

Message from the Executive Director

Sportsmanship Passion Integrity Respect Innovation Trust



The BC Lacrosse Association Staff is privileged to be working with such an incredible volunteer community. Finding ways to support your drive and passion is what creates the drive and passion for me, and I believe I can safely say, for the rest of the BCLA Staff Team.

We are at a critical stage in the BC Lacrosse Association. Currently, the training of volunteers relies completely on local veteran volunteers who have learned through

experience with or without appropriate resources or training skills. Many volunteers also enter and leave the lacrosse system without the transfer of knowledge between veterans and new volunteers which creates an obvious gap in the training and resources provided to BCLA volunteers. We are finally able to move forward with the Community Volunteer Support Program, thanks to the bilateral Participation Grant funding made available by 2010 Legacies Now, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada. We have created the new position of Community Leadership Coach, and we welcome Lisa Hardin, who brings to this position an extensive background in the not-for-profit sector and as a business coach. Please introduce yourselves to Lisa, and welcome her into our lacrosse family. Lisa will be compiling and creating resources for Lacrosse Community Volunteers. She will be contacting you to ask about your community perspective, your volunteer roles and responsibilities, and your best practices within your own community lacrosse association. Your experience is invaluable, so we thank you in advance for your generosity in sharing your expertise and resources.

The BCLA Executive and Staff Team are dedicated to putting action to the recommendations from our Volunteer Support Research

Project. We will be: Implementing strategies to ensure that communication and information flow from the provincial office to the current and potential local lacrosse community volunteers and back; Continuing and enhancing ongoing dialogue to develop stronger internal relationships between the BCLA provincial leaders and the local community volunteer members; Continuing to prioritize the support of innovative practices within the BCLA organizational culture; Developing conflict-management protocols and procedures for the BCLA membership; Standardizing and making available all current and new resources in a manual, on the BCLA website, and through the Community of Practice (COP) site; Exploring, compiling and sharing internal and external association and club best practices with the BCLA volunteer membership; Developing and delivering training sessions in a variety of methods—face-to-face, printed materials, on the BCLA website, and on the COP site; Modifying the existing BCLA website to be a more user-friendly, organized structure and design; promote use of website to new members; and Developing and implementing a Volunteer Leadership Coaching Certification Program.

We will be reactivating the BCLA Development Team to follow up with associations who have had turnover in their volun-

teers, and help newer associations who require further assistance in recruitment of not only new athletes, but also encouraging their parents to step up as volunteers. I encourage those of you to share your knowledge and experience to help us teach the next generation of lacrosse volunteers. Whether it's Box Lacrosse, Field Lacrosse or Women's Field Lacrosse, there is lots of room on our BCLA Development Team for your expertise!

We are in the final year of our current four-year strategic plan, so we will begin the process of the new cycle of planning on December 1-2 with the BCLA Leadership Group. You can anticipate that throughout the coming season, you will be asked for your input as we plan our programs and services at the provincial level.

We are looking forward to another year of excitement and fun, both on and off the floor and field, in the SPIRIT of the BC Lacrosse Association. The BCLA Staff Team — Jeff Gombar, Darcy Rhodes, Wendy Cuming, Lisa Hardin and me — are here to support you, so please give us a call, send us an e-mail or check out www.bclacrosse.com for up-to-date information. Have a wonderful holiday season, and best wishes for 2008!

2007 Maple Leaf Awards

Youth & Collegiate Field Lacrosse take Centre Stage at 2nd Annual Gala



By: William Howard, SFU Lacrosse Media Relations

Burnaby, British Columbia – On Saturday, November 10th, the Simon Fraser University (SFU) men's field lacrosse program hosted the second annual Maple Leaf Awards in the Grand Ballroom of the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam. A crowd of approx. 200 lacrosse enthusiasts from BC and across Western Canada attended the annual awards dinner & silent auction that has quickly become one of Canada's premier lacrosse events. Presented by Firstar Sports Inc. and the

Flight Centre Group, the black tie evening continued to celebrate Canada's national summer sport by recognizing youth and collegiate field lacrosse in British Columbia while raising funds for SFU's new lacrosse endowment fund.

Similar to the NCAA's Tewaaratona Gala, the Maple Leaf Awards are the first event of its kind in Canada. Scott Rintoul, from TEAM 1040 radio in Vancouver, returned as the evening's Master of Ceremonies where, in his opening address, he discussed the continued rise of field lacrosse as the fastest growing

sport in North America. Youth membership (ages 15 and under) has more than tripled since 1999, and no sport has grown faster at the high school level over the last 10 years. Lacrosse is also the fastest-growing sport over the last five years at the college and university level with more than 500 college club programs.

After the evenings opening address, guests were treated to a three course plated dinner before celebrating the evenings award winners. The awards presentation once again recognized the 2007 Provincial Champions for all levels of youth field lacrosse while ushering in the upcoming collegiate season by recognizing SFU graduating seniors, introducing the incoming freshman class, and celebrating SFU lacrosse team award winners, PNCLL All-Conference and MCLA All-American league honors recipients. The dinner also introduced the 2007 members of SFU's elite development program, the Burnaby Mountain Selects. 23 players from Vancouver's Lower Mainland were selected for the second edition of the Selects, a program designed to train elite student-athletes in a professional environment to best prepare them for a collegiate field lacrosse career.

Concluding the memorable evening was a keynote interview with one of the games biggest stars, 2006 World Championship MVP Geoff Snider. After dominating face-offs and helping the Canadian National Men's Lacrosse team win their first World Championship since 1978, Snider was asked about his path to becoming a champion and recognition as one of the world's best. Snider, a third-team and academic All-American at the University of Denver, talked about his two biggest accomplishments to date; a ring and an

education. He also discussed the importance of setting goals on and off the field and how this same commitment and dedication not only got him drafted to both Major League Lacrosse (Denver Outlaws) and the National Lacrosse League (Philadelphia Wings) but also helped him make an immediate impact once he got there; being named a 2007 MLL All-Star, NLL All-Star and a member of the NLL All-Rookie team.

While at 26 years old, the game he loves still chips in to pay some of the bills, it also earned Snider a degree and has helped launch a successful career in business. While providing memories and the livelihood to last well beyond his playing days, Snider's story also provided the next generation of athletes with the inspiration to keep using lacrosse, hard work and perseverance as their stepping stones to the top.

For more information on SFU Lacrosse, the Maple Leaf Awards or for pictures from this year's event please visit www.sfulacrosse.ca.

The 2007 Maple Leaf Collegiate Awards were: MCLA Academic All-American, Curtis Manning; MCLA All-American, Mike Christians; PNCLL "A" Div – 1ST Team all-stars, Mike Christians, Curtis Manning, Luke Genereux; PNCLL, "A" Div – 2ND Team all-stars, Ben Towner, Calvin Castagner, Kevin Crowley; PNCLL, A Div –

Honorable Mentions, Patrick Corrigan, Matt Brascia; Ted Fridge Memorial Award, Curtis Manning; SFU MVP, Curtis Manning; SFU Offensive MVP, Ben Towner; SFU Defensive MVP, Luke Genereux; SFU Unsung Hero, Adam Foss; SFU Most Improved Player, Matt Esaw; SFU Freshman of the Year, Ben Towner.