



The Grad Issue

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Weekly community news for Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Clearwater, Snowflake, La Riviere, Mather,

1889 ♦ 2016

Glenora, Mariapolis, Swan Lake, Somerset, St. Leon, Bruxelles and Districts in Manitoba

Clearwater Wins \$10,000 Award!

Nancy Holman

Clearwater Skating Rink received a big cheque for \$10,000 from the first ever Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Community Award.

A great crowd of probably more than the entire population of Clearwater (65) turned out for a free noon barbecue June 29th and witnessed the presentation of the big cheque to the Clearwater Skating Rink's president Perry Russell and fellow rink member Mark Sloane. Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame president Don Kuryk and chairman of the selection committee Murray Allan were thrilled to be in Clearwater to present the inaugural award.

Earlier in the year MHOF came up with the idea for an award that would celebrate and promote grassroots hockey programs and

infrastructure. Kuryk had approached Sigfusson Northern Construction who agreed to match the Hall of Fame's \$5000.

Kuryk announced to the people in Clearwater, "As a hall of fame organization, we know hockey leaders in Manitoba get their start in small community programs like yours throughout our province. In recognition of the important role these community programs play, we established a fund that will award an annual prize to a community club that wishes to upgrade their facility, purchase equipment, support or start a program. We know clubs are constantly challenged to find funds they need to build, enhance and maintain rinks, dressing rooms, lighting, scoreboards and programs. We hope this contest will help support needs of clubs like yours."

"We are very pleased to



(L-R:) The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame's Murray Allan and president Don Kuryk presented a \$10,000 cheque for the Clearwater Skating Rink to Perry Russell and Mark Sloane.

award Clearwater Skating Rink with \$10,000 as the inaugural recipient of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Community Award. Thank you for all the work you do to support hockey in your community."

There were 22 communities from all over Manitoba (only one from Winnipeg) which applied for this award. Clearwater's community spirit of cooperation and particularly volunteerism were

cited as reasons Clearwater was chosen to win the award.

The award money will be used to install plexiglass around the boards to increase safety for players and spectators.

As Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame president Don Kuryk reminded the crowd, "Clearwater is a vibrant and beautiful community. Hockey players get their start in small communities like Clearwater." ■

Wade Watson Retires



Prairie Spirit School Division recognized Wade Watson's retirement with a gold watch, presented by Trustee Larry Bridges.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Submitted by PMCI

The following presentation was made by Ruth Loney during the Awards Day Ceremony, June 17, 2016 to Wade Watson, Principal of PMCI, upon his retirement.

As you all know, Mr. Watson will be retiring at the end of June. I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about his career as principal of PMCI.

Mr. Watson is a sports fan – he loves all sports, but especially baseball, golf & hockey. So being a sports guy, we thought that it might be fitting to have his time here at PMCI broken down into stats. So, this is what we came up with...

Total Years played: 22

Baseball Percentage: 36% (8 zone banners in 22 years)

Golf Percentage: 18% (4 zone champions in 22 years)

Over the 22 years at PMCI, Wade had 94 different staff members working with him. Some came and went and then some came back again (right Mr. Gardiner, Mrs. Krahn & Mrs. Van Damme...and Mr. Lewarne!) He saw 536 grade 9 students start their high school careers at PMCI and there were 464 graduates while he was principal – PLUS 18 more next week! The biggest graduating class was 38 students in 2002 and tied for the smallest graduating class was the grad classes in 1999 and 2000 with only 9 graduates each year.

When Mr. Watson started at Pilot Mound School it was a K-12 school with 206 students and 18 staff members. This enrollment dropped to 190 students with 20 staff members in the 1999/2000 school year – the final year as K-12. Pilot Mound School amalgamated with Thomas Greenway Collegiate in September of 2000 and PMCI enrollment was at 156 students grade 9-12 and 20 staff members. At

the start of Mr. Watson's final school year at PMCI there were 98 students and 15 staff members.

Some of Mr. Watson's traditions will be remembered by students and staff. He scared 442 students on Halloween morning by hiding behind the drink machine, he organized 14 magazine campaigns and 10 pancake breakfasts. He attended 11 Tigers' Christmas hockey games and 18 Winter Activity Days. He was part of 4 Year End Water Fights.

Mr. Watson had 22 "First Day of School" Days, 22 Award Ceremonies. This year will mark his 19th Graduation Ceremony and he will soon have a total of 22 "Last Day of School" Days at PMCI.

Mr. Watson, we wish you & Susan all the best in your retirement. You will be greatly missed by the students, parents & staff of PMCI. We hope you enjoy traveling, golfing, watching ball & hockey, and spending time with your grandson. Congratulations on your retirement! ■

Marvin Gundrum Honoured



Manitoba High School Athletic Association

Marvin Gundrum of Prairie Mountain High School, Somerset, Manitoba was presented the Frank L. McKinnon Award for his outstanding volunteerism in high school sports. Marvin is a 30 year teaching and coaching veteran, coaching all sports. His school hosted many

Provincials, and he has been very involved with each one. Marvin has been a member of the MHSAA board of directors. In recent years he has developed a very strong track program, capturing the "A" banner for the last two years, and has over five Provincial titles. He received an MHSAA Certificate of Recognition in 2012.

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