



Al McCracken - biography

Al McCracken was known for his tireless promotion and advocacy for Community Futures across Canada. No matter where he was, he never missed an opportunity to promote and explain to everyone what the Community Futures program was about and what benefits it could provide to individuals, businesses and communities. Al spoke about the Community Futures program on national radio, local TV and did several newspaper interviews.

Al's favourite 'targets' were politicians. No politician no matter what party or level was safe from his efforts to inform them about the Community Futures program and to garner their support. Many a Minister of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly or Cabinet Minister experienced the 'McCracken Blitz' regarding the importance of the Community Futures program. Despite his persistence, many of these politicians ended up buying him a beer; or in most cases, several beers.

Al had once made a trip to Ottawa (at his own expense) to promote the program to the Minister of the then Human Resource and Development Canada. Al felt he did not fully understand the value of the program. He was granted 15 minutes and ended up spending 37 minutes.

Al traveled extensively around Western Canada on personal business and always made time to make appointments with local and provincial politicians to talk about the Community Futures program. He did all of this at his own expense.

Al was a founding member of Community Futures Development Corporation of Nadina starting before the office was incorporated in 1992. Al never missed a board meeting until he became ill, and even then he remained an active board member until his passing in August 2006.

Community Futures Nadina had been recognizing outstanding volunteers in British Columbia with the Volunteer of the Year Award. These were recent and present Board members whose tireless dedication to Community Futures principles, passion for the Community Futures Network, and promotional efforts on behalf of Community Futures really drove the program



forward. In 2007, with Al's passing, the province-wide award was renamed for him, while the individual offices continue to recognize people locally.

Today the Al McCracken Award continues to show our appreciation to those who offer up their business skills, development expertise and continually make incredible contributions to forwarding Community Futures Network.

Past Recipients are:

2010 – Don Main

Community Futures North Okanagan

Don has been involved with Community Futures since 1987. During that time he has dedicated countless days to the program. In 2010, he remains the Chair of the Board of Community Futures North Okanagan a position he has held since 2003. Don serves on as Vice-Chair for Community Futures British Columbia as well, where he dedicates time to building member-engagement and fostering best practises throughout the network. He also uses his knowledge of Community Economic Development and strong governance skills sitting on the Board of his local credit union.

2009 – Carol Schmidt

Community Futures 16/37

Carol joined the Community Futures 16/37 board on November 1, 1996 and has served consecutively including loans, SEB, Secretary Treasurer; Vice Chair; Chair and Past President. She also co-chaired for a year so a member from Stewart could act as chair. Carol resigned from the board on June 25, 2009 but will continue to serve on the Loans/SEB committee and on the Mentoring programme. Throughout her time, she has been a tireless advocate for the Community Futures movement involving herself in every facet of community development in her desire to further the quality of life as well as the economic development of our vast and remote area.

2008 – Pat Foster

Community Futures Cowichan

(Awaiting contribution for bio - here)

2007 – Rick Joyce

Community Futures Cowichan



Rick Joyce has dedicated 10 years to the Community Futures program. His relentless enthusiasm, drive and determination demonstrate that supporting the community, as a volunteer, is not just a short-term commitment; rather, it is a way of being. Rick is a visionary leader who recognizes opportunities and isn't afraid to meet challenges head on. Driven by community participation, Rick is a strong believer in the effectiveness of the Community Futures Network and believes that by building capacity and seeking out opportunities for the members, CFs will be empowered to better serve their communities and diversify local economies.

