



# TURNING THE BARRELS

The Official Newsletter of the World Professional Chuckwagon Association

**VOLUME 6 ISSUE 63**  
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**WPCA 2017 AWARDS**

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Read all about the major awards and special recognitions presented at the annual banquet, including the 2017 Equine Outfit of Excellence.

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**REMEMBERING JOE CARBURY**

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The WPCA pays tribute to a true legend of sports broadcasting.

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**WPCA VERSUS NHL ALUMNI**

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Strathmore Arena was the site of an exciting fundraising hockey game featuring players from the WPCA facing off against NHL alumni.

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**ONE FOR THE ARCHIVES**

The 2017 world champion chuckwagon driver Kurt Bensmiller with his bronze trophy and buckle sponsored by GMC.



Official Truck of the WPCA



## WPCA 2017 Awards



*Left:* World champion driver Kurt Bensmiller.



*Centre:* Kelly Sutherland receives the George Normand Lifetime Achievement Award from Buddy Bensmiller.



*Right:* World champion outrider Casey Knight with Randy Cripps from Bush Ape Supervision.

THE 2017 WPCA Awards Gala was held on October 14 at the Grey Eagle Resort & Casino. MC **Les McIntyre** opened the evening by recognizing the WPCA Tour sponsors.

**Corey O'Shea**, GMC Marketing Coordinator for Western Canada, accepted the award on behalf of GMC. This was GMC's sixth consecutive year partnering with the WPCA as the presenting sponsor of the WPCA Pro Tour and providing the official truck of the WPCA.

**Joanne Neufeld**, an Insurance Provider with Western Financial Group, accepted for the company. Western Financial Group is the official insurance provider to the WPCA.

**Shelby Lockwood**, the owner of Olson Silver Company, accepted on behalf of the company. Olson Silver is the official buckle supplier to the WPCA and title sponsor of the Battle for the Buckles segment on the WPCA Pro Tour Live segments during the race season.

**Mona Bartsoff** accepted on behalf of FortisAlberta, which sponsors the Fortis Wrap-up on the WPCA Pro Tour Live segments during the race season.

**Greg Vogel**, Sales Manager with Summit Fleet, accepted the recognition on behalf of that company. In its second year partnering with the WPCA, Summit Fleet provided GMC trucks for the Grande Prairie Stompede champion, Ponoka Stampede champion and 2017 WPCA world champion.

Sponsors not in attendance but still recognized included Wrangler, a long-time partner and the official shirts and jeans supplier of the WPCA; Xerox Canada, a third-year sponsor and the official printer of the WPCA; and Vold, Jones & Vold, the official livestock auctioneer of the WPCA.

While the event has been held at Grey Eagle Resort & Casino for the past three years, no staff representative was available this year for formal recognition. Thank you all for your ongoing support of this unique sport.

Track announcer **Gary Gross** presented the WPCA Judging Award. This award is given to a member of the WPCA judging staff in recognition of their outstanding abilities and contributions to the team to ensure overall fair and efficient judging and racing. The recipient of this year's award is **Cruise Bensmiller**. Cruise has earned the admiration and

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*Left:* John Walters receives the Clean Drive Award from Myrnie Sands-Malvin on behalf of KMC Sales.

*Centre:* Rookie of the Year Outrider Dean Arcand with Ryan Townend, CEO of William Joseph Communications.

*Right:* Jim Shield receives the Past Member Tribute from Ranchman's Wendy Daniel.

respect of not only peers but the competitors themselves, and has consistently provided a strong level of professionalism.

WPCA Marketing Manager **Bryan Hebson** presented the 2017 Media Award, presented to an individual for excellence in reporting and promoting the events of the WPCA and chuckwagon racing to the public at large through various types of media. This year's winner was the WPCA Report with **Rob Kerr** on The Fan 960, which is broadcast every Tuesday at 3pm. Guests throughout the year included WPCA drivers, outriders and officials. It was not only a popular addition to The Fan 960's programming schedule but it also engaged hardcore chuckwagon fans and sports fans alike.

The WPCA Race Committee Award was presented to the Strathmore Committee for their outstanding efforts in accommodating the WPCA, its members and chuckwagon fans, and the overall sustainability of chuckwagon racing.

**Sue Fraser** and **Lynn Fountain** presented the Ty Tournier Memorial Award to **Angie Motowylo**. The Ty Tournier Memorial Award is given to a woman who is involved and dedicated to the sport of chuckwagon racing and displays

nurturing and caring of people and horses. The award is symbolic of Ty's legacy, "The spirit of the thoroughbred—courage and strength."

The WPCA Special Recognition Award went to **Darlene Bensmiller**. Without a strong support cast, there would be no chuckwagon racing or the WPCA for that matter. As new people come into the organization and take on new roles, everybody expects that transitions happen seamlessly. This is made much easier when someone with experience can act as a pillar of support to help people transition into their new roles. Darlene Bensmiller is such a person. In 2017, she stepped in to help with the timing system in various capacities. Darlene was quick to jump in to make sure that things went smoothly. This year she spent countless hours helping with training, preparing equipment and working in the booth helping with the timer and other staff. She also acted as a mentor to WPCA support staff. Her love of the sport and her willingness to help the WPCA make sure the technical side of the races was handled correctly has not gone unnoticed.

**Billy Melville** prepared a memorial video to remember those we lost over the past year. It included chuckwagon supporters

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Committee of the Year: Strathmore.



Angie Motowylo receives the Ty Tournier Memorial from Sue Fraser and Lynn Fountain.



Jim Bottomley Chuckwagon Person of the Year Tammy Kristiansen (second from left).

**Harry Vold, Harris Dvorkin, Duke Russell, and Winston Bruce;** former driver **Ralph Johnson;** and founding WPCA member **Jim Bottomley.** Equine Award champion horses **Chiefs Encounter** and **Wild Caribe** were also remembered in the video.

The WPCA Active Supporter Award recipients are those who have shown a great interest in the sport of chuckwagon racing and each year in their own way have contributed through their involvement and dedication to the WPCA, its members and the sport. The WPCA Active Supporter Award was presented to the Grande Prairie Chuckwagon Heritage Foundation and to Midwest Pipelines.

GMC's Corey O'Shea presented GMC leather jackets to the champions of each 2017 Tour stop: **Obrey Motowylo** (Grande Prairie), **Gary Gorst** (Saskatoon and Strathmore), **Luke Tournier** (Medicine Hat), **Kurt Bensmiller** (High River and Ponoka), **John Walters** (Bonnyville and Dawson Creek), and **Dustin Gorst** (Rocky Mountain House).

The WPCA Clean Drive Award recognizes the top placed driver at the end of the world point standings with the least amount of penalties. A buckle, jacket and cash awards were sponsored and presented by **Myrnie Sands-Malvin** and **Candice Malvin** of KMC Sales to John Walters.

The WPCA Rookie Outrider Award is presented to the outrider who recorded the most points in his first full year on the WPCA Pro Tour. **Dean Arcand** was the 2017 winner. The buckle was sponsored by William Joseph Communications and presented by **Ryan Townend**, CEO. Dean also received a photo donated by Shellie Scott Photography.

The WPCA Rookie Driver Award is awarded to the chuckwagon driver who places the highest in the world standings in his first full year on the WPCA Pro Tour. The winner was **Dayton Sutherland**, who was unable to attend the ceremony due to work commitments. Dayton's parents accepted the bronze on his behalf from **Greg Hitchner** of Olson Silver. He also received a photo from Shellie Scott Photography.

The Import Tool Corporation Equine Outfit of Excellence was developed by outrider **Eddie Melville** to recognize the outstanding

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achievements of the true athletes of chuckwagon racing, the thoroughbred horses. The 2017 Equine Outfit of Excellence included **Dancer** (Right Lead with John Walter), **GT** (Left Lead with Gary Gorst), **Tenth Power** (Right Wheel with Kurt Bensmiller), **Slick** (Left Wheel with **Chanse Vigen**), **Calm** (Outriding with **Jason Glass**) and **Zip** (Outriding with **Evan Salmond**).

The Rod Glass Memorial Award for Most Improved Outrider is presented to the outrider who recorded the highest point increase over the previous season. The award is in memory of outrider **Rod Glass**, who was taken from us in a racing accident at the Calgary Stampede in 1971. **Ethan Motowylo** was presented with the buckle from the Glass and Cosgrave families by Jason Glass.

The Herman Flad Memorial Award for Most Improved Driver is awarded to the WPCA driver who recorded the highest point increase over the previous season. The award is named after chuckwagon driver **Herman Flad**, who was taken from us while commuting between WPCA Tour stops in 2008. **Layne MacGillivray** is this year's winner. He received a buckle from the **Troy Flad** family and a "wagon moment" photo from **Paul and Carol Easton**.

The WPCA Past Member Tribute Award recognizes a past member of the WPCA for their outstanding achievements, dedication or contributions related to the WPCA and chuckwagon racing. Five-time world champion outrider **Jim Shield** accepted the award, which was sponsored by Ranchman's and presented by **Wendy Daniel**.

The Jim Bottomley Trophy given to the WPCA Chuckwagon Person of the Year is the WPCA's highest annual honour. This year's recipient is WPCA Director of Partnerships **Tammy Kristiansen**. This award is presented to a person who has made significant contributions to the growth of the WPCA and the sport of chuckwagon racing. In 2014, the award was renamed in Jim Bottomley's name for his years of dedication and positive impact on the WPCA and the sport. The bronze, sponsored by Roadtrek, was presented by Jim's wife **Denise Bottomley** and his brother **Neil Bottomley**.

The George Normand Lifetime Builders Award is given to individuals who have dedicated years of service to the sport of chuckwagon racing. It is a very special award, in part because it is not presented



Active Supporter co-winners Grande Prairie Chuckwagon Heritage Foundation (above) and Midwest Pipelines (below).



Darlene Bensmiller receives a Special Recognition Award from WPCA President Ed Wittchen.

# WPCA 2017 Awards

every year; recipients become part of an exclusive group. In recognition of his 50 years in wagon racing, **Kelly Sutherland** was named the 2017 recipient. The bronze was presented by longtime **George Normand** friend **Buddy Bensmiller**.

The 2017 world champion outrider is the outrider who accumulated the most points in the chuckwagon racing season. The buckle is sponsored by Bush Ape Supervision and was presented to **Casey Knight** by **Randy Cripps**.

The 2017 WPCA world champion driver is Kurt Bensmiller, who accumulated the most points on the 2017 Tour. He received a bronze and buckle sponsored by GMC and presented by Corey O’Shea, and a one-year lease on a GMC Sierra, sponsored by Summit Fleet, GMC, Wrangler and Western Financial Group. Kurt received a world champion jacket from KMC Sales, represented by Myrnie Sands-Malvin and Candice Malvin, and a photo from Shellie Scott Photography.

*Right, top:* Most Improved Outrider Ethan Motowylo.

*Right, centre:* Layne MacGillivray with the Herman Flad Most Improved Driver (left) and Cruise Bensmiller with the Judging Award (right).

*Right, bottom:* The Equine Outfit of Excellence drivers.

*Below:* Mark and Dina Sutherland accept their son Dayton’s Rookie Driver Award from Olson Silver.



# Remembering Joe Carbury

THE WPCA COMMUNITY was saddened by the passing of **Joe Carbury**, the legendary track announcer for the Calgary Stampede. Joe died on October 17, 2017, from natural causes. He was 91.

In late 1948, Joe began his broadcasting career at radio station CHAT in Medicine Hat. His first job as a play-by-play announcer was doing the hockey games for the Medicine Hat Tigers junior team.

It was here in Medicine Hat that Joe met a nurse named **Rose Renner**, and on July 16, 1949, they were married. It was a union that would last over 60 years until Rose's passing on March 11, 2011.

In 1951, Joe left Medicine Hat for the big city and ended up working for CFAC Radio in Calgary. From 1953 to 1958, Joe announced the play-by-play for the Calgary Stampeders Football Club.

In 1959, he and Rose moved east to Hamilton, where he continued announcing football play-by-play for Tiger Cats. Missing the west, the Carburys returned to Calgary permanently in 1961 and Joe began working at both CFAC and CKXL.

While working for CKXL, Joe covered it all: hockey, football, curling, boxing, you name it. Around 1963, while the thoroughbreds were running down at Stampede Park, Joe took a tape machine and called a couple of races that would air later on. When the races were broadcast on CKXL, a member of the racing association heard it, thought it was pretty good and then asked Joe if he wanted to be the public address announcer for the thoroughbreds. It was the start of a new career for which Joe would eventually be best known.

In 1964, the Calgary Stampede approached Joe about the possibility of announcing the evening chuckwagon races. Although he didn't really know what it was all about, he had the rules and regulations explained to him by Stampede officials and agreed to give it a shot.

From that day on, the chuckwagon races would never be the same. "There's the horn! And they'reeeee offfff!" became a catch phrase that will forever be etched in the minds of anyone who has ever experienced a race.

Joe Carbury called his last chuckwagon race at the Calgary Stampede on July 8, 2008, ending a run of 45 incredible years.

Following his final call, Joe was brought in front of the grandstand to say his last farewell. He was joined by his wife and daughters in an emotional moment, and a capacity crowd thanked Joe with a well-deserved standing ovation.

A few months later at the WPCA annual banquet,

Joe was honoured with Tourism Calgary's White Hat Ceremony.

Joe also received several other honours earlier in his career, including Special Recognition from the WPCA in 1993 and being inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 for his unique contributions to the sports community.

*Story by Billy Melville*



The legendary chuckwagon race track announcer Joe Carbury, well known for his catchphrase "There's the horn! And they'reeeee offfff!"

## WPCA Versus NHL Alumni



The WPCA and NHL alumni teams pose with game officials at the Strathmore Arena.

A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING hockey game featuring WPCA versus NHL alumni players took place in Strathmore on October 13. The event was the brainchild of former WPCA Officer **Ken Munton**. The Half Mile of Hell Heritage Foundation took on the project in a partnership with the Strathmore Agricultural Society to hold the game in the Strathmore Arena.

The game was highly entertaining, with the younger and at times faster WPCA team unable to match the experience of the NHL veterans. The first period ended up 9-1 for the NHL alumni. For most of the second period, they focused on making good passing plays. For the final period, the teams traded goalies. The final score was 13-4 for the NHL alumni.

The NHL alumni team, which was mostly composed of former Calgary Flames, featured a number of players who would be well known to hockey fans.

**Dana Murzyn** played for the Calgary Royals, Calgary Spurs and Calgary Wranglers. He was drafted fifth overall by

Hartford. Dana played 838 NHL games, including 189 with the Flames, where he won a Stanley Cup ring.

**Curtis Glencross** played for the AJHL Brooks Bandits and the University of Alaska Anchorage. He played 503 NHL games, including 314 with the Calgary Flames.

**Kevin Haller** played for the Olds Grizzlies and Regina Pats. Kevin won a Stanley Cup with Montreal. He played 642 NHL games for Buffalo, Montreal, Philadelphia, Hartford, Anaheim and the New York Islanders.

**Mike Commodore** played for the Fort Saskatchewan Traders and the University of North Dakota, where he won an NCAA title. He played 484 NHL games with New Jersey, Calgary, Carolina, Ottawa, Columbus, Detroit and Tampa Bay. He played 18 games with the Calgary Flames.

**Zarley Zalapski** also played for the Fort Saskatchewan Traders. He played 171 games for Team Canada and 637 NHL games, including 178 for the Flames.

# WPCA Versus NHL Alumni



**Corey Sarich** played for the Saskatoon Blades. He played 969 NHL games for Buffalo, Tampa Bay and Calgary, where he played 389 games. Corey won a Stanley Cup while he was with Tampa Bay.

**Brent Krahn**, who played goalie for the alumni team, played for the Calgary Hitmen and was drafted by the Flames.

Thanks to **Steve and Lynn Fountain**, **Billy Melville**, **Myrnie Sands-Malvin** and **Shellie Scott** for all the work they put in to make this exciting fundraising event succeed.

*Clockwise from top left:*

1. Miss Strathmore Stampede Cayley Peltzer holds the puck for the face-off between Kurt Bensmiller and Curtis Glenncross.

2. Layne MacGillivray.

3. Rory Gervais.

4. Chance Flad and Dana Murzyn.

5. Dustin Gorst.



# WPCA Versus NHL Alumni

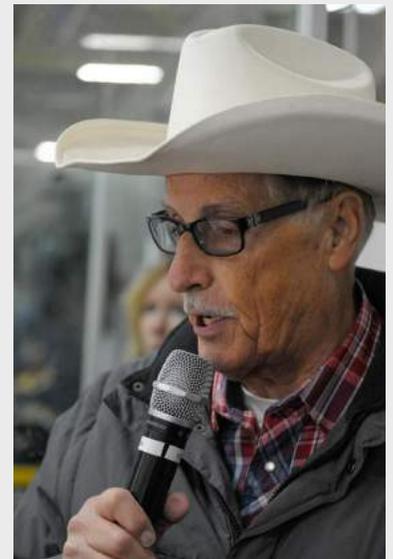


*Top left:* Codey McCurrach stops a shot by Curtis Glencross.

*Top right:* Chansé Vigen signs souvenirs for young fans.

*Right:* Arnie Jackson announces the game.

*Left:* Billy Melville and Brian Carlin chase the puck in front of Codey McCurrach.



Photos in this issue supplied by Paul and Carol Easton, Billy Melville WPCA Archives, Shellie Scott Photography, Shalyn Gorst and Tamara Fike.

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## WAGON KIDS

Our wagon kids got right into the spirit of Halloween this year.

*Left:* Danika, Myla and Tayva Gorst show off their great costumes.

*Right:* Teal Fike has her bucket ready for trick or treating.

