



Review photo — Kent Horsman

Worthy volunteers

Volunteers recognized for their outstanding service to culture, heritage, recreation and sport in southeast Saskatchewan were honored at an awards ceremony at Stoughton Sunday afternoon. They include (back row, left to right) Fred Lowenberger, Sask. Community Services, Reinhardt Eisbrenner, Mary Lou Rosengren, Tim Perry (receiving for Mel Murray), Fern Silljer, Akis Georgacacos, (front row, left to right) Trevor Johnston, Alice Cox, Jeanne Perry, Eleanor Harrison and Carl Hauglum.

Volunteers recognized for outstanding community work

Weyburn area volunteers took many awards for their achievements in culture, heritage, recreation, and sport in their communities on the weekend.

The annual Volunteer Recognition Program, sponsored by three regional recreation associations and the Zone 1 Sports Council, was held Sunday afternoon in Stoughton.

Trevor Johnston, longstanding Weyburn basketball coach and educator, received the Zone 1 Sports Council coach of the year award for his years of devotion to the sport.

From 1979 to 1993, Mr. Johnston coached the Weyburn Junior High School boys basketball team and very recently was honored with a reunion of his former players.

Active in community sports, Mr. Johnston also acted as a booster for the Weyburn Leisure Centre and supported Weyburn's bid to host the 1996 Sask. Summer Games.

"Each and every boy he coached was profoundly affected by his thoroughness, his compassionate approach to the game of basketball, and his never-ending compulsion to be fair," said friend and former colleague Ray Hamm, who presented Mr. Johnston with his award.

One of those young men, Akis Georgacacos, received the outstanding

youth award for his involvement in sport and culture.

Mr. Georgacacos, currently attending the University of Saskatchewan, was an honor role student each semester he attended Weyburn Comprehensive School and was recognized throughout his football years as an all-star player, being named league defensive most valuable player in Grade 12.

Presenter Janet Wormsbecker said, "Akis Georgacacos is one of the truly outstanding students to have graduated from the Weyburn Comprehensive High School . . . he is determined to be the best he can be."

The Comp. grade of 1993 has also been active coaching minor football and basketball in Weyburn.

Another Weyburn resident, Reinhardt Eisbrenner, received the sport volunteer award for his work with the Weyburn Red Wings, Special Olympics and other sporting events in the city.

Described as the Red Wing's No. 1 fan for over 25 years, Mr. Eisbrenner helps at games, assists office staff, and works at many Red Wing community functions. He has also won numerous medals in Special Olympic events at the provincial level.

Merle Dionne, who presented Mr.

Eisbrenner with his award, said, "He can always be seen at sporting events around Weyburn, waving and talking to everyone. As a competitor in Special Olympics, he has been very successful, always demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play."

Midale workers

Midale farmer, Carl Hauglum, received the heritage conservation award for his work with the Souris Valley Antique Association and its museum.

At the age of 84, Mr. Hauglum continues to be an active member of the association, attending auctions and purchasing antiques for the museum and old parts for antique tractors.

Despite the loss of four fingers on his right hand, presenter Bev Sobush said "his mechanical skills made him an asset to the organization . . . his special task on the threshing weekend is to operate the baler of the type that caused him the loss of his fingers."

A tireless supporter of the antique association, Mr. Hauglum was said to have always been available to help in tractor shows, machinery parades and as a tour guide for the museum.

Another Midale resident, Mary Lou Rosengren, received the recreation volunteer award for her many activities

and initiatives in the community.

A driving force behind MORE 2000, an umbrella group which has merged all recreation boards in Midale, Mrs. Rosengren has organized organizing community events, raised funds for school playground equipment and coached girls ball teams.

Presenter Tim Bangsund told the audience, Mrs. Rosengren recently wrote an article for a newspaper entitled "Volunteer Burnout" and has submitted poetry and stories to other publications like the Western Producer.

Pangman resident Fern Silljer received the cultural volunteer award for her work in figure skating, fundraisers, development of the "Heritage Cookbook", and work with children's programs at the Pangman library.

At the Pangman Hospital, Mrs. Silljer has exchanged paperbacks and offers services to patients who cannot visit the local library. She also makes visits to seniors in their homes, providing her own brand of home care, and is listed with Lifeline for some community elders.

Others receiving awards at the ceremony were Jeanne Perry of Estevan, Eleanor Harrison of Alida, Alice Cox of Kennedy and Mel Murray of Estevan.