



1870 Lorne Street
Regina, SK S4P 2L7

Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan is pleased to announce the selection of the following athletes and team as finalists for the 2009 Sask Sport Awards.

- **Fiona Vincent, Master Athlete of the Year**
Vincent, 45, recently recovered from a ruptured ligament to win two gold medals at the 2009 Canadian Marathon Canoe Nationals in the C-2 20 km Mixed and Women's events. She competed at the 2009 World Master Games, where she won a gold and bronze medal in the K-2 21km Mixed and Women's marathon events. Vincent also won seven gold medals at the Games in the sprint category in the K-2 and K-4 Mixed 1000m, the K-2 and K-4 Mixed 500m, the K-2 and K-4 Mixed 200m, and the K-1 Women's 500m, as well as a silver medal in the K-1 Women's 200m race. She is the president of Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan.
- **Shylo Wolff, Youth Male Athlete of the Year**
Wolff, 18, competed at the 2009 Canada Summer Games where he won a bronze medal. At the Canadian National Championships, he received a gold medal for the K2 1000m as well as three silver medals in the K1 200m, 500m, and 1000m. Wolff won four silver medals at the Lake Placid International Regatta, and was also a Canadian team member at the Junior World Championships. He was recognized as the 2009 Saskatchewan Racing Canoe Club Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. In 2009, he was named to the National Under 23 Development Team after three years as a member of the National Junior Development Team.
- **Trista Neilly, Female Athlete of the Year**
Neilly, 20, was awarded four gold medals at the 2009 Canada Summer games for the K1 500m, K1 1000m, K1 2000m, and K2 200m races. She also won a bronze medal at the Summer Games in the K2 500m race. At the 2009 Canadian National Championships, she won a silver medal in the Junior Women's K1 500m and a bronze medal in the K1 1000m. Neilly also competed at the World Cup #2, where she finished twelfth in K2 1000m and thirteenth in K1 500m, and at World Cup #3, where she placed fourth in K4 200m and ninth in K2 1000m. Neilly was a member of the Canadian National Tour team in 2009 and has made the Under 23 National Development Team.
- **2009 Canada Summer Games Canoe/Kayak Team, Team of the Year**
Saskatchewan's 20 member canoe/kayak team competed at the 2009 Canada Summer Games with tremendous success. Together, they won four gold and six bronze medals and placed fourth in nine events and fifth in eight events. The team was also awarded 12 flag points. Team member Trista Neilly, the most decorated Saskatchewan athlete at the Games with four gold and one bronze medal, was chosen as the Team Saskatchewan Flag Bearer for the closing ceremonies.

Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan would like to recognize the following who were also nominated by Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan for the 2009 awards.

- **Megan Gibson, Youth Female Athlete of the Year**
Gibson, 17, won a silver medal in the Junior Women's K1 500m race and placed seventh in the K1 1000m race at the 2009 National Team Trials, results that qualified her for the Canadian Junior World Team. At the 2009 Canada Summer Games, Gibson was awarded gold in the K2 200m race and bronze in the K2 500m race, and also placed fourth in the K1 200m event. She





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also won a gold medal at the Lake Placid International Regatta in the K4 500m race, and placed eighth at the Junior World Championships in the K4 500m, which qualified her to be a member on the national team. At the Canadian National Championships, she won silver in both the Juvenile Women's K1 200m and K2 200m, and bronze in both the Juvenile Women's K1 500m and Senior Women War Canoe events. Her achievements qualified her for the Under 23 National Development Team.

- **Liam Folk, Male Athlete of the Year**

Folk, 21, participated in the 2009 Canadian National Championships, earning third place in the Junior Men's C1 1000m and fifth place in the C1 500m. He also competed at the 2009 Canada Summer Games where he won bronze medals in both the C2 500m and C2 1000m races, placed fourth in the C1 200m, and finished fifth in the C1 1500m and C4 1000m races.

- **Andre Gronowicz, Coach Dedication Award**

Gronowicz came to Saskatchewan 21 years ago with the mandate of developing the sport of sprint canoe/kayak. Under his leadership long-term development plans were put into place for the Saskatoon Racing Canoe Club and with Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan. This legacy is still paying dividends today and Saskatchewan has become one of the top canoe/kayak centres in Canada despite the challenges of a short paddling season and lack of flat water for training and competitions. Gronowicz has coached many athletes who have succeeded at the international and national level, including current members of the national teams. He has also made significant contributions to the Canada Games program over the years as a mentor and coach.

Also nominated by Racquetball Saskatchewan as a multi-sport racquetball & canoe/kayak athlete was

- **Zoe Hanson, Youth Female Athlete of the Year**

Hanson, 15, is ranked as thirteenth top junior female racquetball athlete in Canada. At the 2009 Junior National Racquetball Championships, she won silver in both her singles and doubles events, which qualified her to compete at the World Racquetball Championships. She captured bronze in doubles and finished ninth in singles at the 2009 Junior World Racquetball Championships. Outside of racquetball, Hanson also competed in the 2009 Canadian Sprint Canoe/Kayak Championships, where she helped her team win gold in the K-4 1000m, bronze in the Senior Women C-15 500m, and finished fifth in the Juvenile Women K-4 500m. She was ranked eighth out of 14 at the 2009 Canada Summer Games Canoe/Kayak Team Trials. Hanson was named the 2009 Wascana Racing Canoe Club Midget Female Athlete of the Year.

Please click on the following link to see the press release and biographies of all the finalists and others who were nominated. <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/media/2010/jan25.pdf>

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