

Cross Country Canada - 2000 CCC Award Winners

The Dave Rees Award

The 2000 recipient of the Dave Rees award has been President of his Ski club for over fifteen (15) years as a volunteer and president of his division from 1995-1999. During that time the Club has built a clubhouse from local timber, modified the trail system to accommodate both classic and free techniques and has incorporated state of the art trail grooming. The club has also hosted many events that have included an annual Loppet and several Provincial, National and International events such as Canada Cup races, Senior Nationals, Master Championships and World Cup races. They are currently developing a Junior cross-country development program that offers six (6) months training on snow. Some other of his initiatives are a Junior Development Ski Program developed in 1986 for Grade 5 students and the program continues today with approximately 100 students per year. Also a Ski Mode Program for 3-8 year olds. All of this has been done while remaining debt free and making maximum use of volunteer labor. This Nordic Ski Club is considered one of the leading cross country centres of North America, and provides a facility for the recreational elder and the development of world class racers. The Club President and Directors remain volunteers and have dedicated many years to the promotion of cross-country skiing.

This nominee has been recognized in the past for his outstanding contribution as a volunteer having received The Certificate of Merit from Government of Canada during "Canada Celebration '88." And "Commemorative Medal" for 125th anniversary of Confederation of Canada. 1992. There is no doubt in our minds that this years recipient of the Dave Rees Award has had a significant impact on cross-country skiing, Provincially and at the National level with his overwhelming enthusiasm for the promotion of cross-country skiing at the club, regional and national level.

The 2000 award winner is Gerry Rideout of the Menihek Nordic Ski Club in Labrador City Newfoundland.

Volunteer of the Year Award

This nominee became active in Cross country skiing about ten years ago. He joined the SOD executive and became a qualified official. His professional experience in the computer field quickly became a most valuable asset to race organizers. As chief of timing for the Canadian Championships in 1993 his expertise was invaluable. He became Chairman of SOD 5 years ago. At about the same time he pursued his level 3 officials certification and became a technical delegate.

In 1997 he was chief of timing for the special Olympics, in 1999 he was Chief of Race for the Canadian Championships at Duntroon, and in 2000 was Chief of Race for the Eastern Canadians at Duntroon. He was also technical Delegate for the Ontario Championships, the OUAA championships, the OFSAA championships (with 600 competitors) – all during 2000.

In addition he is the CCO rep to the Ontario Ski Council where he is vice-chair – this council represents skiing to the Ontario Government. It has a history of taxing the diplomacy and patience of Salomon!

He has also written a very elaborate race management program which has been used at all levels of races and proven very reliable. He continues to update the program as the sport changes. His volunteerism in this is outstanding as he makes the program available free of charge to race organizers. It has been a labor of love.

If this was not enough he is president of his ski club and organizes a 10 km race for the local hospital and instructs a Jack Rabbit program

This outstanding volunteer is Al White of Mono Nordic Ski Club in Orangeville Ontario

This nominee for outstanding volunteer goes to a person who has been involved in the sport for many years and who has a very keen personal interest in cross country skiing. This former National Team athlete has a Scandinavian background which we all know has nordic skiing engraved in it. This person has built and maintained the cross country ski trails for a ski club in Thunder Bay, on his own property through his own private financing and the assistance of many other volunteers. He has served on the National Ski Team committee for 10 years and has also served as a volunteer for countless more hours, at the Ontario and Lake Superior Board and committee levels as well as being a member of the Thunder Bay Training Centre board.. This nominee also spends many nighttime hours prior to races on a Pisten Bully to ensure that his ski trails are in perfect condition for any race. This year he was put to the test with his facility hosting the National Junior and Senior Championships. This honour meant many sleepless nights shoveling snow from the woods to keep the course open for an Ontario trials event and the Juniors and many fruitless days praying to the Snow Gods for their goodwill in helping the Seniors stay in T Bay. Nonetheless our Volunteer of the Year ventured out to the Bow Corridor to lend his expertise and assistance at the transplanted Lappe/Bow Corridor Nationals and to ensure that they met the "Lappe Standard" of trail and race excellence

This outstanding volunteer is Reijo Puiras owner and operator of the Lappe Nordic Ski Area in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Firth Award

The nomination for this recipient came from her athletes and this is the write up they sent in to our committee.

This award winner began coaching us approximately three years ago, and the seven girls that she coached soon become known as "Pat's girls". Our tiny group has now expanded to include boys and we number thirteen, all from the local high school. She has brought us from the local racing level that was just for fun, to racing in BC Cups and now, though there are only five girls left, she has pushed us all to reach our goals and we are all members of the 13.C. Development Squad or BC Ski Team, and have all attended at least two Junior Nationals. She has been a rock to support us from the very beginning, She has been a great role model for all of us and has given us the courage to reach for the stars. She is constantly trying to better herself and never passes up the experience to learn more. She has encouraged us to become involved in the local club -three of us have completed our Level I Technical, and every year we help out with the Jackrabbits, as well as at the annual snow camp for younger racers which she organizes. She has been involved in the expansion of the club and is always encouraging people to just "Come out and try *it!*". She truly is a wonder woman, she can still beat all of us during intervals yet never races because she is too dedicated to making sure that we have excellent ones. She accompanied us on a European tour, in which seven skiers participated, and five of those were from our club. She also flew all the way to Thunder Bay for the Junior Nationals this year, even though she wasn't coming as a coach for the BC team- She just wanted to see everyone race, having preparing us this entire season for those five races, She is often at the various camps that we have throughout the year, and is always encouraging everyone,

especially the girls. There is a girl from Vancouver Island that races and often trains by herself, so we invited her to come and spend a week and a half with us here, where we have an amazing support group of friends who ski. Our coach has been skiing for longer than three years, but in those three years she has managed to become a certified Level 3 coach. She has been the support beam for our skiing these past three years, and we hope that she will continue to support girls in skiing for many years to come. We know that in our hearts we will always be "Pat's girls", we cannot fathom anyone who deserves this award more.

The 2000 Firth Award goes to Pat Pearce of Smithers British Columbia

Media Award

The winner of this years Media Award is a person whom many of us have never met in person. This person is the author of the National Championships website and did an outstanding job and hopefully set an example of what can be done by race organizers. The website set a new standard for cross country ski racing and had complete coverage of the participants, and events. Each hometown of the athletes was contacted so as to compile athlete history and newspaper contacts, photos and videos from the days races were posted immediately, and results could be found as they were being posted at the race site. Many other aspects of the Championships were captured on the site as well including sponsors, contacts, and even registration. When the Senior Nationals got moved to Canmore, this web master continued his job and kept the page updated with the information from Canmore. This person was on the road much of the time but continued even then, to update the website and make it an excellent source of information for people across the country.

The winner of the 2000 Media Award is John Simms from Thunder Bay.

Sponsor of the Year Award

Reece has spent over 15 years actively involved in the sport of XC. He has been part of a sales team at a leading XC ski store in Ottawa for 5 years, and for the past 10 years, he has been a manufacturer sales representative in the XC ski and cycling industry. He is the representative for SportHill in Ontario, and has been newly appointed as the product manager for Madshus skis in Canada, (prior to this he was the assistant) Reece has taught XC skiing for the city of Ottawa for the past 3 years. He is a current level 1 coach and has helped Linda Landry over the years with coaching in the area.

I have known Reece for several years. This past year, in my role as Chair for the Keskinada Sprints, I asked Reece to be part of my team. I was new to the Keskinada organization and was looking to build an effective team. One of our goals of the event was to stimulate greater public awareness of the sport. Reece developed a XC Demo Zone to run during the Sprint race. XC ski companies paid for space adjacent to the

race course to set up their tents and demo their products for participants and the general public. This turned out to be a great success. In addition to Reece involving his own company in the demo zone Madshus also was a sponsor for the sprint race was an added bonus. Reece secured Peltonen and Karhu skis, Exel poles, Salomon boots, and Oakley Glasses as demo zone suppliers. Hundred's of people watching the sprints that day were introduced to trying cross country skiing for the first time. Reece not only came with his own company's support but the industry as well which has been a challenge at times for event organizers like the Keski. As part of our committee he was always there when we needed his input and support!

Reece was not only an integral part of our Keskinada sprint committee but as the Madshus rep (an important brand to the NST) he made it a high priority to travel to many NST camps and CCC events including all of the National sprint series races as well as both the Jr. and Sr. Nationals, to provide support to the NST and NTDC athletes and coaches using Madshus Skis.

Reece has also developed with Madshus and Trail Sport a collector card of Beckie Scott, as well he works with SportHill to encourage the support towards the NST.

CCC would like to recognize Madshus Skis with Reece Rendall Product Manager as the 2000 Sponsor of the year.