

## NEWS RELEASE

February 29, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Parkland County Council presents 2007 Awards of Excellence.**

PARKLAND COUNTY, AB. Parkland County celebrated the athletic achievements of its residents during a special Awards of Excellence presentation by Mayor Rob Wiedeman and Pat Vincent, CAO, during the February 26, 2008, Council Meeting.

“Parkland County residents are doing some incredible things,” said Mayor Rob Wiedeman. “I think that it is important that we, as a Council and a community, take the time to recognize these people for their achievements.”

The 2007 Awards of Excellence recipients for athletic achievement include Steven Van Den Oetelaar for his first and second place wins in snowshoeing events during the Alberta Winter Games Special Olympics in Calgary; Joyce Goerz for her first place win in the Women’s 2000m Predicted Walk event during the 2007 Alberta Seniors Games in Fort Saskatchewan; and the Senior Floor Curling Team, consisting of Hans Kochan, Louise Kochan, Dick Ward and Walter Kaiser, for their first place win in the floor curling event at the 2007 Alberta Seniors Games in Fort Saskatchewan.

Despite several calls for nominations and extending the deadline date, no nominations were received for the other Awards of Excellence categories.

“There is no doubt that there are many worthy candidates out there for these awards,” said Mayor Wiedeman. “However, the Awards of Excellence program requires nomination of residents by residents -- we are dependent on people stepping forward to nominate individuals who they believe fit the criteria.”

The Awards of Excellence program recognizes County residents who have achieved excellence in the fields of Arts & Culture, Agriculture and Athletics. The 100-Year

"2007 Awards of Excellence"

Agricultural Award was added to the program in 2000 to honour families who have farmed the same parcel of land for 100 years or longer. Potential recipients of the recognition awards must be nominated for achievements made in the current year. Deadline for nominations is January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. More information on the nomination process and criteria can be found on the Parkland County website at [http://www.parklandcounty.com/County Living/Community Services/Awards of Excellence](http://www.parklandcounty.com/County_Living/Community_Services/Awards_of_Excellence).

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See attached for photos and information on the 2007 Awards of Excellence recipients.

Parkland County is a rural municipality located immediately west of Edmonton. Covering an area of 246,462 hectares (609,007 acres), it is one of the largest in size and the highest populated of all rural municipalities in Alberta. Parkland County has grown to a community of over 29,000 people and has seen generations of families continue to enjoy country living.

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## 2007 Awards of Excellence Recipients

February 26, 2008



Steven Van Den Oetelaar (pictured with his mother) competed at the Alberta Winter Games Special Olympics held in Calgary on February 24, 2007. He won the 400m and 1500 m snowshoeing events and placed second in the 100m and 200m snowshoeing events.

In 2005, Steven received the Award of Excellence after receiving Gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 1500m snowshoeing events and a Silver medal in the 400m event at the Nationals.

Also receiving an award is Steven's coach, Kim Coupland, who was not able to attend the presentation on February 26<sup>th</sup>.



Joyce Goerz competed at the 2007 Alberta Seniors Games held in Fort Saskatchewan July 26 – 29, 2007. Joyce placed first in the 55+ Women's Predicted Walk event.

In this event, participants predict how long it will take them to walk the 2000m distance and the person who comes in closest to their predicted time wins.

Joyce's first place finish now qualifies her for the Canadian Seniors Games being held in Dieppe, New Brunswick, in August 2008.



Congratulations to Hans Kochan (skip), Louise Kochan (2<sup>nd</sup>), Dick Ward (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Walter Kaiser (Lead), who formed the team that won first place in floor curling event at the 2007 Alberta Seniors Games held in Fort Saskatchewan July 26 – 29, 2007.