

# Prairie Canada News

May, 2008

## Carving Championship Another Roaring Success

The challenge in carving depictions of wildlife and people is to make them look realistic. Gordon Kanne's jumping red fox certainly fit that bill and was selected by ballot as the 2008 People's Choice Award. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Prairie Canada Carvers' Association, I thank Gordon and the 112 other carvers who submitted 354 carvings to the 22nd annual Prairie Canada Carving Championship held at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg March 29 & 30, 2008.

A special note of thanks goes out to the 24 carvers who contributed pieces to the Sunday auction and by doing so helped us raise \$2,847 for the 2009 show (see article in newsletter). The same can be said for the many carvers who sold \$3,584 worth of raffle tickets for Prairie Canada. Of course every successful show needs its sponsors/partners and we are grateful for the 18 individuals and organizations who help make your show a resounding success (see article in newsletter). I would encourage you to make a point of thanking them for their support. Several retailers sold their wares at the competition – thanks goes out to Canadian Woodworker, Copperfield Books and Artists Emporium. Artists Emporium also supported the children's colouring corner by producing fish fridge magnets. Les Gens de Bois, The Oak Hammock Marsh Carvers Guild and the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization were also on hand, adding to the ambiance of the show.



Gordon Kanne of Selkirk, Manitoba– mouse-seeking red fox

A special note of gratitude is extended to this year's slate of judges– Louis Brisebois, Bob Danell, Ron Davidson, Ray England, John Leeder, Larry Longtine, Jean Minaudier, Peter Sawatzky, Shawn Sinclair, Rose Tanasichuk, Robert Taylor and Larry Vanderhyde. They did a superb job. Ron Davidson and John Leeder also offered carving workshops and seminars prior to 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 Ron Davidson and Les Barrow (see enclosed article). We also handed out competition carving awards and introduced the Association's first ever volunteer service awards (see enclosed article). John Leeder went the extra mile at the banquet and held the audience spellbound with an illustrated presentation of his exquisite work. Accolades are also extended to Sally and David Nye for the donation of a fan carving for the banquet raffle– visit [www.FanCarversWorld.com](http://www.FanCarversWorld.com).

I cannot heap enough praise upon the board of directors for its steadfast dedication in advancing the interests of the carving community. Over the course of the year we developed a policy and procedures manual– a guide on who has to do what and by when in order to run a competition. We also made it a priority to redesign our website (see address below) and continued to streamline our electronic registration system. And we are moving toward launching a new newsletter distribution system and ask carvers who have access to e-mail service to contact Doug Danell at [ddanell@shaw.ca](mailto:ddanell@shaw.ca) with your address Attn: PCCA newsletter. These, as you can appreciate, are all monumental undertakings.

While we normally think only of the competition when referring to the Association, this year we offered a number of carving workshops in fulfilling our education mandate. We organized a one day painting workshop with Jean Minaudier (with the cooperation of Artists Emporium) and was able, with the capable help of Tom Park, to run a one day miniature killer whale carving course at both Fort Whyte Alive and the Norwood Community Club. Tom was also gracious in offering Association-endorsed carving courses at Adanac Carving Club (natural-finish nuthatch) and Oak Bank Carvers Club (miniature killer whale). Hopefully we can expect more of the same to come in the months ahead. As with most years board members move on and this year we will see Karen Warren and Al LeClair step down in pursuit of other interests. They served us well and will be missed. Along that line we are always looking for new members with new ideas and renewed energy to keep us relevant and effective. If you would like to get involved with the Association please contact me at [tedmuir@shaw.ca](mailto:tedmuir@shaw.ca) or call (204) 237-1385.

Planning is well underway for the 2009 competition which is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Victoria Inn, Winnipeg March 19 to 22. For those of you thinking ahead, the Dremel Purchase Award will be for a miniature full-body timber wolf and the Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award will be of a Wood Duck hen. A full set of 09 Rules will be posted on the website and mailed out to carvers by late summer. Happy carving to all.

Ted Muir, Chairperson-PCCA

## Carver's Award of Excellence Recipients

The Prairie Canada Carvers' Association presented Les Barrow of Thunder Bay and Ron Davidson of Saskatoon with the *Carver's Award of Excellence* for excellence and achievement in promoting and engendering the art of carving in North America. Les and Ron received the prestigious award at the Association's 22nd annual award's banquet in Winnipeg, March 29, 2008. Under the program recipients are nominated by members of the carving community. The coveted, one of kind, bronze award is crafted by renowned wildlife artist Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro Manitoba.

Les Barrow has been active in the Thunder Bay carving community for over 20 years. Les began wood carving after taking a few evening classes in 1983/84. Shortly after that he enrolled in a week long decoy carving workshop with Randy Tull in Hayward, Wisconsin, and has been committed to the pursuit of excellence in the art of waterfowl carving ever since. He won his first award at the Selkirk Carving Show in 1988 and has since won ribbons in Minnesota and British Columbia, and numerous best of show ribbons at the Prairie Canada Carving Championship.

In 1991 Les began teaching decoy carving classes at Confederation College, McKellar School and his own studio. In 1995 he opened a retail carving supply store and studio in Thunder Bay and began, along with other instructors, to introduce hundreds of students to the art of wood carving. Ten years ago, Les was one of the founding members of the Thunder Bay Carvers Club which has grown to 80 members. Les has held executive positions in the club since its inception and continues to offer sound guidance and creative ideas to the carving community.

Les' steadfast leadership coupled with his easy-going, enthusiastic, friendly nature has made him a tireless and effective ambassador of carving in Thunder Bay. His realistic birds are much prized and can be found in many homes and public buildings in Thunder Bay and abroad.

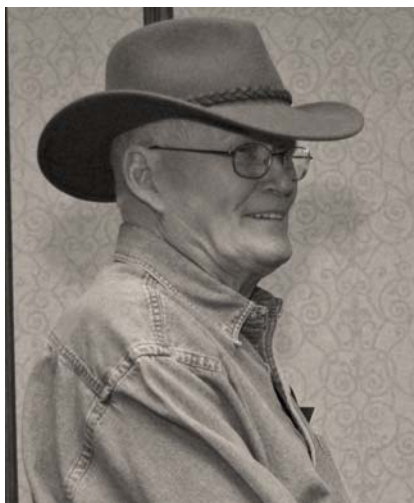
Ron Davidson began wood carving in the early 1970's. He joined the Saskatchewan Woodcarvers Guild in 1980 and soon began supporting like organizations in Regina, Fargo, Bismarck and Winnipeg. Ron has been a strong contributor and volunteer at the annual Shell Lake 'carve in' and routinely demonstrates carving at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon and never misses an opportunity to share his work and knowledge with students of all ages. Ron has had a huge influence on traditional carvers in the Saskatoon area whether by his competency as a teacher, his talent as a carver or his passion for the comradeship that he so aptly combines with his craft.

Ron has had a hand in bringing woodcarvers together from all across western Canada and northern United States. There is no aspect of carving that Ron has not supported over the years, whether teaching, carving, judging, exhibiting, organizing a special event or donating items to charitable events. Over the past 16 years he has taught a few hundred carving courses in cities and towns across prairie Canada and adjoining states. He carves wood in the traditional style with edge tools and excels in crafting polar bears and green men.

As an instructor, he is respected and admired and readily shares his expertise with fellow carvers. His passion for carving and unbridled generosity in sharing his talent stands him in excellent stead in the carving community.



Les Barrow



Ron Davidson

## Show Volunteers a Godsend

The Prairie Canada Carving Championship is open to the public for less than 15 hours. However the collective effort of non-board volunteers to plan for, assemble, operate and disassemble the three-day event runs into the hundreds of hours. Few people put in as much time as Cathie Brereton while working on the computerized registration system. PCCA thanks Cathie and the wonderful volunteers who help make the competition a resounding success. Hats off to: Julien & Simone Allard, Lynda Baxter, Mariette Buydens, Gary Eekhoudt, Susan Cowtan, Bill Farnworth, Rose Gerbasi, Helen Hafke, Gerry Holowchuk, Don Huhn, Jack Kawalchuk, Denise LaRue, Larry LeGrange, Ida McKenzie, Bill & Lynda Palmer, Laurie Prokopank, Paul Paradis, Tom Park, Peter Peersman, Cary Petriw, Bill and Marge Sallows (in photograph), Murray Sinclair, Tina & Wes Tully, Virginia Turner, Brenda Waitt, Jack & Joyce Yellowlees and Betty Young. Students from College Pierre Elliott-Trudeau also did a great job: Tera Edkins, Sylvie Mousseau, Melody Parker, Alyssa Paskaruk, Marissa Sawatzky and Danica Racicot. If anyone who volunteered is not listed in this newsletter please inform Ted Muir at [tedmuir@shaw.ca](mailto:tedmuir@shaw.ca) (237-1385) and accept our apologies.



## Upcoming Shows & Workshops—2008

**June 7-8 Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild – Annual Waterfowl Decoy Carving Competition:** \$500 prize for first place. Contact Ross Gage 204- 895-9628 (days) 204-895-4723 (evenings) rossgage@mts.net

**Jun. 27-29 Wahpeton North Dakota Carving Weekend Classes:** Gary Paulsen (701) 232-2196

**July 5-6 Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Weekend:** Miniature Canada Goose with Bill Palmer; Miniature Great White Egret with Tom Park: Contact Cathy Wasserman at OHM at (204) 467-3300 c\_wasserman@ducks.ca .

**August 2-3 Lake Bronson International Woodcarvers Festival:** Contact (218) 754-4507; gcaf@wiktel.com

**September 20-21 Calgary Carving Competition:** Pat Godin painting workshop, Contact Tom Inkster, (403) 286-4229, *tominkster@shaw.ca* Website: [www.chinookwildfowlcarvers.com](http://www.chinookwildfowlcarvers.com) .

**October 24-26 Reflections of Nature Wildlife Art Competition, Show and Sale: Saskatoon:** Western Canada's largest wild-life art show. Contact [www.saskwildlifeart.com](http://www.saskwildlifeart.com) or Brenda at 306-382-7785

## 2008 Winners Circle- See the website for a full listing of competition placements

**Pierre Deschenes**, Winnipeg: 3rd BOS, Intermediate- Wild roses

**Susan Doan**, Gunton, MB: 1st BOS-Novice-Horse head relief

**Lana Cowell**, Saskatoon: 2nd BOS, Open- Mallard drake

**Lee Garbel**, Williston, ND: BOS cocktail carvings– Northern pintail

**Doug Gibbings**, Selkirk, MB: Jim Richardson Purchase Award- Redhead drake, Thomas Dalton style

**Brain Dueck**, Saskatoon: 1st BOS, Intermediate-Red-tailed hawk

**Terry Hurtig**, Thunder Bay: 3rd BOS, Novice-Ruffed grouse

**Gordon Kanne**, Selkirk: 1st BOS, Intermediate-Red fox; People's Choice Award-Red fox

**Cheryl Laschuk**, Seddons Corner, MB: 3rd BOS, Novice- Hooded merganser

**Bob Lavender**, Saskatoon: Morgan Whiteway BOSS Purchase Award- Mallard hen; 3rd BOS, Open -Steller's jay

**Brock Love**, Winnipeg: 2nd BOS, Intermediate- House wren; 3rd BOS- White doves

**Frank MacFarlane**, Winnipeg: Ross Gage Investment Counsel Purchase Award- Spotted sandpiper

**Ray Minaudier**, St. Claude, MB: Oak Hammock Marsh Purchase Award– Goldeneye hunting rig; 1st BOS, Open-Pied-billed grebe

**Shawn Nicol**, Winnipeg: 2nd BOS, Open- Asian dragon

**Carl Robblee**, Swan River, MB: 1st place Best of Show, Open- Rainbow trout; PCCA Award

**Rusty Rutherford**, Portage la Prairie, MB: Dremel Purchase Award- Ruby-throated hummingbird

**Emil Starsiak**, Winnipeg: 3rd BOS, Open- Human figurine; PCCA Award-Human statuette

**Alex Tivas**, Regina: 2nd BOS, Intermediate-Yellow perch

**Bonnie Trodden**, Winnipeg: 2nd BOS, Novice-Beluga whales

**Gord Unger**, Carman, MB: 1st BOS, novice- northern pintails; 2nd BOS- Northern shoveler



Carl Robblee- Rainbow trout



Rusty Rutherford– ruby-throated humming birds



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Prairie Canada Carver's Association

Rick Brereton  
Doug Danell  
Pierre Deschenes  
John Frye  
Dave Koss  
Al LeClair  
Prabir Mitra  
Jean Mousseau  
Ted Muir  
Shawn Nicol  
Bonnie Trodden  
Karen Warren  
Don Young

## Auction Items a Tremendous Help

The live auction held every Sunday afternoon at the competition is a major source of revenue for PCCA. Thanks to all the cocktail contributors: Ron Davidson, Lee Garbel, Cathie Brereton, Stanley Herridge, Lana Cowell, Bill Nitzsche, Stewart Tavener, Wes Tully, Rusty Rutherford, Gary Paulsen, Jack Yellowlees, Tory Neald, Harvey Welch, Tom Park and Don Young.



Lee Garbel– cocktail pintail duck

Carvers who donated pieces to the live auction included: Bob Lavender, Patrick Walker, Mariette Buydens, Brain Ward and John Leeder. Carvers who contributed items to the 50/50 auction included: Mike Southon, Jean Minaudier, Ray Minaudier, Brian Peden and Harvey Welch.

### 2008 Raffle Winner

Al LeClair (on the right) presented the Dremel raffle carving to ticket-holder Gabriel Lemoine of Ste. Anne, Manitoba. Al and his cadre of volunteers sold tickets throughout the year at SIR Mail Order, Lee Valley Tools, a construction trade show, Canadian Woodworker, the Winnipeg Boat Show, the Winnipeg RV Show and the competition. Special thanks to venue ticket sellers: Al LeClair, Ted Muir, Jack & Joyce Yellowlees, David Koss, Prabir Mitra, Wes Tully, Jean Mousseau, Doug Danell, Rick & Cathie Brereton, Bonnie Trodden, Shawn Nicol, Jean Mousseau, Margaret & Larry Gwiazda, Linda & Bill Palmer, Tom Park, Rose Gerbasi, John Frye, Don Young and Karen Warren.



## Volunteer Service Recognition

PCCA's success over the past 22 years can largely be attributed to the scores of people who have 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 launched an initiative to formally thank those who have made an outstanding contribution to the Association and began by honouring Peter Sawatzky, Larry Vanderhyde and Jack & Joyce Yellowlees. Recipients received a monogrammed pen/pencil set crafted by Pierre Deschenes.

Peter Sawatzky has judged the competition for 21 of its 22 years. Peter also designed and produced at cost the bronze award presented by PCCA under the Carver's Award of Excellence program. Larry Vanderhyde served on the PCCA Board for 16 years, many as its Rules Chairman. After stepping down Larry volunteered his time as a competition judge. Jack Yellowlees served on the board for 14 years and over this period donated 45 cocktail birds to the Association, garnering \$2,987 for its coffers. Jack and Joyce have also been a formidable team in working the Association's display at all of its raffle-selling venues.



Peter Sawatzky



Larry Vanderhyde



Jack & Joyce Yellowlees

## 2008 Show Sponsors and Partners

Prairie Canada is very appreciative of all the support we receive from the carving and business community. You can show your appreciation by thanking these individuals or better yet supporting their businesses. One good turn deserves another. **Gold:** Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre; **Silver:** Dremel Tools, Jim Richardson, Manitoba Hydro, Morgan Whiteway; **Bronze:** Artists Emporium, Canadian Woodworker, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Dominion Construction, Foredom Tools, Lee Valley Tools, Les Gens De Bois, Manitoba Pork Council, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Razertip Industries, Ross Gage Investment Counsel, SIR Mail Order and Turnbull Whitaker Insurance