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SPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS.

This year, provincial sport organizations honoured one individual, group, organization, or committee who went above and beyond for their sport despite the challenges brought forth by the pandemic.

ATLANTIC DIVISION CANOE KAYAK CANADA

ADCKC Member Clubs

The ADCKC member clubs were particularly resilient in the face of adversity. All clubs worked together to follow the new policy that aligned with COVID-19 restrictions and enabled athletes to get back on the water in spring 2020. ADCKC was the only paddling division in Canada to return to competition and lead over 16 successful days of regattas over the summer. None of this would have been possible without the driven members of the paddling community.

ARTISTIC SWIMMING

Artistic Swimming Athletes and Coaches

Whether it was their first time experiencing artistic swimming through the AquaGO! program, practicing on land due to pool closures, or training to compete at the national level, artistic swimming athletes excelled and gave their all throughout the pandemic. The coaches continued to be positive role models, got creative with their workouts, and worked hard to keep the athletes engaged when restrictions prevented them from getting in the water.

ATHLETICS

Truro Lions Track and Field Club

Navigating the past year was no small feat and the Truro Lions stepped up to the challenge, showed exemplary resiliency, and thrived throughout the pandemic. The Lions implemented modified programming to encourage participation for all members and continued with club development throughout 2020. With additional coaching staff on board, they were able to offer more training times and additional support to primary coaches. Members were very appreciative of the extreme efforts that kept them participating and safe.

BADMINTON

Drew Hubley

Drew competes at the elite level and has been the youngest board member for the past four years, he started out as the director of tournaments and recently became vice president. He's taken the lead for all BNS-hosted tournaments, the new website redesign, and supporting community volunteers. Drew also dedicated hundreds of hours throughout the pandemic to ensure the membership was prepared to return to play when it was safe to do so.

BASKETBALL

Lee Anna Osei

Lee Anna is the founder of the Black Canadian Coaches Association and drives the conversation about sport equity on a provincial and national level. She has been featured on numerous media platforms, spoken on several panels, and helped with numerous Basketball Nova Scotia programs including the Junior Academy and Canada Games evaluations. Lee Anna's efforts have been noticed across the country, and she was recently recognized by the Toronto Star as one of the 30 most influential women in Canadian sport

BOXING

New Waterford Boxing Club

The New Waterford Boxing Club demonstrated resilience and determination to bring boxing back to their athletes. They found new and exciting ways to keep their athletes engaged, including at-home sessions and a drive-in fight event. With all the support they got from the community so they could return to the sport they loved, the club chose to give back by hosting a garbage clean-up and a bottle drive, donating the proceeds to families in need for Christmas.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI

Kevin Chaisson

A member of North Highlands Nordic and recreational skier, Kevin coordinated the building project for a new facility with no remuneration. He spent countless hours getting building permits, ordering materials, lending his carpentry skills, and operating the heavy machinery. His coordinating efforts didn't go unnoticed when he bubbled with other volunteers who worked daily from October to February. Kevin gave his all, and his commitment positively impacted everyone in the cross-country skiing community.

BASEBALL

Holly LaPierre

Long-time BNS volunteer, Holly LaPierre pivoted in June when COVID-19 restrictions wouldn't allow for normal baseball games. She implemented five mini-stadium replicas where 200 players participated in a socially distanced wiffle ball league- all during a time when most of the country couldn't even play in sandlots. Her creative approach to offering safe programming garnered national attention and landed her on the Canadian Baseball Network's 100 Most Influential Canadians in Baseball list.

BIATHLON

Waverley Amateur Athletic Association

Without the continued support and cooperation from the Waverley Amateur Athletic Association (WAAA), Biathlon Nova Scotia would not have had a place to train within the province. The WAAA has been enthusiastic and accommodating from the first day Biathlon approached them, and they have become great partners who provide space for Biathlon Nova Scotia to operate.

CRICKET

Andrew Irving

Andrew is the treasurer Nova Scotia Cricket Association and heads the Halifax Cricket League committee. Andrew led the efforts to execute a successful season when it was safe to return, and he's often the first to volunteer for additional responsibilities. He undertook bylaw reviews, led the work to seek and incorporate feedback from members, and stepped up to organize umpires for the Halifax Cricket League. Andrew's commitment doesn't go unnoticed- he's a great asset to the community.

CURLING

Linda Harrison

Linda is involved in many activities with the Amherst Curling Club including coordinating the day curling league and the club's kitchen facilities. This past year, Linda also volunteered to work at the club's bar during league play. Along with her five-game-a-week personal curling schedule, she contributes to growing the sport through instructing Lite Rocks every Saturday morning. Linda is an extremely valuable member of the curling community.

EQUESTRIAN

Pony and Pals

Despite COVID-19, the Ponies and Pals (P&P) youth mentorship program was able to operate with upgraded safety protocols, and NCCP coach, Gillian Allan delivered invaluable experiences to participants. P&P introduced five youth and their parents to the sport with safety at the forefront of each lesson. The program made a huge difference in the lives of the participants, who now have a solid equestrian foundation to build a future in the community

GOLF

Nova Scotia Golf Community

Despite the challenges brought forth by the pandemic, golf in Nova Scotia succeeded on many levels. There are several new players, more rounds being played, and more memberships purchased through golf facilities. These successes are credited to the NSGA's member clubs, individual members, the NS Public Player Program, dedicated volunteers, the Atlantic industry partners, and the NSGA Board of directors, committees, and staff.

HOCKEY

Dr. Tina Atkinson

Amidst a global pandemic, Tina joined Hockey Nova Scotia as the organization's first chief medical officer. She provided her expertise to help create the Rebound Plan, donating countless hours ensuring players could return to the ice safely. Hockey NS relies heavily on Tina's medical advice and she's been an invaluable resource, not only for the board of directors but for hockey throughout the province. Professional, knowledgeable, and a leader in her field, Dr. Atkinson has truly made a positive impact.

LACROSSE

Donna Goguen

Donna was the sole defining factor for Lacrosse's survival during the past year. She spent countless hours meticulously addressing the challenges that the organization faced and exhausted every conceivable funding source, and her efforts were critical for the organization to rebuild in 2021. She produced a timely and effective return to lacrosse plan and provided hands-on guidance for coaches, athletes, and parents. Donna's determination is exemplary, and she continuously advocates for every member of the lacrosse community.

GOALBALL

Linda MacRae Triff

Linda's a hero to goalball athletes and has volunteered with the sport for over 15 years. She's a positive role model and mentor both on and off the court. During the pandemic, the easiest thing would have been canceling practices, but Linda worked very hard to make program adjustments to ensure athletes had a safe environment and kept active. She's a great asset to the sport and admired by everyone she works with.

GYMNASTICS

Maia Zann-Roland #MaiaTheMighty

Gymnast Maia Zann-Roland has been battling Osteosarcoma since 2019 and has fought every step of her journey with strength, courage, and determination far beyond her young age of 17. Even after undergoing an amputation, Maia continued to thrive and stay positive, mastering her new prosthetic leg. Unfortunately, cancer returned to Maia's lungs in November. Her life and passion for her sport has inspired the entire NS Gymnastics community as well as people from around the world to come together to provide Maia with the same support and encouragement that she has given them over the years.

KARATE

KNS Board of Directors

The board of directors worked together to keep the membership informed throughout a challenging year. They updated many of the existing policies, procedures, and accounting practices, built the foundation pieces to roll out a new membership software package, and worked with partners to hire a part-time technical director and a part-time high-performance coach- a first for the association. The executive and board of directors hard work fostered a bright future for the organization.

LAWN BOWLS NOVA SCOTIA

Lawn Bowls Administrative Team

Joan and Janet went above and beyond when they took on additional duties to ensure that the sport could return safely after the shutdown by creating and meticulously editing the organization's return to play plan. Joan focused on communicating the frequently changing safety protocols with clubs, and Janet took the lead in safe sport compliance. Their efforts didn't go unnoticed, and much of the organization's success can be credited to this dynamic duo.

ORIENTEERING

Pam James

This season Pam put a tremendous amount of time and effort to adapt orienteering activities for mobile apps. Her efforts made events accessible and safe in accordance with public health restrictions, and members could participate on their own time. She also became the MapRunF administrator, organized multiple events throughout the year, and reviewed the current maps to update declination. Without Pam's efforts and leadership, orienteering wouldn't have occurred in the capacity that it did over the past year.

ROWING

Holly Davy

Throughout the pandemic, Holly went above and beyond to support her athletes. She organized and managed various online events and challenges and created a portal to share information about training, gear, motivation, and nutrition. She worked with the HRC board to implement a back-to-rowing plan, and she continues to work hard to make the club stronger and more inclusive for all participants.

SKATING

Sheila Beard

Sheila's the chairperson of Skate Canada Nova Scotia and is highly committed to her role. During the height of the pandemic, Sheila bubbled with the executive director to meet weekly and keep the association moving forward. She was the key designer of the organization's COVID-19 protocol and adapted quickly as rules changed. Sheila happily participates in meetings and officiates assessment days. Her efforts kept skating afloat through these challenging times

SOCCER

Suburban FC

Suburban FC went above and beyond for their members throughout the pandemic. During the winter of 2020, they provided 36-weeks of free virtual programming for players of all ages, including family sessions on Fridays. When it was safe to do so, they swiftly transitioned to in-person gatherings, and their commitment to their member's physical and mental health was recognized across the country including on CBC's Atlantic News, National News, and Cross-Country Checkup.

ROPE SKIPPING

Jump Energy Rope Skipping Club's Exc. Committee

The Jump Energy Rope Skipping Club's executive committee has been at the centre of rope skipping's growth and development for many years. Their countless hours of planning, fundraising, and community involvement have made the club a pillar of the community. Without their support, Jump Energy would not be the nationally and internationally recognized club that they are.

RUGBY

Geno Carew

Geno led the board of directors to the decision to lower rugby's insurance and registration fees to allow for maximum participation for members across the province. He supported the ongoing development of the sport in all disciplines from the traditional game to flag, fives, and tens. Geno showed so much commitment to the sport, he even threw on a whistle and helped out refereeing when needed.

SKI

Wentworth Ski Race Club: Dave Wilson Memorial Cup Planning Committee

The Dave Wilson Memorial Cup planning committee started preparing for their alpine ski event in November 2020 but quickly had to pivot and adapt to the ever-changing public health regulations brought forth by the pandemic. After extensive planning and re-planning, they ended up pulling off a very successful alpine race weekend that enabled 50 Nova Scotian alpine skiers athletes the opportunity to compete during a season filled with uncertainty.

SPEED SKATE

Speedy Kids Oval Program

Despite the challenges brought forth by the pandemic, The Speedy Kids Oval Program managed to thrive. It took extensive organizing, but thanks to dedicated volunteers, grants, and fundraising, it was a successful year. The organization had a record 192 members and 137 of them were new. Speedy Kids could be found at the Oval four days a week throughout the winter, maintaining its goals of keeping sport accessible and affordable by offering a free after-school program for children from Halifax's north end and a low-cost club program for children and youth from across the HRM.

SQUASH

Janet B MacLeod

As the Squash NS provincial coach, Janet continued offering safe programming as permitted throughout the pandemic. Amongst her many accomplishments, Janet volunteered as the chair of the Squash Canada coaching committee, she led the coaching pathways review and championed the development of a community sport stream for coaches. Janet inspires everyone she meets and has made a lasting impact on everyone in the squash community.

TAEKWONDO

Xavier Taekwondo Club

The Xavier Taekwondo Club adapted quickly when the lockdown started by offering weekly online classes and social media workout challenges to keep their members active throughout quarantine. The competitive athletes took part in online training camps and when restrictions lifted, the club operated on a modified schedule in adherence to ever-changing public health restrictions. They were able to run several color belt tests, a black belt test, and workshops for mental performance and athlete nutrition.

TRIATHLON

Kevin Doran

As a small organization, Triathlon Nova Scotia always faces challenges, but the impact of the pandemic could have been the organization's last straw. By seeking an "outside of the box" solution, Kevin helped develop the Maritime Regional Director project so that three Maritime provincial sport organizations could share a staff member with supports from their national sport body. The project furthered the growth of Triathlon Nova Scotia and forged regional and national partnerships.

WATER SKI WAKEBOARD

Diana Mason

Diana stepped up and organized our 2020 season in compliance with public health with all our families and athletes in mind. From creating the pandemic safety protocols in compliance with public health regulations, to hosting a two-week junior development camp to kick off the season at her family's property and then safely running ski schools teaching children's beginner skier for the rest of the summer. Without her passion, leadership and knowledge the season wouldn't have been such a success.

SWIM

Yarmouth Y Whitecaps

When the local YMCA was shut down, the Whitecaps were forced to rent pool space 40 minutes away. Swimmers went from training up to six times a week to just once or twice. The club lobbied to have their pool re-opened, and in February the town announced plans to get the facility back up and running later this year. Members and staff strived to stay positive and keep recruitment up throughout challenging times. Their hard work and commitment to swimming continues to pay off.

TENNIS

Lunenburg Tennis Club

The Lunenburg Tennis Club (LTC) operates the largest programming outside HRM and thanks to their dedicated volunteers, they were able to bounce back quickly and safely after the shutdown. They hired coaches and ran programming at full capacity, hosted junior events for over 80 participants, and ran tournaments for men's, women's, and mixed doubles. The LTC is a role model for community tennis clubs across the province; they are financially independent and deliver Tennis Canada Quality Standards programming.

VOLLEYBALL

Annapolis Valley Bolt Volleyball Club

The Annapolis Bolt Volleyball Club never wavered and continued to support their players and coaches throughout the pandemic. During the lockdown, they created social media contests and hosted an online leadership course for their players. When it was safe to do so, they offered outdoor spring and summer beach volleyball programs one night a week for each age group. The players loved the new program and the efforts to keep the membership engaged were greatly appreciated.

WRESTLING

Wrestling Nova Scotia Membership

The wrestling community worked as a team to ensure the sport could operate safely throughout the pandemic. A huge thanks to Matt Naugler for writing and continuously updating the return to play plan, Rory Fraser who worked diligently with his team to ensure that Team NS was able to train safely, and Bobbyee Archibald and Kim Walsh for efforts with NSSAF and hosting the only wrestling tournament in Canada this year.