

2013-2014 Nakkertok Volunteer Awards

Golden Toque – [Richard McKenna](#)

His quiet leadership and thoughtfulness have ensured that every detail of race organization, particularly the training of his timing team, technology, timing software, and race results distribution are covered.

Volunteer(s) of the Year – Individuals who, through their significant contribution of time and effort, have helped ensure that the 2013 / 2014 Nakkertok season has been a successful one.

[Neil Fisher](#) – Founder and coach of the Adventure Program at Nakkertok.

[Rob Smith](#) – founding force and leader of the LTS Plus program

[Dave Adams](#) – for all his dedication keeping the trails in fantastic condition

[Andrew Batchelor](#) – for his efforts as Sunday Day Coordinator for the LTS program

New Volunteer of the Year – [Gilles Lavergne](#)

Gilles helped John Stephenson out as Assistant Chief of Site this year for Easterns. He was very helpful throughout from dawn to dusk.

[Neil Fisher](#)

One of the things that I find most remarkable about Neil's work is the sheer variety of activities that he programs. They expose kids to all kinds of useful skills (orienteering, winter camping) but also different Winter sports (alpine skiing, biathlon, etc.) that will serve them later on in life. Of course, this variety requires a phenomenal amount of preparation that Neil has undertaken almost single-handedly. Another thing that Neil does exceptionally well is develop the kids' leadership skills. He continually finds opportunities and provides guidance to the teens to show leadership as coaches and in other capacities. This development program is great for the kids, and undoubtedly a great asset for the Adventure Program and for Nakkertok in general. He's also unfailingly positive and helpful.

Neil is the embodiment of Nakkertok ideals as noted in the club's website: "The spirit, essence and history of Nakkertok are characterized by a strong tradition of, and commitment to, volunteering by present and past members of the club. **Neil has built a strong sense of community in the next generation of young Nakkertokers through his tireless approach to the Adventure Program.** Another nominee would be Neil of the Adventure Group. Families should be exceptionally grateful for his hard work and dedication. This program really rounds out the offerings at Nakkertok keeping kids engaged, happy and playful in an enjoyable and educational alternative to competitive skiing.

As a result of Neil's continued dedication, the Adventure athletes are prepared for a variety of situations in the outdoors as well as how to take care of themselves for high-performance in challenging situations through a better understanding of themselves and key aspects of nutrition and exercise. **This has brought about a spirit of resilience, perseverance, adaptation, preparation for**

and dealing with unexpected situations and confidence in their own abilities. Neil and the coaches have given the athletes a love of outdoor activities that should last a lifetime. **Neil is a role model for young Nakkertok members and has shown that by giving to the community, they get more back in return.**

Rob Smith

Rob has contributed an incredible energy and vision as the founding force and leader of the LTS Plus program that is now a formative and integral part of the racing program at Nakkertok. More than 100 skiers have passed through the program under Rob's tutelage and many of these young athletes are successful skiers in the Racing Rabbit, T2T and Adventure Ski Programs.

LTS Plus is a unique addition allowing kids to transition to a more complete skier at a time when they are ready to learn and engage with more energy to enjoy greater amounts of time on snow. The program has always emphasized a "skiing for life" approach and instills the joy of skiing in all the young athletes.

His winning rapport with the skiers and the coaches has fostered an environment of trust, and his reflective and thoughtful lesson preparation has led to more technically proficient skiers at the 7 and 8 year old level. His contributions have been made in a spirit of collaboration and teamwork, effectively preparing coaches as they advance through the ranks of the racing program. This past year has been especially impressive as Rob established a solid foundation that will ensure the future success of the program. Here is a quote and anecdote to support our nomination:

"Standing next to Rob at the Cookie Race in 2014, Rob had his camera and he was snapping photos of some young Nakkertok skiers (and not his children) who were climbing up onto the podium. I looked at Rob and we both realized the podium was 1-2-3 with his former LTS Plus skiers, and I said "Nice work, Coach!". The LTS Plus Program and the Nakkertok community at large owes a huge debt of gratitude to Rob Smith for his selfless donation of time and energy that has helped so many kids and coaches learn to love skiing. His contribution to the club will be felt for years to come and will continue to augment the reputation of Nakkertok and all its skiers.

Dave Adams

"Dave" has shown such dedication keeping the trails in fantastic condition. We have seen his family there non-stop since mud monsters and he is always working with passion and a smile. He's unbelievable. The Sunday before March break he was out grooming at 4 am, finished and looked out at the parking lot in anticipation that the skiers would come and enjoy the fresh trails. When we saw him that afternoon he had this huge smile of satisfaction on his face as he said "I was so hoping people would come out and look...they have arrived, what a great day! **Wow, we thought Dave just reminded us of Kevin Costner in "Field of Dreams"...Groom it and they will come! He definitely captures the spirit of what Nakkertok was built on.** Give him an award!

I think we saw "Dave" every time we were at Nakkertok – both throughout the fall for Mud Monsters and Sun PM learn-to-ski. He seems to always be there trail clearing, coordinating volunteer work crews, fixing things.....and always with a huge smile. He was a super fun guy to work with while trail clearing. We were lucky to have him and another gentleman install a wooden banister in Owl Cabin just before we were skiing in for the night with 2 families, including 4 little kids aged 4-6 years old. Dave also

seems to be doing endless trail grooming – even at super early hours I've heard – talk about dedication! Our family just joined Nakkertok this year and people like Dave are one of the big reasons that we are so excited to have joined. **Personal qualities/values – hard working, competent, super enthusiastic, seems to genuinely enjoy what he's doing, keen to help out and get things in tip top shape for the club, always has a smile on his face.**

Dave is in his second year in Trails Management at Nakkertok. He is a tireless idea factory, who has worked behind the scenes on many projects throughout this season. He created the pooch Trail, a microsite destination at Shout Hill, the much loved Alcove Trail (last year), firewood preparation and maintenance of our NaxxXC twitter account. He was webmaster for easterns, groomer for easterns, groomer for most sunday mornings, shoveller extraordinaire to fill in many early season 'bathtubs', eager apprentice on the Pisten Bully, surveyor of the new land, organizer of the pulk pull, and it goes on.

Andrew Batchelor

His efforts as Sunday Day Coordinator for the LTS program have contributed in a huge way to a highly successful LTS program. Despite his kids having moved on, Andrew stuck around to ensure a seamless Sunday ski day. As you know, the coordinator's job is not light. But Andrew made it seem so easy. **He introduced Shutterfly and used it successfully to communicate with participants.**

And he weighed at the individual level to resolve conflicts and come up with solutions. Andrew Batchelor's efforts as Sunday Day Coordinator have contributed in a huge way to a highly successful LTS program. **As you know, the LTS program has exploded, and the coordinator's role is the key to its success. Andrew's efforts benefited hundreds of kids and got them excited about x-country skiing.**

His work served to lighten the load on the coaches who could, in turn, could focus on coaching rather than coordinating. **He is a picture of calm and is never without a smile on his face.**

Gilles Lavergne

Gilles Lavergne has two girls who joined Nakkertok's racing program having never Cross country skied before. Gilles helped John Stephenson out as Assistant Chief of Site this year. **He was the only parent at Nakkertok that volunteered to assume the role of assistant chief of site. I am certain he had no idea what he was getting himself into. If our recollection is right, he took on the difficult task of maintaining the latrines with no other helper and somehow kept a smile on his face.** He helped in advance and was on site all day every day of Easterns even though neither of his girls were participating in the races because they were not old enough. He was very helpful when no one else was willing to step up! He was there from dawn to dusk.

Richard McKenna

Richard McKenna has contributed greatly for many years in organizing timing and results, the backbone of a well organized race. He has also taken on key roles within the race organization for many of our events. **His quiet leadership and thoughtfulness have ensured that every detail of race organization, particularly the training of his timing team, technology, timing software, and race results distribution are covered.** Even though his son has moved on from racing, Richard

maintains his presence as an indispensable member of the team for our competitions and particular for the Haywood Noram Eastern Canada Championships. **Richard's role in ensuring accurate race results are out quickly and accurately has built a reputation nationally for Nakkertok and the Easterns team as a go-to place for well-organized first calibre competition. It is our continuing success at organizing Easterns that has caused the Nakkertok facility to be recently renewed as the site for the next Easterns, when it could have been decided to hold the competition elsewhere in Eastern Canada. It also goes without saying that there is a financial value in hosting Eastern as it contributes to an important part of our revenues to ensure we can bring good programming to all skiers in both competitive and recreational programs.**