

Congratulations to our Builder of the Year



This year's winner is not just Builder of the Year, but builder over many years. Ken Nelson has already been inducted into the WSWC Hall of Fame as a Pioneer and it is time that WSWA recognizes him as well.

He has been an innovator and visionary in the sport of water skiing for many, many years. In 1986 he opened Shalom Park, and over the years he has started new programs, such as New Kids on the Water, the Alberta Rec Tour that was so successful for many years, and a program he calls Honour Day where he provides the people in the armed forces and their families a day on the water for fun and relaxation.

Ken is the go-to-guy for building a jump – his jump design is still listed on the IWWF website.

He has hosted tournaments. Lots of tournaments.

-The 1996 World Junior Water Ski Championships.

-The 1998 America's challenge and the International Water Ski Classic in 1992.

-Nationals in 1989, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2002, 2009, as well as many Westerns, Provincials and local tournaments.

-In 2016, the U17 and U14 Can Am Challenge, held in Canada for the first time in a decade.

Ken Nelson's determination to bring pro water skiing back to Canada led him to host the Canadian Open. The hard work he put into this tournament made it extremely successful, drawing 35 pro skiers competing for cash prizes, as well as amateurs who competed alongside the pros. The athletes excelled in the positive and vibrant environment. The Open also included a team aspect, linking up young athletes with the pros for a unique opportunity to receive encouragement and mentorship from their idols.

Ken loves this sport, and his dedication makes him an excellent recipient of Builder of the Year. Congratulations Ken!