



# Post Play Express

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## CABO HONOURS DESERVING MEMBERS

There are three awards that CABO may present annually.

The most prestigious is the Ted Earley Memorial Award which may be received by only one nominee each year. The criteria are as follows:

- *Nominee is recognized as a superior floor official;*
- *Nominee will have a significant number of years of service as an active official with national and international exposure;*
- *Nominee will have performed varied forms of service to the basketball community, both provincially and nationally;*
- *Nominee will have served in administrative and leadership roles, both provincially and nationally;*
- *Nominee will have contributed in both interpretive and educational capacities.*

There was no recommendation for this award this year.

There is also the CABO Executive Award of Merit. In any given year, this award may be presented by the CABO Executive to an individual who has made a significant contribution to CABO. It is not necessarily awarded annually and there could be more than one recipient any given year. This award was not presented this year.

The third is the John A. (Wink) Willox Award which may be received by only one candidate from each province in a given year. The criteria are as follows:

- *Good floor official by local standard;*
- *Significant length of service to the basketball community;*
- *Various forms of service to basketball organizations;*
- *Contributions to basketball in an administrative role.*

This year, there were six people recommended by their respective province for the Willox award. Following are descriptions of their achievements and contributions.

## **Bruce Covert of Ontario**

Bruce is certified at Level 4 of the National Official Certification Program. He has been a member of OABO for 41 years and has served on the provincial executive for 30 years. Bruce has officiated at 10 high school provincial championships and 4 OCAA Men's provincial championships. He has been a member of the OUA panel for 30 years and has officiated 12 OUA Men's provincial championship games.

At the national level, Bruce has officiated at 16 championships of which 14 were at the CIS men's level where he was selected to work the championship game on two occasions and was also assigned twice to the consolation final.

Bruce has been officiating in the National Basketball League of Canada since 2010.

Bruce was also involved in international events,

- as an official
  - World Masters Game in Toronto 1985
  - Bombay Shootout - Nassau
  - Barbados Invitational - Barbados
  - Aboriginal Games – Iqaluit
- as an instructor
  - IAABO three-person camp in Orlando, Florida for 3 years
- as a supervisor of table officials
  - World Championships Toronto 1994
  - Pan Am Games Toronto 2015

Finally, Bruce is active as an evaluator of officials:

- OABO Provincial Evaluator for more than 23 years
- CABO National Evaluator for the past 10 years. He has evaluated officials at 10 national tournaments, including CIS Men's and Women's Championships.

Bruce's many contributions have been recognized by IAABO and OABO. He is a Life Member of both organizations.

Congratulations to Bruce Covert for a well-deserved Wink Willox award.

## Lanny White of Saskatchewan and Alberta

Lanny took up refereeing basketball in 1982 where his talents on the court were quickly noticed by senior referees, coaches & players alike, leading him to be assigned to referee university and senior level basketball right from the beginning of his career. His first National appointment was the CIS Women's championship in 1989. From there, he was assigned to the CCAA Men's in 1990 and the CIS Men's tournament in 1991. The CIS Men's Final 8 in Halifax would see Lanny assigned 4 additional times while a member of SABO.

On a local & provincial level, Lanny made regular appearances at high school tournaments, including Saskatchewan's HOOPLA HS Provincial Championships, as both a referee and an evaluator. He also served several years on the Saskatoon Officials (SBOA) Executive, but more importantly every local official looked to LW as a mentor & leader. An example of the respect afforded to Lanny as a referee and individual came from an assignor's comment in Saskatoon to coaches at a HS meeting, "I'll do my best to give you good officials, but Lanny White can't do every game!" Once Lanny moved to Alberta, he continued his prominence as an exemplary on-court official – including being selected to another 3 CIS Men's Championships.

With his daughters now playing minor basketball in Sherwood Park, Lanny transitioned into coaching them with the Strathcona Basketball Association, winning two Minor Provincial Championships and a Gold medal at the 2010 Alberta Summer Games. He also tirelessly volunteered for SBA as a trainer and mentor of their referees, regularly conducting their clinics and mentoring 1 on 1 those officials who asked for special attention. He continued in leadership roles with basketball in Alberta, serving as an ABOA evaluator at several ASAA HS Championships as well as holding a Director's seat on Basketball Alberta's Board of Directors.

But Lanny White's legacy will most be remembered for his character – qualities of humility, grace, loving kindness as well as courage, conviction, loyalty and sincerity. LW was larger than life with family, friends and all those who came in contact with him. Always approachable, Lanny made you feel unique and accepted with his magnetic personality. He had a quality that is best described as the 'Lanny Factor' – an innate sense of doing the right thing. Officiating or hanging with Lanny for beers, you rose above process & correctness, he was more about intentional values, presence and a shared purpose. The result was a stress-free game, and a lot of laughs & light-hearted good times. He was tough and yet cooperation & flexibility were always at the forefront.

This past week, September 13<sup>th</sup> marked the one year anniversary of his passing. He fought and beat multiple myeloma twice in a 5 year period between 2011 & 2015. In fact, he came back to referee on the Canada West panel after the first bout. Sadly, he couldn't fight it any longer and Lanny White will be greatly missed, but not forgotten by all who knew him, but especially by his wife Susan and the entire White family.

His daughters – Randi & Shelbi organized Lanny's Legion in 2011, which, with the help of the entire White family, close friends, colleagues, golf buddies and fellow officials, has raised over \$200,000 in 5 years through Canadian Cancer Societies' Relay For Life. We trust Lanny's Legion and his officiating legacy will soldier on with this posthumous honour of the Wink Willox Award.

## Kenneth Fells of Nova Scotia

Kenneth started his 40 + year officiating career in 1974 as a High School student. During his university days at Dalhousie and Acadia, he was selected twice as “Official of the Year” by both universities. Towards the end of his university playing days, he began a mentorship program with former Wink Willox Award winner, Hugh Bruce, in 1980. This is when his basketball officiating career was cemented.

He has officiated more than 2500 Minor, Junior High, High School, College and University basketball games. He is presently a member of the Nova Scotia AUS and ACAA Panel. Roger Caulfield, his Commissioner, says this official is an assignor’s dream as he will go anywhere anytime and is a true professional. He has been selected to officiate at Provincial, Regional and National events. It has been this official’s honor to officiate the Canadian Forces National Basketball League from 2007 to 2010 and the Atlantic Regional Canadian Forces Basketball Championships from 2002 to 2015. He has been an active participant in the prestigious Black Basketball Tournament held annually in Halifax (as a player, a coach and now as an official).

In his early years, he developed his own basketball school in 1980, bringing 10-12 year olds from the Halifax/Dartmouth Boys & Girls Clubs to Yarmouth to play in tournaments. He also developed the Ashanti Black Panthers (Boys) and Kikuyu Warriors (Girls) teams to develop a learning experience in having fun in the game. His approach was to always instil self-discipline with the following three rules: 1) no arguing, 2) keep your pants up and 3) have fun.

Kenneth served as Area Supervisor for the Metro Area Basketball Officials for 8 years. He has played a significant role in recruiting and developing officials in the metro area. His fellow officials recognize him as a true promoter of the game and instrumental in grass root development. He is also known for utilizing his high voice rather than a whistle to keep the game moving. He is well recognized throughout the province by his peers, coaches and players who all have the outmost respect for him and his abilities as an official. Due to his profile as an official, he was able to bring the first NBA player to Nova Scotia as part of the East Preston Day Care celebrations.

Kenneth has completed the Provincial Evaluator/Clinician Course and serves regularly at the Caulfield Camp of Excellence held annually during the Bluenose Classic. In addition, he has devoted countless hours coaching some of the best teams and basketball players in Nova Scotia. We can’t figure out where he finds the time; however, he continues to devote his free time to help his community.

Outside of his commitment to basketball, Kenneth has led an otherwise busy life. He is a self-identified African Nova Scotian administrator within the public school system with 20 years of administrative experience. In his 20 years as a High School Principal, he has been involved in a number of community based initiatives in support of education and youth development.

**Congratulations to Kenneth Fells for a well-deserved Wink Willox award.**

### **Mike James of British Columbia**

Mike has been a basketball official for 27 years. He began officiating at the college and university levels 18 years ago. He has now started a career as an allocator in Nanaimo.

Since 1989, Mike has been a member of both the Nanaimo and Victoria boards of officials. He has acted as a clinician, evaluator and mentor in the mid and lower Vancouver Island areas for several years.

For the past 18 years, Mike has worked as a Canada West official. He has received assignments at the CIS Men's and Women's national championships in addition to three trips to the CCAA Men's national tournaments. In addition, Mike has been assigned to 8 Pac West Provincial play-off competitions.

The following are highlights of his officiating career:

- First North American official to officiate in North Korea (tour with Athletes in Action)
- Has officiated at all levels of Nationals in Canada except CCAA Women
- Is currently a PACWEST Conference Evaluator
- Has been a member of the BCBOA Provincial Evaluators Panel since 2012

In 2015, Mike was the recipient of the Bob Hall Award of Merit for his services to his local association.

Congratulations to Mike James for a well-deserved Wink Willox award.

### **Colin Craig of New Brunswick**

Colin's career and contributions to the game of basketball within Zone 1 and the Province over his many years of service have been exemplary and plentiful as a coach, player and official. Following are some of the highlights of his career:

- Played High School basketball at Woodstock High School 1968-1971
- Played on the NB Canada Games Basketball team that competed in Saskatoon in 1970
- Played at St. Francis Xavier University 1971-1975
- AUAA All Conference Team as a freshman at St.FX 1971
- Began his coaching career at Florenceville High School in 1975 and continued after the school was amalgamated into Carleton North High in 1977

- In 1978 Colin shifted his focus to officiating and immediately earned his Level 2 certification. In 1980, two years later, he was assigned to officiate the AAA Girl's Provincial final
- In 1989-90 his Carleton North Men's team won the Provincial championship and Colin was nominated for Coach of the Year.
- While coaching Colin continued to officiate as his schedule would allow.
- In 1990-91 his CNHS team won a second Provincial Championship and he was named Coach of the Year and the recipient of the David MacPherson Memorial Award for exemplary sportsmanship and fair play.
- During his early coaching career, Colin, along with several other interested persons, was instrumental in establishing mini basketball in the Northern Carleton County area.
- In 1991, Colin became a School Principal and retired from active coaching.
- At this time, he resumed an active officiating career and over the next several years, he was selected to officiate many high level competitions including both the provincial AAA boys and girls finals.
- Colin served as Secretary/Treasurer for NBAABO from 1993-1995.
- With his change in Educational leadership role to that of Provincial Director of Education he retired from officiating the higher levels of competition and continued to work games at the minor levels.
- As a Director of Education, Colin was instrumental in supporting officials in basketball and other sports.

**Congratulations to Colin Craig for a well-deserved Wink Willox Award.**