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Elite Athletes Recognized

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – On June 23, 2011, Mayor Peter Brown presented awards to Darrell Belyk, Corissa Boychuck, Eric Pothier and Janelle Desmarais-Moen at the inaugural event of the City of Airdrie Elite Athlete Program.

“We are very proud of our local athletes’ accomplishments in their sports and recognize the significant contributions they each make to our community,” said Mayor Peter Brown.

Darrell Belyk, an arm wrestler and Airdrie resident for 11 years, won first place in the 1991 Canadian Nationals and second place in the 1991 Worlds Open. As a person living with the effects of a childhood stroke, Darrell competed in the 1999 Worlds – Disabled, winning first place. He took second place in the 2009 Worlds – Disabled. Darrell volunteers for Citizens on Patrol, speaks at local schools, and coaches young arm wrestlers.

Corissa Boychuk, a gymnast and Airdrie resident for eight years, won gold in trampoline and tumbling in the 2007 World Age Group Championships, bronze in the 2009 World Championships and gold in the 2010 World Championships. Corissa is a volunteer and mentor at Airdrie Edge Gymnastics Club.

Janelle Desmarais-Moen, a gymnast and life-long Airdrie resident, is the National Champion in trampoline and tumbling, placed 13th in the 2007 World Age Group Championships, won silver in the 2008 Indo-Pacific Championships and placed fourth in the 2010 World Age Group Championships. Janelle mentors with Airdrie Edge Gymnastics Club and volunteers with the Airdrie Rotary Club.

Eric Pothier, a life-long Airdrie resident, was the Canadian Doubles Luge Champion from 1999 to 2005. He placed fifth in the 2002 Winter Olympics, third in the 2003 World Cup, and 10th in the 2006 Winter Olympics. Eric speaks at schools and volunteers locally.

Airdrie’s Elite Athlete Program nominees may be recognized for obtaining an exceptional level of athletic achievement at a sanctioned national or international level, by setting national or international records or by achieving national or international titles while competing. Genesis Place is home to a tribute wall of plaques recognizing the elite athletes.

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