



Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC VOLUNTEER AWARDS PRESENTED

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association recognized a number of individuals at its Annual General Meeting, which was held in Russell, Manitoba on June 20th and 21st, 2011. Approximately 125 coaches, administrators and physical education teachers attended this meeting to discuss policies and philosophies regarding high school athletics. At its annual awards luncheon, Certificates of Recognition were presented to:

Kelly Taylor of Sanford Collegiate, who has been teaching and coaching for 28 years. Kelly has coached Volleyball, Badminton and Track and has hosted numerous Provincial Championships over the years. The Sanford Sabers Athletic programs have produced several top quality athletes and teams over the years

Keith Forsyth of Boissevain Collegiate has been teaching 20 years and coaching high school for the past 16. His main sports are Basketball and most recently Volleyball. He has captured several Provincial "AA" Championships and been in a number of Championship Finals. Keith has also been involved with hosting the "AA" Girls Basketball Championships in 2001, "AA" Boys Basketball Championship in 2007, and Fastball Championships in 2009.

Karen Lewarne of Nellie McClung School in Manitou. Lewarne has been teaching and coaching for the last 20 years, her main sports being Volleyball, Fastball and Track and Field. She has created a dynasty in "A" Volleyball with her teams capturing the Provincial Championships the last three consecutive years in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Karen is a terrific contributor to Zone 6 Athletics and has assisted in hosting Volleyball and Fastpitch Provincials.

Mike Lukyn of Portage Collegiate- started at PCI in 1994, and has been an assistant coach for Volleyball and Basketball for 13 years. He started to help with the football program in 2006/07 year and is still part of the team. Mike does all of the injury care and taping. He keeps all of their athletic awards up to date. Mike stores, washes and maintains all of the team uniforms on a regular basis, and is the school's sports photographer

The **Nick Laping Leadership Award** is presented in honour of former John Taylor Basketball Coach, Nick Laping. Nick was a tremendous leader in high school sport and involved at the college sport level as well. This year's recipient is **Mr. Don Thomson of Neelin High School**. Don has been coaching for 27 years. His main sports are Basketball, Volleyball and Soccer and his teams have had



four Provincial Championships, four Finalist Banners, and a Bronze Volleyball Championship. He has taught and mentored many current coaches, and has hosted several championships including the 2004 “AAA” Boys and Girls Championship, 2006 and 2010 Boys and Girls Basketball Championships and 2010 JV Urban Girls Volleyball Championship. Don has been a member of the MHSAA Board of Directors and Zone President and is one of the “go to guys” in Basketball across the Province. He conducts clinics all over the area and hosts the two largest Volleyball and Basketball tournaments in the province.

The Frank McKinnon award is named after former MHSAA president, and one of its Founding Fathers- Frank McKinnon. The recipient of the **2011 Frank L. McKinnon Award** is **Jeff Small, Principal of Treherne Collegiate**. Jeff and his great staff at Treherne Collegiate have hosted many Provincial Championships and wildcard games over the years. Jeff has been coaching and teaching for 27 years and his primary sports are Volleyball along with Badminton and Golf. Jeff is a current board member of the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association and chair of several committees. Whenever asked to host a wildcard, he will sacrifice his own time to make it happen. Jeff has organized Track provincials, and always is the first to volunteer for a project. His philosophy is that “sport is for all and tries to prepare athletes to be able to move on and continue to participate”. He is an outstanding volunteer who is committed to school sport.

The **2011 Grey Cup Legacy Fund High School Coach of the Year** goes to **Andrew Harder of St. Paul’s High School**. Andrew has been coaching at St. Paul’s for 10 years and has captured the Winnipeg High School Hockey League Championship on five occasions while capturing the Provincial Title in 2007 and 2008 while being Provincial runner up title in 2010 and 2011. Andrew is committed to his program and runs coaching camps annually for the last 10 years and has developed numerous resources for coaches. He also won the Coaching Manitoba Grassroots Award in 2008 and was the Winnipeg High School Hockey Coach of the Year in 2011. Players through his programs have gone on to continue with the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League and NCAA and Canada’s National Bandy Team.

The MHSAA is also pleased to present **Mr. Gladwyn Scott** of Carberry, Manitoba with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Gladwyn was a MHSAA founding member and served on the Board. As a school superintendant, Gladwyn was very supportive of high school sport and ensured that his schools had enthusiastic teacher coaches. In retirement, Gladwyn covers school sports for the community newspaper and is always enthusiastically staying in touch with the MHSAA and the grass roots.

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association is a voluntary not for profit organization which is comprised of 190 Senior High Schools from across the Province. Over 30,000 student athletes and over 2,500 volunteer coaches are involved with the association. The association receives funding through lottery dollars distributed through Sport Manitoba, Corporate Partners, Membership Fees, and other general revenue.

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