



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recreation Excellence Rewarded in Cypress Hills

At an Awards Gala on Friday October 19, 2018 in The Resort at Cypress Hills, the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) recognized individuals and community groups for their contributions to parks and recreation.

“The SPRA Awards Gala is an opportunity to showcase the positive impact recreation has in our communities’, said Todd Shafer, Chief Executive Officer of SPRA. “The achievements of these dedicated volunteers and professionals deserve to be recognized and celebrated.”

The winners of the 2018 SPRA Awards are:

- Volunteer of the Year Award - Richard Thompson, Town of Bengough
- Youth Volunteer of the Year Award - Grayson Charles, Town of Kelvington
- Facility Operations Award - Fred Meston and Allan Hoag, Town of Bengough
- Parks and Open Space Award - Janie and Helen Rempel Community Garden, City of Swift Current
- Community Achievement Award - Town of Leader
- Award of Merit - CPL Recreation
- Fitness Leadership Award - Joel Pedersen
- President’s Award of Distinction - Bill Samborski

Three students received \$1,500 SPRA Scholarships during the Awards Gala for their academic achievements and demonstration of leadership and volunteerism in recreation and parks. This year’s scholarship recipients are:

- Dallas Burnett – Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Recreation and Community Development
- Alex Watson – Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina
- Claire McKenzie – University of Saskatchewan, College of Kinesiology

The Gala also paid tribute to the Saskatchewan winners of the 2018 Communities in Bloom Awards: Eastend, Eston and Melfort. Communities in Bloom is a grassroots program, recognizing participation in community projects related to environmental awareness, heritage conservation, and the creation and maintenance of local green spaces.

To learn more about these outstanding individuals and community groups, please refer to the [2018 SPRA Awards Brochure](#).

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About the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA)

SPRA is a non-profit member-based organization who promotes, develops and facilitates parks and recreation opportunities throughout the province. We are recognized as the provincial umbrella organization representing parks and recreation in Saskatchewan, and we manage the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

SPRA allocates funding through the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation to organizations on the [Minister's Eligibility List](#). This funding supports these members with the delivery of quality recreation experiences throughout the province.

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