



## Arts & Culture Hall of Fame 2008 Inductees

### **Vinod K. Bhardwaj**

Artist/Builder

Anyone who has heard the haunting sounds of Vinod Bhardwaj's bamboo flute or read his traditional Urdu poetry, might find it hard to believe he's an engineer in his day job. Judging from the sheer volume of his volunteer activities in Edmonton's arts and cultural community, it's even harder to believe he finds time to sleep.

Vinod is Principal Engineer and part owner of Challenger Geomatics Ltd. But the multitalented musician, composer and poet is best known in the community as a culture builder who has enriched the lives of Edmontonians of all backgrounds.

Born in Lahore, Vinod migrated to India with his family after the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. His musical mother nurtured his evident talent with tutoring in traditional songs and Indian classical music. Vinod earned university degrees in Civil Engineering and in Instrumental Music, setting the stage for his dual pursuits after emigrating to Canada in 1975.

An accomplished player of the bamboo flute, sitar, tabla and harmonium, Vinod contributed Indian music for the Alberta-made film "Bye Bye Blues". He has published two books of poetry plus CDs of his own songs and music, which are appreciated across Canada and in India. He has been teaching Indian music to people of all ages and organizing musical performances for community events for over 25 years. While his roots are in Indian arts and culture, Vinod is known for his unique ability to bring together performers from a variety of cultural backgrounds and use the arts to promote multiculturalism.

As a builder, he worked as a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Investment in the Arts under Mayor Jan Reimer and championed the establishment of the City of Edmonton Arts Council. He has also contributed his talents and energy to numerous community organizations including the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation for World Peace, the Indo-Canadian Women's Association, and the Canadian

Centre for Ethnomusicology, to name just a few. He was president of the Edmonton Folk Arts Council for five years and of the Wild Rose Society for Preservation of the Traditional Arts, which he founded, for ten.

What motivates him? Vinod explains: “I have strived to bring out the universality of music and poetic thought to the Edmonton audience. But, you know, I just enjoy myself and feel blessed that people listen to my performances. That is reward enough.”

## **Liz Ingram**

Artist

Weary travelers entering the arrivals hall at Edmonton International Airport are immediately soothed by a mural sized collage of fingers running through cool green water. “Touching Water: Anticipation and Memory” is the work of Edmonton printmaker Liz Ingram, a professor in the University of Alberta’s Department of Art and Design.

International travelers may have seen Liz’s work long before they set foot in Edmonton. Her art has been featured in exhibitions around the globe from Shanghai to Krakow, Tokyo to Bhopal, and is found in museum collections as far and wide as Italy, Egypt, Germany, and the United States. Liz has been visiting artist at universities in North America and overseas including the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, the Musashino Art University in Tokyo and the University of Applied Sciences in Münster, Germany. Her current work focuses on the theme of transience and fragility, using water and the human body as subjects, and incorporates techniques including etching, photo intaglio, digital media, installation, and sound.

Liz was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and grew up in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Toronto. She received her Master of Visual Arts from the University of Alberta in 1975 and has been teaching printmaking and drawing at the university for over three decades. Along with her department colleagues, she has been instrumental in building an internationally recognized Centre for Printmaking in Edmonton. In 1995, she was part of the organizing team for bringing one of the most significant international print conferences in the world to Edmonton. The event, SITELINES, secured Edmonton’s reputation as a printmaking research centre and the University of Alberta as an art and design institution to reckon with.

Through her creative work, international awards, and invited lectures and workshops, Liz has been an ambassador representing the excellence of the visual arts in Edmonton to the world. Her national and global stature contributed to the recognition of Edmonton as the 2007 Cultural Capital of Canada. Her

community involvement was instrumental in the creation of SNAP, the Society of Northern Alberta Print-Artists workshop and gallery in the heart of downtown. As a teacher, Liz is as dedicated to the classroom as to her art. By continually raising the bar for excellence, she has been both a mentor and role model for countless art students who have been attracted to Edmonton by the cultural vitality she helped to create.

## **Dr. Jacobus J. Kloppers**

Builder

Over the past 30 years, Edmonton has become known as a centre for organ music and for its wealth of world class pipe organs. It's no coincidence the development of this reputation dates back to the arrival of Dr. Jacobus (Kobie) Kloppers in our city.

Born in South Africa, Kobie was an internationally recognized author, performer and academic when he moved to Edmonton in 1976. Now Professor of Organ and Musicology, and Chair of the Music Department at King's University College, Kobie began work on developing a music program at the emerging King's College shortly after he arrived. Under his leadership, the music department flourished and King's became the first private university college in Canada to offer an accredited Bachelor of Music program.

Throughout his time in Canada, Kobie has contributed hundreds of hours of his expertise both as a volunteer and as consultant to the planning and installation of several major organs, including those in Edmonton at King's, West End Christian Reformed Church, and St. Joseph's Basilica. Most notably, Kobie served on the organ advisory committee for the Winspear Centre for Music and devoted the better part of the summer of 2002 to overseeing the final voicing of the magnificent Davis Memorial Organ, one of Edmonton's cultural icons. His *Canticle to the Sun* was commissioned and performed for the organ's inauguration gala in September of that year.

Kobie is a founding member of the Edmonton Composers' Concert Society and a member of the Canadian Music Centre. His works have been commissioned, published, recorded, broadcast and performed across Canada, and around the world, including in Poland, Germany, the United States, South America and Hong Kong.

Besides chairing the rapidly growing music department and teaching a full course load of classes in music history at King's, Kobie serves on the graduate supervisory and examination committee at the University of Alberta as adjunct professor. He also teaches organists at all stages of development and is known for bringing out the very best in all of his students through his respect and

encouragement. Many of Edmonton's and Canada's finest organists owe their inspiration to his teaching. Among his current students are organists at various churches in Edmonton, including McDougall United, St. Timothy's Anglican and Christ Church Anglican. Kobie has been director of music, organist and choir director at St. John's Anglican Church since 1976.

## **Alan L. Reynolds**

Artist

Al Reynolds was considered the *wunderkind* of Edmonton sculptors when his work hit the scene in the early 1970s. Today, Al is described as the "pioneer" and "grandfather" of Edmonton's community of nationally respected abstract sculptors and "one of the three founders of modern art in Edmonton".

A self-taught artist, Al focused at first on abstract sculpture in wood and, later, steel. He was known for the audacity of his early work, which was considered experimental and challenging at the time and which influenced much of the local sculpture that came after it. By the time Al was 30, his work had been shown across Canada and in New York, Washington, D.C. and Europe. His work has continued to challenge and evolve over the decades.

Al's insistence on artistic integrity has set a high standard for sculptors throughout Canada. He once destroyed three years' worth of work because he felt it had "lost fidelity." His perseverance and survival as an independent artist also serves as an inspiration to others.

While known as a generous mentor, giving freely of his time to young artists, Al admonishes them not to imitate his style but to be true to their own vision. Explaining what he learned from Al, one Alberta sculptor said: "He taught me that my attempts to be an artist might be valid even though I did not grow up in Paris or London ...art was something done by honest hard working people, and it was for any person who would come to it with an open attitude." Known for his down-to-earth manner, Al blends right in with the workers at the Camsteel Fabricators plant where he keeps his studio and lends a hand when extra manpower is needed.

Al has had numerous solo exhibitions in galleries across Canada, including, among many others, the Contemporary Royale Gallery in Vancouver, the David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto, Memorial University, St. John's, and the Edmonton Art Gallery. His most recent show, Gifts for the Grandchildren, at the Douglas Udell Gallery, featured works inspired by 9th-century BC archaic Greek figures and Tang dynasty horses. His works are found in many private and public collections such as the Shell Oil Collection, the University of Lethbridge, the Toronto Dominion Bank and the Art Gallery of Ontario, to name only a few.

Alan's contributions to the community extend well beyond the arts. He has devoted considerable time and energy to many social projects, both locally and nationally, including two terms on the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

## **Community Service Hall of Fame 2008 Inductees**

### **Honourable Jean B. Forest, O.C.**

Community Leader

Most parents would say they are interested in the quality of their children's education. Jean Forest walked the talk. As a parent of seven children and a former teacher, she felt a responsibility to support education in Edmonton in a variety of ways. Over the years, she served as trustee and chairperson of the Edmonton Catholic School Board, member of the Senate and the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta, and eventually as Chancellor of the University, a post she held from 1978 to 1982.

As Chancellor, Jean was instrumental in bringing many new ideas to the University including a program that offered courses for aboriginal students on reserves and an agreement that led to the incorporation of College Saint-Jean as Faculté Saint-Jean. Her contributions to education have been commemorated in two scholarships at the University of Alberta and by the establishment in 2005 of the Jean Forest All Girls Leadership Academy by The Edmonton Catholic School Board.

A Manitoban by birth, Jean also left her mark in the areas of human rights, community development and social justice during the 50 years she lived in Edmonton. After the Alberta government enacted the province's first Human Rights Legislation, in 1971, it established Alberta's first Human Rights Commission, to which Jean was appointed a member. During her six-year term, she championed the rights of women, aboriginals, and other marginalized members of society. Recognizing the discrimination suffered by members of the gay and lesbian community during the 1970s, the Commission recommended that sexual orientation be included as a protected category of the Individual Rights Protection Act. That recommendation, unfortunately, was not accepted.

In 1993, Jean was named President of the Edmonton Community Foundation and played a vital role in growing the Foundation's equity. She was also actively involved in her church community at the local, regional and national levels. Over the years, she served on a number of committees of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops dealing with issues including the role of women in the church. She is a former President of the Edmonton Archdiocesan Council for Women, a former Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of the Newman Theological College and former Chancellor of St. Stephen's United Church College at the University of Alberta.

Jean received many honours for her contributions to the community and in 1987 was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada. She was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1996 and served until 1998 when she resigned over concerns about her husband's health. After retiring to Victoria that year, she remained active in church work and education, serving as a director of Island Catholic Schools. She also volunteered as a tutor of immigrant children.

Jean continues to enjoy retirement in Victoria with her husband Rocky.

## **Margaret Friedman**

Builder

It's hard to remember the days before breast cancer was a high profile cause close to people's hearts. Long before there were Runs for the Cure, women dealt with this disease in isolation and ignorance. Today a whole generation of young women have grown up knowledgeable about proactive approaches to early detection and treatment of the disease. Margaret Friedman deserves considerable credit for bringing breast health issues and awareness to the forefront in today's society.

Margaret was a public health promotion consultant with the Edmonton Board of Health when she was approached in 1984 to serve as the first president and treasurer of the newly formed Alberta Breast Foundation. She was already known for her community development initiatives with organizations such as AADAC and the Boyle Street Co-op, among others.

The first of its kind in Canada, the Alberta Breast Foundation set out to educate women on breast diseases, promote proactive approaches to breast health through monthly breast self-examinations, annual mammograms and regular visits to doctors, and assist local researchers in methods of early detection and treatment.

While continuing to work full-time, Margaret devoted thousands of hours to initiating, overseeing and carrying out the Foundation's activities, from writing pamphlets and producing videos on breast self examination and establishing a

resource library to exploring innovative fundraising avenues that would generate more results than traditional bake sales and teas.

Margaret was the glue that held the Foundation together through its infancy and steady growth. A charismatic, passionate and strong-willed leader, she grew the Board of Directors by identifying needed skill sets and using her vast network of contacts to recruit. Her work started paying off when, in 1991, the Foundation was the recipient of one of Edmonton's largest fundraising gatherings of the decade – the grand reopening of the Hotel Macdonald. The first Run for the Cure, sponsored by Honda, took place in 1994 in Edmonton and Calgary. Today the CIBC Run for the Cure is Canada's largest single-day run/walk.

In 1998, the Alberta Breast Cancer Foundation became the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and is now the Prairies/NWT Chapter, one of the most productive chapters in the country. Margaret continues her commitment as an advisor to the chapter's executive committee. Her strength and warmth make everyone in her presence want to work for a future without breast cancer.

## **Madam Justice Cecilia Johnstone**

Community Leader

The legal profession in Canada is a more welcoming place for women these days, thanks in good measure to the late Madame Justice Cecilia Johnstone.

Cecilia was a dynamic, charismatic leader and agent of change who made a profound impact on her profession and the Edmonton community. While always excelling in her studies and legal practice, Cecilia felt her own success as a lawyer wasn't enough unless she improved the conditions in the profession for all women. Between 1988 and 1994, she served successively as president of the Edmonton Bar Association and the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Bar Association (of which she was the first female president) and as National President of the Canadian Bar Association. In the latter role, she focused on equality issues, implementing recommendations of the Touchstones for Change Task Force on gender equality in the legal profession. In 1997, she was honoured with the CBA's Touchstone Award for her leadership on the gender equality issue.

Cecilia's contributions extended to the broader community through her volunteer work with numerous organizations including the Northern Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, which she served as board member and chair. Cecilia also worked passionately on behalf of the underprivileged through such initiatives as founding a program to provide free legal advice to women in battered women's shelters. She was actively involved with many professional and community

groups including as a board member of Junior Achievement of Alberta, member of the Alberta Advisory Committee on Women's Issues, and as a site coordinator for the fencing venue at Universiade '83.

A committed lay Catholic leader, Cecilia was Chair of the board of the *Western Catholic Reporter* and in 1996 became the first female chancellor of Newman Theological College. As she had done in her profession, she advocated for equality of women on all fronts in the Church. She was also a member of the board and President of St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild and Chair of the Red Mass Committee, and member of the board and Provincial General of the Friars.

An avid long-distance runner, Cecilia ran the 100<sup>th</sup> running of the Boston Marathon in 1996. At home in Edmonton, she was a familiar figure running in her beloved North Saskatchewan River Valley.

Cecilia Johnstone passed away April 15, 2006. Her memory will live on not only through the many lives she touched, but also through numerous initiatives to honour her contributions, including an endowment for innovation in the prevention and treatment of cervical cancer at the Lois Hole Hospital for Women and two awards established in her name, the Hon. Cecilia Johnstone Equality Award (awarded at both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary Faculties of Law) and the Hon. Cecilia Johnstone Adversity Award.

## **Marg Korby**

Community Leader

Edmonton has a reputation for hosting major events with panache. Key to that success is a massive contingent of highly motivated volunteers. Check the roster for some of the biggest events and you're likely to find Marg Korby's name as volunteer chair. From the 1978 Commonwealth Games and Universiade '83 to the 1996 World Figure Skating Championships and the 2007 CN Canadian Women's Open, Marg has been a constant.

Known in some quarters as the "Queen of Volunteers", Marg has a unique knack for recruiting, training and allocating the large numbers of volunteers that go into making an event a success. She is also known for her ability to make sure volunteers feel appreciated and enjoy themselves, as evidenced by the numbers who return again and again to donate their time.

As Volunteer Chair for the CN Canadian Women's Open, she was involved in the recruitment and allocation of more than 1,500 volunteers to 18 different chairpersons. All the volunteers involved in the event were recognized with the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation's Edmonton Image Award for

“presenting an outstanding event to an international audience – and establishing new records for attendance, corporate hosting and money raised for charity.”

Early in her community service career, Marg was Co- Chair for the badminton venue at the 1978 Commonwealth Games and Co-chair – Basketball Pavilions for Universiade '83. Marg was on the team that organized the first Festival of Trees in 1985 and went on to become Chair of the 1989 Festival. This year, the Festival will celebrate its 24<sup>th</sup> year raising funds for the University Hospital Foundation. In 1989 and 1990 Marg chaired the Scarecrow Festival in support of ABC Head Start, another charitable organization that is dear to her heart. She continues to be involved with the Scarecrow organization.

The list of Marg's volunteer roles over the last 20 years is breathtaking. She was Volunteer Chair for both the 1994 Canadian Figure Skating Championship and the 1996 World Figure Skating Championship, the 1997 Grey Cup, 1998 and 1999 Telus Edmonton Open, and the 2001 World Track and Field festival component. Currently she is on the Board of Directors for the Fort Edmonton Foundation and has been devoting her energies to raising funds to complete Fort Edmonton Park.

## **Sports Hall of Fame 2008 Inductees**

### **John T. Aitken**

Builder

*Edmonton Journal* sportswriter Curtis Stock once called Johnnie Aitken “the face of golf in Edmonton”. Generations of Edmonton golfers would agree. In almost 50 years as a golf pro, Johnnie worked with thousands of young players, nurturing their confidence and passing along his love of the game.

Johnnie came to the sport at the age of eight in 1929, working as a young caddy at Prince Rupert Golf Course for 25 cents a day. By 1940 he was assistant pro and a skilled builder of wooden shafted clubs. After serving overseas in World War II, he returned to Prince Rupert as head pro. When the Prince Rupert closed in 1950, he moved to Victoria Golf Club as head pro and remained in that position until he retired 44 years later.

During his long career, Johnnie saw green fees mushroom from 50 cents to \$23 a round and golf clubs evolve from hickory shafts to graphite. Even more

significant was the evolution of generations of players who benefited from Johnnie's generous tutelage. He gave freely of his advice and knowledge to every player who came within his sphere. Young golfers in particular enjoyed his attention and kindness. Many recall making Victoria their second home during summers as teens, being dropped off by parents in the mornings and picked up in the evenings after a day of lessons and practice under Johnnie's watchful eye.

Johnnie gave thousands of lessons, many of them free, and was always available to check someone's swing or eyeball a putt with a few tips. He gave equipment away free to young kids who couldn't afford it. Kids playing tournaments often discovered a sleeve of new golf balls had appeared mysteriously in their bag. Johnnie organized Edmonton Junior Golf for many years and took promising juniors under his wing. As a coach, he produced many players who went on to professional ranks.

As one person whose life Johnnie Aitken touched put it: "Golf teaches us many disciplines: honesty, humility, competitiveness, etiquette and patience, to name just a few....Mr. Aitken exemplified all of these traits and made it his life's passion to pass these qualities along through his lessons and personal life." Johnnie Aitken passed away on January 14, 2008.

## **Terry Capp**

Athlete

For a guy who "retired" from drag racing a quarter century ago, Terry Capp has been burning a lot of rubber lately. In fact, this Canadian drag racing legend is speeding through one of his busiest seasons ever behind the wheel of a competitive race car – in some cases competing against the sons of men he raced against 15 to 20 years ago.

Terry started racing with a 1932 Ford pickup truck in the early sixties while still in high school, clocking 85 miles per hour and covering a quarter mile in 16.85 seconds. He zoomed up the ranks driving Top Fuel dragsters and nitro Funny Cars and by 1969 was taking the tracks at over 200 mph. His biggest coup came at Indianapolis in 1980, when he won the "Daddy of all drag races", the U.S. Nationals Top Fuel crown, which had been dominated up until then by Americans. Terry's win in that race was considered by some to be Canada's single most important event win ever and put Edmonton and Canada on the North American drag racing map.

Terry retired briefly in 1982, but the sensation of level-eight G-forces lured him back. He returned to racing in 1988 and won the American Hot Rod Association

World Finals in Spokane that same year. He won that event again 12 years later. Terry was inducted into the Canadian Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2002.

Returning once again from retirement in 2004, Terry set an all-time performance record for a Canadian in drag racing at the International Hot Rod Association's Rocky Mountain Nationals event at Edmonton's Castrol Raceway Park. In the seat of a top fuel dragster, Ron Hodgson's "Royal Canadian", and just shy of age 60, Terry clocked his first-ever 300 mph-plus run and set the new record at 319.37 mph. in 4.74 seconds elapsed time. To this day he's known as Canada's Fastest and Quickest Dragster pilot.

In 2006, Terry came out of retirement yet again to become involved in Nostalgia Racing in Ron Hodgson's Bubble Up Nitro Funny Car. At the start of the 2008 racing season, the Nitro Funny Car was being billed as the "fastest car on the planet."

In his day job, Terry is a Manager in the Corporate Advisory and Restructuring area of PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. He gives his time generously to speak at schools on safety and racing, and on "keeping it on the race track and off the streets."

## **Vern J. Davis**

Builder

The boardroom of the Edmonton Minor Hockey Association sports a framed certificate from Guinness World Records declaring the 2003 Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week the world's largest ice hockey tournament. A lot of the credit for that honour goes to Vern Davis.

Nicknamed one of the "grandfathers" of hockey in Edmonton, Vern is known for his selfless devotion to promoting minor hockey for more than four decades. Born in Melfort, Saskatchewan, he developed his love of the sport as a boy playing on frozen ponds in communities where his father was employed by the railroad. He has many fond memories of criss-crossing Alberta by train for tournaments while playing for the Vermilion Tigers.

In the early 1960s Vern was bantam director and sports director for Westmount Community League and secretary for the Northwest Community Athletic Association. He joined the Federation Hockey Council in 1973 and has been secretary ever since.

Vern is best known for his role as one of the founders of Edmonton Minor Hockey Week in 1963 along with Eric Reilly, George Reith and Don McComby. In the

days before computers, the four sat around Reilly's dining room table and scheduled 738 teams by hand, working every night for a week from 6 p.m. till 1 a.m. All rinks but three were outdoors, so when the temperature dipped below minus 24 Celsius, games were cancelled. If the weather was too warm, games had to be switched from rinks in the sunshine to those in the shade, and the coaches had to be notified.

Vern and his co-organizers always suspected they had the biggest tournament in the world. Their research confirmed it and they pursued the Guinness title for 2003, when they had more than 500 teams playing. Of course, with 738 at the start, they could have had a string of Guinness records, but they were too busy organizing minor hockey for the benefit of Alberta's youth.

During his 45 years of involvement with Minor Hockey Week, Vern has worn many hats: ice allocator, team scheduler, chairperson, honorary chairperson, secretary, treasurer, roadrunner, social convener, and m/c. Today he is still active on the Awards Committee and as a member of the Alumni of Edmonton Minor Hockey, which raises funds so that children who otherwise might not be able to play hockey for financial reasons are given the opportunity to play.

In 2007, Vern was honoured by the Edmonton Oilers as the Edmonton Hockey Volunteer of the Year for Hockey Day in Canada.

## **Ju Jie Luan**

Athlete/Builder

When Ju Jie Luan was an aspiring athlete of 16 in Nanjing, China, she was tapped to help build her country's capacity in competitive fencing. Ju Jie delivered in spades despite a serious kidney ailment that would plague her throughout her competitive career. Within a year she made the Chinese National Team and went on to win many international titles for China, including Olympic gold in 1984

By then Ju Jie was already a national hero for her amazing performance in the 1978 World Junior Championships. In her first match, her opponent's foil penetrated Ju Jie's foil arm and snapped. After the metal was extracted, Ju Jie continued fencing for 2 ½ hours and won silver for China. She said she felt compelled to continue because Asia had not had a female fencer at the Worlds in over 80 years. Chinese school children still read about Ju Jie Luan's pursuit of excellence in the face of adversity. There's even a Chinese postage stamp that bears her image.

In 1983, Ju Jie won gold for China at the World University Games and fell in love with the host city. She moved to Edmonton in 1989. China's loss was Canada's gain. Ju Jie joined the Edmonton Fencing Club as master fencer and head coach

and has been instrumental in building the membership from about 40 in 1989 to roughly 300 today, making it the biggest club west of Toronto.

Through her teaching and coaching, Ju Jie has mentored many Olympic-calibre athletes and inspired countless Canadian children and adults to do their best to succeed at their own levels. She travels with the Edmonton Fencing Club's competitive fencers as coach and chaperone wherever they go and devotes many more volunteer hours to developing the sport not only in Edmonton but across Canada.

In 2000, Ju Jie came out of retirement at age 42 and surprised everyone by qualifying for the Sydney Olympics. "They said it couldn't be done," she says. But Ju Jie had more surprises in store. When Beijing won the bid to host the 2008 Olympics, she couldn't resist. Ju Jie again began competing internationally in 2007, and finally in February and March 2008, after seven World Cup competitions in Europe, she had worked her way up the ranks to become one of two fencers from the America zone qualified to compete in individual women's foil in Beijing. At age 50, she will be participating in her fourth Olympics.