



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## FRASER VALLEY SPORT COMMUNITY RICH WITH LEADERS



*PacificSport recognizes exceptional individuals in shooting, canoe/kayak, ringette and swimming.*



November 4, 2011, ABBOTSFORD – Earlier this week regional sport leaders Dorothy Ludwig, Reg Shaw, Tom Brent and Bill Bettles were recognized at PacificSport Fraser Valley's Annual General Meeting and Sport Recognition Awards event in Langley. The annual awards, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, identify and celebrate athletes, coaches, volunteers and builders who have set the bar high in terms of their achievements and contributions to sport in the Fraser Valley.



Langley's Dorothy Ludwig was named Athlete of the Year – an obvious choice for those lucky enough to know the petite shooting powerhouse. A first-time mom this spring, Ludwig successfully balances her important new role with the steady focus and balance benefit of the accomplished athlete that she is. In July, Ludwig placed first (individual competition) at the Canadian National Championships to earn her spot on Team Canada for the Pan American Games in Guadalajara where, she won Gold and secured an Olympic quota spot for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, UK.



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Surrey coach Reg Shaw was presented Coach of the Year. When Shaw joined the Surrey Knights Swim Club in 2009, para-swimming athletes from the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island soon followed. Three of these athletes earned five Gold medals at the 2011 Para Can Am Championships in July. Known for his innovation and resourcefulness in coaching, Shaw incorporates mentoring opportunities so athletes can develop knowledge and skills beyond those developed in the pool. But the most distinctive trait coach Shaw possesses is his innate ability to spark a lasting excitement for swimming in his athletes.



Mission resident Tom Brent received the Outstanding Volunteer award for his invaluable contributions to the Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club. Nicknamed the 'Boat Doctor' by club members, the ever-humble Brent maintains and fixes the club's fleet of 150 boats, trailers, boat racks and any other equipment in need of repair. Club advocate, administrator and community liaison are a few more of the volunteer hats he wears, all of which he manages to do on top of family life and a demanding full time job.



Bill Bettles of Abbotsford was recognized as Community Sport Builder for his 30+ years of contribution to amateur sport. A visionary with drive and know-how, Bettles' numerous accomplishments include: establishing the Langley Girls Ice Hockey Association, starting the Westcoast Softball Academy in Surrey and purchasing the rights to a National Ringette League Team – the Fraser Valley Avalanche for which he raised over \$180,000 to fund the team. In 2010, Bettles created the Michelle VanDale Memorial Ringette Scholarship, an annual award of \$1,000.



"I'm pleased we can give some much-deserved recognition to these individuals who are quietly advancing the quality and level of sport in our region," states Linda Palm, PacificSport general manager. "A guiding philosophy for PacificSport is that it 'takes a community to build a champion'," says Palm. "With a sport community so rich with individuals like our Recognition Award recipients, it's not at all surprising we have such a wealth of high performance athletes, current and future champions, here in the Fraser Valley."





**PacificSport – Powering Sport Performance**



The BC 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, integrated support teams and sport performance facilities.



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