

BACKGROUND: 2014 Recipients of Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal

John Barton (Saskatoon)

John Barton was a teacher and administrator with the Saskatoon Public School Division for more than 30 years. As an administrator, he built strong connections with community associations and business districts within the communities. John supported his profession through involvement with the Saskatoon Teachers' Association, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and other professional groups. He co-chaired the Saskatchewan Council of Children, which was the genesis for School Plus and the second generation of community schools. His interest in family counselling led him to serve as a Director for the Canadian Professional Counselling Association and President of the Saskatchewan Chapter of the Canadian Professional Counsellors Association. He is currently a member of the City Hospital Foundation, serving on several committees of the board. John continues to champion literacy and learning by organizing the annual Literacy For Life Conference. His many other achievements include:

- Saskatoon Inner-City Police Liaison Program
- Saskatoon Inner-City Pre-School Family Literacy Outreach Program
- President, Riversdale Community and Police Help Centre
- St. Paul's Safe House
- Board Member, Interval House
- Spadina Day Care Cooperative
- Executive, Saskatoon Food Bank
- Riversdale Business Improvement District Cultural Board
- Riversdale Cultural Promotions Community
- Member, Riversdale Community and School Association
- Nutana Community Association
- Broadway Business Improvement District
- Sutherland Business Association
- Co-Chair, Saskatoon Harvest Festival
- First President, Lakeridge Community Association
- Assistant Commissioner, Saskatoon Zone H Hockey
- Coach, Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association
- Coach, Saskatoon Ringette Association
- Coach, Saskatoon Minor Softball Association
- Volunteer, Saskatoon Figure Skating Club
- Board of Directors, Psychological Association of Saskatchewan
- Co-Chair, Government of Saskatchewan Council on Children
- Board Member, Saskatoon Hospital Foundation
- Organizer, Literacy for Life Annual Conference

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Tina Bird (Estevan)

Tina Bird has worked tirelessly to make a positive impact on her community. She has been employed with Carson Energy Services since 2008. Tina has served Estevan's Relay for Life in many capacities, including Event Chair, Logistics Chair, Team Chair and Team Participant. She has also been a Board Member of the Canadian Cancer Society, Southeast District Board, since 2010. Tina is a recipient of the Division Special Award, Canadian Cancer Society. Her many other achievements include:

- Victim Support Worker, Southeast Regional Victim Services
- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President and Board Member, Estevan Youth and Mini Soccer Organization
- Chairperson, Sacred Heart / Sacré Coeur School Community Council
- President, Estevan Lions Club
- Estevan Comprehensive School Community Council, as Secretary and Member at Large
- Chairperson, Sponsoring Committee, Estevan Army Cadets
- Chairperson, Estevan Army Cadets Parents' Committee
- Former Legion Member and Legion Board representative, Estevan
- Farmers' Market Board Member
- Volunteer, United Way Telethon
- Canvasser, Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Volunteer, Girl Guides of Canada
- Volunteer, Scouts Canada

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Marnie Eistetter (Regina)

Marnie Eistetter has worked tirelessly for almost 50 years to promote and better the sport of synchronized swimming. She is the longest serving Board Member of Synchro Saskatchewan, having also served as President, Chief Scorer, Vice-President, Treasurer, Chair of the High Performance Program, Judge and Coach. She has served as a mentor and cheerleader to many volunteers in synchronized swimming. Marnie was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Regina Sports Hall of Fame in 2013. She was also a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Her many other achievements, past and present, include:

- Operating Chair, Synchro Canada
- Synchro Coach for Girls in the Game Program
- 2003 Grey Cup Committee; 2005 Canada Summer Games
- Board Member – Sask Sport, Inc. and Awards Chair; Kidsport Saskatchewan Committee;
- Board Member – Globe Theatre
- Currently Board Member and Finance Committee, Regina Sport District; Board Member and Secretary with Regina South Zone Recreation Board; Board Member and Awards Committee with Albert Park Community Association
- Currently Board Member and Special Events Committee – University of Regina Seniors' University Group
- Volunteer for Pet Therapy Program, Regina Humane Society; teaching piano to young children; Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame; School Advisory Committee, Separate School Board
- Canvasser for the Saskatchewan Heart Fund, Arthritis Society and Cancer Society
- Leader for Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Guides for 27 years
- Original organizer of the Block Parent Program for Regina
- Served on Committee to start the Neighbourhood Watch Program in Albert Park
- Past President of St. Pius X and Deshayes Catholic Home and School Associations
- Literacy Tutor, Regina Public Library, Regina Open Door Society; the YMCA After School Tutoring Program; and Second Chance for Seniors Literacy Program
- Recipient of the Volunteer of the Year, Synchro Sask (1981) and Honour Service Award (1988); Sask Sport Volunteer Recognition Award (1993); City of Regina Mayor's Community Volunteer Award in Sports (1995); Finalist for the YWCA Women of Distinction Award (1996); Synchro Canada Silver Pin Award (2002); Synchro Sask Special Merit Service Award (2003); Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award (2005)

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Ray Fox (North Battleford)

Ray Fox has been involved in the First Nations community for many years, serving in a multitude of roles, bringing urgent First Nations' issues to the forefront. He has a long history of outstanding and devoted service to his community and extensive involvement in justice awareness activities, including public education and development of crime prevention strategies. He currently sits as a representative for Saskatchewan as one of eight Senators for the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). Ray is also a City Councillor for the City of North Battleford, serving in his fourth term. His many other achievements include:

- Elder
- Chairman, Battlefords and Area Legal Assistance Clinic Society (1974)
- Commissioner, Saskatchewan Legal Aide Commission (1974)
- Executive Director, Battlefords Indian Métis Friendship Centre, rising to the position of President of the Provincial Association (AFCS) and National Vice-President of the National Association (NAFC)
- 20 year career in broadcasting and media
- Founding President and CEO, National Aboriginal Communications Society (NACS) (1985), also serving as Chief Executive Officer
- Served on the University of Saskatchewan's Regional Advisory Committee, RCMP Victim Services Personnel Committee
- Worked with Battlefords United Way, Saskatchewan Association of School Councils, Prairie Employment Program, Sakewew High School Management Committee, Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, and the Fort Battleford Advisory Group
- Since 2006, has served with the SaskCulture First Nations and Métis Advisory Circle
- Volunteer First Nations Chaplin for the Prairie North Health Region, as well as the role of Keeper of the Wandering Spirit gravesite
- Vice-Chair of the North Battleford Transitional Living Initiative Inc. (Was able to construct a "Pocket House" to assist those in economic need in the Battlefords)
- Recipient of – NACS (North American Culture Show) Broadcaster of the Year Award; Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002); Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Citizen of the Year Award (2006); Battlefords Citizen of the Year Award (2008); Honourable Mention for the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service, for involvement with the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court (2010); and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012)
- Battlefords Wall of Fame inductee (March 2011)
- Served as a Commissioner with the Saskatchewan Public Complaints Commission
- Producer and host of Moccasin Telegraph with Ray Fox

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Don McDonald (Saskatoon)

Don McDonald is a vibrant leader whose community involvement spans both time and interests with his energies directed at making the community a better and more caring place. For more than 50 years, Don has been a trailblazer in the life of Saskatoon's sporting, community service and military communities. He was a member of the North Saskatchewan Regiment for almost 40 years, retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer, and part of the North Saskatchewan Regiment Pipes and Drums for 63 years, serving as Pipe Major for 32 years. He became the guiding force behind the Remembrance Day Parade in Saskatoon. He has played the bagpipes in the presence of every Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan for the last 35 years. His many other achievements include:

- President of North Saskatchewan Regiment (Saskatoon Light Infantry) Association, Saskatoon Shrine Club
- Past President of Jubilee Seniors' Housing Corporation, Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, Saskatoon Council and Provincial Council for St. John Ambulance, Football Saskatchewan, Bedford Road Alumni Committee and Past President and co-founder of Prairie Junior Football Conference
- Former President of Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club and now a volunteer; former President and Director for Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum; former President and Commissioner for Canadian Junior Football League; former President of Saskatoon Sports Council including serving as Chef de Mission for the Zone 6 team at the 1990 Saskatchewan Summer Games
- Coached flag football in Saskatoon and also coached hockey, soccer and softball for Mayfair School in Saskatoon, along with girls softball at Caswell School in Saskatoon
- Recipient of a Life Membership with the Canadian Junior Football League and the Royal Canadian Legion (National Designation) and recipient of the Kinsmen Sportsman of the Year (1989)
- Inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in 2009 and Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame as a Builder in 1993
- Volunteer with the 1989 and 2000 Briers and part of the 2004 Brier Committee
- Volunteered for the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Canadian Football League
- Longtime member of the Order of Masons, Asquith Lodge No. 146 serving as Master of the Lodge, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan and Grand Piper of the Grand Lodge
- Recipient of the Order of St. John, Officer, and the medals for the Centennial of Canada, Queen's Silver Jubilee, Queen's Golden Jubilee, Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Saskatchewan Centennial
- Recipient of the Canadian Forces decoration with two bars
- Instrumental in starting the "We Can Help Program" in conjunction with St. John's Ambulance
- Contributed to the Canada Remembers Air Show

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Harold Ross (Fort Qu'Appelle)

Harold Ross has been a volunteer in the community of Fort Qu'Appelle for decades. Harold has given selflessly to the community and has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for 69 years. Additionally, Harold has been involved with minor sports, both as a volunteer and a coach. He is a recipient of the Royal Canadian Legion Certificate of Merit in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Branch (1972); Fort Qu'Appelle Citizen of the Year (1973); Fort Qu'Appelle Minor Hockey Association Appreciation Award (1995); Meritorious Service Medal for Outstanding Devotion to the Aims and Objects of the Royal Canadian Legion (2000); Certificate of Induction – Ross Family, Rural Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Indian Head (2001); Republic of Korea, Korean Veterans Association Official Proclamation “Ambassador for Peace” Certificate (2013); and the Prairie Junior Hockey League Volunteer Award (2013).

His many other achievements include:

- Paratrooper in the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) in 1943
- Served in the Second World War (1943-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953)
- Legion Branch 35, Fort Qu'Appelle (presently Sergeant-at-Arms, a position held for more than 50 years, as well as previously the President, Poppy Chairperson); served continually on numerous Committees; Colour Guard for Legion Funerals; major organizer for the Remembrance Day event; Parade Commander for the Remembrance Day Parade in 1999
- Past Minor Hockey League President
- Volunteer, Fort Knox Hockey Club (nearly 20 years)
- Coached Minor and Senior Baseball (1960s-1970s)
- Coached Minor and Senior Hockey (1960s-1980s)
- Coached Ladies Fastball Teams (1980s)
- Instructor, Fort Qu'Appelle Air Cadet Squadron
- Recipient of the 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Overseas Clasp, Queen's Korea Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal – Korea, UN Medal for Korea, and the Canadian Forces' Decoration

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Edith Slatnik (Outlook)

Edith Slatnik, as described by many, is a volunteer “extraordinaire.” She has been a volunteer in her community for more than 60 years. She has risen to the occasion providing countless hours of community service. No project was ever too big or too small for her involvement. She has delivered Meals on Wheels for the last 26 years and in 2013 was recognized by the Canadian Blood Services for her 20 years of volunteering at local blood donor drives.

Her many other achievements include:

- Member, St. Andrew’s United Church, and Member, “Mission in Community” Committee; spending hours organizing luncheons, catering to funerals, as well as assisting with many fund-raising events and activities
- Spent many hours re-painting the names on the War Memorial in Glenside
- Volunteer, 1991 Scott Tournament of Hearts (Usher), 2000 Labatt Brier and 2004 Brier
- Drives seniors, as well as those sick to the hospital, medical appointments and picks up their groceries and prescriptions
- Active in the Outlook Lodge of the Order of the Royal Purple (OORP) for many years and worked on many catering and fundraising events; served as the Honoured Royal Lady of the Hawarden Lodge and twice as the District Deputy; Member Hawarden Lodge OORP Drill Team; and Life Member of the OORP
- Volunteered as a canvasser for non-profit organizations on many occasions
- Assists neighbors with yard work and watering their lawns
- Secretary/Treasurer, Village of Hawarden (1969-1970)
- Village Councillor, Village of Hawarden (1977, 1982 and 1983), volunteering at events such as ball and hockey tournaments, sports days, sports suppers, social gatherings, youth activities such as Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides and Figure Skating
- Member of the Eastern Star until the OORP started a lodge in Hawarden in 1963
- Main driving force and member of the Organizing Committee for starting the Boy Scouts, Cubs and Brownies in Hawarden
- Member, Organizing Committee, Hawarden Figure Skating Club
- Committee Member, Hawarden United Church, as well as a Sunday School Teacher
- Accomplished oil painter and on several occasions, has donated paintings to community events to raise money
- Volunteer driver for many ball teams

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Darren Whitehead (Prince Albert)

Darren Whitehead is well-known in Prince Albert for his years of dedicated service to volunteer organizations and community programs. He has more than 30 years of dedicated service as a coach, board member and program volunteer with Special Olympics Saskatchewan. He has served as a role model and character builder, giving Special Olympic athletes awareness of their worth, ability, courage, confidence and capacity to grow and improve. Darren is a critical component to the Special Olympics movement, by spreading the spirit of Special Olympics throughout his work, locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally.

His many other achievements include:

- Instrumental in developing the floor hockey program, attending provincial, national and international games as a coach, mission staff member and official on three separate occasions
- Assistant Coach on Team Canada Floor Hockey Team, which won Gold to claim the World Championship in Korea
- Referee-in-Chief and sport technical advisor
- Participated in four World Games; five national games and more than 20 provincial games
- City Councillor, City of Prince Albert
- Board member (second term), Prince Albert Raiders Western Hockey League team
- Fund-raising for the annual Prince Albert Raiders/Special Olympics Saskatchewan Power Breakfast for 10 consecutive years
- Board of Directors member, Bid committee member and committee member for the 2014 Saskatchewan Winter Provincial Games
- Through his work, Special Olympic athletes have been given the ability to obtain employment, succeed in school and achieve personal goals, while also helping shape their performance and character
- Coach for floor hockey, athletics, softball, golf and bowling
- Trained as a master facilitator for officiating in Floor Hockey – new coaching course for Special Olympics in collaboration with the National Coaching Certificate Program (NCCP)
- Recipient, Special Olympics Saskatchewan Coach of the Year, 1993 and 2013, and recipient of the Jim Thompson Award for Special Olympics in Canada
- Recipient, Prince Albert Sportsman of the Year, 2010
- Recipient, Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame member, 2013
- Recipient, Scotiabank Game Changers Prize (2013) – chosen for his dedication to Special Olympics in his home community, as well as across the province – initially won \$1,000 for his charity of choice (Special Olympics Saskatchewan) and then was voted in for the grand prize of \$25,000 in November 2013 – people from all over Canada voted for their favorite “Game Changer” and Darren came out on top