

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD**

### **LESLIE BLYTH**

#### **Nominated by the Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

Volunteering for more than 25 years, Leslie Blyth has made an impact with the Saskatchewan Soccer Association, Canadian Soccer Association Competition Committee and President's Forum, Sask Sport Board of Directors and, most recently, with the Saskatchewan Games Council. Joining her first soccer board in 1994, Leslie has helped host many local tournaments, as well as represent Saskatchewan at Canada Soccer National Championships. A member of Western Canada Games mission staff in 2019, she was the sport leader for women's softball and volleyball. She was also a volunteer in 2019 for the Special Olympics Saskatchewan Winter Games. As a member of the Sask Sport Board of Directors, she served for four years including a term as Chair. Leslie is looked to as a leader in the sporting community and a passionate advocate for the benefits of sport.

### **MARNI CALDWELL**

#### **Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan**

Certified to officiate outside of Saskatchewan, Marni Caldwell has dedicated her volunteerism toward Swim Saskatchewan. A master official, meet referee, Hytek software lead, Sanction Chair and a member of the Swim Saskatchewan Board of Directors, she has done it all. In a regular swim season, Marni teaches a minimum of four official's clinics and officiates at a minimum of five meets including year-round age group meets, masters and summer club meets. As Hytek software lead, Marni ensures knowledge is shared with other volunteers and coaches and keeps the software up to date and ready for meets. A positive energy at the pool, Marni is described as respectful, approachable and attentive to the coaches, athletes and organizers.

### **BRETT HINES**

#### **Nominated by Skate Canada - Saskatchewan**

An official who is a trusted evaluator and competition judge, referee and technical specialist, Brett Hines has been involved with Skate Canada – Saskatchewan for 20 years. Showing a true passion for the sport, Brett has been a member of the provincial association's board of directors, as well as numerous operational and officials committees. His work has also expanded to national and international volunteering on sport committees, development committees and being an official at many events. Brett was the recipient of the 2020 Skate Canada Volunteer Award of Excellence. He is actively involved in official's professional development and is a Learning Facilitator.

## **CAROL LUNN**

### **Nominated by Dive Sask**

Carol Lunn has been a volunteer for the sport of diving since 1995. Beginning her volunteerism to support her daughter's interest in diving, Carol continued her involvement even after her daughter was done diving in the province. In addition to serving as president on the Dive Sask Board of Directors for six years, Carol organized five provincial championships, five Western championships, Novice Nationals, Junior Nationals, Canada Games and, most recently, was the Technical Chair at the 2019 Western Canada Summer Games. By creating a "Meet Manager's Bible" for the provincial association, she has helped develop other leaders and create a standard of meet hosting in the province and country. She has chaperoned athletes and managed teams throughout Canada, the US and Cuba, as well as served on the Diving Plongeon Canada Executive Director working group. In 2019, Carol was honoured with the Dive Sask Volunteer of the Year Award.

## **SARAH MACNAUGHT**

### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Hockey Association**

A strong supporter of growing women's hockey in the province, Sarah MacNaught has been a volunteer for nearly 20 years. Sarah has served as team manager for two different Saskatoon Comets teams for six seasons equating to 12 different teams, on the Saskatoon Comets Hockey Board of Director as Under-15 Coordinator and as the U15 North Saskatchewan Female Hockey League Commissioner in 2018. Ensuring to take part in hockey events in the community, Sarah volunteered for the Esso Cup Tournament in 2003, the World Junior Hockey Championship as a media assistant in 2010 and the Four Nations Cup in 2018. Outside of hockey, Sarah has also volunteered with the United Way, Bridge City Boogie as Volunteer Coordinator and on the Holy Cross High School Parents Board. She was awarded the Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association Volunteer of the Year Award and the Saskatchewan Hockey Association's Volunteer of the Year (North) awards in 2019-20.

## **JEAN RONEY**

### **Nominated by Bowls Saskatchewan**

An accomplished lawn bowling athlete, nationally certified umpire and long-serving community and national coach, Jean Roney has dedicated a lifetime of volunteering. A member of the Bowls Saskatchewan Board of Directors for 31 years, Jean has held many positions and often more than one at a time. Her work on committees expanded to Bowls Canada Boulingrin as a member and chairperson of the National Officiating Committee, National Awards Committee and High Performance Program. A nationally certified umpire since 1997, she has been head umpire for senior national championships, youth national championships and was responsible for the assignment and training of umpires in the province. As a coach, Jean has helped the sport grow—running Learn to Bowl sessions—and she was the Team Coach for the U18 and U25 teams who attended Canadian Championships in 2019. She has also attended World Bowls, Eight Nations Competition, the Commonwealth Games and the Asia Pacific Games as a coach or manager for Team Canada.

## COACH DEDICATION AWARD

### ERIC KRAMER

#### **Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan**

A coaching career that spans 40 years, Eric Kramer started making an impact in swimming in Saskatchewan in 2015. Since becoming the head coach of the Laser Swim Team in Saskatoon, the club has seen a 30 per cent growth in membership and has created the biggest and only Para Learn To Swim program in the country. The Para program had 30 members in 2020 including five classified swimmers. Attracting Para swimmers from across the country to train in Saskatchewan, Eric has also coached at the World Para Swimming Championship in London in 2019, helping Canada to 14 medals and qualification for the Tokyo Paralympics in many swim categories. He will coach with Team Canada at the Games. Among numerous honours from Swim Saskatchewan, Eric has also been honoured with a Coaching Association of Canada Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Award in 2020 and was inducted into the Quebec Swimming Sports Hall of Fame.

### DALE PERRY

#### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

After 32 years, Dale Perry, a long-time board member, coach, official and technical director in Swift Current retired in September. Receiving the Saskatchewan Soccer Association's highest honour, the David Newsham Award and Life Membership in 2003, Dale has not only left a lasting legacy on the game in Swift Current but also in the province. A provincial board member in five different years, Dale has coached teams to more than 30 provincial championships in his career and has a soccer field named after him in the city. He coached both the Swift Current Comprehensive Colts and the Swift Current Ardens club team. He had an active streak of 11 straight Moose Jaw League championships with the Ardens. He has coached both male and female teams at the last five Saskatchewan Summer Games and many of his athletes have gone on to play soccer at the college and university levels.

### ROB SAJTOS

#### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association**

For 18 years, Rob Sajtos has helped grow the sport of wheelchair basketball in Saskatchewan. As a volunteer coach, Rob has coached or mentored every wheelchair basketball athlete in the province. He has been vital in the development of many athletes including national team players and national academy players. Rob has coached at many national championships, as well as the 2003, 2015 and 2019 Canada Winter Games. He guided the team to the province's best finish ever with a silver medal in 2015. As a coach, Rob focuses on helping to develop the athlete on and off the court by offering sessions in sleep science, nutrition, drug awareness and mental training among others. He has also improved the tactical coaching and winning expectations of the provincial teams.

## **LISA THOMIDIS**

### **Nominated by Basketball Saskatchewan**

Moving to Saskatchewan in 1998 to become head coach of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, Lisa Thomaidis has become a respected coach, mentor and leader in Safe Sport in the province. Turning the Huskies into a university women's basketball powerhouse, Lisa has guided the Huskies to two national titles in 13 national championship appearances and seven Canada West Championships. Winning Coach of the Year awards nine different times for U SPORTS, Canada West or Sask Sport, she was also honoured as a YWCA Woman of Distinction in 2009. Coaching with the Senior Women's National Team since 2001, Lisa was named head coach in 2013. Under her tutelage, Team Canada won gold at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, gold at the 2017 FIBA Women's AmeriCup and has guided the team to a program-best ranking of fourth in the world. She has coached at the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games and will do so again in Tokyo this summer.