

2008 CPRA AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Each year the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) recognizes Canada's best in the parks and recreation field by honouring individuals, programs, and projects from across Canada that have made a positive impact on the health, well-being and vibrancy of Canadian communities. The CPRA Awards and Recognition Program celebrates innovative contributions that continue to benefit the lives of Canadians and their communities.

Claude Langelier Award for Young Professionals **Fotini Iriotakis**

This award is presented to young professionals who possess outstanding leadership qualities and who have made a significant contribution at the municipal, regional, provincial or national level to the promotion, organization or development of an innovative project or activity that has enhanced the parks and recreation movement



Fotini, a coordinator for Parks and Recreation Ontario, has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Summer and WinterActive campaigns. The Summer and WinterActive campaigns are national community-based seasonal campaigns designed to increase awareness about the benefits of healthy living. Described by her peers as being the “catalyst behind the explosive growth of this campaign” it is her creativity, determination and professional demeanour that has built the campaign to where it is today. Fotini has seen the program grow from 23,500 to 200,000 participants in only a couple of years. From creating promotional flyers to engaging non traditional partners Fotini is seen as a leader behind this work and is respected amongst her counterparts for her passion and commitment to this cause.



Award of Merit **Michael Arthur**

This award provides national recognition to an individual or organization for outstanding achievement at the municipal, regional and/or provincial level. This achievement shall have made a significant and distinct contribution to the advancement of some aspect of local parks and recreation.

Since completing his Masters Degree from Dalhousie University 30 years ago, Mike has been an asset and contributor to the recreation sector in Nova Scotia and across Canada. Mike has made a difference by: ensuring the necessary education and training programs and capacity building supports are available to recreation professionals and volunteers; advancing policies that support accessible quality recreation; leading health promotion and recreation research and strategies; and, providing guidance and mentoring to organizations and individuals. Mike is not only a leader within the field, he is an investor. His work over the years clearly demonstrates his vast knowledge and passion for recreation. What speaks volumes about Mike's abilities and character is the many relationships that he has developed and nurtured with so many individuals, groups and communities. Often it is said that folks are left asking “What would we do without Mike?”



Award of Merit

Kevin Pike

Kevin has worked in the parks and community services field for almost 40 years. During this time he has brought a new era in provision of recreation and parks services to an under-served community. With his leadership in the implementation of a Recreation Facility Master Plan the community has been honoured with many awards and distinctions. Kevin has continued to be an advocate for creative and innovative designs, incorporating environmentally sound practices into recreation facilities. He has provided leadership in partnership building ensuring community involvement which has led to many successful program offerings. Kevin's commitment and dedication to the sector at a local, provincial and national level has him occupying high-level roles in a variety of organizations. It is said that he is known for his tenacious small steps which resolve large complex problems; this inspires those around him which in turn benefits the sector immensely.

Award of Excellence and Innovation

City of Mississauga/ Hershey Sports Zone

This award recognizes Canadian municipalities and organizations that have demonstrated innovation in the provision of parks and recreation services in the areas of facilities, heritage and culture, programs, parks, operations and maintenance. This award recognizes innovation. The nominated initiative must be new, or display a new approach, or respond to a need in a new way, or introduce a new component of the initiative that displays significant change. The innovation will be on the leading edge of development in comparison to others similar in Canada. The innovation must set a standard that other communities can follow.



The Hershey Sports Zone Complex is a \$42 million multi-sport facility developed and funded by the City of Mississauga that opened in September 2007. The Sports Complex is part of the \$137 million Hershey SportZone campus of sports, leisure and entertainment facilities. The facility boasts a unique blend of facilities/ amenities and exceptional mix of public/ private partnerships that have helped surpass its projected revenue and participation targets after only eight months of operation. This 200,000 square foot recreation resource offers a variety of community based youth, family and elite programming, indoor league play for basketball, volleyball and soccer, professional sport use and opportunities for cross discipline sport training have made the Hershey SportZone Sports Complex an innovative and inviting sports icon for Mississauga.



Award of Excellence and Innovation

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation/ Stanley Park Storm: From Crisis to Opportunity

In December of 2006 a devastating windstorm struck Stanley Park which levelled 41 hectares of forest, caused extensive damage to a public pathway and closed one of the main roads into Vancouver. The breath of destruction made it evident that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation could not address the crisis with its existing staff and financial resources. Staff set out to enlist the help of experts. Creative partnerships were formed and leaders from a broad range of fields were recruited to assist in developing and implementing a restoration plan. Governments, businesses and the public, both in Canada and abroad, rallied around the efforts to restore the park. The attention of local, national and international media substantially raised the visibility of the organization. The park is recovering and the organization has learned important lessons on topics ranging from forestry to fundraising that will have long term benefit and value.