



# 2003 Eugene Reimer Awards

Suite 322- 1357 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9, Tel: (604) 737-3047, Fax: 737-3035, E-mail: [pbartel@disabilitysport.org](mailto:pbartel@disabilitysport.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2003 Eugene Reimer Award Recipients Announced

April 8, 2003 – VANCOUVER

BC Disability Sports is pleased to announce the 2003 Eugene Reimer Award recipients. **The Eugene Reimer Awards are presented annually to British Columbians who have made an outstanding contribution in the fields of sport, physical education, or recreation for athletes with a disability.** Recipients will receive their awards at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eugene Reimer Awards Banquet on May 8, held at the Abbotsford Exhibition Park Legacy Banquet Hall, beginning at 6:00 pm.

**Eugene Reimer** is regarded as a pioneer for athletes with a disability. During his prolific career in international track & field competition (1968 to 1980), Eugene broke numerous world records, collectively earning five gold medals, four silver medals and one bronze medal. In honour of his accomplishments Mr. Reimer has been recognized as 1972 Canadian Male Athlete of the Year (first time awarded to an athlete with a disability), received the Order of Canada (1973) and has been inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame, Athlete category (2002).

### 2003 EUGENE REIMER AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Brad Lennea** of Whistler has devoted his life as an **Athlete** to the sport of disabled skiing, with personal goals of competing at the 2006 and 2010 Paralympic Games and raising awareness of the sport. Brad is ranked at the top of the Provincial level and trains with the National Race Development Team. Brad was injured in a car accident in 1991 and began skiing shortly after his rehabilitation at the GF Strong Centre. He learned the sport quickly, breaking records and winning awards and medals at all levels. As well as his skiing, Brad serves as Vice-President to the Disabled Skiers Association of BC and promotes the organization through newspaper, television, and radio interviews. Brad is an extraordinary young man and is committed to inspiring children of all ability levels to achieving their personal goals in life. He sends out a strong, positive and encouraging message to children.

**Victor Cue** of West Vancouver has been involved as a **Coach** for Wheelchair Sports since 1962, for BC's Wheelchair Basketball team (the Vancouver Cable Cars), for four Canadian Pan America Games teams, and three Olympic Games teams. Many of the athletes he coached have come to be athletic heroes in Canada: Rick Hansen, Eugene Reimer, and Terry Fox were all athletes on the Vancouver Cable Cars Wheelchair Basketball team. Victor Cue was one of the founders of the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association and was elected as its first Athletic Director 1967 to 1976. He supervised all the National competitions, provided leadership for the selection committee for international teams, and was instrumental in writing the first rulebooks, encompassing some twenty different sports. Victor Cue wins in the **Coach** category.

**Ken Oakley** of Ladner has built the sport of wheelchair square dancing since 1973. He was already serving as an able-bodied Square Dance Caller when the Recreation Director of GF Strong asked him to teach the activity to their physically disabled clientele. At that time, no one was aware of any other wheelchair dancers. With Ken's knowledge of the mechanics of dance moves, he was able to adapt the activity and soon there were enough people participating to start a dance club; the "Wheeling Eights" was born. Ken assisted other communities throughout Canada to develop. He trained new callers and promoted networking among dancing enthusiasts. This gave rise to competitions and the development of Wheelchair Dancing as a sport. Ken's involvement from the beginning went beyond simply calling. He assisted in all aspects of the sport: emergency wheelchair repairs, fundraising, convention organizer, promoter, and treasurer. Ken has been instrumental in the rise of this sport from its beginnings at GF Strong to its current inclusion at the Paralympic level. Throughout his 27 years with the Wheeling Eights, Ken Oakley has displayed loyalty, respect, and dedication. Ken Oakley wins in the **Builder** category.

#### **Contact:**

Penny Bartel, Program Coordinator, BC Disability Sports  
Phone: 604.737.3047  
Email: [pbartel@disabilitysport.org](mailto:pbartel@disabilitysport.org)