

Rick Hill

CKC - R. Edgar Gilbert Award



The Greater Edmonton Racing Canoe Kayak Club would like to nominate Rick Hill for the CKC - R. Edgar Gilbert Award under Builder category.

Rick is an individual who has brought an abundance of energy, skill, determination, and distinction to the sport of sprint paddling in Alberta.

Rick's involvement with the sport of Canoe/Kayak began in 1997 when his son competed in the Alberta Summer Games. Since that time, Rick has been a long term supporter of paddling in Alberta, with his involvement in the sport spanning over 25

years. He first became involved with the sport of Canoe/Kayak in 1997 when his children began competing in the sport. Following this, Rick became involved with the St. Albert Canoe and Kayak Club, representing the club on all levels. Has been described by the club head coach and peers as "one of the most selfless and giving people that we know." His service and dedication to the sport of sprint canoe/kayak has been long standing. His participation in the sport includes being a paddler and competing locally, regionally, and nationally in sprint disciplines, as well as selflessly serving in Alberta as a volunteer since 1997.

Rick also pursued athlete training, where he became involved in flat-water and Sprint Racing coaching. He then became interested in officiating and he pursued this passion by officiating at various competition events such as: Western Canada Games, Indigenous Games, Canada Summer Games, CKC Nationals, Alberta Summer Games, as well as local and provincial competitions. Under his leadership, along with the contribution of Edmonton and St. Albert board members, the sprint program in Alberta has seen a significant growth and has led to over 35 members to date in addition to numerous recreational activities.

However, Rick's strong interest in paddling grew beyond the discipline of Sprint canoe/kayak. He was committed to organizing Dragon boat tournaments, whitewater and Outrigger sport events, and has been an active executive board member of the Alberta Sprint Racing Canoe Association. For more than 20 years, Rick has also been an active Executive board member of the St. Albert Canoe & Kayak club, the Greater Edmonton Racing Canoe Kayak Club and Leduc Boat club, providing leadership to these organizations at various levels. He has also served in different capacities with the Prairie Division and Canoe Kayak Canada.

As an administrator, Rick found enjoyment in work behind the scenes to support the Canoe/Kayak competition for World Masters Games in 2005. His work was instrumental in procuring and maintaining a 2000 m. temporary race course at the Telford Lake training Centre in Leduc AB, which is used by canoe/kayak, rowing, outrigger and Dragon Boat athletes. This race course provided improved training facilities as well as a location to host Provincial and Western Canada competitions. Rick considers this one of his most important achievements and legacy.

Rick played an instrumental role in ensuring a successful relocation of the St. Albert Canoe and Kayak Club from Riel Pond to Kirk Lake in Edmonton AB, a move which supported the formation of the Greater Edmonton Racing Edmonton canoe/kayak Club. Forced to relocate once again in 2019, Rick negotiated with the County of Sturgeon to create and rebuild a club at Cardiff Pond, just outside St. Albert.

He has worked tirelessly to establish new homes and facilities for these northern Alberta clubs. His collaboration with Sturgeon County ensured the successful continuation of these clubs, not only facilitating the development of site improvements and club house upgrades, which included the construction of a new deck and new boat storage facilities, but also acquiring grants for Canada Summer Jobs for summer coaches. Following discussions with the City of Edmonton and City of St. Albert, Rick has identified other locations which will support paddling activities into the future.

"Rick's dedication to the sport and willingness to help others was apparent to those that met him, as was his knowledge and experience of paddling in Alberta. Those who worked with Rick admired his contribution and dedication to our sport, recognised the positive contribution he made to paddling, valued his help freely given to others, and his friendship. In recognition of his contributions on a Provincial Level, Rick was awarded the Sport Volunteer Recognition Award by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation in 2013. Three of these awards are given out every two years.

Rick is a deserving and worthy nominee for the Services to Paddling in our country " says Head Coach Zak Mahmoudi.

Facts:

1997: Volunteer the St. Albert Canoe Kayak Club- SACKC was developed in the 1980s
2005-2015 : Official at western Canada Games
2005- 2017: Official at Canada Summer Game
2009-2019 : Member of the Alberta Sprint Racing Canoe Association
2009-2012: Member of Canoe Kayak Canada - Club Development
2003-2020: Member of the executive on the board of GERCKC, SACKC and Leduc Boat Clubs.
2010-2022: Coach for sport for All (Paracanoe and disability program)