



The Celebrating Seniors awards

On Sunday, Oct. 6, the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) hosted the fourth annual Celebrating Seniors provincial senior volunteer awards. The awards were presented at a banquet held at the Delta Regina Hotel in Regina.

These awards celebrate the contributions seniors make to our society and provide an opportunity for Saskatchewan to be made aware of the contributions of seniors in all aspects of the life and work of the province. Award categories include Centenarian, Community Leadership (rural), Community Leadership (urban), Fitness, Heritage and Culture, Lifetime Achievement, Arts and Entertainment, Senior-friendly Business, and Teamwork.

The evening began with a reception, during which each of the 28 nominees received a corsage, a gift bag and a certificate. They each also had their photo taken individually and with honorary patron the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, who presented each nominee with a pin.

After the reception, the MC for the evening, Glenn Hagel, welcomed everyone to the event. Several guests then presented greetings, including: Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health, on behalf of the provincial government; Councilor Bob Hawkins on behalf of the City of Regina; and Charles Keple, the vice-president of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism.

Following an excellent buffet supper, the Honourable Ralph Goodale introduced guest speaker Lloyd Robertson. Attendees enjoyed Lloyd's stories of some of the many experiences he's had during his career, and he read excerpts from his book, *The Kind of Life It's Been*. Trish Watier, on behalf of platinum sponsor SaskEnergy, brought greetings and began the awards presentations with the Teamwork Award. Other awards were then presented by SSM vice-president Charles Keple and Lloyd Robertson, with selected awards presented by gold sponsors, including the Fitness award by Dustin Duncan on behalf of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health and the Centenarian award by Jodi Gronsdahl on behalf of All Seniors Care Living Centres.

Saskatchewan senior volunteers are leading the way in Canada. In a 2010 Statistics Canada report, Saskatchewan was highest in the nation once again for the rate of volunteerism, with 58 per cent of the population of the province aged 15 and over having volunteered through a group or organization that year. These rates were significantly higher than the national average of 47 per cent. Of the nation's volunteers, those who volunteered the most hours were likely to be older, widowed and no longer in the workforce.

Formal recognition by the SSM's Celebrating Seniors awards helps to recognize those volunteers and brings awareness of the generous gift of their time to the people of the province.

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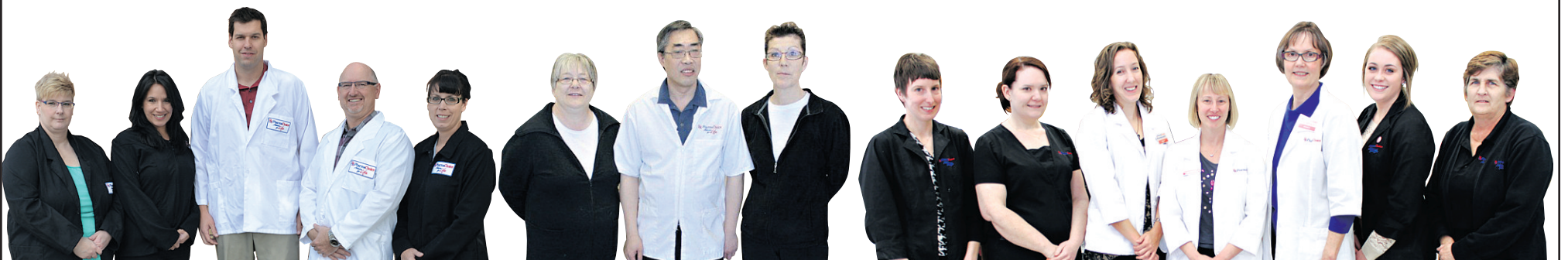
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