

Prairie Canada News

September 2019

President's Message

As preparations begin for the 2020 Prairie Canada Carving Championship, I'd like to acknowledge the remarkable efforts of the volunteer-based board of directors responsible for the 2019 competition. I think we all realize that volunteers—be they board members or not—are the backbone of the competition. However it takes sustained dogged determination of a committed board to make it happen.

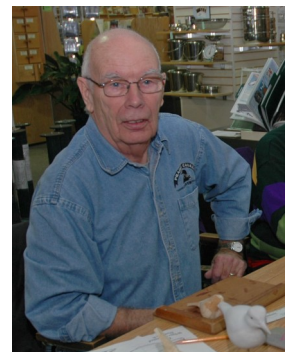
Every competition has rules—reams of rules—and scads of information that needs to be compiled and analyzed for the judging and awarding of prizes. Thankfully we have Don Young coordinating those efforts along with the publication of the rules brochure. Don has also proven his mettle as one of our idea guys. He also enlists the support of his wife Betty who is easing into the book keeping responsibilities for the organization. Doug Danell over the years has been the one constant in mentoring bookkeepers—thank goodness. Fund raising is a key part of every competition and I thank Prabir Mitra for coordinating a myriad of raffle ticket activities. Colleen Noonan and Jaye Grief did a great job of lining up raffle prizes, keeping sponsors and donors on board, and overseeing exhibitors. John Frye spearheaded our grant application process along with the vetting of carvers nominated for carving and community service awards. John also acts as our secretary. The setting up and taking down of the show infrastructure takes a goodly number of warm bodies and I thank Paul Giasson for coordinating those efforts. Tom McCormack coordinated workshop activities once again and oversaw the selling of our merchandise at the show. Tom Park remains a valuable sounding board as past chair and delighted show audiences with his “habitat road show”. Successful organizations rely on good communications and I appreciate the work of Susan Cowtan in distributing our newsletters, maintaining our information leaflets and posting information on our website. Mark Rathwell helped with the move in, oversaw the successful execution of our banquet and hosted our year end BBQ in his backyard. Jean Mousseau continued to champion everything to do with fish and helped make our foray into the Great White North exhibit, and banquet recitals, a resounding success. Our past chairman Ted Muir continues to maintain our archival material and produce our year-end newsletter and our annual submission to *Competition* magazine. Thank you once again everyone for your outstanding contributions.



We all know of shows that have struggled and folded—usually victims of a lack of volunteer support. Our answer to that is to constantly recruit. We grow and prosper by attracting new volunteers and embracing new ideas and initiatives. Since we were formed in 1987 upwards of 90 individuals have served on the board. That's a good thing as it has made us who we are today. So my pitch is simply **join the board and help keep us strong**. I would be delighted to discuss the opportunities with interested carvers—I can be reached at (204) 791-5404 or lyndabaxter0@gmail.com. Lynda Baxter

Remembering Jack Yellowlees

We lost a long standing and valued member of the carving community November 2, 2018 with the passing of Jack Yellowlees of Winnipeg. Jack was actively involved with Prairie Canada for 25 years, 13 of which he served on the board. Jack was the “go to” guy when it came to filling and draining the show duck tank. He entered a record 64 decoys in the cocktail competition, raising \$4,477 for Prairie Canada coffers. Three of his full sized decoys—painted by PC members—sold at the 2019 auction for \$845. Other hand crafted decoys of his will be sold at the 2020 show. He and Joyce could always be counted on to sell raffle tickets at the competition, sportsmen shows, boat shows and Lee Valley Tools. He supported conservation initiatives by donating working duck decoys worth thousands of dollars to Ducks Unlimited Canada. Over a span of 30 years he built and hung 100 wood duck nest boxes at his cottage on Pelican Lake. He is missed.



Prairie Canada Carvers' Association Inc: www.prairiecanadacarvers.com