

2011 INDUCTEES



RICHARD FRANCIS SPECIAL OLYMPIAN

In 1979 Rick took his passion for sports to the next level, starting his tremendous career as a Special Olympian. Rick is an unstoppable force whose success is complimented by his relentless training, personal drive, and determination to push himself to the limit. Rick has competed at Provincial Games 12 times, in 5 different sports including 10 pin bowling, swimming, softball, floor hockey, and curling. Rick also earned his place into the Canada National Games on four separate occasions. However, there is no doubt that Rick's most prominent sport as an Olympian is showcased through Nordic skiing. 1994 was the turning point in Rick's career where he formed a greater enthusiasm for cross-country skiing, a sport in which he would receive tremendous recognition.

His accomplishments include:

- World Winter Games - Three times (Alaska, Canada, Japan)
- Nordic skiing medals in **1997, 2001, 2005** (3 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze)
- 4 Canada National Games—Special Olympics
- 12 Provincial Games—5 different sports
- **1996** - Featured Canadian Special Olympics Athlete in McLean's Magazine
- **1997** - Canadian Male Athlete of the Year—Special Olympics
- **1997** - City of Sault Ste. Marie Medal of Merit recipient

Although Rick is now retired as a Special Olympian, he remains an active participant in sports, playing in a generic 10 pin bowling program and slow-pitch league. Rick continues to be an avid hockey fan of the Soo Greyhounds, as well as the Carolina Hurricanes. Rick also continues to be a loyal, dependable and hard working asset to Leon's furniture where he has worked for the past 20 years. Rick's character has truly shone brightly throughout his city, province and country.



ALAN HARNDEN CURLING

Alan's curling career began while he was attending Lakeway Collegiate and Vocational School. From there Al's passion only grew stronger. He honed and developed his skills throughout his junior career, molding his abilities into perfection. Along with his competitive edge, Al's dedication and attention to detail is what allowed for him to exhibit brilliant performances on the ice, and have earned him the title of skip for many rinks. When an athlete has as much skill, talent, drive, dedication, and passion as Al does, it is only a matter of time before prestigious levels of competition are reached. For Al, his dreams of competing at the men's Provincial level were first realized in 1983, where he represented Northern Ontario at the Labatt Brier in Sudbury, Ontario. Since then, he has obtained multiple titles in competitions throughout Canada, giving the City of Sault Ste. Marie a great sense of pride.

His accomplishments include:

- **2007** Northern Ontario Representative at the Brier - Hamilton, ON
- **2005** Northern Ontario Representative at Canadian Seniors - Winnipeg, MB
- **1990** Northern Ontario Representative at the Brier - Sault Ste. Marie, ON
- **1986** Northern Ontario Representative at the Brier - Kitchener, ON
- **1983** Northern Ontario Representative at the Brier - Sudbury, ON

After curling for over 40 years, Al's love for the game has never subsided. A humble competitor, Al attributes much of his success to the teammate he has had over the years. Further to Al's curling achievements, his efforts extend beyond the ice. With the experience of competing in over twenty Northern Championships, Al will be chairing the 2012 Northern Ontario Men's Provincial Curling Championships, hosted in Sault Ste. Marie.



ERIC HARNDEN CURLING

Eric first entered into the world of curling while he was attending Lakeway Collegiate and Vocational School. From then on Eric immersed himself into the sport, and has never looked back. Curling for the Lakeway Collegiate Men's team in 1974, Eric's team captured the Northern Ontario Secondary School Athletes Championship, granting them a berth into the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations Championships. Once again Eric, along side his rink, curled an optimal performance that was unmatched by any other Ontario high school. Capturing his first Provincial gold medal, this was only the beginning for Eric Harnden. Eric continued to dedicate himself to the sport through countless hours of training and practice, which ultimately lead him to much success in the sport of curling. Eric is a respectable, humble competitor and a true asset to our athletic community.

His accomplishments include:

- **2011**-(Northern Ontario)- World Financial Group Seniors
- **2008** -(Northern Ontario) - Tim Hortons Brier
- **1990** -(Northern Ontario) - Labatt Brier
- **1986** -(Northern Ontario) - Labatt Brier (5th)
- **1983** -(Northern Ontario) - Labatt Brier
- **1974** -(NOSSA/OFSAA) Curling Champion