FRASER VALLEY RESIDENTS HONOURED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING

June 4, 2008, ABBOTSFORD - Athletes, coaches and volunteers were honoured at PacificSport Fraser Valley's Annual General Meeting and Recognition Awards last week. Six well-deserving individuals were recognized for their significant accomplishments in the world of sport and/or their invaluable contributions as a volunteer.

Two exceptional athletes were chosen to receive the Athlete of the Year award, an honour typically bestowed on one person. Jennifer McKenzie of Maple Ridge was recognized for her accomplishments and incredible come-back as a Para equestrian rider after a life-altering riding accident early on in her equestrian career. With the support of family and coaches, McKenzie has faced some major obstacles and challenges in the past 20 years to become a truly inspirational athlete and role model for many aspiring athletes. McKenzie stands a good chance of qualifying for the Beijing Paralympics and the Canadian team will be announced in early June.

The second Athlete of the Year award was presented to up and coming wrestling athlete, Gurjot Kooner of Abbotsford. Kooner carved out an undefeated season in BC high school wrestling competition last year and was the BC High School Juvenile Champion. He won Silver in both divisions of the 2008 Juvenile Nationals and will represent Canada for the second consecutive year at the Junior World Championships in Istanbul in July 2008.

Alison Kabush of Surrey was awarded the Athlete Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding career in boccia. Kabush joined the provincial boccia team at the age of 13 and has competed on provincial, national and international levels including the Sydney (2000) and Athens (2004) Paralympic Games. Kabush will also compete in the Beijing Paralympic Games this fall.

Jason Young of Abbotsford was honoured as the Coach of the Year for his coaching achievements and his dedication to developing the sport of Rugby in the Fraser Valley. Young runs development camps for athletes and delivers professional development courses for coaches. This year he coached the U20 FV team to a gold medal finish at the national championships.

Andrew Mylly of Chilliwack received the Builder Award for his years of ongoing involvement in the sport of Whitewater Kayaking as a competitor, administrator and director. Mylly is currently the vice president of marketing and fundraising for Canoe Kayak BC, the provincial sport organization for BC Whitewater.

Abbotsford resident Perry Evison was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for his dedication to the annual Operation Red Nose program which is coordinated by PacificSport Fraser Valley for the Abbotsford and Mission communities. Following the Recognition Awards, Evison assisted in presenting PacificSport athletes with travel grants made possible through funds raised during the annual Operation Red Nose campaign.

The 2008 Operation Red Nose campaign will begin in late November. For further information, please contact Linda Palm at 604-557-4021.

PacificSport – Powering Sport Performance
The network of PacificSport Centres, in partnership with Canadian Sport Centre Pacific, delivers sport performance programs to help athletes and coaches win medals for Canada. Working in support of our national, provincial and regional sport partners PacificSport is creating a stronger system for the development of athletes, coaches, performance enhancement teams and sport performance facilities.
www.pacificsport.com

– 30 –

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Palm
PacificSport Fraser Valley
General Manager
Tel: (604) 557-4021
Email: *lpalm@pacificsport.com*

Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

OWN THE | À NOUS LE
PODIUM | PODIUM
2010

2010
LEGACIES
NOW.

Canadian Sport Centres / Centres canadiens multisport

Atlantic
Calgary
Manitoba
Montreal
Ontario
Pacific
Saskatchewan

Pacific SPORT

Fraser Valley
Interior BC
Northern BC
Okanagan
Sea to Sky
Vancouver
Vancouver Island
Victoria

ABBOTSFORD

UCFV
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of the FRASER VALLEY

34

WESTERN CANADA
SUMMER GAMES
LEGACY FUND