

# Prairie Canada News

April, 2009

## 2009 Carving Championship a Success

By all accounts the 23rd Prairie Canada Carving Championship held March 21 & 22 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg was a resounding success. The awards banquet was a sell out and the show housed some 338 carvings. The inclusion this year of a special exhibit featuring select carvings from the collection of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre was an added attraction which the PCCA board of directors hopes to repeat each year. We were also pleased this year to have the Adanac Carvers Association join the competition as a sponsor of the carver's choice award.

A special note of thanks goes out to the 15 carvers who contributed pieces to the Sunday auction and by doing so raised \$2,750 to help cover show expenses (see article in newsletter). The same can be said for the many carvers who sold \$6,576 worth of raffle tickets for Prairie Canada throughout the past seven months. Of course every successful show needs its sponsors/partners and we are grateful for the 22 individuals and organizations who helped make your show a success (see insert). I would encourage you to make a point of thanking them for their endorsement and where possible supporting their businesses. We need sponsors and sponsors need the favour returned. Several retailers sold their wares at the competition – thanks goes out to Canadian Woodworker, Bob Taylor, Jennifer LaBella and Artists Emporium. Les Gens de Bois Woodcarving Club, Adanac Carvers Association, the Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild and the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization captured the interests of show goers throughout the weekend, adding to the ambiance of the show.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the judges: Ron Davidson, Dennis Drechsler, Ray England, Desiree Hajny, Ron Jackson, Larry Longtine, Jean Minaudier, Randy Mooi, Peter Sawatzky, Shawn Sinclair, Rose Tanasichuk, Robert Taylor and Larry Vanderhyde. They did a superb job. Desiree Hajny, Dennis Drechsler and Carl Robblee offered carving workshops and seminars prior to, during or after the competition- all of which were well received. The awards banquet was another huge success and culminated in the awarding of the coveted Carver's Award of Excellence to Harvey Welch of Saskatoon and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre. We also handed out competition carving awards and thanked long-standing volunteers for years of service to the organization (see article in newsletter). Desiree and Bernie Hajny capped the awards banquet evening with an illustrated presentation of commissioned work for Disney World. Accolades are also extended to Manitoba Pork Council, Bob Taylor, Jennifer LaBella, Copperfield Books, Chip Bin, Doug Danell, Ted Muir and Sally and David Nye ([www.FanCarversWorld.com](http://www.FanCarversWorld.com)) for the donation of banquet raffle prizes.



Dremel Purchase Award by Desiree Hajny—2010 PCCA raffle piece

I cannot heap enough praise upon the PCCA board of directors for its steadfast dedication in advancing the interests of the carving community. The board consists of Doug Danell, John Frye, Dave Koss, Prabir Mitra, Jean Mousseau, Ted Muir, Shawn Nicol, Tom Park, Earl Quesnel, Bonnie Trodden and Don Young. Once again scores of volunteers stepped forward to help with the running of the show—thank you. A special note of appreciation goes out to Cathie Brereton once again for helping with our electronic registration system. I should also recognize the fine work of our photographer Richard Gwizdak— all of which will be published in Competition 09, Chipchats and other carving magazines over the coming months. We hope at some point soon to make available to carvers a DVD of our winning carvings over the past four years.

**2010 Competition Dates:** The 2010 competition which will be held at Canad Inn Polo Park March 27 to 28. The new venue is close to the Victoria Inn and within walking distance of the Polo Park Shopping Centre. For those wishing to get a head start on purchase award pieces here are the awards confirmed to date: PCCA (formally Dremel) raffle piece- life-sized Wood Duck drake (non-floating slick); Jim Richardson Antique Purchase Award (see list of Canadian decoy books in newsletter); Oak Hammock Marsh Purchase Award- three duck hunting rig; and Morgan Whiteway BOSS award—Harlequin Duck hen. Carvers should consult with the 2010 rules form to ensure compliance with any minor changes. The 2010 rules form will be posted on the website in mid September 2010. Del Herbert will be offering his airbrush painting workshop March 24 to 26.

Happy carving to all. Have a great summer.

Ted Muir,  
Chairperson, PCCA

Prairie Canada Carvers' Association: [www.prairiecanadacarvers.com](http://www.prairiecanadacarvers.com)

# Carver's Award of Excellence Recipients

The Prairie Canada Carvers' Association presented Harvey Welch of Saskatoon and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre with the *Carver's Award of Excellence* for excellence and achievement in promoting and engendering the art of carving in North America. The awards were presented at the Association's 23rd annual banquet in Winnipeg, March 21, 2009. The coveted, one of a kind, bronze award is crafted by wildlife artist Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro, Manitoba.

Harvey Welch has been active in the Saskatchewan carving for over 20 years. He taught carving at Red Deer College for five years and has introduced scores of carvers to the art form through mentoring sessions at his home workshop and running scores of classes in venues across the prairie provinces. Harvey was the driving force behind the recent formation of the Saskatchewan River Valley Art School and sits as its chairman. The school offers instruction in carving, photography and painting. It operates out of the Shekinah Retreat Centre which is located on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River, near Waldeheim.

Harvey is an accomplished competitor and has won numerous best of show awards in carving competitions throughout western Canada. He was instrumental in establishing the Saskatchewan Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition Show and Sale which is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Reflections of Nature is western Canada's largest wildlife art show and as one of its long time supporters Harvey has served the organization as show chairman, chief judge and fundraiser. Harvey's commitment to community service is exemplified by the numerous carvings he donates each year to Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and an inner city program for disadvantaged children. Harvey had a hand in establishing the youth program.

As noted by one of his fellow carvers "Harvey has touched and inspired more people than most of us could ever hope to. While many of us love to encourage and teach new carvers, none do with the generosity, compassion, humour and enthusiasm shown by Harvey Welch."

The Oak Hammock Interpretive Centre is the premier wetland education facility in the world. Operated as a joint venture between the Province of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada, the centre is located north of Winnipeg near Stonewall and attracts 30,000 people annually. Its mission is to foster public understanding and awareness of the values of wetlands and associated ecosystems.

Since its inception in 1993 the Centre has played a pivotal role in fostering public understanding and appreciation of the history and value of waterfowl decoys. Towards this end the Centre supports the ongoing operation of a carving guild which organizes a spring decoy carving competition, a summer carving workshop weekend and an endangered species carving contest. The Centre also offers, through Dr. Frank Baldwin and other instructors, public decoy carving classes each year and makes carving supplies available to carvers through its gift shop.

The Centre seeks to preserve the history of waterfowling in Canada by collecting historic working waterfowl decoys for public display. The Centre supports excellence in the carving community by sponsoring a \$ 1,000 purchase award through the Prairie Canada Carving Championship. Award winning pieces of wetland wildlife are exhibited at the Centre. This award also serves to acknowledge the support of Ducks Unlimited Canada for having sponsored the Prairie Canada Carving Championship over the past 23 years.

## Award Nomination Information

Members of the carving community are encouraged to nominate an individual or organization for recognition under the *Carver's Award of Excellence* program. Submissions should be sent in writing to John Frye at 139 Lodge Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3J 0R6. John can also be reached at (204) 888-8272. Full details of the awards program can be obtained from the Association's website. Awards for 2010 must be submitted before December 1, 2009.



Harvey Welch receiving award from Peter Sawatzky



Ross Gage receiving the award on behalf of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

## Upcoming Shows & Workshops—2009

**April 11 to 12 Wheat City Carving Show & Competition, Brandon:** Fred Warburton at (204) 727-8054 or fhnotrubraw@westman.wave.ca

**April 24 to 25 Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Championship, Ocean City, Maryland:**

**May 1 to 3 Winnipeg Woodcarvers Weekend, St. John's College:** Rick at (204) 345-6020 or rebreton@gmail.com

**May 8, 9 & 10 Alberta Wildlife Carving Association, Sherwood Park:** Glen Maber (780) 417-1412 or gmaber@yahoo.com

**May 9 & 10 Edmonton Carving Competition:** Bill Ince (780) 464-7048

**May 9 & 10 Wood Working Show, Regina:** Ken at (306) 693-5713 or kenrene@sasktel.net or

**May 21 to 26, Saskatchewan River Valley Art School:** (306) 945-4929 or retreat@sasktel.net or www.shekinahretreatcentre.org

**May 23 & 24 Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild – Decoy Carving Competition:** Ross Gage 895-4723 or rossgage@mts.net

**June 26 to 28 Wahpeton Carving Weekend, ND:** Gary Paulsen (701) 232-2196

**August 1-2 Lake Bronson International Woodcarvers Festival & a workshop carving a pair of Mallard duck decoys by Larry Longtine, MN:** Contact Cammie Taylor at (218) 754-8264; gcac@wiktel.com

**September 27 to October 2 Shuswap School of Woodcarving School, BC:** info@sorrento-centre.bc.ca

**October 23 to 25 Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition, Show and Sale: Saskatoon:** www.saskwildlifeart.com or Brenda at (306) 382-7785

## 2009 Winners Circle— Best of Show & Purchase Awards

**Ernie Beauchesne, Duncan, BC:** 1st BOS Novice-Pacific Grey Whale

**Gerry Beyersbergen, Edmonton:** 3rd BOS, Intermediate— Killer Whale

**Bert Bodnaruk, Winnipeg:** 3rd BOS, Open— The Cyclist; Carver's Choice Award for Caricature sponsored by Adanac Carvers Association

**Rick Brereton, Lac du Bonnet, MB:** 2nd BOS Open— Wizard relief

**Jim Cellars, Calgary:** 3rd BOS Novice— Female Green-winged Teal; 1st BOS— Ruddy Duck

**Tim Desrochers, Winnipeg:** Les Gens de Bois People's Choice Award— Aboriginal in buckskin

**Lee Garbel, Williston, ND:** 1st BOS Open— Ring-necked Pheasant cock

**Desiree Hajny, Blue Hill, Nebraska:** Dremel Purchase Award-Timber Wolf

**Barb Janman, Calgary:** 1st BOS Intermediate— Oldsquaw drake; 2nd BOS American Avocet

**Lloyd Laing, St Claude, MB:** 2nd BOS Novice— Lesser Scaup drake

**Bob Lavender, Saskatoon:** Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award— Wood Duck hen; 2nd BOS Open— Ruffed Grouse; BOS Cocktail— Barn Owl

**Shirley Lawrence, Selkirk, MB:** 2nd BOS Intermediate-White-tailed Deer

**Eric Meder, Winnipeg:** 1st BOS Intermediate— Walleye

**Prabir Mitra, Winnipeg:** 3rd BOS Novice— Voyageur relief

**Ray Minaudier, St Claude, MB:** Oak Hammock Marsh Purchase Award— three Eider duck hunting rig; Ross Gage Purchase Award— Black-necked Stilt

**Bill Palmer, Winnipeg:** James Richardson Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award— Charles Reaves style Canvasback drake

**Carl Robblee, Swan River, MB:** 1st place Best of Show, Open— Brook Trout

**Gord Unger, Carman, MB:** 3rd BOS Intermediate-Yellow-throated Warbler

**Randy Warren, Winnipeg:** 2nd BOS Novice— Stone sparrow on leaves

**Harvey Welch, Saskatoon:** 3rd BOS Open-Mourning Dove



Tim Desrochers receives the People's Choice Award from John Cruickshank- Les



Bert Bodnaruk receives the Carver's Choice Award from Dave Gary of Adanac Carvers

- Doug Danell
- Dave Koss
- John Frye
- Prabir Mitra
- Jean Mousseau
- Ted Muir
- Shawn Nicol
- Tom Park
- Earl Quesnel
- Bonnie Trodden
- Don Young

## Auction Items a Tremendous Help

The live auction on the Sunday afternoon raised \$ 2,750 for PCCA coffers. The auction continues to be a fun-filled activity and a great way to purchase an original piece of art from accomplished carvers at a reasonable price. A hearty thanks goes out to cocktail contributors Ron Davidson, Gordon Kanne, Bob Lavender, Ray Minaudier, Bill Palmer, Tom Park, Wes Tully, Murray Watson and Jack Yellowlees.



Best of Show Cocktail Barn Owl by Bob Lavender

We are also appreciative of the pieces donated to the auction by Dennis Drechsler, Desiree Hajny, Del Herbert, Bob Lavender, Emil Starsiak and Harvey Welch. Ray Minaudier entered a piece in the 50/50 auction. As usual we appreciate the volunteer the time donated by our auctioneer Jack Kowalchuk of Country Auctions (204) 269-6650.

### 2009 Raffle Winner

Dave Koss presents the 2009 Dremel raffle carving to winning ticket-holder Kevin Guthrie of Winnipeg. The ticket was sold by Mel Bodnarus. The raffle brought in \$ 6,576. A special note of gratitude is extended to Dave and all of the volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty in selling tickets this year. The 2010 raffle piece is a timber wolf crafted by Desiree Hajny.



## Volunteer Service Recognition

The success of Prairie Canada Carvers' Association over the past 23 years is attributed in large measure to the scores of people who contributed countless hours and phenomenal resources to furthering the interests of the carving community. This year at the annual banquet the PCCA board of directors recognized four outstanding volunteers- each of whom dedicated in excess of 10 years service towards the organization.

Ida McKenzie contributed 16 years of service to PCCA, acting as treasurer for many of those years. After stepping down from the board she continued to volunteer during the competition. Ida joined PCCA as a representative for Les Gens de Bois.



Ida McKenzie



Don Young

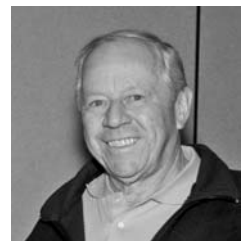
Don Young has served on the board for 15 continuous years. Don has worked on a variety of committees and within the last three years taken on the responsibility of Rules Chairperson.

Gary Eekhoudt has invested 12 year in the organization, many of which he sat as board member. After stepping down from the board, Gary continues to help each year with the use of his truck in transporting exhibit materials to and from the competition.



Gary Eekhoudt

Bob Taylor has put 11 year into the organization. Bob is one of the Association's founding members and sat on the board for the first three year of its existence. Since then he has judged for the competition for seven years.



Bob Taylor

## A Few Good Men and Women Needed

The PCCA board of directors is always looking for new members to replace retiring ones and help keep the competition relevant to the interests of the carving community. If we are to continue organizing an annual competition we must be able to recruit new members to the board. We are an efficient organization directed by a dedicated group of folks with great ideas and a variety skills, but we are always on the look out for new members. . If you'd like to serve on the board please contact Ted Muir at (204) 237-1385 or tedmuir@shaw.ca. It will be an enjoyable rewarding experience.

# 2009 PCCA Sponsors & Partners

## Gold



### **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre**

Sponsor of OHM Purchase Award; Canada's leading wetland education centre; Open year round (204) 467-3300

## Silver



### **Jim Richardson**

Sponsor of Antique Duck Decoy Purchase Award



### **Morgan Whiteway**

Sponsor of Best of Show Slick (BOSS) Purchase Award



## Bronze



### **Adanac Carver's Association**

Contact: Keith Gordon (204) 256-5627



1610 St James Street, Wpg  
(204) 772-2421



### **Bigmouth Creations**

Specialist in Celtic intarsia  
(204) 654-1533



1300 Ellice Avenue, Wipg (204)  
788-8966



1054 Portage Avenue, Wpg  
(204) 786-3196







## Dominion Construction

1574 Erin Street Wpg. (204) 487-1222

## FOREDOM<sup>®</sup>

Power Tools and Accessories

Quality and Service Since 1922

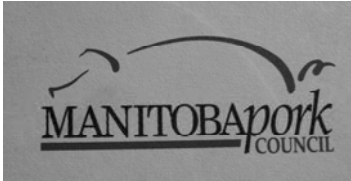


1395 Ellice Avenue Wpg.  
(204) 779-7467



## Les Ges de Bois Wood Carving Club

Contact- John Cruickshank (204) 669-7717



28 Terracon Place, Wpg.  
(204) 237-7447



70 Stevenson Road, Wpg.  
(204) 633-5967



## Razertip Industries

Martensville, Sask. (306) 931-0889



## PROFESSIONAL GRINDING INC.

901A Dugald Road, Wpg.  
(204) 231-3429

## TURNBULL WHITAKER

INSURANCE AGENCY INC.



1465 Corydon Avenue, Wpg (204) 488-4547

**Victoria Inn** 1808 Wellington Avenue, Wpg  
(204) 786-3136



## Ross Gage

Sponsor of Shorebird Purchase Award

## Odds and Ends

**Killer Whale Carving Workshop**– Instructor Tom Park; Saturday April 25; Fort Whyte Centre- 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sand and paint a miniature cork killer whale; Fee-\$20 centre members; \$25 for non-members; Register by calling Fort Whyte Alive at 989-8364 before April 20. Beginner level course.

**Ray England's List of Books Devoted to Canadian Decoys:** *Waterfowl Decoys of Southwestern Ontario and the Men who made them.* – R. Paul Briscoe; *Decoying - St. Clair to the St. Lawrence* – Bernard W. "Barney" Crandell; *Decoys of the Thousand Islands* – Jim Stewart & Larry Lunman; *Traditions in Wood – A History of Waterfowl Decoys in Canada* Edited by Patrica Fleming & Thomas Carpenter; *Peter M. Pringle – Master Decoy Maker* – Wm C. Reeve; *The County Decoys – The Fine Old Decoys of Prince Edward County & Ontario*- Jim Stewart; *Decoys of Maritime Canada* – Dale & Gary Guyette; *Ontario Decoys* – Bernie Gates; The newest book is on the *Decoys of the Nichols of Smith Falls Ontario* – look for it! An excellent source for simple painting of working decoys in Dr. Edgar Burke's chapter in *Duck Shooting Along the Atlantic Tidewater* by Eugene V. Connett.

