doan, one of the people topping this list is Henrietta Goplen, who served as her coach from 1980

to 1988 when she skated with the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club.

Goplen grew up in a household with four brothers and remembers playing hockey with Gordie Howe on her family's backyard skating rink in Saskatoon. "My dad somehow or another would have the fire department come out and flood our whole back yard. It went from the back door to the land and from one side to the other of the yard. My mother counted one day and I was the only girl out on the ice with thirty-two boys playing hockey."<sup>6</sup> Henrietta was only ten years old when she first tried speed skating. Before long, she became one of Canada's top speed skaters, but women's speed skating events were not held in the Winter Olympics until the 1960s. So once she went to university she turned her attention to basketball and volleyball. She smiles when she says that if she had not shown an interest in the sport, her brother Craig (McKay), who made the 1948 and 1952 Canadian teams and competed at the Olympic level, would likely never have taken it up. "My mother wouldn't let me join the local speed skating club because I wasn't old enough — you had to be twelve — but one evening I snuck out and I don't know if I stamped my foot or cried, but Clarence Downey, the coach, said, 'Well, you're here now, you might as well skate.'" When Henrietta finally confessed to her mother what she was doing, her mother made her brother take her to the practices. "Craig was a really good hockey player, but

Clarence convinced him to give speed skating a try too."<sup>7</sup>

Henrietta did not return to speed skating until she was married and had a family. She became the first female speed skating coach in Canada when she started coaching in 1975.<sup>8</sup> Like many amateur sport volunteers, Goplen started coaching mainly because her children showed an interest in participating. "Gary wanted to do speed skating, but there was no coach — so the coach became me. Then Gordie, our youngest, also wanted to take up the sport, so I continued to coach."<sup>9</sup> Many of her young skaters, including her sons Gary and Gordon, rose to the national level. Gary did not make the Olympics, but he achieved much success in his career, winning a Canadian speed skating title in 1973, winning two medals in 1977 at the North American championships and representing Canada in the world junior and world men's championships.<sup>10</sup> Gordon went to the Canadian championships and won medals virtually every year until 1988, raced at the world championships in 1986 and represented Canada at the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.<sup>11</sup>

Now that Gordon has children of his own involved in competitive sport, he has a greater appreciation of all the volunteer work that his parents did when he was young and of how much work was done at all levels, from getting people into the sport, to maintaining the club, to coaching. He remembers all the work that his mom did, in addition to coaching, in organizing and running the Lions Speed Skating Club.

*I remember my mom a lot in her administrative role — fundraising and organizing things — with my dad downstairs polishing and sharpening the rental pool of skates. There's much more to a club than just coaching. Some people just drop their kids off and come back after a practice. That's not very helpful to the club and I find that that's not the kids that keep doing the sport. The kids that keep doing the sport are the ones where the parents stay and watch or pitch in and help the club out.<sup>12</sup>*

For her lifelong contribution to amateur sport, Henrietta Goplen was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 1989, the Speed Skating Canada Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Order of Canada in 2003. She retired in 2000 after sixty years of practising and coaching speed skating.<sup>13</sup> Her rule, according to Gordon, was that she would continue coaching as long as she could skate faster than the kids whom she was coaching. In addition to coaching, Henrietta contributed to the Lions Speed Skating Club in a number of other volunteer capacities, including as secretary and club historian. In 1974, she began working for the provincial association and assisted with the Canada Games, the Saskatchewan Winter Games, the Canadian Speed Skating Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.<sup>14</sup>

Every athlete who has represented Canada at the Olympics, laced up his skates to play in the NHL, or gone



Three Saskatchewan Olympian speed skaters – Craig McKay, Catriona Le May Doan and Gordon Goplen. Courtesy Sondra Goplen.

anywhere in his or her sport has someone like Henrietta Goplen to thank for playing a pivotal role. Often it is only after their days as competitive athletes are over that they truly understand the sacrifices of their parents and the hundreds of volunteers who enable the amateur sport system. Many athletes, such as Le May Doan, are inspired to carry on the tradition that their mentors — people like Henrietta — instilled in them and become volunteers for the sport clubs that their children join. For Le May Doan, that means helping to coach her daughter Greta's ringette team, a sport that she herself played before deciding to focus on speed skating. She has become an unofficial ambassador for ringette since returning to the sport herself on a recreational basis and after signing up her daughter in their local league. "[Ringette] truly builds incredible skaters," she said. "And, more even than being active, it builds confidence in girls. Because of the passing, you don't have one kid who goes out there and dominates. . . . It's very

inclusive because all the girls touch the ring. I love it. It's a game for life, it truly is."<sup>15</sup> As Le May Doan related to her friend and former coach, "I didn't realize how much work you did. Mrs. G's practices are just exhausting. You just get everybody there and into their equipment and on the ice and then you've got to get the next practice ready. It's work, work, work."<sup>16</sup>

These days, Henrietta says, her primary role is to act as "head cheerleader" for her grandchildren, who have continued to follow the McKay-Goplen speed skating tradition. Her grandson Nick (son of Gary and Nancy) came close to making the team for the Sochi Olympics and continues to train with the Olympic team while attending the University of Calgary, where he is studying pre-medicine. Her daughter-in-law Nancy is the head coach of the Kelowna Speed Skating Club and the Okanagan Regional Training Centre. She competed as a child and is a five-time national champion and she won a bronze medal at the 1977 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships.<sup>17</sup> Granddaughters Anna and Victoria (Gordon and Sondra's children) both skate with the Edmonton Speed Skating Association. Gordon jokes that both girls seem to have inherited some of their grandmother's genes because they are very competitive: "Anna (fifteen) is in a growth spurt right now, so she's a bit frustrated by not going faster and she's getting pains around her knees, but she's still gotten personal bests each time she's skated. Victoria (eleven) has

had a lot of medal success this year. She was third in the Canadians at Quebec City."<sup>18</sup>

Will any of Henrietta Goplen's grandchildren go on to Olympic success? That's beside the point, said Gordon. "My brother Gary has a good analogy. When it becomes more anxiety than excitement, it's time to stop." For now, Gordon is happy that his daughters find speed skating fun in a great social atmosphere with a group of friends with whom they enjoy spending time. His job as an orthopaedic surgeon does not allow him much time to volunteer, but he helps when he can, such as using his connection to former teammate Le May Doan, who played a role, he suspects, in getting a Zamboni for their club. "I sent her an email a couple of years ago pleading for help getting their old Zamboni from the Calgary oval and then all of a sudden we were notified that we were getting it."<sup>19</sup>

## **SUPPORTING A BROAD RANGE OF SPORTS**

Sask Sport has more than seventy active and affiliate members and represents more than 300,000 registered participants. The amateur sport network in Saskatchewan consists of provincial sport governing bodies, provincial multi-service sport organizations and districts for sport, culture and recreation. As Rob Kennedy, manager of high-performance sport at Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan, noted, "It would be easy for Saskatchewan to pick a couple of sports and give them a lot of support, but that's never



Rob Kennedy, Sask Sport's Manager of High Performance Sport, accepting the Rusty McDonald Cup in 1994–95 for exhibiting the highest qualities of sportsmanship and citizenry during his time playing volleyball for the U of S Huskies. Courtesy Special Collections and Archives, U of S, RG2095.

been our philosophy. It's always been a 'go wide' approach and it shows with the total number of sports that we've supported." He pointed out that Saskatchewan athletes are going through the provincial system and making national teams:

*Our Olympic representation for 2014 was really solid. Saskatchewan consistently sends more athletes than our per capita population would suggest we should. We're about 3 percent of the population and we're generally always above that 3 percent of the Olympic team. We might have some consistent sports where we send athletes to the Olympics or other national-*

*and world-level events, but, if you look at the total number of sports supported by the lottery system and the overall performance of our athletes, you'll see it's a large number. A wide range of athletes from a number of different sports have made it through the amateur sport system in Saskatchewan to the top levels of their sport and that speaks to the investment that we have made in the system.<sup>20</sup>*

Over the years, Sask Sport has worked hard to support its member organizations to achieve competitive excellence and success at regional, national and international levels. This requires highly developed plans, access to top-notch facilities and high-performance competition, highly trained and certified coaches and officials, strong funding programs and integrated use of sport science and medicine services.<sup>21</sup> Services and support aimed at developing more athletes and achieving better results at national and international competitions continue to evolve and improve, but many of the efforts to support competitive sports are steeped in history. Members of the amateur sport community can look back in pride at the roles that they have played and continue to play in the development of a multifaceted system that supports the progression of athletes from the entry level to the highest level of competitive sport.



## MULTI-SPORT GAMES

Competitive game events that simulate the Olympic experience have been a part of Saskatchewan's cultural fabric since Canada's centennial year in 1967, when the first Canada Winter Games were held in Québec City. Since then, nation-wide games have been staged for summer and winter sports, each in four-year cycles. Athletes from all ten provinces and Canada's territories compete in a variety of team and individual sports, usually those contested in the Olympics. The primary goal of the Canada Games is to give promising young athletes the experience of a multi-sport competition in a provincial team context — not just to give elite athletes an opportunity to compete. For this reason, maximum age limits ranging from seventeen to twenty-three are enforced.<sup>22</sup>

Catriona Le May Doan looks back on the first time she went to the Canada Games with fondness. She was just twelve years old when she competed at the 1983 Canada Games in Saguenay, Québec. She won a bronze medal in short-track speed skating as a member of Saskatchewan's 3,000-metre relay team. Four years later she was back with one focus — to win medals. She returned home from Cape Breton with silver and bronze medals. Five years after that, Le May Doan made her Olympic debut at the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France. The Canada Games, she said, helped to ensure that she was prepared when she went to the Olympics. "The Canada Games is a mini Olympics," she

said. "It introduces you to the ceremony, staying in a village, wearing accreditation, getting to your venue, the logistics of an Olympic Games. You draw on the fact that 'hey I've been in this situation.'"<sup>23</sup>

Saskatchewan has hosted the Canada Games three times. The first time was in 1971, when Saskatoon welcomed athletes from across the country to compete in the Winter Games. In 1989, Saskatoon again hosted the national games — this time for summer sports. Then, during the province's centennial year in 2005, Regina and surrounding communities rolled out the welcome mat for the tenth Canada Summer Games.<sup>24</sup> Shortly after the Canada Games were introduced, the Saskatchewan Games were implemented to promote province-wide involvement and provide smaller communities with new or upgraded facilities. The Saskatchewan Games follow a similar schedule to the Canada Games in that both Summer and Winter Games are staged in four-year cycles. The games now occur in the same years as their Olympic counterparts. Athletes from Saskatchewan can also compete against the best athletes from Canada's three territories and British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba in the Western Canada Summer Games, held every four years in the odd-numbered years between Canada Summer Games. Saskatchewan played a lead role in introducing the Western Canada Summer Games and was the first province to host them in 1975. Saskatchewan has also taken

a leading role in providing multi-sport opportunities geared to the Aboriginal community — playing host to the North American Indigenous Games in Prince Albert in 1993 and again in Regina in 2014.<sup>25</sup>

### **BUILDING MOUNTAINS: THE 1971 CANADA WINTER GAMES**

It was a huge feather in the province's cap to win the bid to host the Canada Winter Games in 1971. To be considered for such an important gathering of the country's elite amateur athletes, the host city has to have, or has to promise to build, high-calibre venues for all the participating sports. Members of the Saskatchewan Ski Association remember laughing when the announcement was made that Saskatoon was going to bid on the games. How, they wondered, could you have a Winter Games without ski racing? "Well," said Sid Buckwold, then the mayor of Saskatoon, "we'll just have to build a mountain." Buckwold recruited Ed Sebestyen, a long-time member of the Saskatoon Ski Club, to head the committee to make the bid and challenged him with this monumental task.<sup>26</sup>

There is a popular myth that Mount Blackstrap, about thirty-five kilometres south of Saskatoon, near the town of Dundurn, was built out of wrecked cars and garbage. "Wrong, all wrong. Pure horsefeathers," said Sebestyen. Mount Blackstrap, one of only a few human-made "mountains" in the world, was actually built with soil



To host the ski events for the 1971 Canada Games, the City of Saskatoon and the province had to promise to build a mountain. The result was Mount Blackstrap, about 35 km south of Saskatoon, one of only a few man-made "mountains" in the world. Unfortunately, the ski hill was closed in 2008 due to declining ridership. Courtesy Saskatoon Public Library.

excavated from the escarpment behind it. One story that is true is that over 4,000 pieces of four-inch pipe were drilled into the mountain and that an arrangement was made with a pulp and paper company in Prince Albert to whip off the tops of evergreens and jam them into the pipes. The pipes were then filled with water and the trees were frozen into place. Presto — windbreak and landscaping for the new mountain. Citizens of Saskatoon were also encouraged to donate their Christmas trees in the new year for this initiative.<sup>27</sup>

Another major challenge facing the Saskatoon Bid Committee was that there was no place to house the athletes. They could have been scattered all over the city

in hotels and motels, but that would have defeated the essential values of friendship and camaraderie fostered in athletes' villages at such multi-sport events. The universities and schools were fully occupied by students because the games were held in February, during the heart of the school year, so living in student residences was not an option. Mayor Buckwold came up with another bold idea. He was walking downtown one day and saw a closed-up four-storey building. Would it be a nutty idea, he wondered, to convert this old, vacant department store into living quarters for more than 1,000 athletes? If Saskatoon could build a mountain, he thought, perhaps it was not such a wild idea. Buckwold approached the owner, the T. Eaton Company and it not only agreed to lend the building free of charge but also offered to sponsor the costs of light, heat and water. It was not luxurious accommodation by any stretch, but it was warm and dry. For years to come, the Saskatoon Winter Games would be considered among the best games that the country ever hosted and they instilled a sense of community self-confidence that would serve Saskatoon and the province well into the future. Money raised was used primarily to support the construction of sport facilities.<sup>28</sup>

After those Canada Winter Games, the ski hill was sold to a private operator. Unfortunately, the hill has not seen any activity since 2008, when it was closed because of declining numbers of skiers. The provincial government

was unwilling to provide taxpayer money to developers to reopen the facility.<sup>29</sup> A developer from British Columbia raised the hopes of ski enthusiasts with a proposal to redevelop the hill in 2012 but dashed those hopes when the decision was made not to go ahead with the plan. Mount Blackstrap remains a landmark in west-central Saskatchewan and a reminder of what once was.<sup>30</sup>

### **KEEPING THE MOMENTUM GOING: THE SASKATCHEWAN GAMES**

“The thing that really sold the idea of holding provincial games to the people of Saskatchewan and to those people in a position to make decisions was the Canada Games in Saskatoon in 1971,” said Bill Clarke.

*There was so much camaraderie and nobody knew what to expect. Staying in the old Eaton's store and trailers and things like that. It was quite a situation to come into and it created a lot of friends and a lot of knowledge and a lot of interest in sport. So we decided that we needed a Saskatchewan Games where the smaller Saskatchewan cities could participate and have such an experience.<sup>31</sup>*

“We tried to make it like a mini Canada Games in Saskatchewan. Regina and Saskatoon, being two big cities, could always field the best athletes and the rest of the

communities could not field athletes because they had no opportunity to train them. They didn't even know where to look for them," said Clarke.<sup>32</sup>

Although the games were to be competitive, in the sense that athletes from each zone would come together to test their individual skills and abilities to work as a team, the primary purpose was to increase participation in sport across the province. As Ed Tchorzewski, the Minister responsible for amateur sport at the time, said,

*Talented athletes should be developed — not as stars, but as true representatives from a province where sports are part of life for the many and not the few. Such an environment gives added dimensions to the accomplishments of top athletes and also influences ordinary people to be more than passive spectators because they can come to know the satisfaction and enjoyment of sport through participation. The province, as a whole, benefits because of happier, healthier and more active people.*<sup>33</sup>

Although the primary purpose of the Saskatchewan Games is to encourage broader grassroots participation in sport, many coaches and people working with high-performance athletes recognize the benefits of providing opportunities to participate in a multi-sport experience. As Dr. Don Clark, former director of the National Coaching Institute

in Saskatchewan, explains, prior to the Saskatchewan Games many athletes were only involved in competitions specific to their sport. He echoes the sentiments of Catriona Le May Doan about the importance of providing opportunities for athletes to attend multi-sport events to prepare them for higher-level competitions down the road. "At multi-sport events like the Canada Games or the Olympics," says Clark, "there's so much going on — all the teams, all the activities — there's a lot of distractions. If athletes have the chance to take part in the Saskatchewan Games prior to these larger types of events, it helps them learn to cope with all these types of distractions."<sup>34</sup>

When the Saskatchewan Games were first implemented, the province was divided into eight zones, with Saskatoon and Regina each considered an individual zone. To encourage greater participation in northern Saskatchewan, a ninth zone was added in 2000 for the summer games held that year in Yorkton. Because of the need for facilities of certain standards to hold the competitions and house the athletes, only communities with a minimum population of 5,000 people are eligible to host the games. This means that, as of 2014, only fourteen communities in the province can host the games. Regina and Saskatoon are not eligible to host the Saskatchewan Games because they have the resources to hold other major events, such as the Canada Games and the Western Canada Games.<sup>35</sup>

The decision that the province would support amateur sport through development of the Saskatchewan Games was an exciting moment at Sask Sport's first official AGM in 1972. At this gathering, Attorney General Roy Romanow announced that the government would provide \$100,000 to underwrite the costs of the Saskatchewan Summer Games and would hire more staff to provide assistance for the games. The games would be held from August 31 to September 4, 1972. Romanow indicated that a location had not yet been determined but that letters had gone out from his office to the mayors of major centres in the province, inviting them to bid for the games.<sup>36</sup>

The province would provide financial assistance for feeding and housing the athletes and purchasing the medals, equipment and other items essential for hosting the games. As well, provisions were made for the province to cost-share with the host municipality to construct additional facilities needed for the games. "It is our hope that these Games will encourage greater participation, a better quality of performance and will thereby assist in selecting the best possible team to represent Saskatchewan in the 1973 Canada Games," said Romanow. "Naturally, we are soliciting the co-operation and support of Sask Sport, as well as the members of each provincial organization, in the staging of this event. We have made provision for your involvement in the planning and operation of every aspect of these Games."<sup>37</sup>

Four cities submitted bids to host the inaugural Summer Games, but it was Moose Jaw that made the final cut. The seventeen compulsory sports for the first Games included baseball, canoeing, cycling, diving, field hockey, lacrosse, lawn bowling, rowing, shooting, soccer, men's and women's softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, water polo and water skiing. The development of facilities that would endure long after the events were over was one of the main purposes of holding the games in smaller centres. Moose Jaw residents would benefit for years to come from the investment made in the riverside complex, where more than \$50,000 was spent to complete a first-class track and field facility. In total, more than \$106,000 was spent in capital investments for the first Saskatchewan Games.<sup>38</sup>

"The by-products of the games, of course," said Bill Clarke,

*were stronger competitive associations, and legacies in the way of facilities and something that puts the athletes in a good light — brings their day in the sun out. But the most important legacy is the people you get involved — not just the ones already involved in sport but those people you bring off the street who just hear about it and say, "Well, what can I do to help?" They find themselves helping and then find themselves committed to helping more and more people and they then begin taking up sport themselves. That's the*

*greatest by-product of the games — the new people who you bring in and the people you get a greater commitment out of to help. The truth is that without volunteers doing these things we couldn't afford sport. We could afford recreation, because that's what sport would become. It would become a place where people get around and associate — but the competitive sport aspect of it would really suffer if we didn't have people involved.*<sup>39</sup>

The Summer Games were a tremendous success and set the stage for the first Winter Games, held in North Battleford March 4–9, 1974. Eighteen sports were included: badminton, boxing, basketball, bowling, curling, fencing, figure skating, gymnastics, handgun, hockey, judo, skiing, speed skating, synchronized swimming, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling.<sup>40</sup> Shortly after the games, Keith Rogers, a young physical education teacher in North Battleford, applied for a job in the Sport branch of the Department of Culture and Youth. Rogers coached the University of Saskatchewan women's cross-country team and running teams while doing his master's degree and set up a track club when he moved to North Battleford. He had been on the Organizing Committee for the North Battleford Games, which gave him the opportunity to meet many of the people leading the sports division in the government. Rogers was excited about the opportunity

to move to Regina and be part of a team of people whose mission was to work with the volunteer community to increase access to sport across the province. His main role for the first number of years that he worked for the government was to assist in development of the National Coaching Certification Program and its implementation in Saskatchewan.<sup>41</sup>

For many years, civil servants such as Rogers played pivotal roles in sport programming in Saskatchewan. As he explained, before the lottery system was fully developed and the funding to the sector increased, provincial sport governing bodies could not afford to develop programs, train coaches and provide all the other supports necessary for the amateur sport system to flourish. “None of the volunteers had the time to put in to do a comprehensive coaching strategy for their coaches across the province,” said Rogers.

*When all the funding increased, they were able to hire executive directors, provincial coaches and program developers. All that used to be in the department. We would meet with the provincial sport governing bodies and offer assistance in the way of grants. We had all the money. As the lottery money went up, government funding came down. Now, instead of government doing all of this work, it's the sector itself that is doing it.*<sup>42</sup>



Initially, civil servants also took the lead role in overall management of the Saskatchewan Games and selection and management of the Saskatchewan team for the Canada Games. They were assisted by an advisory committee called the Saskatchewan Games Council, established in 1972.

The council had two representatives from Sask Sport, two members from the department, one official from SPRA and an ex-officio representative from the Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association. The first Saskatchewan Games Council chair was Wally Stinson, appointed by the minister for a four-year term as a non-voting representative.<sup>43</sup>

The Saskatchewan Games Council remained a committee of the government until 1991, when it was incorporated as an independent organization under the Non-Profit Corporations Act. That year the province also decided to downsize its sport programming staff and have the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system coordinate many of the functions formerly delivered by the government. Despite its change in legal status from an advisory committee of the government to a non-profit entity, the Saskatchewan Games Council continued to rely on staffing support from the government. “When the downsizing took place in 1991, I was fortunate enough to be able to maintain my position,” said Lorne Lasuita, who had moved into the games consultant position in 1989. “I stayed within the Sport branch to do multi-sport games.”<sup>44</sup>

More changes came in 2003 when the province,

through lottery licence negotiations, moved primary staffing for the Saskatchewan Games out of the government. Susan Schneider was hired as the Executive Director for the council. Funding for it would now come from Saskatchewan Lotteries directly instead of the government. Schneider had a wealth of experience in amateur sport in Saskatchewan as the manager of Team Saskatchewan’s swim team at the 1997 Canada Games and via her volunteer work as mission staff for several other games, as Executive Director of Sask Rowing and as office manager for Gymnastics Saskatchewan. For the first two years that she was with the Saskatchewan Games Council, Schneider reported to Ross Lynd, Chef de Mission for the games and employed by the provincial government. Lynd was one of only two employees who did not lose his job in 2004 when the government decided to get out of sport programming. That was the same year that Lorne Lasuita was seconded from the government to work for the 2005 Canada Games.

“I managed the sport and athlete services and medical sides of the Canada Games,” said Lasuita.

*When government abolished my position in 2004, they went to John Lee, who was the CEO of the Canada Games at that time and they asked him to keep me as the games manager. The government still managed the 2006 Saskatchewan Winter Games in Melfort, but after*

*those games were over they said they were wiping their hands clean of provincial games. The Canada Games were over in the fall of 2005 and I stayed on until the end of December and then in 2006 government decided they were completely out of programming. The Saskatchewan Games Council had a position open to do the multi-sport games consulting and I just happened to be available. So I was fortunate that the cards sort of fell at the right time and I was never really unemployed.<sup>45</sup>*

As Lasuita explained, when the government decided to get out of sport programming and turn over the Saskatchewan Games and logistical preparation of Team Saskatchewan for the Canada Games to an independent agency, everything went back to Sask Sport. “Sask Sport in its wisdom said, ‘Well, we have a group already in place to handle this work, so let’s turn it over to them.’ Today we are similar to the provincial sport governing bodies in the sense of our funding and how we operate.”<sup>46</sup>

As Lasuita and Schneider explain, the Saskatchewan Games Council is not there to develop the sport system. “That’s the job of the provincial sport governing bodies,” said Lasuita.<sup>47</sup> “Our role is to identify the sports that are in the games. We identify the host community and then work with that host community to implement their plans and operations until the games are over. We’re with the

community for about two and a half years.” When it comes to the Canada Games, the provincial sport governing bodies select the team and the Saskatchewan Games Council staff do the rest. “We organize their travel, their accommodation, their uniforms and all of that other stuff,” said Schneider.<sup>48</sup>

## THE WESTERN CANADA GAMES

Saskatchewan’s amateur athletes can also compete in the Western Canada Games held every four years, one year ahead of the Olympic Games. The Western Canada Games got their start in Saskatchewan. Because the first Saskatchewan Games in Moose Jaw were so successful, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Culture and Youth of the day, Frank Bogdasavich, said to Bill Clarke, “We’ve got to do this again next year because the politicians like it.” Clarke had a big discussion with him about this possibility. “I convinced him that annual games would soon wear out their value and [that] we wouldn’t have enough communities to host them. It would also get expensive.” When Bogdasavich finally agreed with Clarke, he said, “Well, you’d better find a substitute for the games.”<sup>49</sup> That was when the idea for the Western Canada Games came into being.

Joe Kanuka (president of Sask Sport at the time) and Guy Simonis (president of the Western Canada Lottery) remember the meeting in which Clarke first brought up the

idea of organizing the new games. “The Western Canada Lottery was really sport oriented,” said Simonis.

*So we had four sport guys sitting there as the head speakers for the provinces and then Bill said that, “Now that we have money from the lotteries, how about the four of us try to start something called the Western Canada Games? Do you think we can get our respective governments to pony up?” That was the middle of 1974. The next thing you know the Western Canada Games were in Regina as a direct initiative of Western Canada Lottery, on the urging of Bill Clarke.<sup>50</sup>*

178

The arguments for why the western provinces should cooperate to hold another major multi-sport event were compelling. Existing competitions were not seen to be adequate for developing athletes of national and international calibre. Western Canadian athletes were not seen to be progressing fast enough.<sup>51</sup> The Western Canada Summer Games were officially launched in Regina in August 1975, in a pre-Olympic Games year. Each of the four western provinces was represented by approximately 430 athletes, managers and coaches, for a total participation of 1,660. An additional 300 officials were required to conduct the various events.<sup>52</sup>

Since they were established, the Western Canada Games have been staged in Saskatchewan four times: Regina, 1975 and 1987; Saskatoon, 1979; and Prince Albert,

1999. They will make their return to Saskatchewan in 2019.<sup>53</sup> In 1983, the Yukon and Northwest Territories applied for membership and sent athletes to the games for the first time. The 1990 Summer Games, held in Winnipeg, saw provincial/territorial team sizes grow to more than 700 athletes and coaches participating in thirty-one sports, with the focus shifting from the original pre-Olympic showcase of the “Best in the West” to a broader approach that allowed each sport to determine its age group. This approach taxed the financial capacities of the provinces and territories and the mix of categories was difficult for the hosts to market and for provinces and territories to rationalize their involvement. For a time, Alberta and Yukon withdrew from the games because they thought that there was no clear focus or fit for the games within their overall strategies for amateur sport.<sup>54</sup>

Over the next number of years, work was done to refocus the games, with more sports fitting into the model of developing athletes’ ages eligible for the next Canada Games. As a result, both Alberta and Yukon were welcomed back in 1999 and in 2003 Nunavut debuted as the third territory to participate, bringing the total membership of the Western Canada Summer Games to seven jurisdictions. The current rationale for the Western Canada Games is to bisect the Canada Summer Games cycle and provide an opportunity for top age-class athletes to test their abilities against the best in the west.<sup>55</sup>



Rick Folk Curling Team, Canadian Mens Champions 1980. Courtesy SSHF.

## THE 1989 CANADA GAMES

Members of Saskatchewan's amateur sport community took notice when Premier Grant Devine appointed Rick Folk as Minister of Culture and Recreation in 1983. The world-champion curler, who represented the Saskatoon University constituency in the provincial legislature, became a huge champion for amateur sport during his time in government. His Saskatoon rink won the provincial men's championships in 1978, 1979 and 1980 and took the Canadian crown in 1980. At the world championships in 1980, his rink went undefeated to capture the Silver Broom — an honour that got them inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame that year.<sup>56</sup>

"The year I was asked to go into cabinet, 1983, was the year we won the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships," said Folk. "I'll always remember the date because my wife, who was on our curling team, was

pregnant at the time with our daughter." The former cabinet minister and champion curler joked that both of his children were born in important "curling" years. "My wife was pregnant with our son Kevin when we won the world men's championships in 1980."<sup>57</sup>

Folk had to cut down on his curling a fair bit during his years in politics, but his interest in sport would be put to good use during these years. One of the first events that he went to as minister was the Canada Summer Games in Saint John, New Brunswick. That year Saskatchewan finished eighth out of eleven teams. "I wasn't too proud of the way Saskatchewan did at those games," said Folk. "Being a sport guy myself, who liked to win and worked hard to win, I wanted to support Saskatchewan athletes. I thought, if our athletes weren't getting the proper training and the proper competitive fields, then maybe we should get that for them."<sup>58</sup>

Saskatchewan had never placed better than sixth overall at the Canada Games. It was clear to many people in the sport community, including Folk, that Saskatchewan athletes were not performing to their utmost potential and that, to see improvement, a high-performance development program was necessary.

With this in mind, Folk returned to Saskatchewan and issued a challenge to provincial sport governing bodies to achieve peak performance of athletes at the Canada Summer Games to be held in Saskatoon in 1989.<sup>59</sup> Sport

governing bodies were asked to identify what was necessary to create the environment, resources and opportunities for Saskatchewan athletes to significantly improve their performance at future games.<sup>60</sup>

Details of the Sask First Program were unveiled on March 20, 1986. “The challenge was met by the provincial sport governing bodies,” wrote Folk in a media release, “and their program proposals are ready to go.” Funding would be available for coaching development, talent identification, athlete/team training, competitive experience and sport science.<sup>61</sup> Over four years, \$10.4 million in lottery funds would be used to assist the eighteen provincial sport governing bodies in preparing athletes to compete at the 1987 Canada Games in Nova Scotia and the 1989 Canada Games in Saskatoon.<sup>62</sup>

“We were trying to level the playing field for our athletes and actually get ahead of it too,” said Folk. “The sport organizations were great, you know. They came up with good proposals and ideas and that’s part of the reason why the results were so good.”<sup>63</sup> Although the program had five key components that all sports could access, it was flexible enough that it could address different needs of different groups. For instance, some teams needed more training. Others required more competition.<sup>64</sup>

Wayne Hellquist agreed to chair the Minister’s Advisory Committee for Sask First. When he was on Sask Sport’s Board of Directors, as vice-president in charge of



Dr. Vera Pezer contributed to many sporting organizations. She was a Canadian curling champion, Canadian softball champion and a member of the Saskatchewan senior women’s golf team. As a sport psychologist, she served as advisor and trainer to Canadian curling teams in two Olympic Games. Courtesy U of S Archives and Special Collections.

programming, he played a key role in helping to design Sask First. As well as his volunteer work with Sask First, Hellquist served on the Board of Directors of the Sport Federation of Canada and the Canadian Olympic Association. Volleyball was the sport that he loved the most. Over the years, he had been heavily involved at national and provincial levels as a volleyball coach and administrator.<sup>65</sup>

As Hellquist explained, one spinoff of Sask First, beyond providing resources and opportunities for Saskatchewan athletes to excel on provincial, national and international stages, was a model for provincial high-performance systems across Canada. The first component of the system was the recruitment of professional coaches. Each provincial sport governing body was allowed to hire a full-time coach to work with its high-performance athletes.

Once the coaches were in place, money was provided to assist them in identifying talent, bringing the talent together and providing the athletes with the opportunity to train more regularly and under better conditions than before.<sup>66</sup>

A third component of Sask First was the opportunity for competition. Before the program, most provincial sport governing bodies did not have the resources for their athletes to attend competitions outside the province or Canada or to host competitions in the province that could draw in top teams. A fourth component of the program was sport science, which offered financial assistance for fitness testing to help determine what shape Saskatchewan athletes were in and what kind of training would help them to give their best performances. As well, sport psychology was made available to assist athletes in terms of mental preparation for competition. The last component of the program was money to help officials become better.<sup>67</sup>

According to John Lee, Sask First was on the cutting edge. By this time, Lee had moved to Regina from North Battleford to work as the director of Sask Sport's Program Division. "We were a leader in high-performance sport. No one in the country was thinking the way we were," he noted. "We were taking money and investing it in sport sciences. There were partnerships created with the two universities to have sport science centres. We hired a full-time sport psychologist to work with Team Saskatchewan. It was incredible."<sup>68</sup>

Lee recalled that Sask Sport was questioned by some people about the name of the program. "We got all kinds of folks criticizing us saying it was not realistic to think we could finish first — so why would we call it Sask First? Well, any athlete wants to finish first and it's not so much that Saskatchewan would place first in overall standings, but you want all your teams wanting to excel and finish first." It did not take long for the program to prove itself. Canadians witnessed Team Saskatchewan's incredible performance in Sydney, Nova Scotia, in 1987 at the Canada Winter Games. It was the first time that any Saskatchewan team had finished better than sixth place in any Canada Games competition. Individual athletes from almost every sport equalled or surpassed previous bests and most Saskatchewan teams placed higher in the standings than they had in 1983.<sup>69</sup>

All eyes were on Saskatoon, though, where the Canada Games would be held in 1989. Like the first time the city hosted the Canada Games, back in 1971, Saskatoon demonstrated to the rest of the country that it was up to the task of hosting more than 1,600 athletes, close to 600 coaches and managers and thousands more family members and supporters. Saskatoon put on a show that few people in the amateur sport community would soon forget — largely thanks to the 8,500 volunteers (a games record to that date) who rolled up their sleeves to make the games a success. A great deal of planning and time was put into organizing the games. Nowhere was this more evident





The Saskatchewan men's C-4 canoe/kayak team, consisting of (from left) Liam Folk, Nicolaas Smith, Cory Rublee and Jacque de Jager, celebrates its victory in the 1,000m race. Courtesy Leader Post/Bryan Schlosser.

than with preparations for the rowing venue — the South Saskatchewan River. The river channel had to be dredged out and narrowed to prevent sandbars from forming. Numerous improvements were made to sport facilities, but one of the greatest legacies of the 1989 Canada Games was the construction of the Games Plaza, which continues to be used for special events in Saskatoon.<sup>70</sup>

Saskatchewan moved from an eighth-place finish at the Canada Summer Games in Saint John in 1985 to a fourth-place finish in Saskatoon in 1989 and received the coveted Centennial Cup — given to the province that makes the biggest improvement from the previous games.<sup>71</sup> “Lots of other provinces started to look at what Saskatchewan was doing and began to do the same thing,” John Lee said.<sup>72</sup>

A surplus of more than \$1.6 million was generated from the 1989 Canada Games and put into the Jeux Canada Games Foundation. Since 1989, the Foundation has

distributed annual grants accrued from the interest on the invested funds to hundreds of qualified non-profit sport organizations. The foundation gives priority to proposals that will have long-lasting benefits for amateur sport in Saskatchewan and proposals that assist the development of coaching and grassroots sport development.<sup>73</sup>

## THE 2005 CANADA GAMES

Saskatchewan hosted the Canada Games for a third time in 2005. This time the summer spectacle took place in Regina, Moose Jaw, Lumsden and Saskatchewan Beach. More than 4,300 athletes, artists, coaches and managers attended the games, which took place over a two-week period from August 6 to August 20. There were more than 18,300 spectators and approximately 200 members of the media, as well as VIPs, including federal and provincial/territorial sport ministers who held a meeting in the Queen City in conjunction with the event.<sup>74</sup>

As with previous times that the national games had been held in the province, the 2005 Games left a legacy of new and improved sport facilities, hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of sport equipment that would be donated to sport and community associations and rekindled volunteer spirit. John Lee took a leave from his position as executive director of the Sport Programming Division of Sask Sport to become General Manager and Chief Operating Officer of the 2005 Canada Games. “The first strategic decision we



Bob Ellard, Volunteer President, Canada Summer Games, 2005.  
Courtesy Leader Post/Don Healy.

made,” said Lee, “was that putting on a good sporting event was important, but what was as or more important was the legacy that would be left behind after the games were over.”<sup>75</sup>

Another decision made early in the planning process was to hire a full-time project manager. “We were the first games to ever create a project management office,” said Lee. “At first, we took a lot of heat on this, but it proved to be the best decision we made. It was basically the glue for how we managed the multiple pieces within the games.”<sup>76</sup> The involvement of professional project managers was so successful in the planning and execution of the 2005 games that the new model and management processes were passed on to the Canada Games Council and subsequent Planning Committees have benefited from the innovations developed in Regina.<sup>77</sup>

More than \$120 million was spent on new construction and upgrades, of which \$37 million was a direct result of hosting the Games. The Games were an important factor in securing funding for a number of other projects throughout Regina, including the new multipurpose facility in the former Queensbury Downs Racetrack at Regina Exhibition Park, now called the Credit Union Eventplex. It was used to host wrestling during the games and played a key role in securing future events, such as the 2006 Tim Hortons Brier and the 2007 Canadian Gymnastics Championships. The games also served as a catalyst to gain support for the construction of two new student residences and the new Kinesiology and Health Studies Building at the University of Regina.<sup>78</sup> “The residences weren’t anticipated to actually be built until after the Games,” said Lee, “but the university determined they could make a strong business case to step up the construction schedule.”<sup>79</sup>

One of the most dramatic projects ever undertaken in Regina’s history — the “Big Dig” of Wascana Lake — was also pushed up on the priority list because of the Canada Games. The multi-million-dollar project lifted millions of cubic metres of dirt and goose poop from the drained bottom of Wascana Lake to save the lake from becoming a marsh by deepening it by eighteen to twenty-six feet.<sup>80</sup> Bob Ellard, Board Chair and Volunteer President of the 2005 Canada Games, was likely one of the happiest people

in Regina as he watched the national rowing events on Wascana Lake. As former *Leader-Post* executive editor Bob Hughes wrote,

*Ellard has as much to do with the rebirth of rowing in Regina as anyone did. . . . If there ever was a single group of people who bawled, hammered the table, cried, snorted their disgust, wrote letters, lobbied governments, grew angry and frustrated, but never gave up hope, over the state of Wascana Lake, then it was the Regina Rowing Club. The weeds that choked their oars, the steadily decreasing depth, the annual stench that rose thick into the air, all had turned what should have been one of the most magnificent rowing facilities in the country into a disgrace.<sup>81</sup>*

The human legacy of the 2005 Canada Summer Games was arguably just as important as, or even more important than, the capital and financial contributions. The Games set a record of more than 6,000 volunteers. For the first time in the history of the Games, a plan was initiated to create opportunities for underrepresented populations, including Aboriginal people, visible minorities and multicultural communities. The Canada Games Diversity Agreement laid the foundation for future initiatives involving sport and cultural communities. Developing Aboriginal volunteers had been recognized for years as an important goal in

amateur sport and Aboriginal communities and the games provided a boost with long-term implications for Aboriginal sport development. As part of the efforts toward inclusion, for instance, an agreement was reached with the Gordon First Nation to provide mentorship and learning for Aboriginal volunteers.<sup>82</sup>

The partner organizations that came together to host the 2005 Canada Games were also thrilled to turn over a profit of \$3.4 million, more than triple the anticipated amount. The profit was increased \$2.5 million through matching dollars and gifts in kind from the stakeholders that came together to



Arnold Boldt, world's top amputee high jumper. Boldt's record, 1.96 m, set in 1980, still stands. Courtesy SSHF.

help the Canada Games team develop the Building Dreams and Champions Legacy Program. Sask Sport manages the program on behalf of the Canada Games Council.<sup>83</sup>

Although most of the original money used to establish new and innovative programs such as Dream Brokers — designed to encourage inner-city children and youth to participate in sport and cultural activities — has been spent, many programs made possible by the financial legacy of the Games have been so successful that they continue to be funded. In fact, programs such as Dream Brokers have grown thanks to continuing contributions and support from Sask Sport and other community partners. The Canada Games Saskatchewan Coach Employment Program received a one-time contribution of \$900,000 from the Summer Games. This money provided the opportunity for provincial sport governing bodies to hire coaches for their high-performance athletes.<sup>84</sup>

## THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

Canada has participated in every Summer and Winter Paralympic Games since 1968 and has always ranked among the top countries. Numerous athletes from Saskatchewan have made their way to the podium over the years.<sup>85</sup> Initially, the Paralympic Games and Olympic Games took place at different times, but that changed in 1988 when the decision was made to hold the events within two weeks of each other, using the same venues and organizing

committees. Today the Paralympic Games is one of the largest sport events in the world.<sup>86</sup>

Arnold Boldt was one of the first athletes to represent Saskatchewan at the Paralympic Games. He lost his right leg in a grain auger accident when he was only three years old, but that did not stop him from participating in a variety of sports, including swimming, skiing, volleyball and track and field.<sup>87</sup> Sport reporter John Chaput refers to Boldt as the first real star of disabled sports in Canada. “Boldt had to be seen to be believed and appreciated,” says Chaput, who describes watching him compete in high jump. “Having no right leg, he would hop several times on his left, spring off the ground — waaaay off the ground — and launch his head, torso and leg over the bar. Witnessing this for the first time was like seeing your first knuckleball: ‘Brain to eyes, reality check!’”<sup>88</sup> Boldt considers himself fortunate to have had the opportunity to train with the same coach at the University of Saskatchewan as pentathlete Diane Jones Konihowski, who won two gold medals at two Pan-American Games and represented Canada at two Summer Olympics.<sup>89</sup>

Boldt remembers the day that he met Lyle Sanderson, who captured nineteen Western Conference team titles and five Canadian team titles during his tenure as head athletics coach for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Sanderson was selected as coach for the Canadian teams at the 1976, 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games; the 1978 British Commonwealth Games; the 1987 Pan-American Games; the



Lyle Sanderson, University of Saskatchewan track coach, coached, mentored and advised an endless number of athletes, coaches, teachers and sport administrators, including pentathlete Diane Jones Konihowski and paralympian Arnold Boldt. Courtesy U of S Archives and Special Collections, A-11678).

1973 and 1983 World University Student Games; and the 1977 Pacific Conference Games.<sup>90</sup> “I was introduced to him and he took a look at me and said he didn’t know what he could do and then said, ‘Well, let’s invent it. Let’s figure it out.’ He didn’t back away. He said, ‘Okay, let’s go for it.’” Boldt says that the bulk of the competition during his university years was with the able-bodied. “I was jumping with the CIU in university and for other track clubs.” He remembers when he was high-jumping at home as a child wondering what it would be like if he could compete against people who were amputees like him. “I remember having that thought and just always keeping that in the back of my mind, wondering what it would be like.”<sup>91</sup>

Stan Holcomb, who worked for the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, introduced Boldt to the Paralympics (at that time known as the Olympiad for the Physically Disabled).

*He was the fellow who was making my legs at the time. He asked me if I wanted to play wheelchair basketball, because a lot of the amputees were doing that at the time. I played that a little bit, but it was terribly hard to do and you got a lot of blisters on your hands. I ended up playing volleyball and then Stan told me that I should try out for the games that were coming up in 1976. That was the first Olympiad where amputees, the blind and those with cerebral palsy were invited. Up until then, it had only been competitions for people who would compete in wheelchairs.<sup>92</sup>*

Boldt stunned spectators in Toronto by winning gold medals, and setting world records, in both high jump and long jump. His records also earned him an award for the most outstanding single performance during the Games. That was just the start of his Paralympic glory.<sup>93</sup> He travelled to Arnhem in 1980, to New York/Stoke Mandeville in 1984, to Seoul in 1988 and to Barcelona in 1992, winning seven gold medals and one silver medal overall. He made his Paralympic debut in paracycling at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, placing twelfth in both individual time trial and individual pursuit. For his achievements in sport



and for his contributions as a role model for people with disabilities, Boldt was appointed to the Office of the Order of Canada in 2012.<sup>94</sup>

“Canada was top five as far as medals go for I don’t know how many years,” said Boldt. “The support from Saskatchewan and also from Canada was incredible. For me, it was amazing that there was funding to attend national events. I didn’t have to raise money to travel. I had to work in between competitions, but I didn’t have to raise money to travel. So that part was good.” Unfortunately, during most of Boldt’s prime competitive years, Paralympic athletes were not eligible for carding based on the same criteria that able-bodied athletes were. “I really wish that would have been there. It would have made a difference in my life. I think I would have done more and better.”<sup>95</sup>

Colette Bourgonje is another celebrated Paralympic athlete from Saskatchewan. She remembers the first time that she saw Boldt compete. “I remember him as an able-bodied athlete. I remember being at a track meet in Brandon, Manitoba and everyone saying to me ‘You’ve got to see this guy high-jump. He is just amazing.’ And then I got to meet him in person in 1992 in Barcelona,”<sup>96</sup> where Boldt got a gold medal in high jump.

Bourgonje represented Canada as a wheelchair racer at the Summer Paralympics in Barcelona and Atlanta and competed as a cross-country skier at the Winter Paralympics in Albertville, Lillehammer, Nagano and



Lisa Franks from Moose Jaw is one of Saskatchewan’s most celebrated Paralympians. Courtesy Canadian Paralympic Committee.

Vancouver. She won bronze medals in the 100-metre and 800-metre wheelchair races at the Barcelona Paralympics in 1992 and she won two more medals in wheelchair racing at the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996 — bronze medals in the 100-metre and 200-metre events. Bourgonje decided to focus on winter sports after she took up cross-country skiing as a hobby in 1991. A friend introduced her to the sit ski in Saskatoon’s Kinsmen Park and she was immediately hooked on the sport. “I remember thinking ‘This is awesome.’ I have a picture and there’s a big smile on my face. Winter came alive for me again.”<sup>97</sup>

In 1998, Bourgonje won two silver medals in sit-ski events and in Torino in 2006 she won another two bronze



medals. In 2010, she won bronze and silver medals at the Vancouver Paralympics. At the closing ceremony of the Vancouver games, she was awarded the Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award. “I couldn’t have written a better script for 2010,” said Bourgonje. “Whang Youn Dai is such an amazing person.”<sup>98</sup> As a child, she was stricken with polio and overcame her disability with her strong will to be the first person with a disability to become a medical doctor in South Korea. She has dedicated her life to promoting the welfare of people with disabilities. She is the former vice-president of the Korean Sports Association for the Disabled and the former National Paralympic Committee. For her distinguished service, she was selected by the Korean press to receive the Award of Today’s Woman in 1988. At the Seoul Paralympics, she contributed her award money to the International Paralympic Committee. It decided to establish an award in her honour, for athletes who see beyond their personal limitations by having a vision to change the world through sport and the Paralympic Games.<sup>99</sup>

“The chefs de mission from all the countries participating in the games submit names that they feel are deserving of the award and then you have an interview at the games,” said Bourgonje. “Then the committee chooses the person that gets the gold medal. Receiving this award was a total honour.”<sup>100</sup> The people on the committee for this prestigious award likely saw the enthusiasm that Bourgonje has for teaching and introducing children to sport.

The year that Bourgonje decided to give wheelchair racing a try for the first time, a man who would become her friend and mentor a few years later was making his Paralympic debut. An accident while training racehorses had left Clayton Gerein without the use of his legs, but that did not stop his competitive spirit. He competed in his first Paralympic Games in 1984 as a swimmer, finishing in the top ten in five different events. From 1985 to 1991, he also competed in wheelchair rugby and was part of a team that won the national championship five times. It was in athletics, though, that Gerein established himself as one of Canada’s top athletes. From 1988 to 2008, he raced in six consecutive Paralympic Games and won thirteen medals, including six golds. He was particularly known for the marathon — an event that provided five of his Paralympic medals — even winning the Boston Marathon’s Wheelchair Division in 2000.<sup>101</sup> In 2010, Gerein was part of the Vancouver Olympics Torch Relay. He carried the torch through Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan, for one portion of the relay. He passed away just two weeks later from a brain tumour.<sup>102</sup>

*“Clayton was just an amazing guy,” said Bourgonje. We did a lot of trips together and he was such a joy. To see how hard he trained and his passion for wheelchair racing definitely inspired me to train harder. I’m grateful to Sask Sport, because they supported all the wheelchair racing events I did with Clayton in the ’90s.*

*We wouldn't have been able to do all the racing and all the travelling we did without that support.*<sup>103</sup>

Gerein was an inspiration to many other people, including Moose Jaw's Lisa Franks, a six-time Paralympic gold medalist in athletics and wheelchair basketball. "My life was forever altered the day I met Clayton," said Franks. "Clayton introduced me to wheelchair racing and coached me while I competed on the Canadian Team."<sup>104</sup> Gerein also served as a volunteer board member for the Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association and was the Saskatchewan coordinator for Bridging the Gap, an organization that introduces persons with disabilities to different sporting events and he was a much-sought-after motivational speaker.<sup>105</sup>

## **SUPPORT FOR HIGH-PERFORMANCE ATHLETES**

Finding the right balance between putting money and time into developing, sustaining and improving programs aimed at introducing people to sport and encouraging them to continue to participate throughout their lives as a way to keep fit and have fun and helping athletes who show talent in their chosen sport to progress to higher levels, is one of the greatest challenges facing sport administrators and policy analysts around the world. Even in places where sport appears to be well funded relative to other countries or provinces, money is limited and priorities have to be made. When up against increased demands for funding

from health care or education and other public priorities, amateur sport is often one of the first areas to be cut.

Being selected for a provincial or national team or representing your sport at the international level does not come easy. It is something that many athletes aspire to but few achieve. The realization of this dream comes with many challenges, personal sacrifices and financial hardships for both the athletes and the parents or guardians who help them on their athletic journeys. Ask almost any parent of a high-performance athlete and he or she will tell you stories of how expensive sport has become.

Erica Beaudin was only half joking when she said "I have a second mortgage on my house and my second mortgage can be called baseball." The proud Regina mother's son, Brandon Beaudin-Herney, showed a natural talent for baseball when he was young. He was eventually selected to play with Team Saskatchewan and to participate in the Canada Games. He also enjoyed playing hockey, but eventually, Erica said, she had to make her son choose between the two sports. The demands of her job, which included much travelling, and two other children who also wanted and deserved the chance to participate in after-school activities, meant that something had to give.

*I have a fairly comfortable income, but I would still have to scrounge around in order to find airfare for him to go to tournaments. Flights to Moncton, Ottawa, BC*

*cost thousands of dollars. Once you're at a certain level, you have to go to the tournaments. You can't say, "I'm sorry, we can't afford it," because that drops you off the radar immediately.*

His ball gloves alone can add up to \$500, with bats costing another \$200 — not to mention training costs.<sup>106</sup>

Beaudin gives a lot of credit to Ben Fines, owner and founder of Regina's High Performance Indoor Baseball and Softball Training Facility, for mentoring Brandon and encouraging him not to give up on the sport that he loved so much when he was going through a difficult time with the kind of coach that gives amateur sport a bad rap.

*He almost quit when he was twelve years old because he had a horrible coach and his confidence was so low. He never wanted to touch another baseball again. It chokes me up to think about the love and care Ben showed toward my son. He said, "Bring him down. I'll see what I can do for him." He did so much for my son. Brandon was practising anywhere from two to five to seven hours a day. Ben cut me some slack on the training fees because Brandon went so often and he knew that my son had a focus on the future.*<sup>107</sup>

The hard work paid off and Brandon was selected to play with Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Games in Moncton,

where he received a silver medal. In 2013, he received a scholarship from Monterey Peninsula College in California to play ball. He is working on a biological sciences degree and hopes to attend medical school. Whether he goes any further than the college level in baseball is the furthest thing from his mother's mind. Beaudin is just happy that he is having a great college experience and that he has become a well-rounded young man. She is quick to emphasize that baseball helped Brandon to excel in school. He had a heavy academic workload at Regina's Luther High School, but sport helped him to become disciplined and focused on the future in all aspects of his life.

One of the messages that Beaudin has worked hard to instill in her children is the need for them to give back to their communities and be good role models. "Last summer when Brandon came home from school, he put on some workshops and training days for our young First Nations kids as they prepare to compete in the North American Indigenous Games," she said. It was important to Beaudin that her son not take any money for doing this. Brandon is the first First Nations player to make Team Saskatchewan in baseball and the first First Nations player to play for the Regina Red Sox. "He didn't even have to try out for the Red Sox. They just put him on the active roster before he even came back to Canada. Regardless of where you go in what city in Saskatchewan, he's usually the only brown kid that's playing baseball in Saskatchewan."<sup>108</sup> Beaudin hopes that this will

change one day and that her son will play a role in opening doors for other First Nations youth. She knows that Brandon has a good message to deliver about the positive impacts on their lives of playing a sport and where it can take them.

### **SALUTING THE VOLUNTEER COACH**

Erica Beaudin applauds athletes such as Andrew Albers and Cymone (Bouchard) Bernauer for giving back to the community by acting as volunteer coaches at the high schools in which they teach: “It is so important to invest in high school sport. This is where there are probably the least barriers to participation. And it’s easier for parents to engage with their kids, because they can be observers instead of drivers or participants.”<sup>109</sup> Albers made the province proud when he became the first person from Saskatchewan to play Major League Baseball (MLB) since Terry Puhl from Melville wrapped up a fifteen-year career in 1991. Bernauer starred for the University of Regina’s women’s basketball team for five seasons, helping the Cougars to win the program’s first national title during the 2000–01 season.

The 2013 MLB season got a whole lot more exciting for fans from Saskatchewan on August 6 when Albers, who grew up in North Battleford, made his debut with the Minnesota Twins. The left-handed Albers earned instant acclaim by throwing over seventeen scoreless innings right at the beginning — making him the first pitcher since Tom Phoebus in 1966 to start a career 2-0 while throwing

at least eight innings of shutout ball in each game. Albers was also the first Saskatchewan native to earn credit for an MLB win since Reggie Cleveland, who played from 1969 to 1981.<sup>110</sup> Early in 2014, Albers signed a one-year, \$800,000 contract with the Hanwha Eagles of the Korean Baseball Association. The deal included a \$100,000 signing bonus.<sup>111</sup> Albers helped Canada win a gold medal against the US at the Pan Am Games in Toronto in 2015. He was also signed as a free agent by the Toronto Blue Jays.<sup>112</sup>

During the off season, Albers often heads home to work as a substitute teacher at John Paul II Collegiate, North Battleford’s Catholic High School. School principal Carol Hansen says that Albers fills in wherever he is needed. He teaches math and physical education and, because he is bilingual, is a French immersion instructor. During evenings and on weekends, he coaches the school’s junior boys’ basketball team. “When he subs, he’s here early in the morning working out, whether it’s in the weight room or throwing pitches,” Hansen said.

*Then he works hard, teaches here all day, then coaches in the evening. We’re really proud of him. Somebody was in my office earlier, talking about how you watch these guys on TV and they thank God, they thank this and that and you wonder how real it is. With Andrew, it’s all real. That’s just the way he is and that’s the person he is.*<sup>113</sup>

Albers is passionate about coaching: “I have been so fortunate to have had so many great coaches throughout my career — coaches who have had so much patience with me and have inspired me and given me the tools to be able to succeed.”<sup>114</sup> Albers has spent a lot of time reflecting on coaches who made a difference in his life:

*When you’re young you don’t realize how much time and how many sacrifices are made for you to get the chance to do various activities. For all the coaches out there who put in all that time for the young kids, thank you. You may not hear it very often, but it is greatly appreciated and you don’t realize the difference you are making in a lot of those kids’ lives. You never know who’s going to surprise you and turn out to be something special so don’t give up on them.*<sup>115</sup>

Albers started playing organized baseball when he was seven years old but remembers playing catch with his father in their backyard when he was about four. His dad, Bernie, was a right-handed pitcher for North Battleford’s senior men’s team, the Beavers.

*I remember watching him play and it looked like fun. So I gave it a shot! I was very fortunate to have my father along the whole way as my coach until I turned 18. Without him, I would have never made it to where I*



Cymone (Bouchard) Bernauer, University of Regina Cougars CIAU champion. Courtesy Archives and Special Collections, U of R.

*am today. All the hours he spent with me playing catch in the backyard, taking me to camps, throwing batting practice . . . coaching and providing advice were so influential in getting me started.*<sup>116</sup>

Cymone (Bouchard) Bernauer feels the same way as Andrew Albers about the importance of the volunteer coach in the amateur sport system. Like Albers, Bernauer rose to the top of her sport. She was named the most valuable

basketball player of the CIAU championship in 2001 and won the Nan Copp Award in 2004 as the CIS Player of the Year. She was also the CIS Defensive Player of the Year in 2003 and a two-time All-Canadian. She stands as the University of Regina's all-time leader in points, collecting 1,439 in ninety-six conference games during her career.<sup>117</sup>

Bernauer was born and raised in Regina. Although she also loved playing volleyball and softball, she decided to focus on basketball. While playing for the Cougars, she finished a degree in kinesiology and health studies. After that, she spent a year playing professional basketball in Copenhagen in Denmark. Bernauer said that her days were long because her team practised every day and played a couple of games a week. It was also part of her contract to coach a girls' team as well as a boys' team. "The kids could barely speak English so it was an experience." Although her time in Denmark was a great experience, she decided to return to Regina and go back to university to get a degree in education. "Everybody wants to have a job that they love doing and I thought if I could get paid to play basketball that would be pretty cool except it wasn't going to pay my bills. They took care of my room and board and I got some spending allowance but it wasn't going to be enough to retire on."<sup>118</sup>

When she moved back to Regina, Cymone married her college sweetheart, Brian Bernauer, whom she met through university athletics. He played volleyball for the

Cougars and, like Cymone, ultimately chose teaching as a profession. Brian works for the Ranch Ehrlo Society at Martin College and Cymone teaches physical education for grades nine through twelve at Riffel High School. When she first started teaching, she coached both volleyball and basketball, but now that she has a baby and a toddler her time is more limited. When she returns to work after her maternity leave, she plans to focus her volunteer time on the sport that she loves best. "The basketball season takes up five out of the ten months that I'm there for school," she said. "And that's every day for two hours that you're practising and then you get two games a week and tournaments on the weekends."

A number of the students whom Bernauer has coached have followed in her footsteps, accepting scholarships to attend the University of Regina and play for the Cougars.

*It's pretty amazing to buy a ticket and watch a game and watch somebody that you worked with and to know that you may have been a small part of their success along the way. That's the most rewarding thing for a coach, I think and it's not only basketball. I love teaching my kids about life skills, about working together as a team, about setting goals, about what they are going to do after basketball. Coaching is much more than just the skills and strategy of the game.<sup>119</sup>*



Bernauer is a firm believer that the opportunities provided by the community for youth to “play” are essential in building tomorrow’s leaders.

*An escape, an outlet, an adventure, to learn valuable life skills like commitment, work ethic, goal setting and team work — these opportunities allow youth to develop attributes like self esteem, positive attitude and respect for self and others. Participating in organized sport was and still is a huge part of my life and it is my mission to do as others have done for me, give generously of my time to help improve the lives of others and give them a chance to succeed.*<sup>120</sup>

194

Rob Kennedy echoes Andrew Albers and Cymone Bernauer on the importance of coaching to amateur sport. Kennedy knows a thing or two about the importance of good coaches. Although he is not quick to talk about his own athletic achievements, he was a high-performance athlete when he played for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. While going to the University of Saskatchewan for his first degree, a bachelor of science in physical education, Kennedy was awarded the Rusty McDonald Cup in 1994–95. The cup is awarded annually to an upper-year male student-athlete who exhibited, during his career as a Huskie, the highest qualities of sportsmanship and citizenship.<sup>121</sup> His sport of choice was volleyball. He was a three-time Canada West

All-Star and an All-Canadian (Honourable Mention). He was also a member of Canada’s National Men’s B Team in 1992. He worked with the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association as its technical director prior to joining Sask Sport in 1998.

“There are dozens of statistics and research projects which show that coaching is the most important factor in developing athletes at all levels, and we’ve really encouraged our sports to do more hiring and to invest in this area,” said Kennedy. “It’s difficult for our sports to make this sort of investment and we were finding that in many cases, when budget decisions were made, coaching was often seen as a luxury rather than a requirement.” That is why the decision to use some of the legacy funds from the 2005 Canada Games for high-performance coaching was welcomed by many of the provincial sport governing bodies, he said. Originally, the program was called the Canada Games Coach Capacity Grant. “We eventually changed the name to the High Performance Coach Capacity Grant and loosened the guidelines a little to give the sports more flexibility.”<sup>122</sup>

As Kennedy explained, though the Canada Games are a critical part of the amateur sport system, they do not hold the same level of meaning in every sport. “For some sports, the Canada Games are a very important competition that kick-starts an athlete’s high-performance career.” For other sports, he said, national competitions that fall outside the

mandate of the Canada Games and Olympics are what their athletes are working toward. When Sask Sport decided to continue providing additional funds to members for high-performance sport (once the legacy funds from the Canada Games were spent), it listened to members about the need to broaden the focus of the program. “The two areas we look at are improving national competition results, including the Canada Games and then getting athletes through the provincial system and onto national teams. Canada Games-specific grants were moved into annual funding to allow the sports to determine their own priorities for athlete development.”<sup>123</sup>

Sask Sport supports the efforts of the Coaches Association of Saskatchewan (CAS), a member of the provincial sport federation since 1990, when it was incorporated as a non-profit. The CAS manages coaching programs and services in Saskatchewan for all coaches from all sports and for the administrative costs of the office, staff and programs. The CAS is a membership organization of coaches managed by a volunteer Board of Directors representing all aspects of coaching.<sup>124</sup>

In its early years, the role of the association was primarily to act as a voice or advocate for coaches. In 1993, when the provincial government withdrew from sport programming, the role of the CAS expanded to act as the province’s representative body for coaching and at that time it took on promotion, administration and delivery of

all the National Coaching Certification Program multi-sport theory modules in Saskatchewan. In 1997, the role once again expanded to include all levels of coaching and initiatives related to coaching development.<sup>125</sup>

## **SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS**

Although many Saskatchewan athletes, such as Andrew Albers, chose to leave the province for scholarship opportunities south of the border or at other universities in the country, others, such as Cymone Bernauer and Rob Kennedy, chose to stay in Saskatchewan. A factor that played a part in convincing athletes to remain in the cities in which they had grown up was the athletic scholarships that they received. Bernauer was offered scholarships from the University of Albany in New York and a couple of other teams in Canada, but the scholarships offered through Basketball Saskatchewan and the University of Regina convinced her to stay in her home city and play for the Cougars.

Dr. Don Clark is the former director of the National Coaching Institute in Saskatchewan. During his time on Sask Sport’s Board of Directors, from 1977 to 1979, the sport federation decided to work with the universities to develop assistance programs for athletes. “At this point, I was still involved with coaching and was trying to recruit athletes,” said Clark.

*I was becoming more and more aware of athlete assistance programs that were available in other provinces and at other universities. I was saying that if we wanted to keep our top athletes at home we'd better find some way to provide some form of tuition support for them. I knew from personal experience that athletes were being recruited from Saskatchewan to go to universities in Alberta and in British Columbia — specifically Simon Fraser University.<sup>126</sup>*

During Clark's tenure on the Sask Sport board, the sport federation started working more closely with the provincial sport governing bodies to have closer affiliations with the universities and technical institutes and the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association. Through its relationship with the provincial sport governing bodies, Sask Sport started to fund programs such as basketball clinics that were co-sponsored and run by Basketball Saskatchewan but held at the universities or in high schools.<sup>127</sup>

To this day, Sask Sport funds the universities through two levels of support. The first is the University Athlete Assistance Program, which supports the budgets of the Huskies and Cougars. This money is used for travel and other expenses. Sask Sport allocates funds to the provincial sport governing bodies, which in turn direct this money to the universities. The same process occurs with the second program directed to the universities, the Student Athlete

Program. "Money is provided through the provincial sport governing bodies, who determine which athletes qualify. It's essentially a credit on their tuition accounts."<sup>128</sup> Out-of-province and out-of-country recruitment of top Saskatchewan athletes still happens said Clark, but at least Sask Sport recognized the need to do something to support university athletics and worked with the provincial sport governing bodies to develop funding programs.

Dick White, former Director of Athletics at the University of Regina, also believes that the relationship between Sask Sport and the universities is very strong. "Generally," said White, "the universities are the two centres of high-performance sport and excellence for the sports that we offer — with the exception of hockey, because there athletes tend to go the junior route. We hire the professional coaches. [Alberta is] the only other province that even comes close to how well Sask Sport supports universities, in my view." White also noted that "We both have operating grants and scholarships and financial aid for our athletes and Alberta is the only one that would be maybe a little better than we are."<sup>129</sup>

Another big way that Sask Sport supports the universities (as well as high-performance athletes not associated with the postsecondary education system) is through funding provided to the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan, created in January 2000, through amalgamation of the Sport Medicine Council of

Saskatchewan (1988) and the Saskatchewan Sport Science Program (1991).<sup>130</sup> In the fall of 2000, high-performance athletes received another boost through establishment of the Canadian Sport Centre, a partnership among Sport Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, the Coaching Association of Canada, the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan, the Coaches Association of Saskatchewan and the Province of Saskatchewan.<sup>131</sup>

Sask Sport agreed to be responsible for managing and administering the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan (CSCS), one of seven centres/institutes across Canada. A CSCS Management Committee serves as a subcommittee to the Sask Sport Board of Directors and is comprised of representatives from the board as well as various high-performance stakeholder organizations and athlete and coach representatives. Staff requirements are provided by Sask Sport and supplemented by contracting responsibility and service provision through the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan. The centre rents office space in Sask Sport's Administration Centres in Regina and Saskatoon.<sup>132</sup>

The CSCS works in partnership with national and provincial sport organizations to ensure that athletes have access to the services and facilities that they need to progress in their sport and transition to life after their sport careers are over. A comprehensive range of services is provided through the CSCS for athletes and coaches and

covers all aspects of their lives — both inside and outside the sport world. Services include physiology, strength and conditioning, biomechanics and performance analysis, sports nutrition, sports psychology and mental training. Registered athletes are eligible for reimbursement for physician specialists, physiotherapy/athletic therapy, chiropractic treatment, massage therapy, acupuncture and orthotics. Athletes also have access to services or training for their personal development, such as media relations training, tutoring support, language training, interview skills, resume preparation, self-marketing and job placement services.<sup>133</sup>

“While we didn’t receive a pile of money from the federal government for this initiative in comparison to the money coming into the sport system through the lotteries, it was still important,” said John Lee, who led the efforts in Sask Sport to establish the national sport centre in Saskatchewan. “For one thing, it connected us interprovincially with all the other folks at the national level and helped us be in a better position to leverage more federal money for other things in the sports world.”<sup>134</sup>

One of Canada’s most decorated Paralympians, Colette Bourgonje, speaks highly of the support that she has received through the Canada Sport Centre. Since 1992, Bourgonje has attended ten Paralympic Games — in Barcelona, Tignes-Albertville, Lillehammer, Atlanta, Nagano, Sydney, Salt Lake City, Torino, Vancouver and



Kevin Scott, Sask Sport President, 1995–96 and Head Coach of the Saskatoon Hilltops Canadian Junior Football Champion team in 1985. Courtesy SSHF.

198

Sochi — and won ten medals. She has taken home medals in both summer and winter sports.<sup>135</sup> Bourgonje regularly accesses a number of services provided by the CSCS, such as massage therapy and physiotherapy, advice on nutrition and help in developing training programs. “As the car gets older, you need to maintain it a little more,” she joked. “It’s the same with our bodies, so I’m using services like massage and physiotherapy more now. I’m so grateful for the sport science system in Saskatchewan. They’ve just been awesome in so many ways — great people.”<sup>136</sup>

### HELPING OUR “FUTURE BEST”

In the late 1990s, Sask Sport program staff and a number of past presidents identified a gap in the high-performance development phase of an athlete’s career, when an athlete

is involved in an intense level of training and competition but has not been named to a national senior team. “These athletes were up against a void where there was some funding available for the athletes just beginning their progression towards the top of their sport and then there was funding when they got to the top of their sport, but there was a gap where they were having trouble finding funding to make that final leap,” said Kevin Scott, who served as Sask Sport president in 1995–96.<sup>137</sup> Scott knows a thing or two about high-performance sport. He played football for the Saskatoon Hilltops while attending law school and went on to coach the team’s offensive line for eight seasons before taking over as head coach and leading the Hilltops to the Canadian Junior Football League Championship in 1985 against the Ottawa Sooners.<sup>138</sup>

“The provincial sport governing bodies take athletes to a certain level,” explained Dale Kryzanowski, who leads the Program Division at Sask Sport.

*They take them to a provincial team level, but not all athletes graduate directly from provincial teams to national teams. There’s a developmental gap in there, where they still want to be involved in the sport, but the national sport organizations don’t invest down to this developmental level in terms of the feeder system of athletes that might potentially make future national teams or junior teams.*<sup>139</sup>



Saskatchewan Olympian Scott Perras competes during the men's biathlon 4x7.5K relay at the 2014 Winter Olympics. Courtesy Associated Press/The Canadian Press/Kirsty Wigglesworth.

“We started calling it the ‘gap in funding,’” said Scott. “Around this time, we were having these annual Past Presidents’ meetings and we were all looking for something meaningful to do. Sask Sport program staff said that this was something we could get our teeth into. So past presidents at that time really rallied around this program and helped get the program under way.”<sup>140</sup>

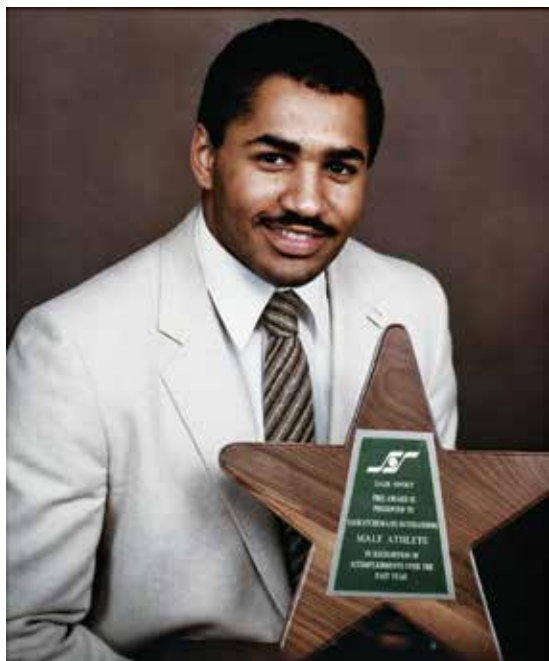
The Future Best program provides financial support to athletes who have been identified by the respective provincial sport governing bodies as having the potential to become national senior team members but have yet to reach carded status or be named to their respective teams. Future Best receives ongoing support from the Saskatchewan

Lotteries Trust Fund, but it received a real boost through the generous support of the 2005 Canada Games and the creation of the Building Dreams and Champions Legacy Program. As Dale Kryzanowski indicated, “Future Best has a huge legacy component to it that is growing and at some point it will hopefully be large enough to be able to sustain the program on its own or perhaps increase the amount of support or number of athletes which we support. Future Best has become the donation of choice for past presidents.”<sup>141</sup>

“Scott Perras is a really good example of how the Future Best Program works,” said Rob Kennedy.<sup>142</sup> Perras represented Canada in a number of biathlon events at the Sochi Winter Games. For those not sure what biathlon is, it combines two different disciplines — cross-country skiing and rifle shooting. Biathlon was not always the main focus for Perras. Growing up, he was interested in hockey, baseball and football. He tried cross-country skiing for the first time when he was thirteen years old and became serious about biathlon four years later. At the 2003 Canada Winter Games, he won two bronze medals. The year after that, he finished second at the Canadian championships. During the 2012–13 season, Perras was named Biathlon Canada’s Male Athlete of the Year.<sup>143</sup>

“There were a number of years where Scott chose to go to Canmore to train with the national team, but he wasn’t getting the results to become a carded athlete,” said Kennedy.





Rueben Mayes, who played in the NFL from 1986 to 1993, first gained notoriety as a running back at North Battleford Comprehensive High School in North Battleford, SK. He was named Sask Sport Male Athlete of the Year in 1984 and 1985. Courtesy SSHF.

*We supported him through the Future Best Program because he was having good results at the national level but not quite enough to get carded. He was beyond the provincial system. Hopefully, that funding, although it's only a small contribution in the big scheme of things, helped to keep him motivated and maybe access coaching or competitions or whatever to help him get to that next level.<sup>144</sup>*

Another Future Best athlete is the pride of Weyburn, Graham DeLaet. Even if you are not a golf fan, you have

likely heard of DeLaet, arguably one of the greatest athletes that Saskatchewan has ever produced. He is the top-ranked Canadian golfer on the professional circuit and he is proud to say that he is from Saskatchewan — sporting Saskatchewan green and gold on a tattoo on his right arm. Past presidents of Sask Sport such as Kevin Scott and Norbert Thurmeier were involved for a number of years in administration of the Future Best Program through the adjudication process. Thurmeier, president in 1998–99, said that he was especially proud to play a part in supporting the career of DeLaet. “I was on Sask Sport’s Future Best Committee for a number of years when Golf Saskatchewan put Graham’s name forward for funding. I remember sitting around the committee table and we were all saying, ‘This guy is pretty good. He’s someone to watch.’ We were proud to provide him with funding to help him progress in his sport.”<sup>145</sup>

Although Golf Saskatchewan is proud of the success that DeLaet has had and works hard to provide opportunities for young people who show a talent for the sport to improve their game, it is quick to point out that golfers the calibre of DeLaet are rare. “The number of players that go on to a successful competitive professional golf career is very small.” Golf Saskatchewan is proud to list the names of Saskatchewan golfers who have received athletic scholarships to attend Canadian or American universities, but it wants athletes to understand that the process of researching, interviewing and deciding on a

university or college is complicated and difficult. Young golfers should remember, it specifically notes, that the academic program itself should be their first priority. “Be realistic and choose a university that will give you a chance to play but above all to get a quality education.”<sup>146</sup>

Football legend Rueben Mayes has the same advice for athletes and their parents. He is quick to encourage young people to have a vision and reach for the stars but not to be too discouraged if they do not receive a scholarship or get chosen for the national team or drafted to a professional team. Both of his sons are following in his steps and playing the game that Mayes continues to love so much and he gives them the same advice. His older son, Logan, received a scholarship to play for Washington State, the same team that his father first played for when he moved to the United States. “Logan is a buck linebacker [a hybrid defensive end/linebacker],” and, according to Rueben, his son is a much better player than he ever was. “He’s a much bigger kid than I was. He’s about 6’3” and 247 pounds. He wanted to have a chance to play more, so he decided to transfer to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California, which is halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles and is in the Big Sky Conference.”<sup>147</sup> His younger son, Kellen, played defensive back for his high school football team. After graduating in 2014, he enrolled at Cal Poly University, majoring in finance with a pre-med minor. Although Mayes counsels his son to dream big, he is quick to remind him of what he refers

to as the one percent rule and how fortunate he was just to get offered a scholarship. “Only one percent of the kids that are eligible will get offered a scholarship and only one percent of those kids will actually have a chance to see the NFL. So the odds are not good even once you get to that level.” Mayes is pleased to see his son getting a chance to play college football like he did but insists that his studies are just as or even more important. Logan is studying finance and Cal Poly is a good fit for him. “It’s a really high academic school. He’s really smart and a good student,” the proud father proclaimed. Whether Logan ends up playing in the NFL or not, he will get a good education. As Mayes tells people when he is asked to give motivational speeches,

*There’s so much opportunity in life, especially as an athlete. Having a vision as an athlete gives them energy. It keeps them focused. It helps them be disciplined. They have adversity through sport and there’s no guarantee you’re going to play in the NFL or NBA or NHL, but you’re going to carry those same disciplines and routines into something else.*

As for advice to the parents of children who demonstrate the ability to excel at a particular sport, Mayes said,

*If you have to motivate your child, it’s not going to work. It has to come from within the child who is*

*willing to do extra stuff. They're getting up in the morning and they're working out. If the child is not interested in doing the extra work, then why are you pushing them? It's useless in my mind. You have to recognize that, so this means you have to actually go watch them. That's the first thing parents need to do.*

Then, if you see that there is a commitment from your child to work hard, that is when you need to help him or her with your knowledge and encouragement.

*“In our family,” Mayes said, my wife and I developed a family mission statement and we just decided whatever our kids want to do, if they play sports or whatever it is, that we’re just going to help them along the way. We’re going to be their biggest cheerleaders and help them make it happen. At the same time, we also said that we were not going to overdo it. As a student athlete, there’s unlimited opportunity to do sports year round and I think that’s not good. We decided that we were going to have one season of the year that would be devoted to our family. So the wintertime was devoted to skiing and our boys never played organized basketball. Some families go from football to baseball to basketball to something else all year round and they are run ragged. I think there needs to be a balance.*



Molson's Sports Hall of Fame, 1966–1971. Courtesy SSHF.

## HONOURING OUTSTANDING ATHLETES AND PRESERVING SPORT HISTORY

Celebrating and honouring our province's top athletes and the coaches, officials and other volunteers who have so generously contributed to the building of Saskatchewan's amateur sport community are important. In 1982, Sask Sport initiated the Athlete of the Month Program, which quickly gained in popularity among provincial sport governing bodies, athletes, media and the public. The next logical step was to introduce an annual sport awards program, which came to fruition in 1984.<sup>148</sup> Each year the Athlete of the Year Program recognizes outstanding

athletic achievement in six categories: Master, Male, Female Youth Male, Youth Female, and Team. The contribution of coaches to their athletes and sport is recognized through the Saskatchewan Coaching Awards. Coach of the Year reflects outstanding event performance or a series of performances that a coach has achieved with his or her athletes or team in a given year. The Coaching Dedication Awards recognize the outstanding contributions of a male coach and a female coach to his or her sport, athletes and community over several years. The Saskatchewan Volunteer Recognition Awards honour individuals who devote their time and effort to the development of sport. Volunteers can be nominated for service within the province and/or at the national/international level. Service to sport within the province is the most important factor in the process. The Saskatchewan Officials Award celebrates the outstanding achievements of male and female officials to amateur sport. The selection of recipients is based on dedication, history and achievement in officiating.

Another way that Sask Sport honours the province's outstanding athletes, teams and sport builders is through continued support of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. The majority of its operating budget comes from lottery funds through Sask Sport. Many of the people who spearheaded the drive to establish the sport federation were also involved in founding the Hall of Fame and Museum. Many of these people and others, also pushed

Sask Sport, as funds became available, to provide grants to record individual sport histories, fund the move of the Hall of Fame and Museum to a more suitable location and help to support and promote the annual awards dinner.

In 1964, the Saskatchewan branch of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) of Canada approached Molson's Brewery about establishing a Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. Molson's and the provincial branch of the AAU had already started a similar project in Alberta and the brewing company agreed to sponsor a Hall of Fame in Regina. The official opening of the Molson's Sports Hall of Fame took place on October 31, 1966, with Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, the late R.L. Hanbidge and Frank Selke (former manager of the Montreal Canadiens Hockey Club) joining a group of about eighty guests from the amateur sport community. The museum was located in Molson's Hospitality House — a small cedar cabin close to the brewery in Regina on Dewdney Avenue famous for the "tasting" sessions regularly held there by the company as part of its marketing strategy.<sup>149</sup>

Because Molson's started to receive flak from the public since children wanted to see the Hall of Fame but could not because it was located in a drinking establishment, the company decided to pull out. Bill Clarke, who had spent some time working as a liquor representative for the company before working for the provincial government, stepped in and convinced Molson's to



After extensive renovations, the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame opened its doors to the public on September 13, 1979. Courtesy SSHF.

continue to sponsor the Hall of Fame but to allow it to move to a new location that could accommodate minors. “We realized,” said Clarke, “that we had a restricted viewing audience because kids were not allowed into the Hall of Fame on brewery property.”<sup>150</sup>

At the installation dinner in 1971, Roy Romanow, Deputy Premier and Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Youth Agency, indicated that he had asked his officials to look for a new location for the Hall of Fame. Although it would be three years before the Hall of Fame moved to an independent location, a lot was accomplished between 1971 and 1974. At the Sask Sport AGM in 1972, Wally Stinson, Chairman of the Hall of Fame, reported that the nine-person Management Committee included four representatives from Sask Sport; one member each from the provincial government, the business community and the media; and two members at large. He told the gathering

that an application was being made for incorporation under the Societies Act. The committee would continue to organize annual dinners to honour people in the sport community and to collect sport artifacts and memorabilia.<sup>151</sup>

In 1973, representatives of the Hall of Fame formed an Archives Committee. Wally Stinson and Joe Zeman initiated the process and facilitated simultaneous meetings in Regina and Saskatoon that fall. More than sixty volunteers attended the meetings because they agreed that many sport artifacts and memorabilia were being lost since there was no concerted effort to collect them. The group also agreed that work should be done to record the history of each sport in Saskatchewan.<sup>152</sup> A grant was received in 1974 through the federal government’s New Horizons Program to fund research projects aimed at recording the history of each sport in each community in the province. That year, in the fall, the Hall of Fame was finally moved out of Molson’s Hospitality House to the second floor of the Saskatchewan Sport and Recreation Unlimited Building at 1915 South Railway Street in Regina. It was renamed the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. By this time, the installation dinner had become an annual event, held in conjunction with Sask Sport’s Annual General Meeting.<sup>153</sup>

The new location of the Hall of Fame was far from what volunteers and sports history enthusiasts envisioned. As Bill Clarke noted, it did not have a curator. Day-to-day operation of the Hall of Fame was handled by the staff at

Sask Sport and there was no room to display artifacts. “All we had were pictures and nobody wanted to come down . . . in those days and look at the museum and the Sports Hall of Fame.”<sup>154</sup> Still, the enthusiastic group of volunteers continued to collect documents and artifacts and in 1978, thanks to a grant from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, they were able to hire an executive director for the first time. By this point, serious discussions were under way on the possibility of the Hall of Fame, together with a new Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation, moving to the historic Land Titles Building.<sup>155</sup>

After renovations to the building, the new Administration Centre and Hall of Fame were opened on September 13, 1979. Many people considered this to be the perfect location for a museum, being prominently situated in the heart of Regina’s downtown and in one of the few historic buildings to survive the 1912 tornado. The Sports Hall of Fame finally had a home where it could properly display sport memorabilia.<sup>156</sup> With approximately half of the main floor of the new location available for display and storage, an active search for artifacts was undertaken and a curator was hired.<sup>157</sup>

Sheila Kelly has been with the Sports Hall of Fame since 1989, when she responded to a small advertisement in the classified section of the *Leader-Post* for an entry-level contract position with the organization. Kelly was a recent graduate of the University of Saskatchewan in forensic anthropology and

archaeology. Although she had hoped to find a job that would allow her to use the curatorial skills learned in university, she was not counting on it, so she had also taken an administrative course in health-care management. As it turned out, when Kelly accepted that short-term contract position, the Hall of Fame was undergoing a period of uncertainty. About six months after she started, the executive director position opened up. She remembers saying to herself, “Oh, what the heck, I’ll apply and we’ll see what happens.”<sup>158</sup> The rest is history — Kelly liked her job so much that she has made a career of working with a small team of dedicated employees and volunteers to expand the mandate of the Sports Hall of Fame and liaising with the amateur sport community to preserve its rich history.

Kelly soon added the word museum to the formal name to make it the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. A simple name change might not seem like a big deal, but being officially recognized as a museum opened up a host of new opportunities. “First, it actually opened up new levels of funding for us because we could then develop some partnerships with the Museums Association of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Museums Association.” Another benefit was that the mandate could be expanded beyond just items specific to Hall of Fame inductees.<sup>159</sup>

“Certainly, the base of our collection continues to be artifacts that we borrow from our inductees,” said Kelly, who noted that, at the end of the twelve months that items



are displayed, many of the people who have been honoured (or their families) choose to let the Sports Hall of Fame and Museum keep the items for the wider public to enjoy and safe-guard them for future generations.

*Because our mandate was sanctioned a little bit more when we became recognized as a museum, we started to be perceived by the public to be reputable and seen not to just be collecting items specific to our inductees. For instance, we now have a formalized agreement with the Saskatchewan Roughriders that their entire collection comes to us for safekeeping. We also have a collection from the Saskatoon Storm — the professional basketball team. In the past, we really couldn't have collected items like these because we only took items specific to Hall of Fame inductees.<sup>160</sup>*

Another role that the Hall of Fame has played over the years is in working with the amateur sport community to document and record individual sport histories. Over thirty books have been published under the auspices of the Hall of Fame and thanks to funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries. Sheila Kelly noted that Saskatchewan is one of the few jurisdictions in Canada that has placed such

an emphasis on preserving the history of sport. Only the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, through its partnership with the University of Alberta to develop an online Alberta sports bibliography and the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto come close to Saskatchewan's efforts in these areas. "It has always been a priority of Sask Sport to preserve that legacy," Kelly mentioned. "And it's all because the lottery funding was there."<sup>161</sup>

The Sport Hall of Fame and Museum now boasts a collection of more than 12,000 sports artifacts and archives. As of 2015, there were 505 inductees in the Hall of Fame, including 223 athletes, 158 builders and 124 championship teams. Fifty-three sports are represented. It is open to the public and each year thousands of students from around the province go on tours developed to promote awareness of Saskatchewan athletes and sport. The Hall of Fame continues to function as a non-profit organization separate from Sask Sport with its own Board of Directors, relying on a yearly grant from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and various fundraising initiatives for its operating budget.<sup>162</sup>



Sheldon's Fiza Janjua is held up by Luther's Gabriela Celis (13) during the high School soccer championships 2A girls match between Sheldon and Luther at the Credit Union Eventplex in Regina October 22, 2014. Courtesy Leader Post/Brian Schlosser.





Regina Red Sox short stop Brandon Beaudin-Herney snagged a hot one at Currie Field in Regina, Saskatchewan, on Monday, June 3, 2013. Bryan Schlosser, Leader-Post.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Nearly all of the people interviewed for this book, regardless of their positions, whether they were civil servants or political leaders, employees or volunteers of the sport federation, or representatives of organizations funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries, expressed pride in their association with the lottery-funded sport, culture and recreation system in the province. A phrase that came up frequently, usually within the first few minutes of the conversation, was that Saskatchewan is the envy of other jurisdictions, not just in Canada but also around the world, when it comes to the unique collaborative arrangement between the government and the voluntary sector to run the provincial lottery and to develop and deliver community-based programs. Saskatchewan people have demonstrated the innovations that can occur when ordinary citizens who care deeply about their communities are empowered by a fundraiser that gives them discretion to make decisions and not just to have input into public

policy priorities but also to direct the process and play a leading role valued and respected by their government partners. The sense of ownership and grassroots control built into the system has not only led to good public policy but also resulted in efficient management and high standards of accountability.

Whereas other provinces, states and countries chose to create government-owned or -directed crown corporations or create bureaucracies to oversee gaming operators, Saskatchewan pursued a different path with lotteries. As we have seen in the preceding chapters, with the encouragement of a team of civil servants (themselves rooted in the community and believers in how sport, culture and recreation could contribute to quality of life), volunteers in Saskatchewan's amateur sport community put their own funds and reputations on the line to develop the provincial lottery as a fundraiser. A veritable army of volunteers established the distribution system for lottery

tickets that funds more than 12,000 organizations which touch the lives of many citizens in the province. The \$63 million in lottery revenues that funded these organizations in 2012–13 alone would fund the province’s health-care system (budgeted at \$5 billion for the year ending March 31, 2015) for less than two weeks. In the hands of volunteer-directed organizations that provide programs which contribute to healthy lifestyles and stronger communities, lottery money is directed in ways that the government could never do on its own. Ordinary citizens are empowered to direct this money to programs that meet the needs of non-profit member organizations with democratically elected volunteer boards. Grant money invariably serves as a catalyst for further fundraising and volunteer commitments that spark new initiatives or complement existing community-based programs. Although it does not meet all of the needs of sport, culture and recreation in the province, for more than forty years lottery money has provided a stable source of funding for people to work together and improve the quality of life in their communities.

The benefits of this approach are easy to see. As Sask Sport General Manager Jim Burnett sees it, programs are much more likely to be successful when the community is involved in coming up with ideas and strategies that respond to the real needs of their citizens. “Our programs are all based on the same principle,” said Burnett. “The volunteers own them. They raise the money. They give

the money away. . . . If it’s going to be successful, it’ll be successful because they did the work.”<sup>1</sup>

Norm Campbell, CEO of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, agrees that lottery funds enhance Saskatchewan communities. “Jobs may bring people to communities, but it’s the quality of their lifestyle that keeps them there,” he said.

*If they’re not happy in their community, they’ll find another job. People don’t stay in Saskatchewan saying “I’m staying here because you’ve got the best water and the best roads I’ve ever seen.” No, if their kids can’t do anything, they’re going to leave. They are more likely to put up with challenges in some of the community infrastructure if their kids have some place to go and they’re happy.*

Campbell was quick to point out that you do not often see children at recreation facilities who do not want to be there. “There might be a few, but generally they’re there because they want to be,” he said. “So it’s a positive kind of thing and they generally bring their parents. And then, once the parents are there, you can approach them and start to develop your volunteers, which adds to the social capital of the community. You know, community development, community pride. Volunteerism is one of the best forms of democracy.”<sup>2</sup>



Dale Kryzanowski, Manager, Provincial Sport Development, Sask Sport. Courtesy SSI.

This is not to suggest that there are no challenges. As Dale Kryzanowski, Sask Sport's Manager of Provincial Sport Development, noted, the challenges that face the amateur sport system don't ever really change:

*We want to be able to increase participation in sport overall. We want to make it more barrier free. We want to make it more affordable. On the high performance end, we want to try to improve performance. We want to be able to send as many athletes and coaches and officials as we can to national and international competitions. On the capacity side, we want to make sure that there is a strong system in place to recruit, train and retain volunteers, that there is a healthy coaching and officials development system where*

*there's people being certified and there's quality coaching and quality officiating in every sport. Organizationally, we want to ensure that our sport bodies are solid, with strong policies, strong procedures, strong planning initiatives in place, [and] staff are well managed and happy and taking a strong leadership role in moving the sport forward.<sup>3</sup>*

## THE CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH GROWTH

All of the challenges that Kryzanowski identified become more difficult in the face of broader societal issues outside the direct scope and influence of the lottery-funded sectors. One of the most pressing challenges is that Saskatchewan's population is growing faster than those of most other provinces; there has also been a significant demographic shift in recent years. Like the rest of North America, the province also faces an epidemic of obesity and inactivity in its youth population, and efforts to reverse these trends are daunting. The province's population is becoming more culturally diverse with the continued growth of the First Nations and Métis youth demographic (about 40 percent of the Aboriginal population is young, under nineteen years of age) and increased immigration. As well, both these population bases face much higher rates of poverty than other sectors of society.<sup>4</sup> Saskatchewan's population as of October 1, 2013, was just over 1,114,000 people — nearly 20,000 more than the previous year. International



migration was the largest contributor to Saskatchewan's increasing population, with 3,510 people moving to the province from outside Canada in the third quarter of 2013.<sup>5</sup>

The Aboriginal and immigrant populations are growing at a rate faster than the overall provincial population rate. In 2011, the Aboriginal population represented approximately 19 percent of the residents of Saskatchewan.<sup>6</sup> Overall, if the demographic trends remain consistent, Aboriginal people will make up nearly half of the Saskatchewan population by 2050.<sup>7</sup> Although much of the population growth has been in the larger urban areas, smaller towns and villages have also experienced healthy growth since 2006. Each of the sport, culture and recreation districts in Saskatchewan has seen its immigration flow triple since 2006.<sup>8</sup> These statistics signal the need for new approaches to enhance the services provided throughout the province and how programs are delivered. As Norm Campbell of SPRA reminds us, "It's a matter of looking at things differently. We can't just do things the way we've always done them. Many of the people who are moving to Saskatchewan have a totally different way of looking at things and some countries didn't have recreation as a public service at all. The question is, how do we get them engaged?"<sup>9</sup>

There are not only many opportunities that come with the changes in Saskatchewan's population but also numerous challenges — the greatest being that over half of status

First Nations youth in Canada live in poverty. This figure jumps to nearly two-thirds in Saskatchewan. By practically every measure of well-being — family income, educational attainment, crowding and homelessness, poor water quality, infant mortality, health and suicide — First Nations and Métis children trail the rest of Canada. Thirty-three percent of immigrant children in Canada also face the many problems that come with living below the poverty level.<sup>10</sup>

All of this translates into a greater need for, among other social needs, expanded programs such as KidSport and Dream Brokers and other community-based initiatives that offer access for low-income residents to recreational sport opportunities. Although such programs clearly have a big impact in low-income communities, one thing that most people working with Sask Sport to address these challenges agree on is that much more work needs to be done to link the Aboriginal sport system and the programs directed at marginalized people with the mainstream sport community. Amateur sport partners will have to work with their counterparts in recreation, as they have done in the past, to foster sustainable sports development at the grassroots level to improve access and contribute to stronger, more sustainable communities.

Ian Cook (president of Sask Sport in 2007–08) is pragmatic about the problems facing the amateur sport system in Saskatchewan. Everyone knows, he says, that the Aboriginal community is the fastest growing population

in our province. “Right now, there is a shortage of athletes in most sports. If these sports want to grow, they have to reach out to Aboriginal communities.”<sup>11</sup> Eugene Arcand agrees with Cook: “We have many diamonds in the rough in First Nations communities.” He wonders why more sport teams are not scouting for athletes at the First Nations Games. Using track and field as an example, Arcand said that, “Sure, our times for 100 metres may not be as good as the Saskatchewan high school athletics or the provincial championships, but they’re not that far off. Remember,” he said, “our facilities for competition have not been that good. They’ve had to run on marginal tracks. Very few of them have had the chance to run in the Regina Field House or Douglas Park or Griffiths Stadium in Saskatoon. Can you imagine [what] the results might be with a little bit of work, a little bit of coaching?”<sup>12</sup>

Cook is convinced that most people in the sport community in Saskatchewan have no idea how big the First Nations Games are. He attended the 2009 Summer Games hosted by the Onion Lake First Nation. He found it difficult to describe the atmosphere and level of excitement that he witnessed. “It’s a huge event. I didn’t understand how big it was. There were thousands and thousands of people. They were all camped out. The kids were so proud to be wearing their team uniforms.”<sup>13</sup>

More than 4,000 athletes attended the 2009 First Nations Summer Games that Cook attended. Youth from all

over the province participated in mainstream sports such as track and field, golf, softball and soccer. They also took part in traditional First Nations sports such as canoeing, archery, handball and stick games reintroduced that year. Grant Whitstone, chair of the games, said that these latter games were a powerful reminder for First Nations youth of who they are and where they came from. The traditional games and sports also brought home the fact, according to Whitstone, that culture and a healthy lifestyle must go hand in hand in the quest for wellness of body, mind and soul.<sup>14</sup>

As important as continuing to support and develop the First Nations Games is, most people involved in the amateur sport system recognize that much more needs to be done at the community level to get Aboriginal children participating on a regular basis in sport, culture and recreation activities — not just in their own communities but also in the mainstream amateur sport system. A main challenge is the need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different elements of the sport, culture and recreation system to facilitate appropriate links and determine which tools are necessary to support staff and volunteers in reaching their goals.<sup>15</sup>

September 2013 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Tribal Council Coordinator Program. “Staff have all come on board and we’re doing a review of the program to clarify roles, responsibilities and reporting systems,” said Cheryl McCallum. It is also important, she stressed,

that people working in the districts understand that tribal council coordinators have insights into their communities that need to be tapped into: “If they can collaborate in their efforts and really support one community at a time, I can see significant change happening. The key thing is that sport and recreation programs can’t operate in silos. They need to align and support one another. Once that starts to happen there’s going to be a huge difference in who’s participating in sport.”<sup>16</sup>

Eugene Arcand and Glen Pratt were both pleased to learn that Sask Sport was initiating a review of the Tribal Council Coordinator Program to determine what improvements can be made to help the coordinators do their jobs better and increase access to sport, culture and recreation activities in First Nations communities — beyond the difficult task of putting teams together each year to compete in the First Nations Games. As Pratt said, “The original intention of this program was to support sport, culture and recreation development at the community level,” which he believes has not happened to the extent that it should.<sup>17</sup> Arcand noted that the job of the Tribal Council Coordinator is not easy: “A Tribal Council like Prince Albert has fifteen communities. These Tribal Council coordinators have to have powerful interpersonal skills, not just to deal with their communities, but to deal with the corporate community, which they need to be looking to for additional sponsorship.”<sup>18</sup>

Although the challenges of making the sport system more inclusive seem to be daunting, First Nations activists such as Joe Daniels believe that Saskatchewan is better equipped than other provinces to address these issues: “The only reason Aboriginal sport has gotten from A to B right now is because of Sask Sport and the lottery system. We’re in control of our own destiny here. It’s not the government telling the sport bodies out there how to run their business. I’ve talked to sport colleagues from across the country and they’re envious of us here.”<sup>19</sup>

Others, such as Greg Murdock, though quick to acknowledge the barriers to access to sport, culture and recreation that still exist for many people, stress that there are not many organizations trying to work with First Nations communities the way that Sask Sport is trying to do.

*There is still a lot of development that goes on in Saskatchewan and across the country that purports to provide services to the First Nations community that’s represented by non-First Nations people and I think that’s not right. The fact that Sask Sport has been trying to move in this direction, without being forced to, says a lot about the leadership of this organization.*<sup>20</sup>

The advice of Audra Young (president of Sask Sport in 2010–11) is for Sask Sport to “Keep doing what you’re doing and don’t let off the gas. People have been at this work for

such a long time and it is evolving in the right direction. Keep engaging the community, because the community is where the people get the work done. I'm jealous I'm not on the board anymore, because we're at the point of real change."<sup>21</sup>

## RAISING ACTIVITY LEVELS

The population trends in Saskatchewan are also cause for concern in light of the correlation between poverty and health. Social and economic obstacles are major barriers that prevent some young people from participating in sport and receiving their significant benefits. Approximately one in four Canadian adults is obese. Among Canadian children aged six to seventeen, close to 9 percent are obese. Saskatchewan has an overall obesity rate of 31 percent, second only to Newfoundland at 34 percent. High obesity rates are found among children as well: 29 percent of children in Saskatchewan are obese, which exceeds the national rate of 26 percent.<sup>22</sup> Furthermore, only 51 percent of Saskatchewan children aged from five to fourteen years are regularly involved in meaningful sport activities.<sup>23</sup>

In 2003, Sask Sport was pleased to put its support behind the Saskatchewan "in motion" movement, spearheaded by its lottery partner the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. The movement is comprised of a group of people in communities, schools and families across the province working together to come up with

innovative ideas to get kids moving, with the goal of having children get a minimum of sixty minutes of activity every day. In addition to money from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, SASKATCHEWAN IN MOTION is supported through grants from the Community Initiatives Fund, which receives its funding from a percentage of the profits from Casinos Regina and Moose Jaw. All IN MOTION staff are employees of SPRA.<sup>24</sup>

Sask Sport was also happy to work closely with provincial government policy staff and leaders in amateur sport from across the country in the development of the first-ever Canadian Sport Policy. In 2002, after a two-year process of engagement and consultation initiated by the federal government and involving the collaboration of all fourteen governments, a shared vision of and goals for sport development throughout Canada were developed.<sup>25</sup> It was out of this process that the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model emerged.<sup>26</sup> As Susan Schneider with the Saskatchewan Games Council explained,

*Long-Term Athlete Development is a seven-step process where we start at the very beginning with getting kids involved in physical activity going all the way down to being active for life, which provides opportunities for so much of the population rather than just high-performance athletes. A lot of times, people think Sask Sport is just about high-performance athletes.<sup>27</sup>*

That, she stressed, could not be further from the truth. Although Saskatchewan’s amateur sport system does provide some support to promising athletes to help them reach the next level, the primary focus has always been on ensuring that opportunities exist at the community level to introduce people to healthy activities. Schneider believes that Sask Sport has been such a champion of LTAD because it aims to get a broad spectrum of people involved and encourages multi-agency cooperation to support physical activity and lifelong participation. These are all goals that Sask Sport has championed for years.

Dale Kryzanowski with Sask Sport agrees with Schneider that many amateur sport organizations in Saskatchewan have been early adopters of LTAD: “When the LTAD model came out, Sport Canada challenged all their national sport organizations to develop a long-term athlete development model. I think that it has been positive, but it’s still being newly implemented in many sports. Down the road, we’ll be able to evaluate and understand the long-term impacts a little better.”<sup>28</sup>

“I think we’ve been early adopters in many other programs as well,” said Kryzanowski. “Obviously, in programs like KidSport, we’ve been seen as a leader in the growth and development of that program. I’m also comfortable in saying that we’ve focused more attention on Aboriginal sport development and had far greater successes than any other provinces have in this area.” As he pointed

out, success in these and other areas comes down to how the amateur sport sector in Saskatchewan is structured:

*We have a lot more responsibilities than most other sport federations across the country. We’re a fuller-service sport federation in that we generate funds from Saskatchewan Lotteries and we administer grant programs to our sport members. We’re also the key deliverers of organizational development and other kinds of consultant service to the sports. I think because we’re the administrator of the funding and because we are the sport federation that we have a very close link to our members and we can discuss with them their priorities and their needs. We’ve also been fortunate to have sustained lottery proceeds to advance the needs of amateur sport.”<sup>29</sup>*

Amber Holland has been working for the Saskatchewan Curling Association since 1996, starting out as Technical Director and eventually moving into the Executive Director’s position. She may be best known for her success on the ice — curling fans will never forget the dramatic final in Charlottetown when her team beat three-time defending champion Jennifer Jones of Winnipeg in the 2011 Scotties Tournament of Hearts and advanced to the World Women’s Curling Championships, where her team won the silver medal. But Holland is also a National Coaching



Amber Holland skipped Saskatchewan's team to a national women's championship in 2011. Courtesy CURLSASK.

Certification Program Level 3 Coach and has taught high-performance camps across the country.<sup>30</sup> Her team was named Sask Sport's Team of the Year in 2011.<sup>31</sup>

During her years with the Saskatchewan Curling Association, Holland has come to know a number of her counterparts across the country and she says without hesitation that other executive directors look wistfully at how amateur sport is structured and funded in Saskatchewan. She used the LTAD model as an example. "In a lot of other provinces and territories, their funding comes directly from government, so it's very political. They have to adhere to their terms if they want to get

their dollars," she said. "When the Long-Term Athlete Development came out, a lot of my counterparts had to take their whole programming and figure out how to fit it into that model so they could get funding."<sup>32</sup>

Holland appreciated the approach Sask Sport took with this new program, the same approach that it takes with every new initiative. Although there was an expectation that sport organizations would incorporate LTAD into long-term planning and programming, Holland said that provincial sport governing bodies in Saskatchewan were granted much more flexibility than groups in other provinces were. "Sask Sport understands that success for curling might be different than success for soccer or handball," she said. Holland was also grateful that in Saskatchewan provincial sport organizations do not have to worry about politics:

*We're so fortunate in Saskatchewan not to have to deal directly with government. Sask Sport does that for us and the people working at Sask Sport have that knowledge of what sport needs that government employees trying to mandate election promises don't. We also have the security of knowing our funding two years out. That's almost unheard of in other provinces. They have to go year to year to year and the fact that their funding comes direct from government makes it very political.<sup>33</sup>*





Sask Sport General Manager Jim Burnett (left) and Assistant General Manager Paul Barnby (right) with Nada Gorman, President (2012–13). SSI collection.

## KEEPING SPORT SAFE, HEALTHY AND FUN

In addition to addressing the myriad of challenges that result from larger societal problems such as poverty, amateur sport organizations must provide safe and healthy environments for all participants. The importance of providing education and resources on abuse and harassment was highlighted in 1996 when Sheldon Kennedy and another unnamed hockey player came forward with complaints about sexual abuse that they had suffered between 1984 and 1995 at the hands of their coach, Graham James. He pleaded guilty to 350 sexual assaults against the two players and was sentenced to three and a half years in jail. Sask Sport responded by working with its members to develop a comprehensive strategy entitled Keep Sport Safe, Healthy and Fun. A Steering Committee helped to develop policies and procedures for use by member organizations in the area of harassment and conducted a membership survey to determine

education training needs, time frames for training and required resource materials. Educational resources and awareness tools were distributed to schools, provincial sport organizations, community recreation associations and local sport clubs. In 2002, together with SPRA, SaskCulture and the Red Cross, the initial efforts led by Sask Sport were expanded across the province through the Respected for Sport, Culture and Recreation Program, which provides education and intervention to deal with abuse and harassment of children and youth.<sup>34</sup>

## AGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND RISING COSTS

The lottery system pays for only a fraction of the costs to run amateur sport, culture and recreation activities, and revenues from lottery ticket sales have never been enough to contribute to capital projects. Recent studies show that most of Saskatchewan's community recreation facilities are between twenty-five and thirty-four years old and are past their expected life cycles.<sup>35</sup> In 2006, recognizing the value that Canadians place on the sport and recreation sector, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for sport, physical activity and recreation urged all levels of government to work collectively to address the sport and recreation infrastructure deficit by 2017 to coincide with the celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. Since then, a number of programs have provided funding to develop or renovate sport and recreation infrastructure.<sup>36</sup>

The financial aid provided by the provincial and federal governments for facility renewal and expansion has been a huge step in the right direction. However, it is widely acknowledged that additional support is required to fully address the recreation infrastructure crisis facing the province and the country.<sup>37</sup>

### THE CHANGING NATURE OF VOLUNTEERISM

Perhaps the greatest challenge of all is the changing nature of volunteerism. Although Saskatchewan might still lead the nation in terms of volunteers per capita, the province faces the same struggles that other jurisdictions have in recruiting and retaining people to continue to offer community-based activities. As rates of volunteerism decline, the costs to participate in amateur sport increase. With escalating costs, it is becoming more difficult than ever to provide access for all segments of the population to recreational sport and other activities that contribute to healthy lifestyles. Amateur sport — even once athletes start moving to high-performance levels — will always depend on volunteers: those who coach or officiate, the parents and grandparents who chauffeur kids to practices, tournaments and competitions, those who agree to be on Boards of Directors of their local and provincial sport organizations and everyone who does the other, often thankless but nonetheless necessary, tasks that allow athletes to progress in their sports.

Amber Holland described the challenges facing her sport — challenges facing most other sports. “We have great volunteers in curling, but people don’t necessarily volunteer for something and stick with it,” she said.

*They want to volunteer short periods of time. When I started working sixteen years ago, we would have board members that served for ten years. Our clubs do most of the volunteer recruitment, but we’re seeing that they need help to figure out how to recruit and how to engage volunteers and how to keep them involved, because the lady that would bake pies every week is just not doing that anymore and no one is replacing her.<sup>38</sup>*

Susan Schneider and Lorne Lasuita with the Saskatchewan Games Council agree with Holland that the level of volunteer commitment and the type of work that people do have changed significantly since they started working in the amateur sport sector. “Saskatchewan has an army of volunteers, absolutely, but not the same level of volunteer,” said Schneider.

*I just think about myself as a parent having volunteered with my kids and what my kids are doing with their kids. The commitment is not the same. I jumped through hoops to do what we could for the swim club, but that doesn’t happen anymore. You don’t see that because*

*people are volunteering where it's best for them — perhaps not what's best for the sport or the organization.*

Lasuita agreed, adding that “I think what’s changed is money,” noting that his children have more disposable income than he did when he was raising them and that this trend has had a major effect on the amateur sport system. “I couldn’t afford to pay, so I had to volunteer my time at bingos to make sure that that structure survived.”<sup>39</sup>

Long-serving Saskatchewan speed skating volunteer Henrietta Goplen understands these arguments. Although she thinks that, if more people helped out even a little amateur sport would be in better shape, she points out that society has changed significantly since she volunteered so much of her time to the community. “In Saskatoon, we just got our first paid coach. I can’t believe it. I’d be very rich. That worries me, but how else can it work when, with most families, both parents are working? Most people couldn’t possibly put the time in that I put in.” Her daughter-in-law Nancy is able to volunteer her time coaching speed skating in Kelowna, much like her mother-in-law did in Saskatoon, but she can do so because her family does not have to rely on two incomes.<sup>40</sup>

Volunteers such as Sask Sport past presidents Norbert Thurmeier (1988–89) and Cas Pielak (1974–75) agree with Goplen that society has changed and that the approach taken to managing amateur sport must also change. They

also believe that it is important to remind people of the impacts that they can have if they help shape the future of their own organizations as well as the sport federation, which is not only their funding body but also there to serve them and their members. As Thurmeier said, “All sport governing bodies should make sure that they are committed to being a part of the process and not sitting back and letting other organizations do everything. Everybody should get involved and have input as to what public policy should be and if they do that they will automatically buy in to it and we’ll be one unit.”<sup>41</sup> Pielak agreed: “The sport organizations should realize that they are the driving force of this association and that Sask Sport works for them. They should be attending the meetings and putting people up for the board because it’s their body.”<sup>42</sup>

## **BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESSES**

Although amateur sport in Saskatchewan is facing a number of challenges, with the lottery as their fundraiser and thousands of volunteers willing to invest their time and resources to make the system stronger, sport leaders are well positioned to work with the government and private and non-profit partners to collaborate on solutions to these difficult issues. The answers will not come easily; however, by working together and continuing to make investments in a system that enables citizens to come up with their own solutions, the future remains bright.



Lottery Licence Agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan signed on January 13, 2014. Hon. Kevin Doherty, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport joined the tri-global partners Sask Sport Inc., SaskCulture Inc. and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. in announcing the five year agreement renewal.

Photo left to right: Reginald Newkirk, SaskCulture, Mike Powell, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, Hon. Kevin Doherty, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Shane Reoch, Sask Sport. Courtesy SaskCulture.

In the meantime, the people who came together in the early 1970s to establish Sask Sport and develop the provincial lottery to raise funds for sport, culture and recreation should be saluted. They were true visionaries who understood the power of amateur sport to build healthy, active communities. Long before the sport federation came up with the slogan “Sport — It’s More than Game,” these far-sighted leaders recognized that investing in amateur sport was so much more than supporting a few exceptional athletes on the road to national or international glory. Saskatchewan has more than its fair share of athletes who have risen to these heights, but it is not these talented few on which the amateur sport system has focused most of

its attention. The primary interest has always been on the broader community and the greater good that comes from providing volunteers with an opportunity to raise their own funds instead of relying on government grants.

For the thousands of people who lead, volunteer, or participate in amateur sport, this is your history. The provincial lottery is your fundraiser. If you meet your MLA, thank him or her for continuing to support sport, culture and recreation in Saskatchewan in this innovative and unique way. In January 2014, the province announced a five-year lottery agreement guaranteeing that Sask Sport will continue to be the marketing agent for Saskatchewan Lotteries and that sport, culture and recreation organizations will remain the primary beneficiaries of lottery proceeds. In the news release making this announcement, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Kevin Doherty aptly stated that

*Sport, culture and recreation are some of the most powerful tools this province has in enhancing the quality of life of our children and families. We have a strong system and great partners that ensure the lottery proceeds benefit our children through healthy activities that teach them lifelong social and leadership skills. That’s why it was essential for us to renew the lottery agreement to benefit the families and future leaders of our growing province.<sup>43</sup>*



Speed Skater Marco Schumann of Saskatoon at the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George, BC. He was named Saskatchewan Sport Awards 2014 Youth Male Athlete of the Year. Courtesy Canadian Press.



# SASK SPORT PRESIDENTS

**HANK LORENZEN**  
(1971-73)



Regina-based architect who was Sask Sport's founding president. Lorenzen was active with the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association and numerous other community-based organizations in Regina. Passed away on August 28, 2013.

**JOE KANUKA**  
(1973-74)



A prominent Regina lawyer who retired in Whiterock, British Columbia. He was a founding member and the first president of the Saskatchewan Amateur Football Association. In the 1960s, he was a member of the Canadian Junior Football Association committee that laid the groundwork for the Canadian Junior Football League, an organization for which he became the first commissioner in 1972. Passed away on October 22, 2012.

**CAS PIELAK**  
(1974-75)



Regina-based business owner who became involved with Sask Sport via the Saskatchewan Baseball Association. Pielak was president of Baseball Saskatchewan in the 1970s and went on to play the same role with Baseball Canada, a position that he held for ten years. He was later appointed secretary general of the International Baseball Federation, in which he played a pivotal role in introducing baseball to the Olympics.

**MYRIL OFFET**  
(1975-76)



Offet worked for Sask Power for thirty-two years and was an avid Saskatchewan Roughriders fan for forty-six years. He was nominated to the Sask Sport Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Swimming Association. Passed away on August 27, 2001.



**DON BURGESS**  
(1976–77)



Burgess was a professor, hockey coach and athletic director during his career at the University of Saskatchewan, the first president of the Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association and an organizing member of both the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. He served as a representative to the early Canada Winter Games, including in 1971 in Saskatoon, on the coaching instructional staff with the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association, on the regional Leadership Committee of Hockey Canada and as a trustee for Molson's hockey scholarships. Passed away on March 21, 1995.

**DR. BRIAN FERN**  
(1977–79)



Saskatoon-based general practitioner and surgeon. Fern was nominated to the Board of Directors of Sask Sport by the Saskatchewan Rugby Union, an organization for which he was president from 1972 to 1989.

**GAIL TODD (MACKRILL)**  
(1979–80)



Todd was president of the Saskatchewan Team Handball Federation, and, for a time, served as executive director of the Royal Saskatchewan Lifesaving Society. She taught and coached in the education system for a number of years before moving to Ottawa, where she works in real estate.

**LOU HOUGH**  
(1980–81)



For many years, he was Sask Sport's representative on the Saskatchewan Games Council. He was also the first chair of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. Played a key role in organizing the Saskatchewan Horse Federation and served as its president from 1975 to 1978. Nationally, he was a director of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society, the Canadian Horse Shows Association and the Canadian Equestrian Federation. He was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 and received a Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal in 1997. Passed away on August 3, 1999.

**GORDON ANDERSON  
(1981-82)**



He co-captained the University of Regina's wrestling team with Jim Burnett, and was nominated for the Sask Sport Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Wrestling Association. Regional manager for London Life currently residing in Calgary.

**DOUG BRITTON  
(1982-83)**



Nominated by Tennis Saskatchewan to the Sask Sport Board of Directors. He was a senior crown prosecutor with Saskatchewan Justice in Regina. Britton was only fifty-five when he passed away on February 13, 2001.

**TOM ROBINSON  
(1983-84)**



Robinson played European team handball competitively from about age twenty to about thirty-five. He served as president of Saskatchewan Team Handball for a number of years and through this organization he was nominated to serve on the Sask Sport Board of Directors. He was chairman of the Western Canada Summer Games in 1987. He served as President of the Saskatchewan Roughriders and as a Governor and Chairman of the Board of the Canadian Football League. In 2012, he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Roughriders Plaza of Honour for the volunteer work that he has done for the team. A senior partner in KPMG.

**PAT WALSH  
(1984-85)**



He was nominated for the Sask Sport Board of Directors by Swim Saskatchewan, an organization in which he held a number of positions, including president. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association for three years and a member of the Board of Directors of the Sport Federation of Canada for three years, also serving one year as its vice-president. A Saskatoon-based educator who taught chemistry in the Saskatoon collegiate system and mathematics and chemistry in the Saskatoon Catholic high school system, Walsh also served as assistant principal at Holy Cross and E.D. Feehan High Schools.

**PETER JMAEFF  
(1985–86)**



Jmaeff is internationally known for his full-bore-rifle shooting abilities. He was nominated to the Sask Sport Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Provincial Rifle Association. He began his shooting career in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the 1960s. He was a member of the Canadian team; served as the provincial team coach; and served in many executive capacities for the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association and the Shooting Federation of Canada. He also acted as an official at the 2003 and 2012 Canada Games and served on the jury and officiated at the world cup small-bore competitions in Mexico and the United States.

**BERNARD GOPLEN  
(1986–87)**



His main contribution to sports was in officiating. He was the chief timer for many events, including speed skating, swimming, track and cycling. He wrote the manual and taught many of the timers who officiate at the Calgary Speed Skating Oval. Goplen also served as president of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Goplen held a PhD in genetics and retired in 1993 after a rewarding career as principal researcher and head of the Forage Section of the Agriculture Canada Research Centre in Saskatoon. Passed away on April 16, 2000.

**JOHN BOKITCH  
(1987–88)**



Served in a number of positions with the Saskatchewan Racquetball Association before being nominated to be its representative on the Sask Sport Board of Directors. Bokitch currently resides in Kelowna, British Columbia, where he owns and operates a number of car dealerships.

**NORBERT THURMEIER  
(1988–89)**



Thurmeier spent his career with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, but he sees his volunteer work with the Regina Rams and Sask Sport as his defining contribution to society. He joined the Rams Board of Directors in 1973 and was club president in 1982–83. It was through the Rams that he met Paul Barnby, who convinced him to join the Sask Sport Board of Directors.

**BARRY GUNTHER  
(1989–90)**



Gunther officiated football for thirty-nine years in Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw at university, junior, pee wee, bantam and high school levels. He was president of Football Saskatchewan and Football Canada and he was Canada's voting delegate to the International Federation of American Football for two years. He worked for thirty years as a community development specialist. He is currently vice-president of villages, resort villages and northern municipalities for the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association.

**DALE CANHAM  
(1990–91)**



Canham's volunteer work with Sask Sport began in 1986 when he became membership chairman, becoming a board member in 1988. His numerous volunteer commitments included being a charter member of the Regina Downtown Canadian Progress Club, fundraising chairman for Saskatchewan Special Olympics and member of the Saskatchewan Board of Junior Achievement. A Regina-based lawyer who was in private practice for eighteen years before joining the Farm Credit Corporation in 1993, Canham is currently vice-president and general counsel of the FCC, with the head office in Regina.

**PAT STELLEK-PRATT  
(1991–92)**



Became involved with Sask Sport when Skate Saskatchewan nominated her to the Board of Directors. Stellek-Pratt was not a figure skater herself, but she enrolled her three children in a learn-to-skate program. She went on to volunteer for numerous positions with Skate Saskatchewan, including president. She served on the Board of Directors of Skate Canada for 15 years and was also elected chairperson of the Canadian Sport Council. She was also familiar with Sask Sport through her role as executive director of Saskatchewan Special Olympics.

**BOB LIVINGSTON  
(1992–93)**



Livingston served on the Board of Directors for the Regina Dolphins and Basketball Saskatchewan. He was an educational psychologist based in Regina, and spent most of his career working for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, specializing in special needs policy development and service delivery.

**GEORGE WATSON**  
(1993–94)



A retired educator who spent many years as a high school teacher, a university lecturer and a consultant for the Regina Public School Board. Watson ended his teaching career in New Zealand, where he taught for two years. As a teacher, he coached hockey and he did so again when his son became interested in the sport. He served as director of minor hockey for Hockey Canada.

**DICK WHITE**  
(1994–95)



The director of athletics at the University of Regina, White spent a number of years as president and on the Board of Directors of Regina Association of Basketball Officials and the Saskatchewan Association of Basketball Officials. He began his career as a physical education teacher and has been involved in sports as a coach, official and athlete for most of his life.

**KEVIN SCOTT**  
(1995–96)



A Saskatoon-based lawyer who has been involved in sports all his life. Scott was drawn into the Sask Sport family as a result of his involvement with his children's sport activities. His kids were racing canoes and kayaks, so he was doing volunteer work for the Saskatchewan Canoe Association, which nominated him for the Sask Sport Board of Directors. He played football for the Saskatoon Hilltops and went on to coach the team for eleven years.

**DOROTHY JOSEPHSON**  
(1996–97)



Josephson was drawn into Sask Sport by Pat Stelleg-Pratt because the board needed an external person for their Audit Committee. Stelleg-Pratt was a student of hers at the University of Regina. Josephson was nominated to the Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Canoe Association. With a background in computer science and business administration, she works in Senior Management at SGI Canada.

**DON MCDUGALL  
(1997-98)**



McDougall spent many years on the board and as President of the Regina Rams as well as President of the Prairie Junior Football Conference and served on the Executive board of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He served as volunteer game day producer for 28 years for Rider games. A Regina-based educator with a background in physical education who had a career with the public school system as a teacher and over twenty years as a Principal, he was also very active with the Shriners, serving for a time as Potentate of the WA WA Shriners.

**TOM ARCHIBALD  
(1998-99)**



Archibald was active with the Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club, the Saskatoon Rotary Club and the Kinsmen Foundation. A long-time resident of Saskatoon who has over twenty years of experience in the health-care industry at the CEO and VP levels, he is currently president of Eden Health Solutions, a privately held consulting company.

**JIM FINK  
(1999-2000)**



Baseball was his passion for many years. Fink played in the Saskatchewan Major Baseball League for eight years and then coached teams that went to provincial, national, international and world competitions and won gold metals at the provincial, national and international competitions. He even spent six years working as a scout for the Toronto Blue Jays. It was through Regina Minor Football, however, that he became involved with Sask Sport. He was volunteering because of his son's interest in football. Fink spent thirty-six years working for SaskPower, the last ten of which were as assistant to the president.

**BOB PELTON, QC  
(2000-01)**



Pelton was a director and past president of the Regina Rams Football Club. For his dedication to amateur sports, he was named Canadian Junior Football League Executive of the Year in 1998 and in 2005 he received a Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award. A Regina-based lawyer, labour arbitrator and mediator who heard and decided labour-management disputes in Saskatchewan and Alberta, Pelton passed away in 2013.



**DARRELL BAKER**  
(2001-02)



Baker played baseball for twenty-seven years and went to the Canada Games in 1972 and 1976 (where he won a gold medal). He was a coach for the Canada Games in Thunder Bay. He became a “hockey dad” the same time as Jim Burnett and during a road trip to Colorado Springs he was convinced to let his name stand for the Sask Sport Board of Directors. He is a Regina-based real estate developer (owner of Cherry Hill Developments Inc).

**SPENCER GRAHAM**  
(2002-03)



Graham was nominated to the Sask Sport Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Rowing Association. He was involved in numerous amateur sports as a player, coach, official, administrator and volunteer. He worked in the financial services industry for over 30 years, holding positions from broker and provincial branch manager to regional vice president of sales.

**LARRY LEBLANC, QC**  
(2003-04)



LeBlanc was inducted into the University of Regina Sports Hall of Fame in the Builder Category in 2009 for his thirty-year involvement with the Regina Rams as a player, executive member and president. He is a senior partner (now counsel) with MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman LLP, specializing in labour and employment matters, with a background in administrative law and civil litigation.

**CHERYL WILLOUGHBY**  
(2004-05)



Willoughby was nominated to the Board of Directors of Sask Sport by the Saskatchewan Soccer Association. She began playing soccer at the local club level in Regina and graduated to a number of provincial all-star teams and played five years at the university level. She has coached numerous local club teams and various provincial select teams and was an assistant coach of the 2001 Canada Games women’s team (bronze medalist). She also served as the provincial team coach of the Under 12 Soccer Development Program and head coach of the AC Football Club. She is a lawyer with the City of Regina.

**GEORGE RATHWELL  
(2005-06)**



Although Rathwell was affiliated with a number of other amateur sports, such as baseball and swimming, the Saskatchewan Rowing Association ended up putting his name forward for the Sask Sport Board of Directors. A group of lifelong friends in Regina who knew about his involvement in amateur sport, both as a participant while going to school and later as a coach in the community and within the school system, convinced him to let his name stand. He grew up in Regina but spent most of his teaching career in Saskatoon, and retired as director of education for Saskatoon Public Schools in July 2012.

**DON MACAULAY  
(2006-07)**



MacAulay was nominated by the Saskatchewan Camping Association to sit on the Sask Sport Board of Directors in 1972 but stepped down from the board when he accepted a position with the Department of Culture and Youth. He was nominated to sit on the board a second time in 2003. He was a member of the first Site Selection Committee for the 1972 Saskatchewan Games and served as missions staff in 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1980. A retired civil servant who worked most of his career in sports, culture, recreation and parks, in positions that varied from program delivery to executive management.

**GORD LANG  
(2007-08)**



Lang was an accomplished athlete and played for the Regina Rams football club prior to serving in numerous volunteer capacities in support of amateur sport in Saskatchewan. A Saskatoon based business owner, Lang served two terms on the SaskSport Board of Directors -1990/93 and 2005/2008.

**IAN COOK  
(2008-09)**



Cook has a brown belt in karate, is a Saskatchewan champion and competed at the national level. He was also a Canadian singles and doubles champion in his age category in racquetball and served as a national representative for Racquetball Saskatchewan with Racquetball Canada. He also has a licence to fly both fixed-wing airplanes and hot-air balloons. He is a Regina-based entrepreneur who owns a company that upfits vehicles.

**DALE HOLMES  
(2009–10)**



Nominated to the Sask Sport Board of Directors by Basketball Saskatchewan, Holmes played for the University of Regina Cougars basketball team and captained the Cougars in 1998 and 1999. He was the recipient of the Great Plains Athletic Conference Male Athlete of the Year/Community Service Award, was the head coach of Leboldus High School's senior boys' basketball team and has been involved with Basketball Saskatchewan in numerous capacities for more than ten years.

**AUDRA YOUNG  
(2010–11)**



Young has played volleyball her whole life and in university played for the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. It was when she was asked by the provincial government to sit as a member of the Community Initiatives Fund that she learned about Sask Sport and she was eventually convinced to let her name stand for the Board of Directors. She has also volunteered for the Rainbow Youth Centre and Family Service Regina. Born and raised on the Cowessess First Nation, Young is a twenty-five-year member of the Regina Police Service and is currently assigned to the Major Crimes Unit.

**ERIC HONETSLAGER  
(2011–12)**



Nominated to the Sask Sport Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association. Honetschlager served on the executive of the association and on the board of the Coaches Association of Saskatchewan.

**NADA GORMAN  
(2012–13)**



Gorman was a player in the Regina Touch Football League and a player and team representative for league meetings in the Regina Ladies Basketball League. She was a member of the national softball team and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 2004. She served as a clinician and private instructor for minor girls' softball in southern Saskatchewan and is a community coach for the Sheldon Williams High School softball team.

**SHANE REOCH  
(2013–14)**



Nominated to the Sask Sport Board of Directors by the Saskatchewan Handball Association in 2011, Reoch has also coached dozens of basketball, soccer and baseball teams and remains active as a basketball player. He has also served as the president of the University of Regina Alumni Association.

**JEFF HERBACK  
(2014–15)**



Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan to serve on the Sask Sport Board of Directors in 2012, Herback served as president of Swim Saskatchewan and a member of the provincial sport governing body's Strategic Planning Committee. He was also a delegate on the President's Council for Swim Canada, an intermediate-level coach with Hockey Regina and a level-two swim official.

**TODD FUCHS  
(2015–16)**



Fuchs was nominated to sit on the Sask Sport board by Football Saskatchewan. Prior to joining the board he served as the President of the University of Regina Rams' Board of Directors. Fuchs, who played junior football with the Rams from 1990-1994, has also coached flag football. He is currently the CFO at the Brandt Group of Companies in Regina.





Milos Kostic of Regina, Triathlon World Champion 2006–2014, was also named Saskatchewan Sport Awards 2011 & 2014 Master Athlete of the Year. Courtesy SSI.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Saskatchewan has a sport system that is unique in Canada, indeed the world. It is the only place in the world where a non-profit sport organization runs a provincial lottery as a fundraiser for its member organizations. It is a remarkable story – another one of those “only in Saskatchewan” stories that sets our province apart. I was fortunate to meet many of the men and women who helped found Sask Sport and develop it into the organization it is today. Sadly, some of these people are no longer with us. Hank Lorenzen and Joe Kanuka were Sask Sport’s first volunteer presidents. I had the privilege of interviewing both of them for the book and getting their feedback on earlier drafts. Their contributions, as well as those of so many others who shared their experiences with me, were essential in piecing together the story of Sask Sport.

One person, however, stands out in this whole process and that is Ian Cook. This book would never have been written had it not been for Ian’s persistence in

convincing the Board of Directors and management of Sask Sport that they had an important and interesting story to tell. Once Sask Sport gave the go ahead for the book, Ian chaired a volunteer committee that managed the project from start to finish. I will be forever grateful that Ian and his fellow committee members, Don MacAulay and Phillis Pogany, entrusted me with the job of researching and writing this book. The history book committee was assisted by many people who work for Sask Sport, especially Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby. The history committee was also capably assisted by the always happy and helpful Donna Schmidt, who was usually my first point of contact at Sask Sport when I was looking for something or trying to track someone down.

Thanks should also be extended to Sheila Kelly and the staff at the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame for not only helping to fund the project but also in finding many of the photos included in the book. Sask Sport’s



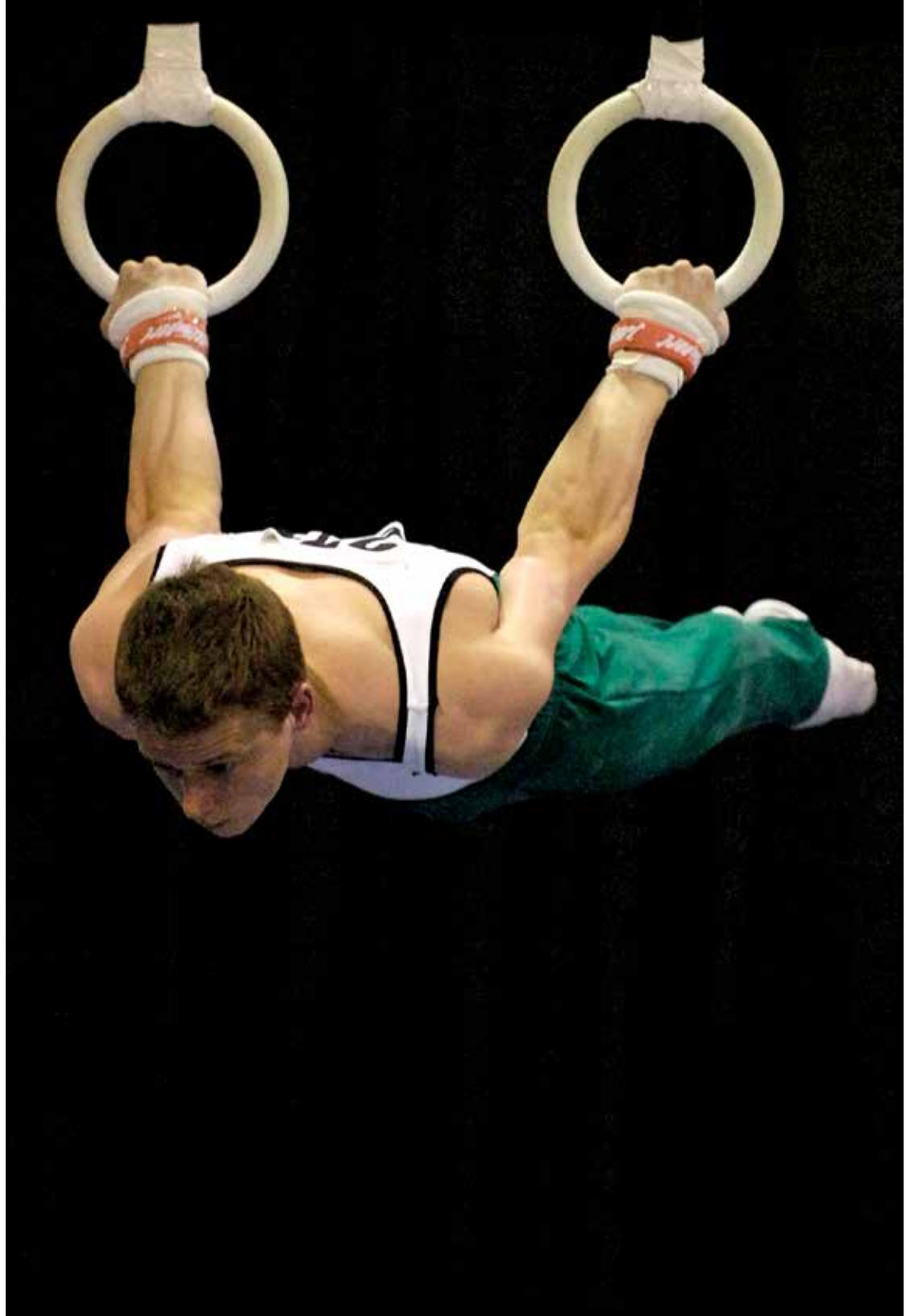
Communications Department was also helpful in finding images, as were the staff at Special Collections and Archives at the University of Regina. A big thank you is also extended to Rob Vanstone of the Leader Post who not only helped source many of the photos for the book, but who also edited an earlier draft. Last, but certainly not least, the team at Coteau Books is to be commended for doing such a great job in publishing this book. Susan Buck – your humour kept me going during the production stages. Dallas Harrison – you are an amazing editor. Thank you Nik Burton for taking this book on as one of your last projects before retiring and moving out west!

I'd certainly be remiss if I did not also thank my husband, Pat Rediger, for convincing me that this would be interesting book to write. He was, as usual, correct. My life is richer for writing this book and meeting so many incredible people in the process.



2014 Paralympian, Brittany Hudak of Prince Albert at the 2015 Canada Winter Games, Prince George, BC. Courtesy Saskatchewan Games Council.

Queen City Kinsmen  
Gymnastics Club member  
Ian Kielly performs  
in the National Open  
Rings Final on May 1,  
2010 at the Western  
Canadian Gymnastics  
Championships at the  
Callie Curling Club. Troy  
Fleece, Leader-Post.







Chelsea Stone of Regina performs one of her jump kicks during the International Taekwon-Do Federation Western Canadian championships held on April 3, 2010 at the University of Regina. Troy Fleece/Leader-Post.

## OTHER BOOKS PRODUCED THROUGH THE SPORT HISTORY PROJECT

Andrews, Gary. *Fifty Years of Athletics in Saskatchewan: A History of the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association*. Regina: Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1999.

Argan, William. *Saskatchewan Curling: Heartland Tradition (1882-1990)*. Regina: Saskatchewan Curling Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1992.  
OUT OF PRINT

Bingaman, Sandra. *Breaking 100: A Century of Women's Golf in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Ladies' Golf Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1997.

Bingaman, Sandra. *Spinning Into the Spotlight: Figure Skating in Saskatchewan 1883 – 1996*. Regina: Saskatchewan Figure Skating Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2000.

Bingaman, Sandra. *For the Love of the Game: Tennis in Saskatchewan 1883 – 2001*. Regina: Tennis Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2004.

Bingaman, Sandra. *Courts, Killshots and Conquests: Saskatchewan Racquetball's First 46 Years*. Regina: Saskatchewan Racquetball Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2007.

Bingaman, Sandra. *From Straw to Gold: A Century of Broomball in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Broomball Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2011.

Bingaman, Sandra. *Keeping the Shuttles Flying: A History of Badminton in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Badminton Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2013.

Boyle, Mickey. *Ninety Years of Golf: An Illustrated History of Golf in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Golf Association, 1987.  
OUT OF PRINT

Bradley, Kenneth A. *Out-Of-Bounds: A Century of Golf in Moose Jaw*. Regina: Saskatchewan Golf Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2012.

Brass, Dana. *Twisting and Tumbling Through Saskatchewan: A History of Gymnastics*. Regina: Saskatchewan Gymnastics Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1992.

Brown, David W. *Saskatchewan Rugby: A History*. Regina: Saskatchewan Rugby Union and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1992.

- Conrad, Peter. *In the Winning Lane: A History of Competitive Swimming in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Swim Saskatchewan, Inc., 1990.  
OUT OF PRINT
- Davis, Darrell and Johnston, Ron. *Junior Hockey's Royal Franchise: The Regina Pats*. Regina: The Leader Post Foundation and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2009.
- DeRyk, Dick. *The Highest Skill: The Story of Karate in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Karate Association, 1987.  
OUT OF PRINT
- Dewar, John D. *Basketball, Saskatchewan's Story: 1891-1989*. Regina: Basketball Saskatchewan Inc., 1989.
- Dewar, John M. *Saskatchewan Soccer: A History*. Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Soccer Association, 1986.
- Elasser, Douglas. *Magic Boards: A History of Skiing in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Ski Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1995.
- Goplen, Henrietta. *Saskatoon Lion's Speed Skating Club, 1942-1987: 45 Years of History*. Saskatoon: 1987.
- Hack, Paul and Shury, Dave. *Wheat Province Diamonds: a Story of Saskatchewan Baseball*. Regina: Saskatchewan Baseball Association and Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1997.
- Hughes, Bob. *Regina Rams: A Winning Tradition*. Regina: University of Regina Rams Football Club and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2003.
- Kennedy, Michael P.J. *Dogs on Ice: A History of Hockey at University of Saskatchewan*. Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum and Friends of the Huskies, 2006.
- Mortin, Jenni. *Safe at Home: A History of Softball in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Softball Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1997.
- Nixon, Elva. *Fifty Years to Gold: Synchronized Swimming in Saskatchewan (1941-1991)*. Regina: Canadian Amateur Synchronized Swimming Association, Saskatchewan Section, Inc. and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1993.
- Powers, Ned. *Strikes 'n' Spires: A History of Bowling in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Bowling Federation of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1993.
- Powers, Ned. *Personal Best: The History of Track and Field in Saskatchewan*. Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Athletics and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1997.
- Powers, Ned. *The Hilltops: A Canadian Junior Football Legacy*. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Hilltop Junior Football Club and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2006.  
OUT OF PRINT
- Pugh, Terry. *Prevailing Westerlies: A History of Sailing in Saskatchewan*. St Peter's Press, Muenster, SK: Saskatchewan Sailing Clubs Association (Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum – Omitted in the credits), 1999.
- Rediger, Pat. *Blades of Glory: The History of Speed Skating in Saskatchewan*. Mississauga: Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1999.
- Rediger, Pat. *Riding With the Wind: The History of Cycling in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Cycling Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2001.



Riches, Stefan. *Moving Forward...Looking Back: Saskatchewan Rowing in the 20th Century*. Regina: Saskatchewan Rowing Association and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2000.

Schneider, Anne. *With This Ring: The History of Ringette in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Ringette Association of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1998.

For further information on the Sport History Project Grant or to enquire about purchasing these publications, please contact:

The Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame  
2205 Victoria Ave.  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0S4  
Telephone (306) 780-9232 Fax (306) 780-9427

Zeman, Brenda. *88 Years of Puck Chasing in Saskatchewan*. Regina: WDS Associates and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, 1983.



Keeley Van Blaricom, 2013 Canada Summer Games, Sherbrooke, QC.  
Photo by Yves Longré, courtesy Saskatchewan Games Council.





Team Canada's captain Hayley Wickenheiser skates during the second period against Finland during the Hockey Canada Cup in Vancouver, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009. The Shaunavon-born athlete has won four gold and one silver medals, making her one of Canada's most decorated Olympians. Courtesy The Canadian Press/Jonathan Hayward.

# SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

## ARCHIVAL SOURCES

Saskatchewan Archives Board  
*Cy MacDonald Fonds*  
*Ed Tchorzewski Fonds*  
*Allan Blakeney Fonds*  
*Grant Devine Fonds*  
Saskatchewan Sports Hall of  
Fame Files

## INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY LYNN GIDLICK

Andrew Albers  
Ken Alecxe  
Gord Anderson  
Eugene Arcand  
John Austin  
Darrell Baker  
Paul Barnby  
Erica Beaudin  
John Bokitch  
Cymone (Bouchard) Bernauer  
Jim Burnett  
Lorne Calvert  
Norm Campbell  
Dr. Don Clark  
Ian Cook  
Elwood Cowley  
Rob Currie  
Joe Daniels  
Lyle Daniels  
Randy Durovick

Dr. Brian Fern  
Jim Fink  
Rick Folk  
Paul Fudge  
Marguerite Gallaway  
Dennis Garreck  
Gordon Goplen  
Henrietta Goplen  
Lisa Hodnefield  
Amber Holland  
Peter Jmaeff  
Dorothy Josephson  
Lou Julé  
Sheila Kelly  
Larry LeBlanc  
Joe Kanuka  
Rob Kennedy  
Dale Kryzanowski  
Jean-Marc Lafaille  
Gord Lang  
Lorne Lasuita  
John Lee  
Bob Livingston  
Hank and Fyola Lorenzen  
Ross Lynd  
Don McDonald  
Gary Mather  
Colin Maxwell  
Don MacAulay  
Beattie Martin  
Rueben Mayes  
Cheryl McCallum

Don McDougall  
Bruce Medhurst  
Jeremy Morgan  
Greg Murdock  
Howard and Elva Nixon  
Dan Perrins  
Cas Pielak  
Angella Pinay  
Phyllis Pogany  
Ken Pontikes  
Glen Pratt  
George Rathwell  
Paul Rezansoff  
Tom Robinson  
Keith Rogers  
Judy Sarsons  
Susan Schneider  
Kevin Scott  
Ned Shillington  
Guy Simonis  
Emile St. Amand  
Dennis Stafford  
Gord Staseson  
Pat Stellek-Pratt  
Dick Teece  
Carol Teichrob  
Norbert Thurmeier  
Gail Todd  
Pat Walsh  
George Watson  
Dick White  
Audra Young

Wayne Young  
Bill Werry

## INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY ERNEST NICHOLLS

Interviews are part of the Sask  
Sport Archives housed in the  
Saskatchewan Sports Hall of  
Fame and Museum in Regina.

Jack Alexander  
*N.d.*  
Don Burgess  
*November 1, 1977*  
Don Clark  
*October 14, 1977*  
Bill Clarke  
*October 13, 1977*  
Betty Lou Dean  
*October 14, 1977*  
Brian Fern  
*October 26, 1977*  
Gary Korven  
*October 18, 1977*  
Hank Lorenzen  
*October 14, 1977*  
Bob Ritchie  
*November 2, 1977*

Don Seaman  
October 18, 1977

Wally Stinson  
November 2, 1977

Dick Teece  
June 2, 1977

Glenn Tuck  
October 28, 1977

Wayne Young  
October 28, 1977

Joe Zeman  
November 3, 1977

Andy Zwack  
October 14, 1977

## INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY ELVA NIXON

Interviews are part of the Sask Sport Archives housed in the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina.

Bill Clarke  
February 11, 1986

Roy Ellis  
May 22, 1986

Stan Green  
February 1986

JB Leicester  
January 1986

Don MacAulay  
February 11, 1986

Emile St. Amand  
February 1986

Glenn Tuck  
February 1986

## INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY GLENN TUCK

Bill Clarke.  
*N.d. Sask Sport Archives*

## GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS

Auditor General of Canada.  
*Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons: Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1984.* Ottawa: Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 1984.

Canada. House of Commons. Debates. Ottawa: Canadian Government Publishing, 1969–85. Loto Canada. Annual Reports. Ottawa: Minister of State, Fitness and Amateur Sport, 1977–80.

Sask Sport. Annual Reports and Financial Statements. Regina: Sask Sport, 1974–2014.

Saskatchewan. Culture and Youth Annual Reports, 1971–83.

—. Culture and Recreation Annual Reports, 1983–87.

—. Parks, Recreation and Culture Annual Reports, 1987–89.

—. Culture, Multiculturalism and Recreation Annual Reports, 1989–91.

—. Family Foundation Annual Reports, 1991–92.

—. Community Services Annual Reports, 1992–93.

—. Municipal Government Annual Reports, 1993–98.

—. Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing Annual Reports, 1998–2001.

—. Culture, Youth and Recreation Annual Reports, 2001–07.

—. Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Annual Reports, 2007–12.

—. Parks, Culture and Sport Annual Reports, 2012–14.

Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Financial Statements, 1974–2014.

## SECONDARY SOURCES

Baka, Richard S.P. “A History of Provincial Government Involvement in Sport in Western Canada.” PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1978.

Bercovitz, Kim L. “Canada’s Active Living Policy: A Critical Analysis.” *Health Promotion International* 13, 4 (1998): 319–28.

Berdahl, Loleen Y. “The Impact of Gaming upon Canadian Non-Profits: A 1999 Survey of Gaming Grant Recipients.” Canada West Foundation, Calgary, 1999.

Campbell, Colin S. “Canadian Gambling Policies.” In *Casino State: Legalized Gambling in Canada*, edited by James F. Cosgrave and Thomas R. Klassen, 69–90. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

—. “Lawlessness: Gaming Policies in British Columbia, Canada.” Paper presented at the Third National Gambling Conference, Sydney, Australia, May 11–12, 2000.

- . “Under the Halo of Good Causes.” In *Gambling: Public Policies and the Social Sciences*, edited by William R. Eadington and Judy A. Cornelius, 607–10. Reno, NV: Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, 1997.
- Campbell, Colin S. and J.R. Ponting. “Charity Casino Gambling in Western Canada.” In *Gambling: Public Policies and the Social Sciences*, edited by William R. Eadington and Judy A. Cornelius, 142–55. Reno, NV: Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, 1997.
- Coalter, Fred. “Sport-for-Development: Going beyond the Boundary?” *Sport in Society* 13, 9 (2010): 1374–91.
- Cosgrave, James F. and Thomas R. Klassen, eds. *Casino State: Legalized Gambling in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Donnelly, Peter. “Sport Participation.” In *Sport Policy in Canada*, edited by Lucie Thibault and Jean Harvey, 177–213. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2013.
- Elliott, Ian. “Stupid Not to Include the Arts: The Creation and Evolution of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, 1948–1970.” MA thesis, University of Saskatchewan, 2012.
- Ellis, Roy and Elva Nixon. *Saskatchewan’s Recreation Legacy: A Perspective from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association*. Regina: SPRA, 1986.
- Forsyth, Janice and Audrey R. Giles, eds. *Aboriginal Peoples and Sport in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2013.
- Forsyth, Janice and Victoria Paraschak. “The Double Helix: Aboriginal People and Sport Policy in Canada.” In *Sport Policy in Canada*, edited by Lucie Thibault and Jean Harvey, 267–93. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2013.
- Frisby, Wendy and Pamela Ponc. “Sport and Social Inclusion.” In *Sport Policy in Canada*, edited by Lucie Thibault and Jean Harvey, 281–303. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2013.
- Harvey, Jean. “Multi-Level Governance and Sport Policy in Canada.” In *Sport Policy in Canada*, edited by Lucie Thibault and Jean Harvey, 37–68. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2013.
- . “Sport Policy and the Welfare State: An Outline of the Canadian Case.” *Sociology of Sport Journal* 5, 4 (1988): 315–29.
- Harvey, Jean, Maurice Levesque and Peter Donnelly. “Sport Volunteerism and Social Capital.” *Sociology of Sport Journal* 24 (2007): 206–23.
- Hughes, Bob. *Regina Rams: A Winning Tradition*. Regina: Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2003.
- Hurd, Amy R. and Denise M. Anduson. *The Park and Recreation Professional’s Handbook*. Champagne, IL: Human Kinetics, 2011.
- Labrosse, Michel. *The Lottery: From Jacques Cartier’s Day to Modern Times*. Montreal: Stanke, 1985.
- Macintosh, D., T. Bedeck and C.E.S. Franks. *Sport and Politics in Canada*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1987.
- Mlazar, Brian and Holden Stoffel, eds. *Saskatchewan Sports: Lives Past and Present*. Regina: CPRC, 2007.
- Morgan, Jeremy. “Saskatchewan Arts Board.” In *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*. Regina: CPRC, 2006.
- Morton, S. *At Odds: Gambling and Canadians, 1919–1969*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.

- Nicholls, Ernest A. "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977-78." PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1982.
- Osborne, Judith A. "The Evolution of Public Lotteries in BC: The Genesis of a Modern Lottery Scandal." In *Gambling and Public Policy: International Perspectives*, edited by William R. Eadington and Judy A. Cornelius, 285-302. Reno, NV: Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, 1991.
- . "The Legal Status of Lottery Schemes in Canada: Changing the Rules of the Games." MA thesis, University of British Columbia, 1989.
- Pierce, Patrick A. and Donald E. Miller. *Gambling Politics: State Government and the Business of Betting*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004.
- Powers, Ned. *Personal Best: The History of Track and Field in Saskatchewan*. Regina: Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, 1997.
- . *The Saskatoon Hilltops: A Canadian Junior Football Legacy*. Regina: Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2006.
- Rediger, Pat. *Recreation and Parks in Saskatchewan, 1985-2010: A Perspective from SPRA*. Regina: SPRA, 2011.
- Stone, Gerald S. "Discourse about Cultural Policy and the Politics of Culture in Saskatchewan 1944-1987." MA thesis, McGill University, 1989.
- Vance, Joan. "Canadian State Lotteries, 1970-1984." PhD diss., Carleton University, 1986.
- Weseen, Simon and M.R. Olfert. "Cultural Policy in Saskatchewan." Working Paper 54. Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, University of Regina, 2008.



Chantel Belislie (top) from Notre Dame won in a pin over Sara Einarson (bottom) from Leboldus during a High School wrestling meet at Sheldon Collegiate in Regina on February 23, 2011. Courtesy Leader Post/Don Healy.



Katie Willie, member of the Saskatoon Aqualenes Club, at the 2015 Canada Winter Games, Prince George, BC. Courtesy Saskatchewan Games Council.



# NOTES

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1 Ian Cook, interview with the author, October 5, 2012.
- 2 Western Canada Lottery Foundation, *Annual Report 1974–75* (Winnipeg: WCLF, 1975).
- 3 Sask Sport, *Sask Sport Annual Report 2012–2013* (Regina: Sask Sport, 2013).
- 4 “About Us,” Saskatchewan Lotteries, [http://www.sasklotteries.ca/sk/about\\_us/SLTF.html](http://www.sasklotteries.ca/sk/about_us/SLTF.html).
- 5 Ernest Alfred Nicholls, “An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada 1977–78” (PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1982).
- 6 Roy Ellis and Elva Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy: A Perspective from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association* (Regina: SPRA, 1986).
- 7 Ken Alecxe, interview with the author, June 13, 2012.
- 8 Dorothy Josephson, interview with the author, July 6, 2012.
- 9 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 10 Colin Maxwell, interview with the author, May 31, 2012.
- 11 Bruce Medhurst, interview with the author, June 8, 2012.
- 12 Dick White, interview with the author, July 24, 2012 and during a discussion group with other past presidents and Sask Sport staff on November 16, 2012.
- 13 Ian Cook, interview with the author, October 5, 2012.

## CHAPTER 2: SPORT AND RECREATION

- 1 Barbara K. Adamski and Tabitha Marshall, “Lacrosse,” in *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (Toronto, ON: 2013), <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/lacrosse/>.
- 2 Thomas West and Peter L. Lindsay, “Sports History,” in *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (Toronto, ON: 2013), <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sports-history/>.
- 3 For more information on the early days of sports in Saskatchewan, see entries by John Chaput, “Football,” “Hockey,” and “Soccer”; Pat Rediger, “Sport and Recreation in Saskatchewan — a History”; and Karen Zemlak, “Curling,” in *The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: CPRC, 2006).
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ned Powers, *Personal Best: The History of Track and Field in Saskatchewan* (Regina: Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, 1997), 145–46.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Hank and Fyola Lorenzen, feedback on first draft of this chapter, September 2012.
- 9 Richard S. Baka, “A History of Provincial Government Involvement in Sport in Western Canada” (PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1978), 242–43; Powers, *Personal Best*, 29.
- 10 Roy Ellis and Elva Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy: A*

*Perspective from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association* (Regina: SPRA, 1986), 38.

- 11 Powers, *Personal Best*, 29.
- 12 Dr. Howard Nixon, “A Tribute to Wally Stinson.” Stinson passed away in March 2008 and these words came from the speech delivered by Nixon at his funeral. See <http://www.realrestitution.com/Wally.html>.
- 13 Baka, “A History of Provincial Government Involvement in Sport in Western Canada,” 249–50.
- 14 Nixon, “A Tribute to Wally Stinson.”
- 15 Allan Blakeney, “Notes for a Memorial Service for Wally Stinson,” <http://www.realrestitution.com/Wally.html>.
- 16 Baka, “A History of Provincial Government Involvement in Sport in Western Canada,” 252.
- 17 Ellis and Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy*, 53–54.
- 18 Powers, *Personal Best*, 145–46.
- 19 Rediger, “Sport and Recreation in Saskatchewan.”
- 20 For more on this era of growth in amateur sports, see Donald MacIntosh, Tom Bedeck and C.E.S. Franks, *Sport and Politics in Canada: Federal Government Involvement since 1961* (Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1987); and Donald MacIntosh and David Whitson, *The Game Planners: Transforming Canada’s Sport System* (Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1990).
- 21 Don Morrow and Mary Keyes, *A Concise History of Sport in Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1990), 325.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 “Introduction,” Jeux du Canada Games, [www.canadagames.ca/Content/GamesHome.asp?mnu=3](http://www.canadagames.ca/Content/GamesHome.asp?mnu=3).
- 24 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, SPRA History Project, February 11, 1986.
- 25 “Bill Clarke (Centre),” in *Saskatchewan Roughriders Souvenir Year Book, 1955*, Bill Clarke Inductee File, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Regina.
- 26 “Bill Clarke (Inducted 1996),” Canadian Football Hall of Fame, <http://www.cfhof.ca/page/clarkebill>.
- 27 “History of the Juniors,” Canadian Curling Association, <http://www.curling.ca/championships/juniors/history-of-the-juniors/>.
- 28 Cy MacDonald, interview with the author, July 26, 2011.
- 29 “Provincial Youth Agency Progress Report, 1966–69,” C.P. MacDonald Fonds, Saskatchewan Archives Board (hereafter SAB), Youth Agency 1966–71, R65-447.2, File 134-I.
- 30 Ellis and Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy*, 70.
- 31 “Nomination Form — Howard Nixon,” Inductee File Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Regina, 1987.
- 32 Provincial Youth Agency, *Newsletter 1*, 1 (1966), C.P. MacDonald Fonds, SAB, Youth Agency 1966–71, R65-447.2.4, File 134-c.
- 33 “Divorced from Politics,” editorial, *Leader-Post*, March 21, 1966.



- 34 Murray Hidlebaugh, "Recreation Professionals of the 21st Century: Meeting the Needs of the Changing Community," speech at SPRA conference, Regina, October 1999.
  - 35 Correspondence from Dr. Lloyd Barber to Hon. C.P. MacDonald, November 30, 1970, C.P. MacDonald Fonds, SAB, Youth Agency 1966–71, R65-447.2.4, File 134-p.
  - 36 Glenn Tuck, interview with Elva Nixon, February 14, 1986.
  - 37 "Provincial Youth Agency Progress Report, 1966–69," C.P. MacDonald Fonds, SAB, Youth Agency 1966–71, R65-447.2, File 134-l.
  - 38 Roy Ellis, interview with Elva Nixon, May 22, 1985.
  - 39 Rediger, "Sport and Recreation in Saskatchewan."
  - 40 "Provincial Youth Agency Progress Report, 1966–69," C.P. MacDonald Fonds, SAB, Youth Agency 1966–71, R65-447.2, File 134-l.
  - 41 Ellis and Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy*, 72.
  - 42 "What Is a Recreation Board?," Provincial Youth Agency Monthly Staff Meeting Package, October 1967, C.P. MacDonald Fonds, SAB, Youth Agency 1966–71, R65-447.2, File 134-q.
  - 43 Roy Ellis, interview with Elva Nixon, May 22, 1985.
  - 44 Ellis and Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy*, 72.
  - 45 Gary Mather, interview with the author, May 14, 2012.
  - 46 Ellis and Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy*, 72.
  - 47 Gary Mather, interview with the author, May 14, 2012.
  - 48 Baka, "A History of Provincial Government Involvement in Sport in Western Canada," 271–72.
  - 49 Wally Stinson, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, November 2, 1977.
  - 50 Bill Clarke, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 13, 1977.
  - 51 Ernest Alfred Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78" (PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1982), 209–13.
  - 52 Bill Clarke, interview with Glenn Tuck, ca. 1990.
  - 53 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, February 11, 1986.
  - 54 President of SSRU, "Saskatchewan Sports and Recreation Unlimited," speech to Sask Sport AGM March 1972.
  - 55 "Amazing SSRU Growth Demonstrates Need," *Heritage Gazette* (Regina: SSRU), January 25, 1978.
  - 56 Ellis and Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy*, 125.
  - 57 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78," 221.
  - 58 Hank Lorenzen, interview with the author, March 9, 2011 and feedback on an early draft of this chapter, September 2012.
  - 59 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, February 11, 1986.
  - 60 "Cas Pielak Hasn't Lost His Passion for Baseball," *Leader-Post*, January 26, 2011.
  - 61 "Joe Kanuka — Sport Biography," Inductee File, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Regina.
  - 62 Cas Pielak, interview with the author (and Ian Cook), March 4, 2011 and interview with Joe Kanuka (with Guy Simonis, Ian Cook and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
  - 63 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78," 214–16.
  - 64 Ibid.
  - 65 Ibid., 217.
  - 66 Ibid., 220.
- CHAPTER 3:  
HOW LOTTERIES BECAME THE  
MAJOR FUNDRAISER**
- 1 Ned Powers, *The Saskatoon Hilltops: A Canadian Junior Football Legacy* (Regina: Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2006), 100.
  - 2 For more information on the extent of gambling in Canada prior to the changes made to the Criminal Code in 1969, see Suzanne Morton, *At Odds: Gambling and Canadians, 1919–1969* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003).
  - 3 Telephone interviews with Jean-Marc Lafaille, March 11, 2011 and Guy Simonis, March 2, 2011. For more information on the Montreal "lotteries," see M. Labrosse, *The Lottery: From Jacques Cartier's Day to Modern Times* (Montreal: Stanke, 1985), 135–38; and J. Osborne, "The Legal Status of Lottery Schemes in Canada: Changing the Rules of the Games" (MA thesis, University of British Columbia, 1989), 57.
  - 4 Osborne, "The Legal Status of Lottery Schemes in Canada," 57–59.
  - 5 John Turner, House of Commons *Debates*, 28th Parliament, 1st Session, April 21, 1969, 7781.
  - 6 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 149.
  - 7 Ibid., 16, 156–57.
  - 8 Simonis was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame in 1994. See the write-up on him, "Honoured Members: Guy Simonis, Builder All Around," <http://www.halloffame.mb.ca/honoured/1994/gSimonis.htm>.
  - 9 Guy Simonis, telephone interview with the author, March 2, 2011.
  - 10 Eddie MacCabe, *Jeux du Canada Games, 1967–1992: The Official Retrospective of the Canada Games* (Ottawa: Canada Games Council, 1992), 36.
  - 11 John Duerkop, *Saskatoon's History in Street Names* (Saskatoon: Purich Publishing, 2000).
  - 12 Don McDonald, interview with the author, November 28, 2011.
  - 13 R.C. Livingstone, "Report to Annual General Meeting — Fund Raising Projects," Working Papers and Minutes, Sask Sport AGM, Regina, 1973.
  - 14 Douglas R. Elasser, *Magic Boards: History of Skiing in Saskatchewan* (Regina: Saskatchewan Skiing Association, 1995), 42.
  - 15 Don McDonald, interview with the author, November 28, 2011.
  - 16 Gordon W. Staseson, interview with the author and Ian Cook, May 17, 2011.
  - 17 Allan E. Blakeney, letter to the author, March 15, 2011.
  - 18 Paul Barnby, interview with the author (with Jim Burnett and Ian Cook), March 11, 2011.
  - 19 Saskatchewan Culture and Youth. Recreation 1987. *Summary of Lottery Development and Changes in Saskatchewan*. (Regina, SK: Sask Sport Inc. Institutional Archives, 1987), 11.
  - 20 Guy Simonis, telephone interview with the author, March 2, 2011.
  - 21 Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame, "Larry Desjardins," inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990, <http://www.halloffame.mb.ca/honoured/1990/LDesjardins.htm>.
  - 22 Guy Simonis, telephone interview with the author, March 2, 2011.
  - 23 Guy Simonis, interview with the

- author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 24 T.C. Douglas, House of Commons *Debates*, 28th Parliament, 1st Session, April 22, 1969, 7806.
- 25 Guy Simonis, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 26 Allan E. Blakeney, letter to the author, March 15, 2011.
- 27 Allan E. Blakeney, Hansard, *Legislative Debates and Proceedings*, April 29, 1974, 2729.
- 28 Ed Tchorzewski, Hansard, *Legislative Debates and Proceedings*, April 29, 1974, 2722.
- 29 C.P. MacDonald, Hansard, *Legislative Debates and Proceedings*, April 29, 1974, 2725.
- 30 Joe Kanuka, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Don MacAulay and Guy Simonis), July 28, 2011.
- 31 "WCLC's Founding Fathers," *The Insider: Western Canada Lottery Corporation's Bimonthly Newsletter*, June–July 1994. Newsletter found in the Joe Kanuka Inductee File, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, Regina.
- 32 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 165–67.
- 33 Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, *Official Report. Volume 1: Organization. Games of the XXI Olympiad Montreal*. 1976 (Montreal: Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, 1978), 64–67.
- 34 Guy Simonis, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 35 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 165–67.
- 36 Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, *Official Report*, 64–67.
- 37 Ed Tchorzewski to Premier and Cabinet Ministers, "Olympic Lottery," Cabinet Information Item, January 8, 1975, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-229, 333.2, File 105: Olympic Lottery.
- 38 Guy Simonis, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 39 Loto Canada, *Annual Report* (Ottawa: Minister of State, Fitness and Amateur Sport, 1977), 2, 6.
- 40 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 169; Joan Vance, "Canadian State Lotteries, 1970–1984" (PhD diss., Carleton University, 1986), 92.
- 41 Jean-Marc Lafaille, correspondence with the author, June 16, 2011.
- 42 Jean-Marc Lafaille, interview with the author, March 11, 2011.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Guy Simonis, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 45 Joe Kanuka, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Don MacAulay and Guy Simonis), July 28, 2011.
- 46 Loto Canada, *Annual Report* (Ottawa: Minister of State, Fitness and Amateur Sport, 1978), 3, 8.
- 47 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 182.
- 48 "Backstage Lottery Specials," *Globe and Mail*, May 20, 1978, 35.
- 49 P. McKenna, "How Chrétien Lost the Lottery," *Calgary Herald*, June 6, 2007, A18.
- 50 Guy Simonis, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 51 Jean-Marc Lafaille, correspondence with the author, June 16, 2011.
- 52 "Two Lotteries Soon to Award Computer Deal," *Globe and Mail*, July 22, 1978, B2.
- 53 "Jump on Competitors Admitted Loto's Aim," *Globe and Mail*, June 23, 1978, B2.
- 54 Guy Simonis, interview with the author (with Ian Cook, Joe Kanuka and Don MacAulay), July 28, 2011.
- 55 "Jump on Competitors Admitted Loto's Aim," *Globe and Mail*, June 23, 1978, B2.
- 56 "Not Closing Up Shop in Lottery Business, Campagnolo States," *Globe and Mail*, August 12, 1978, A11.
- 57 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 178.
- 58 Paul Dick, House of Commons *Debates*, 31st Parliament, 1st Session, December 5, 1978, 1787.
- 59 Iona Campagnolo, House of Commons *Debates*, 30th Parliament, 4th Session, January 24, 1979, 2513.
- 60 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 176.
- 61 H.D. Clarke, J. Jenson, L. LeDuc and J. Pammett, "Voting Behaviour and the Outcome of the 1979 Federal Election: The Impact of Leaders and Issues," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 15, 3 (1982): 517–52.
- 62 Jeffrey Simpson, "Ottawa Once Again Gets That Old Lottery Gleam in Its Eye," *Globe and Mail*, January 11, 1995, A18.
- 63 Loto Canada, *Annual Report* (Ottawa: Minister of State, Fitness and Amateur Sport, 1980), 2.
- 64 Hugh Winsor, "The Crisis of Jean Chrétien: Liberal Veteran Learns a New Role and It's Not Easy," *Globe and Mail*, November 22, 1991.
- 65 M. Trueman, "Loto Just First Clark Giveaway, Trudeau Warns," *Globe and Mail*, August 23, 1979, A1.
- 66 "Trudeau Triumphs, Clark Concedes," CBC Television, February 18, 1980, CBC Digital Archives Collection, [http://archives.cbc.ca/on\\_this\\_day/02/18/](http://archives.cbc.ca/on_this_day/02/18/).
- 67 "Ottawa Eyes Re-Entry into Lottery Business," *Globe and Mail*, December 12, 1980, N9.
- 68 Gilbert Parent, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour, House of Commons *Debates*, 32nd Parliament, 2nd Session, May 27, 1980, 1481.
- 69 Gerald Regan, House of Commons *Debates*, 32nd Parliament, 1st Session, June 30, 1980, 2318.
- 70 "Ottawa Accepts Tory Loto Deal," *Globe and Mail*, August 29, 1980, A8.
- 71 Auditor General of Canada, *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the House of Commons: Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1984* (Ottawa: Canadian Government Publishing Centre, 1984), 4.
- 72 Gerald Regan, House of Commons *Debates*, 32nd Parliament, 1st Session, April 19, 1983, 24640.
- 73 C. Gudgeon and B. Stewart, *Luck of the Draw: True-Life Tales of Lottery Winners and Losers* (Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2001), 132.
- 74 As reported by R. Cleroux, "Sports Pool Unaffected by Tory Win," *Globe and Mail*, September 20, 1984, A1.
- 75 Simpson, "Ottawa."
- 76 Jeffrey Simpson, "Two Boondoggles Gone," *Globe and Mail*, September 22, A6.
- 77 Cleroux, "Sports Pool Unaffected."
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Ibid.
- 80 Simpson, "Two Boondoggles Gone."
- 81 Jake Epp, House of Commons *Debates*, 33rd Parliament, 1st Session, November 8, 1984, 56.
- 82 Labrosse, *The Lottery*, 198.
- 83 Jean-Marc Lafaille, interview with the author, March 11, 2011.

## CHAPTER 4: BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

- 1 Richard Teece, "Executive Director's Report," in *Sask Sport Annual Report* (Regina: Sask Sport, 1980), 5.

- 2 Gary Mather, interview with the author, May 14, 2012.
- 3 Brett Quiring, "Tchorzewski, Edwin Laurence (1943–2008)," in *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: CPRC, 2006), [http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/tchorzewski\\_edwin\\_laurence\\_1943-.html](http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/tchorzewski_edwin_laurence_1943-.html).
- 4 Lorne Lasuita, interview with the author, November 21, 2012.
- 5 Joe Kanuka, telephone conversation with the author, December 2, 2011.
- 6 Bob Hughes, *Regina Rams: A Winning Tradition* (Regina: Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 2003), 45.
- 7 Quoted in *ibid.*, 50.
- 8 Paul Barnby, telephone conversation with the author, December 2, 2011.
- 9 "Remembering the Start of a Legacy," *Leader-Post*, November 10, 2006.
- 10 Working Papers and Minutes, Sask Sport AGM, Regina, March 25–26, 1972.
- 11 Hank Lorenzen, "Chairman's Remarks," Sask Sport AGM, Regina, March 25–26, 1972.
- 12 R.C. Livingstone, "Report to Annual General Meeting — Fund Raising Projects," Working Papers and Minutes, Sask Sport AGM, Regina, 1973.
- 13 Ernest Alfred Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78" (PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1982), 228.
- 14 *Ibid.*, 231.
- 15 Joe Kanuka and Guy Simonis, interview with the author, July 28, 2011.
- 16 *Ibid.*
- 17 Henry Lorenzen and Fraser Hodgson, letter to Hon. E. Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth, July 28, 1972, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-229, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 18 Memo from F.J. Bogdasavich, Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth, to Hon. E. Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth, "Sask Sport — Request for Major Lottery-Status Report," August 18, 1972, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-239, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 19 Hank Lorenzen, interview with the author, March 9, 2011.
- 20 R.C. Livingstone, "Fundraising Projects," report presented to the Sask Sport AGM, Regina, March 25–26, 1972.
- 21 Hank and Fyola Lorenzen, interview with the author and Ian Cook, March 9, 2011.
- 22 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78," 231.
- 23 Cas Pielak, interview with the author, March 4, 2011; Joe Kanuka, interview with the author, July 28, 2011.
- 24 Roy S. Meldrum, Deputy Attorney General, to the Honourable Roy J. Romanow, Attorney General, "Application by Sask Sport for Lottery," department memo, August 10, 1972, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-229, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 25 Roy J. Romanow to E.L. Tchorzewski, "Sask Sports Request for a Lottery," department memo, August 8, 1972, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB R77-229, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 26 Bill Clarke, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 13, 1977.
- 27 "Sask Sport," Government of Saskatchewan press release, February 2, 1973, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-229, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 28 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78," 233.
- 29 Richard Teece, interview with the author, March 19, 2011.
- 30 Cas Pielak, interview with the author, March 4, 2011.
- 31 Cabinet Minute No. 4488, cabinet meeting of July 31, 1973, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-229, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 32 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78," 251.
- 33 *Ibid.*, 250.
- 34 Wally Stinson, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, November 2, 1977.
- 35 Richard Teece, interview with the author, March 19, 2011.
- 36 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78," 249–54.
- 37 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 12, 2012.
- 38 Dennis Stafford, interview with the author, April 30, 2012.
- 39 *Ibid.*
- 40 *Ibid.*
- 41 Cas Pielak, Chairman, Board of Management of Sask Sport, to Hon. Ed Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth, May 10, 1974, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R77-229, 333.2, File 176, Sask Sport, 1972–76.
- 42 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 12, 2012.
- 43 Bill Clarke, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 13, 1977.
- 44 Cas Pielak, "Operating Proposal: Western Canada Lotteries, Saskatchewan Division," report to Sask Sport Board of Management. There is no date on this document, but it was likely presented at the meeting that took place at least one month prior to the March 21–23, 1975, Sask Sport AGM.
- 45 Cas Pielak, "President's Report," Appendix C, Minutes, Sask Sport AGM, March 21–23, 1975.
- 46 Bob Ritchie, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, November 2, 1977.
- 47 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, March 11, 2011.
- 48 *Ibid.*
- 49 Keith Rodgers, interview with the author, July 27, 2011.
- 50 Bill Clarke, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 13, 1977.
- 51 Saskatchewan Culture and Youth, "Summary of Lottery Development and Changes in Saskatchewan," January 1987, 12–13, Sask Sport Archives, Regina.
- 52 Cas Pielak, "Report — Western Canada Lottery, Past, Present and Future," presented to Sask Sport Lottery Board and Board of Directors.
- 53 Bob Ritchie, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, November 2, 1977.
- 54 Myril D. Offet, President, Sask Sport, to Honourable Ed Tchorzewski, Minister of Culture and Youth, October 31, 1975, Ed Tchorzewski Fonds, SAB, R-333.2, File 104, Lotteries, General Correspondence.
- 55 Cas Pielak, "Report — Western Canada Lottery, Past, Present and Future," presented to Sask Sport Lottery Board and Board of Directors.
- 56 Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby, interview with the author, December 4, 2011.
- 57 John Austin, interview with the author, April 26, 2012.
- 58 *Ibid.*
- 59 Nicholls, "An Analysis of the

- Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78,” 263–64.
- 60 Gordon W. Staseson, interview with the author and Ian Cook, May 17, 2011.
- 61 Nicholls, “An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78,” 263–64.
- 62 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, December 4, 2011.
- 65 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 66 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, December 4, 2011.
- 67 Saskatchewan Culture and Youth, “Summary of Lottery Development and Changes in Saskatchewan,” January 1987, 12–13, Sask Sport Archives, Regina.
- 68 Nicholls, “An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78,” 267.
- 69 Ibid., 268–70.
- 70 Richard Teece, interview with the author, March 19, 2011.
- 71 “Sask Sport Trust: Guidelines for Applying for Funds,” Sask Sport AGM, March 21–23, 1975.
- 72 Dr. Brian Fern, interview with the author, March 10, 2013.
- 73 Ibid.
- 74 Ibid.
- 75 Sask Sport Trust Fund, press release, n.d., Sask Sport AGM, March 21–23, 1975, 46.
- 76 Richard Teece, interview with the author, March 19, 2011.
- 77 Phyllis Pogany and Paul Barnby, interview with the author, December 4, 2011.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Paul Barnby, interview with the author, May 4, 2012.
- 80 “Paul Barnby,” *Sask Sport News* 2, 3 (1977): 2.
- 81 Paul Barnby, interview with the author, May 4, 2012.
- 82 See Ian Elliott, “Stupid Not to Include the Arts: The Creation and Evolution of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, 1948–1970” (MA thesis, University of Regina, 2012); and Jeremy Morgan, “Saskatchewan Arts Board,” in *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: CPRC, 2006), [http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/saskatchewan\\_arts\\_board.html](http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/saskatchewan_arts_board.html).
- 83 “About OSAC,” Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, <http://www.osac.sk.ca/index.php/about/74-history>.
- 84 Government of Saskatchewan, “Seven Citizens to Receive Volunteer Medal,” news release, January 23, 1997, <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=3bef8d3f-4f04-46de-acab-d6d298c5f38b>.
- 85 Paul Rezanoff, interview with the author, August 10, 2012.
- 86 Ibid.
- 87 Marguerite Gallaway, interview with the author, May 3, 2012.
- 88 Ibid.
- 89 Paul Fudge, interview with the author, July 26, 2011.
- 90 Paul Rezanoff, interview with the author, August 10, 2012.
- 91 Marguerite Gallaway, interview with the author, May 3, 2012.
- 92 Paul Fudge, interview with the author, July 26, 2011.
- CHAPTER 5:  
THE EXCITEMENT AND  
CHALLENGES OF GROWTH**
- 1 Richard Teece, interview with the author, March 19, 2011.
- 2 Bill Clarke, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 13, 1977.
- 3 Hank Lorenzen, letter to Provincial Youth Agency, Sask Sport, May 13, 1972, 1972 File.
- 4 Cas Pielak, “Lottery Committee Report,” Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 21–23, 1975, 44.
- 5 Don Burgess, “Vice-President’s Report,” Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 21–23, 1975, 12–14.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Dr. Ernie Nicholls, correspondence with the author, September 2012.
- 8 Richard Teece, “Sask Sport — ‘The Golden Years’ 1971–1985,” Sask Sport Archives.
- 9 Earle Olson, Chairman, “Sask Sport Membership Liaison Report,” Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 31–April 2, 1978, 39.
- 10 *Sask Sport News* 1, 1 (1976), Sask Sport Archives.
- 11 Richard Teece, “Sask Sport — ‘The Golden Years’ 1971–1985,” Sask Sport Archives.
- 12 Dr. Ernie Nicholls, “Program Development Committee Report,” Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 26–28, 1976, 20.
- 13 Ibid.
- 14 “Sport Administration Seminar,” *Sask Sport News* 1 (1976): 2; “Program Committee Report,” Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 25–27, 1977.
- 15 Dr. Don Clark, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 14, 1977.
- 16 Dr. Brian Fern, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 26, 1977.
- 17 “Dr. Don Clark,” University of Regina Cougars Hall of Fame listing, 2013, <http://www.regina.cougars.com>.
- 18 “Dr. Don Clark, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame Inductee File,” 2013, <http://www.sasksportshalloffame.com/inductees/don-clark/>.
- 19 Dr. Don Clark, interview with the author, December 5, 2012.
- 20 “Fall Conference Taking Shape,” *Sask Sport News* 2, 4 (1977): 2.
- 21 Earle Olson, Chairman, “Sask Sport Awards Dinner Report,” Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 31–April 2, 1978, 33.
- 22 Sask Sport, *Sask Sport Annual Report*, 1979 (Regina: Sask Sport, 1979), 9–10.
- 23 Gail Todd, interview with the author, June 17, 2013.
- 24 “Leading the Way: Professional Business Leadership Certificate for Sport Administrators,” Sask Sport, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/leadership.php>.
- 25 Hank Lorenzen to W. Clarke, n.d., Hank Lorenzen personal files.
- 26 “Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation,” briefing note, n.d., Sask Sport Archives.
- 27 Roy Ellis and Elva Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy: A Perspective from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association* (Regina: SPRA, 1986), 125–26.
- 28 Their comments were part of a meeting in Regina with the author, along with Phyllis Pogany, Paul Barnby, Ian Cook and Pat Rediger, May 4, 2012.
- 29 Judy Sarson, telephone interview with the author, May 26, 2012.
- 30 Paul Barnby, conversation with the author, September 23, 2014.
- 31 Wayne Young, interview with the author, November 14, 2012.
- 32 Ernest Alfred Nicholls, “An Analysis of the Structure and Function of Three Provincial Sports Collectives in Western Canada, 1977–78” (PhD diss., University of Alberta, 1982), 284.
- 33 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, May 2, 2013.

- 34 Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, March 21–23, 1980.
- 35 Wayne Young, interview with the author, November 14, 2012.
- 36 Pat Rediger, "Sports and Recreation in Saskatchewan: A History," in *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: CPRC, 2006), [http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/sports\\_and\\_recreation\\_in\\_saskatchewan-history.html](http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/sports_and_recreation_in_saskatchewan-history.html); "Regina Land Titles Declared Heritage Property," *Sask Sport News* 3, 1 (1978): 1.
- 37 Wayne Young, interview with the author, November 16, 2012.
- 38 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, May 2, 2013.
- 39 Bill Clarke, interview with Dr. Ernie Nicholls, October 13, 1977.
- 40 Gord Anderson, interview with the author, June 18, 2012.
- 41 "Sask Sport Announces New General Manager," *Sask Sport News* 5, 4 (1980): 3.
- 42 Gord Anderson, interview with the author, June 18, 2012.
- 43 "1981 Appointments," *Sask Sport News* 6, 4 (1981): 12.
- 44 Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation, briefing note, n.d., Sask Sport Archives.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 Paul Barnby, interview with the author, September 24, 2013.
- 47 Doug Britton, "Message from the President," *Saskatchewan Player* 1, 3 (1983): 2.
- 48 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, May 2, 2013.
- 49 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 50 Ibid.
- 51 Glenn Tuck, interview with Elva Nixon, February 14, 1985.
- 52 Peter Jmaeff, interview with the author, June 17, 2012.
- 53 "To Plan or Not to Plan," *Sask Sport News* 7, 1 (1982): 2.
- 54 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, May 2, 2013.
- 55 "Report of the Long Range Planning Committee," Appendix D, Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM, June 4–6, 1982.
- 56 Ibid.
- 57 Pat Walsh, interview with the author, July 11, 2012.
- 58 "Forward Planning Committee Report," Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM, June 10–12, 1983.
- 59 Peter Jmaeff, interview with the author, June 17, 2012.
- 60 Ibid.
- 61 "Forward Planning Committee Report," Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM, June 15–17, 1984.
- 62 Paul Barnby, interview with the author, September 24, 2013.
- 63 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 64 "New Fundraiser Available," *Player Magazine* 1, 1 (1983): 13.
- 65 "Message from the Publisher," *Saskatchewan Player* 1, 1 (1983): 2.
- 66 "B-I-N-G-O," *Player Magazine* 3 (1983): 12.
- 67 Paul Barnby, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 68 Sask Sport, *Sask Sport Annual Report*, 2012–13 (Regina: Sask Sport, 2013).
- 69 Gord Anderson, interview with the author, June 18, 2012.
- 70 Ibid.
- 71 M. LaBrosse, *The Lottery: From Jacques Cartier's Day to Modern Times* (Montreal: Stanke, 1985), 183–87.
- 72 Appendix B, "Lottery Ticket Centre," Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM, June 4–6, 1982.
- 73 "Saskatchewan Lotteries," in *1905–2005 — Winning the Prairie Gamble: The Saskatchewan Story*, Western Development Museum Family History Album, <http://www.wdmprairiegamble.com>.
- 74 Gord Lang, interview with the author, July 17, 2012.
- 75 Ibid.
- 76 Appendix B, "Lottery Ticket Centre," Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM, June 4–6, 1982.
- 77 Gord Lang, interview with the author, July 17, 2012.
- 78 Saskatchewan Culture and Youth, "Summary of Lottery Development and Changes in Saskatchewan," January 1987, 12–13, Sask Sport Archives.
- 79 John Austin, interview with the author, April 26, 2012.
- 80 Ibid.
- 81 Salina Barry, email correspondence with the author, September 24, 2013.
- 82 Rick Folk, telephone interview with the author, June 14, 2012.
- 83 Paul Barnby, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 84 Bruce Medhurst, interview with the author, June 8, 2012.
- 85 Ross Lynd, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 86 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 87 Glenn Tuck, interview with Elva Nixon, February 1986.
- 88 Ibid.
- 89 Information Services, Government of Saskatchewan, "Lottery Funds Go to Communities," news release, April 24, 1985.
- 90 Don MacAulay, interview with the author, March 11, 2012.
- 91 Proceedings of Synectics 85: A Planning Workshop, Regina, April 19–21, 1985.
- 92 Paul Barnby and Jim Burnett, interview with the author, May 4, 2012.
- 93 Sask Sport, *Sask Sport Annual Report*, 1985–86 (Regina: Sask Sport, 1986).
- 94 Bill Werry, telephone interview with the author, June 20, 2012.
- 95 Sask Sport, *Sask Sport Annual Report*, 1986–87 (Regina: Sask Sport, 1987), 14.
- 96 Membership Assistance Program: Provincial Guidelines, April 2011, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/funding/map.pdf>.
- 97 Paul Barnby and Jim Burnett, interview with the author, May 4, 2012.
- 98 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 99 University of Saskatchewan, Ernest Wynne (Joe) Griffiths, November 6, 1965, <http://library.usask.ca/archives/campus-history/honorary-degreeshp?id=165&view=detail&keyword=&campuses=>.
- 100 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 101 Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation, briefing note, n.d., Sask Sport Archives.
- 102 Henrietta Goplen, interview with the author, April 5, 2013.
- 103 Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 104 Henrietta Goplen, interview with the author, February 27, 2014.
- 105 Administration Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation, briefing note, n.d., Sask Sport Archives.
- 106 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, May 2, 2013.
- 107 Administrative Centre for Sport, Culture and Recreation, Services Guideline Manual, 2012–13, 1.
- 108 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, May 2, 2013.
- 109 Terrence McEachern, "\$75m Stadium



Lease Agreement May Be Near,” *Leader-Post*, July 2, 2013, 1; “Sask Sport Set to Become Major Tenant at New Regina Stadium,” CBCNews.ca, June 28, 2013.

## CHAPTER 6: THE BATTLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE LOTTERY SYSTEM

- 1 Colin Maxwell, phone interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Paul Fudge, email correspondence with the author, July 31, 2011.
- 6 Pat Rediger, *Recreation and Parks in Saskatchewan, 1985–2010: A Perspective from SPRA* (Regina: SPRA, 2011), 30.
- 7 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 8 Colin Maxwell, interview with the author, May 31, 2012.
- 9 W. Clarke, Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation, memo, “Lottery Expenditures and Changes,” to David F.R. Heron, Secretary, Treasury Board, January 8, 1987, Sask Sport Archives.
- 10 Sask Sport, *Sask Sport Annual Report, 1987–88* (Regina: Sask Sport, 1988), 24–26.
- 11 Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.
- 12 Sask Sport, *Annual Report, 1987–88*, 18.
- 13 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 37.
- 14 Strategy West, “A Framework for the Future of Sport, Culture and Recreation,” review conducted on behalf of Sask Sport, SCCO and SPRA, 1988, 1–2.

- 15 Ibid., 5, 17.
- 16 Ibid., 18.
- 17 Ibid., 39–41.
- 18 “President’s Column,” *Recreation Saskatchewan*, March 1989, 1.
- 19 “Lottery Dollars Defended at Health Commission,” *Recreation Saskatchewan*, April 1989, 1.
- 20 Colin Maxwell, interview with the author, May 31, 2012.
- 21 Letter to TIP recipients from Barry Gunther, President of Sask Sport, Brian Klebeck, President of SCCO and Murray Hidlebaugh, President of SPRA, September 20, 1989, Sask Sport Archives.
- 22 Colin Maxwell, interview with the author, May 31, 2012.
- 23 Information Services, Government of Saskatchewan, “Government Looking at Viable Options to Hospital Tax,” news release, November 17, 1989.
- 24 Shelly Vandermey, “A Provincial Perspective: An Interview with the Honourable Colin Maxwell, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Culture, Multiculturalism and Recreation,” n.d., Lifestyle Information Network, [http://lin.ca/site-search?q=Colin Maxwell](http://lin.ca/site-search?q=Colin%20Maxwell).
- 25 C. Stuart Houston, “Colin Maxwell,” in *Saskatchewan Politicians: Lives Past and Present*, ed. Brett Quiring (Regina: CPRC, 2004), 154–55.
- 26 Beattie Martin, interview with the author, August 28, 2012.
- 27 “Saskatchewan Sport Returns in 1982 for Its Third Season,” *Sask Sport News* 6, 4 (1981): 3.
- 28 Larry Johnsrude, “Beattie Martin’s Defection Blow to Liberals,” *StarPhoenix*, April 18, 1985, B11.
- 29 Beattie Martin, interview with the author, August 28, 2012.

- 30 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 48.
- 31 Rick Pawliw, Vice-President, Program, Sask Sport, 1990–91 Working Papers, AGM, June 15–16, 1990, 28.
- 32 Sask Sport, 1990–91 Working Papers, audited financial statements of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1991, note 6, 68–69.
- 33 Dan Perrins, interview with the author, June 25, 2012; Lorne Calvert, interview with the author, June 26, 2012.
- 34 Gail Todd (Mackrill), interview with the author, June 17, 2013.
- 35 Steve Krueger, “The Gamble Pays Off,” *Sask Report* (newsletter of Sask Sport, SCCO and SPRA), June 1991, 2–4.
- 36 Jeremy Morgan, interview with the author, September 12, 2013.
- 37 Sask Sport, 1990–91 Working Papers, audited financial statements of the Western Canada Lottery Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1991, note 8, 69.
- 38 Dan Perrins, interview with the author, June 25, 2012.
- 39 Ibid.
- 40 Beattie Martin, correspondence with the author, August 28, 2012.
- 41 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 12, 2012.
- 42 “Carol Teichrob,” biography supplied to the author by Teichrob, October 22, 2012.
- 43 Saskatchewan Executive and Legislative Directory, Sask Archives, <http://www.saskarchives.com/sites/default/files/pdf/ministers.pdf>.
- 44 Carol Teichrob, interview with the author, June 22, 2012.
- 45 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 57.
- 46 Donald Gass et al., *Report of the Saskatchewan Financial Management*

- Review Commission* (Regina: Government of Saskatchewan, 1992), 2, 95–96.
- 47 Pat Stellek-Pratt, interview with the author, September 19, 2012.
  - 48 Pat Stellek, “Letter to Lottery Beneficiaries,” April 3, 1992, Sask Sport Archives.
  - 49 Pat Stellek, President, Sask Sport, Ron Robertson, President, SCCO and Dave Wudrick, President, SPRA, to Minister Carol Teichrob, March 12, 1992, Sask Sport Archives.
  - 50 Phyllis Pogany, interview with the author, September 17, 2012.
  - 51 Ken Pontikes, interview with the author, June 22, 2012.
  - 52 Bill Werry, telephone interview with the author, June 20, 2012.
  - 53 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 57–58.
  - 54 Sask Sport, 1991–92 Working Papers, 74.
  - 55 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 58.
  - 56 Ken Alecxe, interview with the author, June 13, 2012.
  - 57 Sport, Culture and Recreation Strategic Planning Review Interim Report, September 9, 1993, Sask Sport Archives.
  - 58 Bruce Medhurst, interview with the author, June 8, 2012.
  - 59 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.

## CHAPTER 7: SPORT FOR ALL

- 1 Paul Fudge, telephone interview with the author, September 28, 2012.
- 2 Greg Murdock, interview with the author, September 12, 2012.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Paul Barnby and Jim Burnett, interview with the author, August 15, 2012.



- 6 Sask Sport, "Forward Plan 1994/1995," in *Sask Sport Inc. 1993–1994 Working Papers*, 43.
- 7 Greg Murdock, interview with the author, September 12, 2012.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Pat Stelleg-Pratt, interview with the author, September 19, 2012.
- 11 Lyle Daniels, interview with the author, September 5, 2012.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 Eugene Arcand, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 Canadian Parks and Recreation, "First Nations Sport and Recreation," Leisure Information Network, 1998, <http://lin.ca/resource-details/11290>.
- 17 Eugene Arcand, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 North American Indigenous Games Council website, <http://www.naigcouncil.com/naig.php>; Connie Sampson, "Native Named Citizen of the Year," *Windspeaker* 11, 25 (1994): R3.
- 20 Dorothy Josephson, interview with the author, July 6, 2012.
- 21 Marlene Hoffman, "Sport for All," report to the AGM, in *Sask Sport Inc. 1993–1994 Working Papers*, 34–36.
- 22 Dorothy Josephson, interview with the author, July 6, 2012.
- 23 Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby, reflections on a draft of this chapter, April 15, 2013.
- 24 Dorothy Josephson, report of the Subcommittee on Program Funding, in *Sask Sport Inc. 1994–1995 Working Papers*, 26–29.
- 25 Charlene Crevier, "Antoine 'Tony' Cote," in *Saskatchewan First Nations: Lives Past and Present*, ed. Christian Thompson (Regina: CPRC, 2004), 38–40.
- 26 "Antoine 'Tony' Cote," Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, <http://sasksportshalloffame.com/inductees/antoine-tony-cote-s-o-m/>.
- 27 Glen Pratt, interview with the author, August 3, 2012.
- 28 Angella Pinay, interview with the author, September 19, 2012.
- 29 George Rathwell, interview with the author, July 11, 2012.
- 30 Ibid.
- 31 George Rathwell, email correspondence to the author after reviewing this chapter, April 12, 2013.
- 32 Lisa Hodnefield, interview with the author, February 5, 2014.
- 33 Allan Richards, Vice-President, "Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation," in *Sport: It's More than a Game: Sask Sport 1993–94 Annual Report* (Regina: Sask Sport, 1994), 10.
- 34 Lisa Hodnefield, interview with the author, February 5, 2014.
- 35 Sask Sport, "Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program," Sask Sport website, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/cgp.php>.
- 36 Morgan Grainger, focus group with SPRA field staff, February 11, 2014.
- 37 Pat Rediger, *Recreation and Parks in Saskatchewan, 1985–2010: A Perspective from SPRA* (Regina: SPRA, 2011), 72.
- 38 Tom Robinson, Vice-President, Trust, report to the AGM, in *Sask Sport Inc. Working Papers, 1997–1998*, 23.
- 39 Sask Sport, "Building a Foundation for the Future: Aboriginal Sport Development, a Four-Year Strategy," 2008, 13, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/AboriginalSportDevelopment.pdf>.
- 40 Sask Sport, "Forward Plan 1999/2000," in *Sask Sport Inc. Working Papers, 1998–1999*, 33.
- 41 Joe McKay, "SGCC Creates Zone 9," *Parks and Recreation Saskatchewan*, March 1999, Leisure Information Network, <http://lin.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/jk9.htm>.
- 42 Lorne Lasuita, interview with the author, November 21, 2012.
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Elise Stoesser, *Sport for All: Opening Doors to Everyone* (Regina: Sask Sport, 1993), [http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/sport\\_for\\_all.pdf](http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/sport_for_all.pdf).
- 45 Hoffman, "Sport for All," 34.
- 46 Lyle Daniels, interview with the author, September 5, 2012.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 Ibid.
- 49 Quoted in Clint Walper, "The Man Who Started It All," *Leader-Post*, July 31, 2007, <http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=ad3e2e0e-7327-47ba-abf7-08cf91dfda1c>.
- 50 Sam Laskaris, "The Saskatchewan First Nations Winter Games," *Saskatchewan Sage* 14, 8 (2010), <http://www.ammsa.com/publications/saskatchewan-sage/saskatchewan-first-nations-winter-games>.
- 51 Quoted in Walper, "The Man."
- 52 FSIN, "Vice Chief Morley Watson," FSIN website, <http://www.fsin.com/index.php/executive/vice-chief-morley-watson.html>.
- 53 Morley Watson, interview with the author, Glen Pratt and Joe Daniels, August 3, 2012.
- 54 Ibid.
- 55 Art Berard, "Sport for All," report to the AGM, in *Sask Sport Inc. Working Papers, 1994–1995*, 38. A copy of "Eliminating Racism from Sport and Recreation: A Leader's Resource" can be downloaded from the Leisure Information Network's website, <http://lin.ca/resource-details/4514>.
- 56 Bob Livingston, interview with the author, June 20, 2012.
- 57 George Watson, interview with the author, June 21, 2012.
- 58 Ibid.
- 59 *2009 KidSport™ Saskatchewan Progress Report* (Regina: Sask Sport, 2009), 1, <http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/saskatchewan/>.
- 60 George Watson, interview with the author, April 20, 2012.
- 61 *2000 KidSport™ Saskatchewan Progress Report* (Regina: Sask Sport, 2000), <http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/saskatchewan/2>.
- 62 Dorothy Josephson, interview with the author, July 6, 2012.
- 63 Ibid.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 Ibid.
- 66 "About Us," KidSport Saskatchewan website, 2012, [http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/index.php?page=saskatchewan\\_about\\_us](http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/index.php?page=saskatchewan_about_us).
- 67 "About Us," KidSport Saskatchewan website, 2013, [http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/index.php?page=saskatchewan\\_about\\_us](http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/index.php?page=saskatchewan_about_us).
- 68 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 69 Quoted in "KidSport Scores 'More Tools' in Venture," *StarPhoenix*, July 19, 2012, <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/sports/KidSport+scores+more+tools+venture/6956262/story.html#ixzz29r5qk6sZ>.
- 70 Jim Burnett and Paul Barnby, interview with the author, October 19, 2012.
- 71 Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation,

- financial statements for the years ended March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001.
- 72 Jim Fink, interview with the author, July 4, 2012.
- 73 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 149.
- 74 Report from the Board of Directors, Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, 2001–02, 19.
- 75 Report from the Board of Directors, Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, 2002–03, 20.
- 76 Report from the Board of Directors, Working Papers, Sask Sport AGM, 2004–05, 23.
- 77 Cheryl McCallum, interview with the author, September 7, 2012.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 Sask Sport, “Building a Foundation for the Future.”
- 80 Cheryl McCallum, interview with the author, September 7, 2012.
- 81 Ibid.
- 82 Ibid.
- 83 Janice Acoose-Pelletier and Brenda Zimmer, “Paul Acoose: Man Standing above Ground,” *Ambience*, CBC Radio Saskatoon, February 8, 1986.
- 84 Audra Young, interview with the author, November 27, 2012.
- 85 Ibid.
- 86 Ibid.
- 87 Ibid.
- 88 Ibid.
- 89 Angella Pinay, interview with the author, September 19, 2012.
- 90 Ibid.
- 91 Ibid.
- 92 Canada Games Dream Brokers Program, Business Plan, June 2006, 25.
- 93 Rob Currie, interview with the author, August 22, 2012.
- 94 “2005 Canada Summer Games Regina,” Jeux du Canada Games, <http://www.canadagames.ca/content/Games/2005-Regina.asp>.
- 95 Rob Currie, interview with the author, August 22, 2012.
- 96 Bob Ellard, as cited in “Regina Benefits from Summer Games,” *Leader-Post*, April 1, 2006, <http://www.canada.com/story.html?id=a657fef6-10fd-43e1-bbe4-ab6bb823d613>.
- 97 Ibid.
- 98 Rob Currie, interview with the author, August 22, 2012.
- 99 Joe Daniels, with Glen Pratt and Morley Watson, interview with the author, August 3, 2012.
- 100 Rob Currie, interview with the author, August 22, 2012.
- 101 Ibid.
- 102 Ibid.
- 103 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, September 3, 2013.
- 104 Rob Currie, interview with the author, August 22, 2012.
- 105 Ibid.
- 106 George Rathwell, interview with the author, July 11, 2012.
- 107 Ibid.
- 108 Trent Cey, “Run Michael Run: Linklater Defies the Odds to Win National Title,” *Battlefords News-Optimist*, October 31, 2010, <http://www.newsoptimist.ca/sports/local-sports/run-michael-run-linklater-defies-the-odds-to-win-national-title-1.1562997>.
- 109 Quoted in Anne-Marie Hughes, “Dream Brokers,” *Prairie Messenger*, November 24, 2010, [http://www.prairiemessenger.ca/11\\_24-2010/sport\\_11\\_24\\_10.html](http://www.prairiemessenger.ca/11_24-2010/sport_11_24_10.html).
- 110 “Michael Linklater: Set Goals and Achieve Them,” Sask Sport website, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/AboriginalChampions/LinklaterBio>.
- 111 Cey, “Run Michael Run.”
- 112 George Rathwell, interview with the author, July 11, 2012.
- 113 “Adaptive Sport Grants,” Sask Sport website, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/adaptiveSport.php>.
- 114 “Colette Bourgonje: Opportunity and Accomplishment,” Sask Sport website, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/aboriginalChampionsProfile.php>; “Colette Bourgonje,” 1998, Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, [http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/class/1998/colette\\_bourgonje.php](http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/class/1998/colette_bourgonje.php).
- 115 Colette Bourgonje, interview with the author, October 18, 2013.
- 116 Ibid.
- 117 Quoted in Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 115.
- 118 Sask Sport, Sask Culture and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, *Building Better Communities through Sport, Culture and Recreation: Final Report*, January 25, 2006, 25, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/bbc/finalReport.pdf>.
- 119 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 144–45.
- 120 Randy Durovick, interview with the author, March 24, 2014.
- 121 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 144.
- 122 Bruce Medhurst, interview with the author, June 8, 2012.
- 123 Dennis Garreck, interview with the author, March 24, 2014.
- 124 Rediger, *Recreation and Parks*, 145.
- 125 Dennis Garreck, interview with the author, March 24, 2014.
- 126 Rob Boulding, focus group with SPRA field staff, February 11, 2014.

## CHAPTER 8: HELPING ATHLETES TO EXCEL ON PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGES

- 1 For a great overview of the highlights of Saskatchewan's success in hockey, see Darrel Davis, *Fire on Ice: Why Saskatchewan Rules the NHL* (Lunenburg, NS: MacIntyre Publishing, 2013).
- 2 Steve Simmons, “Canada’s Finest Hour,” *Toronto Sun*, February 15, 1998, [http://www.canoe.ca/SlamNaganoColumns/feb15\\_simmons.html](http://www.canoe.ca/SlamNaganoColumns/feb15_simmons.html).
- 3 “Gallery: Canadian Skating Heroes,” *Canada.com*, August 8, 2008, <http://www.canada.com/sports/2010wintergames/speed-skating/Speedsters/1231313/story.html>; “Le May Doan Mines Canada’s First Gold,” Google News, February 15, 2002, <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2710&dat=20020215&id=tGg5AAAAIBAJ&sjid=USkMAAAAIBAJ&pg=1518,389034>.
- 4 Catriona Le May Doan, with Ken McGoogan, *Going for Gold* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2002), 148.
- 5 Quoted in John Chabot, *Saskatchewan Sports Legends: One Hundred Years of Athletic Distinction* (Markham, ON: Johnson Gorman Publishers, 2005), 301.
- 6 Henrietta Goplen, interview with the author, April 5, 2013.
- 7 Henrietta Goplen, interview with the author, February 27, 2014.
- 8 Mona Holmlund and Gail Youngberg, *Inspiring Women: A Celebration of Herstory* (Regina: Coteau Books, 2003), 160–61.
- 9 Henrietta Goplen, interview with the author, February 27, 2014.

- 10 "Gary Goplen," Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, 1999, [http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/individual\\_class.php?year=1999&person=Gary+Goplen](http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/individual_class.php?year=1999&person=Gary+Goplen).
- 11 "Gordon Goplen," Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, 1999, [http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/original\\_site/athlete/gordon\\_goplen.htm](http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/original_site/athlete/gordon_goplen.htm).
- 12 Gordon Goplen, interview with the author, March 15, 2014.
- 13 Holmlund and Youngberg, *Inspiring Women*.
- 14 "Henrietta Goplen, 'Builder,'" Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, [http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/original\\_site/builder/henrietta\\_goplen.htm](http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/original_site/builder/henrietta_goplen.htm).
- 15 Quoted in Scott Thompson, "A Day to Remember," Richmond Hill Ringette Association, November 30, 2013, [http://rhringette.com/Articles/1656/A\\_day\\_to\\_remember\\_](http://rhringette.com/Articles/1656/A_day_to_remember_/).
- 16 Catriona Le May Doan, as expressed to Henrietta Goplen in an interview with the author, February 27, 2014.
- 17 "Meet Our Coaches," Kelowna Speed Skating Club, [http://www.kelownaspeedskating.com/meet\\_our\\_coaches.html](http://www.kelownaspeedskating.com/meet_our_coaches.html).
- 18 Gordon Goplen, interview with the author, March 15, 2014.
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Rob Kennedy, interview with the author, January 30, 2014.
- 21 *Sask Sport, Sask Sport 2012–2013 Annual Report* (Regina: Sask Sport, 2013).
- 22 John Chabot, "Competitive Games," in *The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (Regina: CPRC, 2006), [http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/competitive\\_games.html](http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/competitive_games.html).
- 23 "The Journey to Wearing the Maple Leaf: Canada Games and Beyond," *Olympic.ca*, August 9, 2013, <http://olympic.ca/2013/08/09/the-journey-to-wearing-the-maple-leaf-canada-games-and-beyond/>.
- 24 Chabot, "Competitive Games."
- 25 Ibid.
- 26 Eddie MacCabe, *Jeux du Canada Games, 1967–1992: The Official Retrospective of the Canada Games* (Ottawa: Canada Games Council, 1992), 36.
- 27 Ibid., 48–49.
- 28 Ibid., 50–53.
- 29 "Moving Forward on Blackstrap," Government of Saskatchewan media release, October 16, 2009, <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=5d77a3bb-b197-45db-9acb-0d75e6f94812>.
- 30 "Mount Blackstrap," *Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackstrap\\_Ski\\_Hill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackstrap_Ski_Hill).
- 31 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, SPRA History Project, February 11, 1986.
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Ed Tchorzewski, "Speech to the Sask Sport Annual Meeting," March 22, 1975, in Minutes of the Fourth Sask Sport AGM, 1975.
- 34 Dr. Don Clark, interview with the author, December 12, 2012.
- 35 "History of the Games," Saskatchewan Games Council, <http://saskgames.ca/assets/File/sk%20games%20history/SK%20Games%20history.pdf>.
- 36 Roy J. Romanow, "Speech to Sask Sport," Appendix B, in Minutes of the First Sask Sport AGM, March 25–26, 1972.
- 37 Ibid.
- 38 Ned Powers, *Personal Best: The History of Track and Field in Saskatchewan* (Regina: Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, 1997), 134.
- 39 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, SPRA History Project, February 11, 1986.
- 40 Roy Ellis and Elva Nixon, *Saskatchewan Recreation Legacy: A Perspective from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association* (Regina: SPRA, 1986), 142.
- 41 Keith Rogers, interview with the author, July 27, 2011.
- 42 Ibid.
- 43 Powers, *Personal Best*, 134.
- 44 Lorne Lasuita, interview with the author, November 21, 2012.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 Susan Schneider, interview with the author, November 21, 2012.
- 39 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, SPRA History Project, February 11, 1986.
- 50 Guy Simonis, interview with the author and Joe Kanuka, Don MacAulay and Ian Cook, July 28, 2011.
- 51 "Western Canada Games History," Western Canada Games, [http://www.westerncanadagames.org/?page\\_id=21](http://www.westerncanadagames.org/?page_id=21).
- 52 Department of Culture and Youth, *1975–76 Annual Report* (Regina: Government of Saskatchewan, 1976).
- 53 "Western Canada Games History," Western Canada Games, [http://www.westerncanadagames.org/?page\\_id=21](http://www.westerncanadagames.org/?page_id=21).
- 54 Ibid.
- 55 Ibid.
- 56 "Rick Folk," Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, [http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/individual\\_class.php?year=1986&person=Rick+Folk](http://www.saskatoonsportshalloffame.com/individual_class.php?year=1986&person=Rick+Folk).
- 57 Rick Folk, interview with the author, June 14, 2012.
- 58 Ibid.
- 59 "From Pigskins to Publicity: An Interview with Steve Mazurak, Communications Coordinator, Sask First," *Excell* 1, 1 (1987): 11–12.
- 60 "Performance Sport Program Announced," Government of Saskatchewan press release, March 20, 1986.
- 61 Ibid.
- 62 "Pigskins to Publicity," 11–12.
- 63 Rick Folk, interview with the author, June 14, 2012.
- 64 "Setting an Impressive Precedent: The Views of Wayne Hellquist, Chairman of the Minister's Advisory Committee for Sask First," *Excell* 1, 1 (1987): 9, 13.
- 65 Ibid.
- 66 Ibid.
- 67 Ibid.
- 68 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 69 "Sask First: The Mark of Excellence," *Sask Sport News* 8, 2 (1987): 4.
- 70 "1989 Saskatoon Canada Summer Games," <http://www.canadagames.ca/content/Games/1989-Saskatoon.asp>.
- 71 Ibid.
- 72 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 73 "1989 Jeux Canada Games Foundation Inc. Funding Guidelines for Grants Brochure," Sask Sport, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/jeux/JeuxCanadaBrochure2011.pdf>.
- 74 Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance, *2005 Canada Games Economic Impact Assessment*, 2006, 6–7, <http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/sport/events/pdf/2005CSG-EN.pdf>.
- 75 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.

- 76 Ibid.
- 77 "The 2005 Canada Games: A Case for PMI's Volunteer Driven Project Management Model," Project Management Institute, [http://www.pmi.org/~media/PDF/Case%20Study/Canada\\_Games\\_Case\\_Study\\_New.ashx](http://www.pmi.org/~media/PDF/Case%20Study/Canada_Games_Case_Study_New.ashx).
- 78 "2005 Canada Summer Games Legacy Plan," Sask Sport, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/pdf/LegacyPlan.pdf>; Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance, *2005 Canada Games Economic Impact Assessment*, 6–7.
- 79 John Lee, interview with the author, November 29, 2012.
- 80 Bob Hughes and Margo Embury, *The Big Dig: The Miracle of Wascana Centre* (Regina: Leader-Post, 2004).
- 81 Bob Hughes, "Glory of Rowing Finally Returns to Regina's Wascana Lake," *Leader-Post*, August 16, 2006, [http://www.canada.com/story\\_print.html?id=eb538fbe-fe6c-4b30-8c1d-100ed0996ffb&sponsor=](http://www.canada.com/story_print.html?id=eb538fbe-fe6c-4b30-8c1d-100ed0996ffb&sponsor=).
- 82 "2005 Canada Summer Games Legacy Plan."
- 83 Ibid.
- 84 "Games Legacy Leaves Its Mark: Saskatchewan's Sports and Cultural Communities Should Reap the Benefits from the 2005 Canada Summer Games after the Event Is a Faint Memory," *Leader-Post*, April 19, 2006, [http://www.canada.com/story\\_print.html?id=e7172c0d-b49c-4944-8899-3a83947ff995&sponsor=](http://www.canada.com/story_print.html?id=e7172c0d-b49c-4944-8899-3a83947ff995&sponsor=).
- 85 "Arnold Boldt," Saskatchewan Cycling Association, <http://www.saskcycling.ca/Athlete%20Profiles/arnold.html>.
- 86 Paralympic Canada, <http://www.paralympic.ca>.
- 87 "Arnold Boldt," Saskatchewan Cycling Association, <http://www.saskcycling.ca/Athlete%20Profiles/arnold.html>.
- 88 John Chaput, *Saskatchewan Sports Legends: One Hundred Years of Athletic Distinction* (Markham, ON: Johnson Gorman Publishers, 2005), 238.
- 89 Arnold Boldt, interview with the author, October 10, 2013.
- 90 "Lyle Sanderson," Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, <http://sasksportshalloffame.com/inductees/lyle-sanderson/>.
- 91 Arnold Boldt, interview with the author, October 10, 2013.
- 92 Ibid.
- 93 "Arnold Boldt," Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, <http://sasksportshalloffame.com/inductees/arnold-boldt/>.
- 94 "Congratulations to Six-Time Paralympian Arnold Boldt, Appointed Officer of the Order of Canada," Canadian Paralympic Association, January 2, 2013, <http://www.paralympic.ca>.
- 95 Arnold Boldt, interview with the author, October 10, 2013.
- 96 Colette Bourgonje, telephone interview with the author, October 18, 2013.
- 97 Ibid.
- 98 Ibid.
- 99 "Purpose of the Prize, Whang Youn Dai Achievement," Whang Prize, <http://www.whangprize.org/pages/p21.htm>.
- 100 Colette Bourgonje, telephone interview with the author, October 18, 2013.
- 101 "Clayton Gerein," Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, <http://sasksportshalloffame.com/inductees/clayton-gerein/>.
- 102 Ibid.
- 103 Colette Bourgonje, telephone interview with the author, October 18, 2013.
- 104 "Ljubisic, Gerein, Edgson, Church and Fairbairn Selected to Canadian Paralympic Hall of Fame," Athletics Canada press release, October 5, 2011, [http://www.athletics.ca/display\\_news.asp?newsid=1264](http://www.athletics.ca/display_news.asp?newsid=1264).
- 105 "Paralympic Torchbearers," Canada Games Centre Atlantic Office, <http://cscatlantic.ca/newsitem/paralympic-torchbearers/>.
- 106 Erica Beaudin, interview with the author, October 31, 2013.
- 107 Ibid.
- 108 Ibid.
- 109 Ibid.
- 110 Kevin Mitchell, "Albers Sees Room to Improve," *StarPhoenix*, October 4, 2013, <http://jwmitchell.powermediallc.org/2013/10/04/albers-sees-room-to-improve-starphoenix/>.
- 111 "Andrew Albers," Rotoworld (NBC Sports), <http://www.rotoworld.com/player/mlb/7541/andrew-albers>.
- 112 "Saskatchewan's Andrew Albers wins Pan Am baseball gold medal," CBC News, July 20, 2015, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/saskatchewan-s-andrew-albers-wins-pan-am-baseball-gold-medal-1.3160263>.
- 113 Quoted in Kevin Mitchell, "Albers May Go from Pitching to Teaching," *StarPhoenix*, August 14, 2013, <http://www.leaderpost.com/sports/topic.html?t=SEO+Title&q=Albers+may+go+from+pitching+to+teaching>.
- 114 Andrew Albers, "Albers: The Big Call," Blog, Canadian Baseball Network, August 6, 2013, <http://www.canadianbaseballnetwork.com/articles/albers-the-big-call/>.
- 115 Andrew Albers, "From North Battleford to Rochester," Blog, Canadian Baseball Network, May 9, 2013, <http://www.canadianbaseballnetwork.com/articles/from-north-battleford-to-rochester/>.
- 116 Ibid.
- 117 "Cymone Bouchard: Induction Class of 2009, Women's Basketball," University of Regina Cougars, <http://www.reginacougars.com/hof.aspx?hof=28&path=&kiosk=>.
- 118 Cymone Bernauer, interview with the author, April 1, 2014.
- 119 Ibid.
- 120 Cymone Bernauer, email correspondence with the author, April 10, 2014.
- 121 "Huskie Athletics Major 7 Awards," Husky Athletics, [http://www.huskies.usask.ca/award\\_recipients.php](http://www.huskies.usask.ca/award_recipients.php).
- 122 Rob Kennedy, interview with the author, January 30, 2014.
- 123 Ibid.
- 124 "Overview of CAS," Coaching Association of Saskatchewan, <http://www.saskcoach.ca/overview.php>.
- 125 "History," Coaching Association of Saskatchewan, <http://www.saskcoach.ca/history.html>.
- 126 Dr. Don Clark, interview with the author, December 5, 2012.
- 127 Ibid.
- 128 Ibid.
- 129 Dick White, interview with the author, July 24, 2012.
- 130 "Sport Medicine and Sciences Council of Saskatchewan Inc.: Founders, Board of Directors, Standing Committees, Programs and Services, Historical Timelines, 1986–2013," Sport Medicine and Sciences Council of Saskatchewan, <http://smscsqlx.sasktelwebhosting.com/pdfs/2013/HistoricalTimelines.pdf>.

- 131 Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan, *2012–13 Annual Report* (Regina: Sask Sport, 2013), <http://www.csc-sask.ca/pdf/1213AnnualReport.pdf>.
- 132 Ibid.
- 133 “About Us,” Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan, <http://www.csc-sask.ca/AboutUs.php>.
- 134 John Lee, interview with the author, November 12, 2012.
- 135 “Aboriginal Champion — Colette Bourgonje,” Sask Sport, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/aboriginalChampionsProfile.php>.
- 136 Colette Bourgonje, interview with the author, October 18, 2013.
- 137 Kevin Scott, interview with the author, July 11, 2012.
- 138 Don Adams, “Hilltops Renew Championship Rivalry against Sooners,” *Ottawa Citizen*, November 8, 1985, <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2194&dat=19851108&id=5NYyAAAIBAJ&sjid=te8FAAAAIBAJ&pg=3019,4430528>; “Hilltops Have Long History of National Championships,” *StarPhoenix*, November 12, 2010, <http://www2.canada.com/saskatoonstarphoenix/news/sports/story.html?id=63465dce-f4af-4c74-a6f5-48b66687f131>.
- 139 Dale Kryzanowski, interview with the author, December 13, 2012.
- 140 Kevin Scott, interview with the author, July 11, 2012.
- 141 Dale Kryzanowski, interview with the author, December 13, 2012.
- 142 Rob Kennedy, interview with the author, January 30, 2014.
- 143 Brant Hilton, “Saskatchewan in Sochi: Regina’s Scott Perras to Compete in Biathlon,” *News Talk 650 CKOM*, February 7, 2014, <http://ckom.com/story/saskatchewan-sochi-reginas-scott-perras-compete-biathlon/246342>.
- 144 Rob Kennedy, interview with the author, January 30, 2014.
- 145 Norbert Thurmeier, interview with the author, July 6, 2012.
- 146 “College Golf,” *Golf Saskatchewan*, <http://www.golfsaskatchewan.org/default.aspx?page=46>.
- 147 Reuben Mayes, interview with the author, October 20, 2014.
- 148 Steve Mazurak, “Athlete of the Month Committee Report,” in *Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM*, June 15–17, 1984, 10.
- 149 Briefing package, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, Sask Sport Archives. Thanks also to John Holash for sharing his personal files from his days as a volunteer with the Sports Hall of Fame, which included a number of programs from the first years of the Molson’s Sports Hall of Fame induction dinners as well as a Hall of Fame brochure published circa 1979, a twentieth-anniversary Hall of Fame program and several newsletters published in the early 1980s by the Hall of Fame.
- 150 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, *SPRA History Project*, February 11, 1986.
- 151 Briefing note, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, Sask Sport Archives.
- 152 J. Zeman, “Archives Committee Report, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame,” *Sask Sport, Working Papers, AGM*, March 21–23, 1975, 16–17.
- 153 Briefing note, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, Sask Sport Archives.
- 154 Bill Clarke, interview with Elva Nixon, *SPRA History Project*, February 11, 1986.
- 155 Briefing note, Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, Sask Sport Archives.
- 156 “Regina Land Titles Declared Heritage Property,” *Sask Sport News* 3, 1 (1978): 1.
- 157 “Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame to Operate Museum,” *Sask Sport News* 4, 1 (1979): 2.
- 158 Sheila Kelly, interview with the author, January 28, 2014.
- 159 Ibid.
- 160 Ibid.
- 161 Ibid.
- 162 “About Us,” Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, <http://sasksportshalloffame.com/about-us/>.

## CHAPTER 9: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- 1 Jim Burnett, interview with the author, March 11, 2011.
- 2 Norm Campbell, interview with the author, January 22, 2014.
- 3 Dale Kryzanowski, interview with the author, December 13, 2013.
- 4 “Saskatchewan’s Population Is More Diverse than Ever Before,” *SPRA*, April 15, 2014, <http://www.spra.sk.ca/news-events/top-stories/Multicultural-Inclusiveness-Strategy-web.pdf>.
- 5 “Sask. Second-Fastest Growing Population in Canada,” *CTV.com*, December 18, 2013, <http://saskatoon.ctvnews.ca/sask-second-fastest-growing-population-in-canada-1.1599015#ixzz32T1hTUtT>.
- 6 Scott Langen, “Assessment of Demographic and Community Data — Updates and Revisions,” *McNair Business Development*, Regina, October 30, 2013, <http://www.spra.sk.ca/Demographic-Community-Assessment-October-2013.pdf>.
- 7 Bonita Beatty, “Beyond Advising: Aboriginal Peoples and Social Policy Making in Saskatchewan,” in *New Directions in Saskatchewan Public Policy*, ed. David P. McGrane (Regina: CPRC, 2011), 204.
- 8 Langen, “Assessment of Demographic and Community Data.”
- 9 Norm Campbell, interview with the author, January 22, 2014.
- 10 David Macdonald and Daniel Wilson, *Poverty or Prosperity: Indigenous Children in Canada* (Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2013), [https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/06/Poverty\\_or\\_Prospersity\\_Indigenous\\_Children.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2013/06/Poverty_or_Prospersity_Indigenous_Children.pdf).
- 11 Ian Cook, interview with the author, October 5, 2012.
- 12 Eugene Arcand, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 13 Ian Cook, interview with the author, October 5, 2012.
- 14 Grant Whitstone, quoted in Pamela Sexsmith, “Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games Educate Young Athletes,” *Saskatchewan Sage* 13, 11 (2009), <http://www.ammsa.com/publications/saskatchewan-sage/saskatchewan-first-nation-summer-games-educate-young-athletes>.
- 15 Cheryl McCallum, interview with the author, September 7, 2012.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Glen Pratt, interview with the author, August 2, 2012.
- 18 Eugene Arcand, interview with the author, September 18, 2012.
- 19 Joe Daniels, interview with the author, August 2, 2012.
- 20 Greg Murdock, interview with the author, September 12, 2012.
- 21 Audra Young, interview with the author, November 22, 2012.

- 22 M. McDowell et al., *Taking the Pulse of Saskatchewan 2012: Health, Wellbeing and Saskatchewan Families* (Saskatoon: Social Sciences Research Laboratories, University of Saskatchewan, 2012), 1 <http://ssrl.usask.ca/takingthepulse/pdf/TTP2012Health,%20WellbeingSK.pdf>.
- 23 Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group, "2009 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth," Saskatchewan Supplement, <http://www.en-mouvement.ca/opFichier/active-kids-report-card-7tQV5srOOVM-13181.pdf>.
- 24 "Inspiring ACTION to Get Our Kids Moving 2013–2016 Request for Support to the Community Initiatives Fund Board of Trustees," September 2012, Saskatchewan in motion, 1 [http://www.saskatchewaninmotion.ca/public/images/About\\_Us\\_Downloads/Strategic\\_Plan\\_2013-2016.pdf](http://www.saskatchewaninmotion.ca/public/images/About_Us_Downloads/Strategic_Plan_2013-2016.pdf).
- 25 "Report from the Board of Directors," *Sask Sport Working Papers, 2001–2002*, June 15–17, 2002, 22.
- 26 Stephen R. Norris, "Long-Term Athlete Development Canada: Attempting System Change and Multi-Agency Cooperation," *Current Sports Medicine Reports* 9, 6 (2010): 379.
- 27 Susan Schneider, Lorne Lasuita and Briana Bolduc, interview with the author, November 12, 2012.
- 28 Dale Kryzanowski, interview with the author, December 13, 2012.
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 Al Cameron, "Featured Curling Athlete: Amber Holland," *Curling.ca*, January 2, 2012, <http://www.curling.ca/blog/2012/01/02/featured-curling-athlete-amber-holland/>.
- 31 "Team of the Year Finalists," Sask Sport, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/team.html>.
- 32 Amber Holland, interview with the author, March 25, 2013.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Sask Sport website, <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/respectED.php>.
- 35 "Briefing Notes — Recreation Infrastructure/ Built Environment," SPRA, [http://www.spra.sk.ca/resources-and-advocacy/advocacy/advocate-for-recreation/Recreation\\_BuiltEnvironment.pdf](http://www.spra.sk.ca/resources-and-advocacy/advocacy/advocate-for-recreation/Recreation_BuiltEnvironment.pdf).
- 36 Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, "A National Data Tracking System for Sport and Recreation Infrastructure: A Proposed Process to a National Solution," white paper prepared by the CPRA, September 2013.
- 37 "Briefing Notes — Recreation Infrastructure/ Built Environment," SPRA, [http://www.spra.sk.ca/resources-and-advocacy/advocacy/advocate-for-recreation/Recreation\\_BuiltEnvironment.pdf](http://www.spra.sk.ca/resources-and-advocacy/advocacy/advocate-for-recreation/Recreation_BuiltEnvironment.pdf).
- 38 Amber Holland, interview with the author, March 25, 2013.
- 39 Susan Schneider and Lorne Lasuita, interview with the author, November 12, 2013.
- 40 Henrietta Goplen, interview with the author, February 27, 2014.
- 41 Norbert Thurmeier, interview with the author, July 6, 2012.
- 42 Cas Pielak, interview with the author, March 4, 2011.
- 43 "Saskatchewan Communities Will Benefit from Renewed Lottery Agreement," Government of Saskatchewan press release, January 13, 2014, <http://www.gov.sk.ca/news?newsId=50fa3bf0-645a-4400-97ca-091ee6e36f7e>.



Garrett Gosselin, with Skate Regina, competes at the Skate Canada Saskatchewan Sectional Figure Skating Championships on Nov. 13, 2000 at the Doug Wickenheiser Arena. Courtesy Leader Post/Troy Fleece.





Kirsten Van Marion is one of the Saskatchewan Fencing Association's rising stars. The high school student from Asquith has reached the podium for under 15 women's epee at the Canadian Nationals, and women's cadet at the Canada Games and at the Canadian Western Championships. Courtesy Heidi Atter Photography.

# INDEX

## A

Aboriginal Action Plan 143, 144, 145  
 Aboriginal Advisory Committee 127  
 Aboriginal Coaches and Officials Program 146  
 Aboriginal Community Grant Program 144  
 Acoose, Paul 147, 148, 255  
 Adaptive Sport Equipment and Club Development Grants 157  
 Administration Centre 4, 70, 84, 86, 88, 103, 104, 205, 251, 252  
 Aging Infrastructure 218  
 Albers, Andrew 163, 191, 192, 194, 195, 243, 257  
 Alecxe, Ken 5, 6, 122, 243, 247, 253  
 Alexander, Jack 243  
 Amateur Athletic Union of Canada 14, 18  
 Anderson, Ches 28  
 Anderson, Gord 87, 93, 94, 225, 243, 252  
 Appleby, Fred 147  
 Arcand, Eugene 129, 132, 213, 214, 243, 254, 258  
 Archibald, Tom 229  
 Athlete of the Year Program 202  
 Atkinson, Howie 28  
 Atlantic Lottery Corporation 41  
 Aubichon, Andrew 264  
 Austin, John 64, 66, 96, 243, 250, 252  
 Austin, MayBelle 64, 65

## B

Baker, Darrell 230, 243  
 Barber, Dr. Lloyd 22, 248  
 Barkwell, Ossie 29  
 Barnby, Paul 1, 36, 41, 53, 65, 72, 77, 84, 88, 89, 92, 93, 97, 100, 103, 126, 218, 226, 235, 243, 248, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254  
 bearer ticket system 44, 65

Beaudin, Erica 189, 191, 243, 257  
 Beaudin-Herney, Brandon 189, 208  
 Belislie, Chantel 246  
 Bernauer, Cymone (Bouchard) 191, 192, 194, 195, 243, 257  
 Blakeney, Allan 18, 36, 38, 51, 108 247  
 Bogdasavich, Frank 55, 57, 58, 177  
 Bokitch, John 226, 243  
 Boldt, Arnold 185, 186, 257  
 Boulding, Rob 161, 255  
 Bourgonje, Colette 157, 187, 197, 255, 257, 258  
 Bowren, Ken 28, 70  
 Bracken, Mark 152, 160  
 Brassard, Cassandra 49  
 Brennan, John 70  
 Britton, Doug 89, 225, 252  
 Buckwold, Sid 171  
 Building Better Communities 159, 160, 161, 255  
 Building Dreams and Champions Legacy Program 152, 185, 199  
 Bundon, Mo 151, 152  
 Burgess, Don 80, 224, 243, 251  
 Burnett, Jim 6, 63, 65, 68, 84, 88, 89, 92, 94, 95, 100, 103, 109, 112, 118, 123, 126, 132, 154, 210, 218, 225, 230, 235, 243, 247, 248, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 258  
 Byers, Kia 11

## C

Calvert, Lorne 116, 243, 253  
 Campagnolo, Iona 44, 249  
 Campbell, Norm 210, 212, 243, 258  
 Canada Games 9, 20, 24, 25, 34, 50, 60, 115, 131, 151, 154, 167, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 189, 190, 194, 195, 199, 212, 226, 230, 247, 248, 255, 256, 257, 260.

Canadian Football League 21, 114, 225  
 Canadian Junior Football League 27, 198, 223, 229  
 Canadian Sport Centre 168, 197, 258  
 Canham, Dale 227  
 Carson, Carol 119, 122  
 Changing Nature of Volunteerism 219  
 Chaput, John 185, 247, 257  
 Charlebois, J. J. 20  
 Clark, Ann 82  
 Clark, Dr. Don 81, 94, 173, 195, 243, 251, 256, 257  
 Clarke, Bill 5, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 39, 42, 54, 56, 57, 59, 62, 64, 79, 83, 86, 87, 101, 109, 172, 174, 177, 178, 203, 204, 243, 244, 247, 248, 250, 251, 252, 256, 258  
 Clark, Joe 48  
 Coach Employment Program 185  
 Coaches Association of Saskatchewan 195, 197, 232  
 Community Grant Program 8, 134, 135, 136, 143, 144, 254. *See also* Trust Initiatives Program  
 Cook, Ian 1, 3, 5, 10, 212, 231, 235, 243, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 256, 258  
 Cote, Tony 132, 133, 138  
 Cowley, Elwood 243  
 Criminal Code of Canada 31  
 Crowe, Roland 130  
 Currie, Gordon 115  
 Currie, Rob 151, 152, 156, 243, 255

## D

Daniels, Joe 153, 154, 214, 243, 254, 255, 258  
 Daniels, Lyle 125, 128, 132, 137, 243, 254  
 Dean, Betty Lou 243  
 DeLaet, Graham 10, 163, 200  
 Demographic and Community Data 134, 212, 258  
 Derby, Roger 28  
 Desjardins, Larry 36, 248

Devine, Premier Grant 179  
 Devine, Grant 107, 114, 115, 243  
 Diefenbaker, Prime Minister John 19, 20  
 Doan, Catriona Le May 9, 163, 165, 167, 170, 173, 255, 256  
 Doherty, Kevin 221  
 Douglas, Tommy 16, 37  
 Downey, Clarence 17, 166  
 Dream Brokers Program 9, 151, 153, 154, 255  
 Duckett, Harry 15  
 Durovick, Randy 160, 243, 255

## E

Ellard, Bob 151, 152, 156, 183, 255  
 Ellis, Roy 23, 24, 244, 247, 248, 251, 256  
 Expo 32

## F

Family Foundation 115, 117, 118, 119, 122, 244  
 Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) 129, 130, 131, 132, 138, 139, 146, 154, 254  
 Fern, Dr. Brian 70, 81, 224, 243, 251  
 Fink, Jim 144, 243  
 First Nations Games 132, 133, 138, 146, 150, 155, 213, 214  
 First Nations sports 213  
 First World War 14  
 Fitness and Amateur Sport Act 20  
 Folk, Liam 182  
 Folk, Rick 97, 179, 243, 252, 256  
 Franks, Lisa 187, 189  
 Fudge, Paul 76, 77, 109, 125, 126, 243, 251, 253  
 Future Best program 199

## G

Gallaway, Marguerite 74, 75, 77, 243, 251  
 Garreck, Dennis 160, 243, 255  
 Gass Commission 121. *See also* Gass Report

Gass, Donald 119, 253. *See also* Gass Report; *See also* Gass Commission  
 Gass Report 119, 120, 121  
 Gerein, Clayton 162, 188, 257  
 Goplen, Bernard 226  
 Goplen, Bernie 102, 103  
 Goplen, Gary 256  
 Goplen, Gordon 167, 243, 256  
 Goplen, Henrietta 102, 103, 165, 167, 168, 220, 243, 252, 255, 256, 259  
 Gorman, Nada 218, 232  
 Gosselin, Garrett 259  
 Graham, Spencer 230  
 Green, Hannah 12  
 Green, Stan 244  
 Griffin, John 35  
 Griffiths Stadium 18, 102, 213  
 Guillou, Jordy 123  
 Gunther, Barry 227, 253  
 Gutor, Richard 41

**H**

Hellquist, Wayne 180, 256  
 Henick, Ed 34, 35, 60, 65  
 Herback, Jeff 233  
 Hodgson, Fraser 28, 250  
 Hodnefield, Lisa 134, 243, 254  
 Holcomb, Stan 186  
 Holland, Amber 217, 219, 243, 259  
 Holmes, Dale 232  
 Honetschlager, Eric 232  
 Hospital Tax 113, 253  
 Hough, Lou 224  
 Howe, Gordie 166  
 Hudak, Brittany 236  
 Hughes, Bob 52, 184, 250, 257

**I**

immigration 211, 212  
 Instant 110  
 Interprovincial Lottery Corporation 41, 47

**J**

Jager, Jacque de 182  
 James, Graham 218  
 Janjua, Fiza 207

Jeux Canada Games Foundation 182, 256  
 Jeux du Canada Games 247, 248, 255, 256  
 Jmaeff, Peter 89, 90, 91, 226, 243, 252  
 Josephson, Dorothy 6, 131, 141, 228, 243, 247, 254  
 Julé, Louis 72, 76

**K**

Kanuka, Joe 3, 27, 30, 39, 42, 52, 54, 56, 58, 59, 62, 177, 223, 235, 243, 248, 249, 250  
 Keep Sport Safe, Healthy and Fun 218  
 Kelly, Sheila 205, 206, 235, 243, 258  
 Kennedy, Rob 168, 194, 195, 199, 243, 256, 257, 258  
 KidSport 3, 9, 140, 141, 142, 143, 146, 152, 154, 212, 254  
 Kirkpatrick, Dr. Balfour 15, 16  
 Konihowski, Diane Jones 78, 186  
 Korven, Gary 243  
 Kostic, Milos 234  
 Kryzanowski, Dale 198, 211, 216, 243, 258, 259

**L**

Lafaille, Jean-Marc 41, 47, 243, 248, 249  
 Lang, Gord 68, 95, 96, 231, 243, 252  
 Lasuita, Lorne 52, 136, 176, 219, 243, 250, 254, 256, 259  
 LeBlanc, Larry 230, 243  
 Lee, John 89, 101, 140, 143, 152, 176, 181, 182, 197, 243, 252, 254, 256, 257, 258  
 Leicester, JB 244  
 Lévesque, René 46  
 Lewis, Jackie 14  
 Linklater, Michael 155, 156, 255  
 Linner, Bob 152  
 Livingston, Bob 140, 227, 243, 254  
 Livingstone, R.C. 248, 250  
 Livingstone, Scotty 52, 53  
 Long-Range Planning Committee 90, 91, 92  
 Long Range Planning Committee 53, 252  
 Long-Term Athlete Development 215, 217, 259  
 Lorenzen, Fyola 15, 56, 58, 243, 247, 250

Lorenzen, Hank 26, 28, 53, 55, 79, 83, 223, 235, 243, 248, 250, 251. *See also* Lorenzen, Hank and Fyola; *See also* Lorenzen, Fyola  
 Lorenzen, Hank and Fyola 15, 56, 58, 243, 247, 250  
 Loto Québec 32, 33, 41, 43  
 lottery agreement 123, 132, 221  
 Lottery Strategic Review Committee 122, 123, 144  
 lottery ticket centres 2  
 Lottery Trust Fund 70, 72, 73, 77, 93, 100, 110, 134  
 LOTTO 6/49 94, 96, 98, 110  
 Lottoman 63  
 Lucky Dog Lottery 33, 34, 35, 54, 60

**M**

MacAulay, Don 3, 5, 7, 54, 99, 231, 235, 243, 244, 248, 249, 252  
 MacDonald, Cy 21, 39, 243, 247  
 MacKenzie, Jack 28  
 Manitoba Sports Federation 33, 37, 54  
 Martin, Beattie 114, 115, 118, 253  
 Mather, Gary 24, 51, 85, 243, 248, 250  
 Maxwell, Colin 7, 107, 108, 109, 112, 116, 243, 247, 253  
 Mayes, Rueben 200, 201, 243  
 McCallum, Cheryl 145, 213, 243, 255, 258  
 McDonald, Don 34, 248  
 McDougall, Don 85, 142, 143, 148, 229, 243  
 McKay, Joe 136, 254  
 McKenzie, Taryn 124  
 Medhurst, Bruce 7, 97, 123, 159, 243, 247, 252, 253, 255  
 Meldrum, Roy 56  
 Member Assistance Program 8  
 Métis Nation 132  
 Miller, Raelene 41  
 Minister's Directed Fund 103, 110, 115, 116  
 minister's eligibility list 76, 100, 132  
 Molson 84, 202, 203, 204, 224, 258. *See also* Sports Hall of Fame  
 Morgan, Jeremy 116, 117, 251, 253  
 Morris, Hugh 50

Mount Blackstrap 171, 172, 256  
 Mulroney, Brian 48  
 Murdock, Greg 125, 126, 128, 145, 146, 214, 243, 253, 254, 258

**N**

National Coaching Certification Program 175, 195, 216  
 National Physical Fitness Act of Canada 15  
 New Horizons Program 204  
 Nicholls, Dr. Ernie 4, 80, 248, 250, 251, 252  
 Nixon, Dr. Howard 16, 21, 99, 247. *See also* Nixon, Howard and Elva  
 Nixon, Elva 4, 243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 252, 256, 258  
 Nixon, Howard and Elva 243  
 North American Indigenous Games 124, 131, 171, 190, 254, 264  
 Northern Community Development Program 135  
 Northern District for Sport, Culture and Recreation 160  
 Northern Recreation Coordinating Committee (NRCC) 135  
 NRCC 136

**O**

obesity 9, 211, 215  
 Offet, Myril 62, 223  
 Olympic Lottery 39, 40, 41, 42, 249  
 Ontario Lottery Corporation 41  
 Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils 71, 73, 74, 75, 251

**P**

Paproski, Steve 45, 46  
 Paralympics 186, 187, 188  
 Parizeau, Jacques 41, 43  
 Pelton, Bob 229  
 Perras, Scott 199, 258  
 Perrins, Dan 116, 117, 119, 253  
 Pezer, Dr. Vera 180  
 Pielak, Cas 27, 56, 59, 62, 65, 80, 84, 220, 223, 243, 248, 250, 251, 259  
 Pinay, Angella 132, 150, 243, 254, 255

Pogany, Phyllis 67, 72, 89, 90, 95, 96, 104,  
121, 243, 251, 252, 253  
Pontikes, Ken 121, 243, 253  
Pratt, Glen 128, 214, 243, 254, 255, 258

## R

Racism 139, 254  
Rathwell, George 133, 155, 231, 243, 254, 255  
Reddick, Jack 14  
Reeve, Glenn 120  
Regan, Gerald 46, 249  
Regina Exhibition Association 35, 54, 55,  
56, 57, 59, 66, 67, 93  
Regina Rams 52, 53, 85, 115, 226, 229,  
230, 231, 233, 240, 245, 250  
Remai, John 102, 103  
Reoch, Shane 221, 233  
residential schools 129, 130, 150  
RespectED 218  
Rezansoff, Paul 73, 243, 251  
Richards, Kenda 41  
Ritchie, Bob 63, 65, 243, 250  
Robbins, Harry 28  
Robinson, Tom 225, 243, 254  
Rogers, Keith 64, 175, 243, 256  
Romanow, Roy 56, 113, 174, 204  
Ross, Ken 123  
Rublee, Cory 182

## S

Sanderson, Lyle 185, 186, 257  
St. Amand, Emile 249, 250  
Saskatchewan Amateur Football  
Association 27, 223  
Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey  
Association 14, 25, 224  
Saskatchewan Arts Board 70, 73, 74, 77,  
117, 245, 251  
Saskatchewan Camping Association 26,  
54, 231  
Saskatchewan Commission for Directions  
in Health Care 112  
Saskatchewan Council of Cultural  
Organizations 76, 77, 98, 109, 116,  
117. *See also* SCCO  
Saskatchewan Derby Sweepstakes 35, 54

Saskatchewan Games 1, 6, 9, 79, 102, 123,  
132, 133, 136, 137, 139, 160, 170, 172,  
173, 174, 176, 177, 215, 219, 224, 231,  
236, 241, 246, 256  
Saskatchewan Games Council 1, 123,  
137, 176, 177, 215, 219, 224, 236, 241,  
246, 256  
Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee 18  
Saskatchewan High School Athletics  
Association 16, 196, 239  
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation  
Association 2, 5, 23, 25, 69, 98, 100,  
109, 135, 210, 215, 221, 245, 247, 251,  
255, 256  
Saskatchewan Recreation Movement 16  
Saskatchewan Sports and  
Recreation Unlimited 248. *See also* Administration Centre  
Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame 4, 62,  
77, 80, 132, 148, 167, 179, 203, 204,  
205, 224, 226, 232, 235, 239, 240, 241,  
243, 244, 246, 247, 248, 249, 251, 254,  
256, 257, 258  
Saskatchewan Sweetstakes Lottery 59  
Saskatchewan Volleyball Association 26,  
194, 223  
Saskatchewan Youth Act 21, 22  
Saskatchewan Youth Agency 27, 204  
Saskatoon Hilltops 31, 33, 34, 35, 60, 198,  
228, 229, 246, 248  
SaskCulture 2, 76, 98, 145, 159, 218, 221  
Sask First Program 180  
Sask Sport—founding 28  
SCCO 77, 122, 253  
Schmirler, Sandra 164  
Schneider, Susan 176, 215, 219, 243, 256,  
259  
Schreyer, Ed 37  
Schumann, Marco 222  
Scott, Kevin 148, 198, 200, 228, 243, 258  
Seaman, Don 244  
Sebestyen, Ed 171  
Second World War 15, 16, 23  
Simonis, Guy 3, 33, 36, 39, 42, 177, 243,  
248, 249, 256  
Smith, Patricia 114

Southeast Saskatchewan Association for  
Culture, Recreation and Sport 159  
Sport Administration 83, 101, 251  
sport development programs 146, 251.  
*See also* sports development  
Sport for All 5, 125, 129  
Sport: It's More than a Game 254  
Sport Legacy 93  
Sport Medicine Council of Saskatchewan  
196  
sports development 136, 212  
Sports Hall of Fame 4, 62, 77, 80, 85, 132,  
148, 167, 179, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206,  
224, 226, 230, 232, 235, 239, 240, 241,  
243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250,  
251, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258  
Springstein, Toar 87  
Stafford, Dennis 61, 243, 250  
Staseson, Gord 35, 59, 66, 243  
Stebner, Harvey 41  
Stellek-Pratt, Pat 120, 128, 131, 227, 228,  
243, 253, 254  
Stinson, Wally 16, 25, 60, 176, 204, 244,  
247, 248, 250  
Stone, Chelsea 238

## T

Tait, Hugh 33, 34, 60, 61, 62  
Taylor, Alex 57  
Taylor, Ron 41  
Tchorzewski, Ed 38, 52, 57, 59, 62, 67, 69,  
243, 249, 250, 256  
Teece, Richard (Dick) 60, 69, 72, 79, 243,  
244, 249, 250, 251  
Teichrob, Carol 118, 243, 253  
Tennis—early history 14  
Thatcher, Ross 21, 35, 51, 115  
Thurmeier, Norbert 41, 200, 220, 226, 243,  
258, 259  
Todd, Gail (MacKrell) 83, 116, 224, 243,  
251, 253  
Tribal Council and First Nations  
Coordinator Program 131, 132, 134,  
137, 146, 148  
Trifunov, James—wrestling 15  
Trimble, Tiff 30

Trudeau, Pierre 32, 45, 46  
Trust Initiatives Program 8, 100, 111, 134  
Tuck, Glenn 4, 5, 23, 27, 90, 98, 244, 248, 252  
Turner, John 32, 248

## U

University Athlete Assistance Program  
196

## V

Van Blaricom, Keeley 241  
Van Marion, Kirsten 260  
volunteerism 219. *See also* Changing  
Nature of Volunteerism

## W

Walsh, Pat 91, 225, 243, 252  
Watson, George 140, 141, 228, 243, 254  
Watson, Morley 138, 139, 254, 255  
Werry, Bill 100, 116, 121, 252, 253  
Western Canada Games 9, 173, 177, 178,  
256  
Western Canada Lottery 2, 3, 30, 36, 37,  
39, 40, 44, 56, 61, 62, 65, 66, 67, 80,  
88, 96, 97, 98, 113, 177, 178, 247, 249,  
250, 253  
Western Express 30, 66, 95, 110  
White, Dick 8, 9, 196, 228, 243, 247, 257  
Whitman, Don 30  
Whitstone, Grant 213, 258  
Wickenheiser, Hayley 242  
Wiens, Rylan 106  
Williams, Patty 158  
Williams, Wilma 84, 85  
Willie, Katie 246  
Willoughby, Cheryl 230  
Wotherspoon, Jeremy 163

## Y

Young, Audra 147, 149, 150, 214, 232, 243  
Young, Wayne 85, 86, 243, 244, 251, 252

## Z

Zeman, Joe 204, 244  
Zwack, Andy 244





Team Saskatchewan's Andrew Aubichon spikes at Team Ontario blockers during volleyball action between Saskatchewan and Ontario at the North American Indigenous Games in Regina July 25, 2014. Bryan Schlosser/Leader-Post.