

COMMUNITY AWARDS 2010



David Bell Photo

Hundreds of Fort St. John residents filled the Pomeroy Hotel ballroom Thursday night to honour their own and recognize contributions made to the community. Awards, speeches, music, dance and a great dinner, all worked together to give the evening a near Olympic like feel to it, said one presenter.

Residents and nominees enjoyed an incredible meal leading up the award presentations, with dinner music provided by local musician Naomi Shore and the Alaska Highway News' own Tom Kirschner kept everything moving as emcee.

Local volunteer icon, Gail Weber, spoke about what inspires her to give so much of her time to so many causes. She said being retired is a definite bonus. Weber has volunteered with dozens of organizations in Fort St. John for over 30 years.

Talented young dancers from the Move Dance Centre entertained the crowd with several energetic performances.

Mayor Bruce Lantz said turn out speaks to the spirit in this community.

"It tells me that people enjoy the opportunity to support our athletes, volunteers and community organizers. This is a chance for them to come out, instead of just meeting them one on one and saying thank you," he said.

"It is a warm fuzzy for everybody, there is no question about it."

He said the awards really demonstrate the volume of talented people that call Fort St. John home.

"To me it is amazing when you put them all in one room and you see the calibre of individuals, it reminds you of just what a great community we have when it comes to people who strive so hard to excel, to volunteer, to better themselves and their organizations through sport and everything that they do."

Adam Reaburn won Citizen of the Year for all of his tireless work in event promotion and coverage. The Fort St. John Air Show, Spirit Week and the Olympic Torch Relay were a few among many events Reaburn made better this year.

"It is a great honour, an unexpected honour. Like a lot of the people here, we are just doing it because we like to do some of things we get involved in," he said.

He said if you enjoy what you are

Awards were flying last night at the Pomeroy Hotel as residents who have made a difference were honoured by their peers. Pictured is Adam Reaburn, who won the Citizen of the Year award, with Mayor Bruce Lantz.

doing, pressure is secondary.

"I don't think there is really any pressure. A lot of people who had received awards here tonight, I think we all kind of agree, that we do it again because we love what we do. We just want to get out there, help the community, support the events, get involved in some of things that are going on in Fort St. John and the North Peace."

Reaburn was one of over 50 people nominated in the category.

Sue Popesku joined Brad Brain and 11-year-old Cole Rafter in receiving Mayor's Awards of Excellence.

Popesku has been volunteering and fundraising in the community for over 20 years now, with such organizations as the Fort St. John's Community Arts Council and Stage North Theatre Society.

"It had been many years of work in Fort St. John, but I have enjoyed

every minute of it. Volunteering with all of these enthusiastic people is probably one of the highlights. We have people that are enthusiastic about sports and about every not profit organization and they are so committed and so passionate."

Lori Slater received a Mayor's Award for Excellence at last year's event, and said recognition can work to inspire further action.

"It is so great to be able to bring all of these people together who have done and contributed to the community in so many ways. It is almost like an Olympic feeling, with that spirit of having it all come together on one evening."

She said the number of people that attended the event, says something.

"It says we are an awesome community. People come out and they want to be a part of it."

See more photos from the awards gala on A3.

COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Adam Reaburn

CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Moose FM

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
North Peace
Historical Society

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFACTOR OF THE
YEAR
Action BC

FAMILY FRIENDLY BUSINESS
Becky's Hair Artists

ARTS AND CULTURE PERSON OF THE YEAR
Russell Eggleston

CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
Lisett Godoy

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Danielle Yeoman

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Tony Atkins

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
T'keya Delwo

ACCESSIBILITY AWARD
Totem Mall

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR YOUTH FEMALE
Brittany Bakstad

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FEMALE ADULT
Barb Polehoykie

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FEMALE SENIOR
Freda Murphy

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR YOUTH MALE
Kayne Dressler

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR MALE ADULT
Adam Horst

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR SENIOR MALE
Floyd Erickstad

SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR
Bob Trobak

MAYOR'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
Sue Popesku, Brad Brain
and Cole Rafter