Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association
Recreation
An investment for life

MEDIA RELEASE

October 19, 2012

Celebrating Excellence in Parks and Recreation

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) paid tribute to exceptional individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions to Saskatchewan's parks and recreation sector, at a special Awards Banquet on October 19, 2012 at the Kerry Vickar Centre in Melfort, SK. This year, SPRA honoured three individuals, two member organizations and one post-secondary student for their contributions to Saskatchewan's recreation and parks sector.

The 2012 SPRA Award Recipients include:
Nathan Grayston (Yorkton) – Volunteer of the Year Award
Kimberley Willison (Saskatoon) – Fitness Leadership Award
Mosaic Place and Moose Jaw Fieldhouse – Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence
The Centre (Swift Current) – Community Achievement Award
Dan Poulin (Nipawin) – SPRA President's Award of Distinction

2012 Scholarship Recipients :
Megan L. Jalbert (Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Regina) – SPRA Scholarship

For additional information on these exceptional individuals and groups, please refer to the attached biographies. The 2012 SPRA Awards Banquet will also include the presentation of the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals Awards and the announcement of the winners of the 2012 Provincial Edition of *Communities in Bloom*.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals, Communities in Bloom and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Awards!

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For more information, contact Lori Ross, SPRA Consultant - Communications at (306) 780-9370.

SPRA is a non-profit member organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life in the Province. SPRA provides parks and recreation services and support to Saskatchewan communities and advocates on behalf of the recreation and parks field at the local, provincial and national level. SPRA is funded by the Saskatchewan Lotteries.

SPRA Award Recipients:

Volunteer of the Year Award – Nathan Grayston (Yorkton)
Presented to a volunteer to recognize outstanding achievements in the improvement of recreation opportunities at the local level.

Nathan was a key contributor in Yorkton's success in winning the Aviva Community Fund Contest and the Grand Prize of $150,000 to build a concrete skateboard/bike park in downtown Yorkton. Nathan's dedication to the sport of skateboarding turned into endless volunteer hours on the project. He jumped at the opportunity to promote the Yorkton Aviva idea online through social media and videography. This new outdoor facility would not have been possible without Nathan's determination to spearhead the project and motivate not only the community but an entire Province to vote for the Aviva Project.

Fitness Leadership Award – Kimberley Willison (Saskatoon)
Presented to a current SPRA Certified Fitness Leader, who is a strong and successful promoter of fitness and physical activity in their community.

In her full time work with the Saskatchewan Health Region as a Recreation Therapist for the Community Older Adult Division, Kimberly develops and promotes the fitness of older adults program, Forever…in motion. Outside of work, she is a SPRA Course Conductor, provides ongoing mentorship and support to newly certified instructors and teaches a variety of fitness classes. Kimberly's passion for fitness and healthy living has assisted many individuals both young and old in adopting regular physical activity into their lives.

Community Achievement Award – The Centre (Swift Current)
Awarded to a municipality and/or community group(s) for substantial cooperative community effort with a large volunteer component.

The Center is a newly renovated, 9000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Swift Current dedicated to supporting youth programs. The creation of this public facility was made possible through the incredible support of the Eastside Church of God who purchased the builiding and the Swift Current community who provided thousands of volunteer hours, significant donations, and financial contributions to create this beautiful, fully furnished building.

Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence – Mosaic Place and Moose Jaw Fieldhouse
Awarded to a municipality for construction of a new facility, where the unique or outstanding design contributes to the overall efficiency or accessibility of the facility operation component.

Mosaic Place replaced two outdated high energy, restricted-use buildings with one highly utilized energy-efficient and greenhouse friendly structure. Housing these facilities under one roof has resulted in many efficiencies, such as sharing an ice plant, heating and ventilation equipment, staff, and some public areas thereby maximizing public space available for both facilities. The facilities are also accessible to persons with special needs, so people of all abilities can enjoy the facility.

SPRA President's Award of Distinction – Dan Poulin (Nipawin)
This Award is one of the most prestigious awards presented by SPRA. It is presented to an individual for their 'lasting' achievement that has enhanced the public image and improved the services of parks and recreation provincially, district and/or locally.

Dan has been a vital contributor to the field of Parks and Recreation for over 28 years. He began his career as the Recreation Director in Wadena and moved to Nipawin were he acted as the Recreation Director until his retirement in September 2012. Dan was the Ambassador for SPRA's Everybody gets to Play Program which was dedicated to the removal of barriers to participation for children from low-income families.

As a member of the Nipawin Intersectoral Committee (NIC) Dan also worked towards improving quality of life for children in the community. The Intersectoral Committee developed the Nipawin Oasis Centre program, Nipawin KidsFirst, the Nipawin Outreach Program, the Aboriginal Employment Development Program and positive ticketing. Dan has also been involved in the Nipawin Representative Workforce in coordination with First Nations and Nipawin Nutrition for kids.

In addition to helping children in the community, Dan has been actively involved in the creation and the development of the Royal Purple Park, Soccer Fields, walking Trails and the Communities in Bloom initiative. Dan has also been responsible for many of the Town's Recreation Facility renovation projects including the Centennial Arena Renovations and a new roof and furnace for the Evergreen Centre - seeing the projects through from application to completion. Dan led the Board of the Saskatchewan Recreation Facilities Association, where he served as President and rep to the Canadian Council. In this capacity, Dan was instrumental in bringing the 1998 Saskatchewan Winter Games to Nipawin. Dan has shown great dedication not only to his chosen career but to sport and recreation in general. Dan exhibits a great passion for the development of community recreation programs and has made a positive impact not only in the town of Nipawin and the province as a whole.

SPRA Scholarship Recipient:
The SPRA Scholarship Program supports individuals pursuing careers in recreation by awarding scholarships to students enrolled in Recreation and Leisure Programs across Saskatchewan. This year's recipient was selected on the basis of academic achievement and demonstrated involvement as a volunteer in recreation, parks or leisure services.

Megan L. Jalbert (Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Regina) – SPRA Scholarship
Currently, Megan is a 5th year student pursuing a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation Studies, majoring in Sport and Recreation Management. Throughout her life Megan has been heavily involved in various recreational endeavors that range from numerous competitive sports; being a counselor at a youth camp; volunteering for individuals with disabilities; and to more recently playing women's tackle football for the Regina Riot and the first ever women's tackle football team to represent Saskatchewan at a national tournament.