

# Canoe club volunteer recognized

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Staff

Judy Tutty, a long-time stalwart with the Mississauga Canoe Club, has won a major national award from the True Sport Foundation.

The Clarkson resident was among seven winners of the 39th Canadian Sport Awards, which honour athletes, sport leaders, volunteers and corporations for their accomplishments and contributions to Canadian sport in 2011.

Tutty won the Volunteer Achievement Award. Other winners included figure skating champion Patrick Chan (Male Athlete of the Year) and speed skater Christine Nesbitt (Female Athlete of the Year).



Judy Tutty

"I have known Judy since I was an athlete, and I cannot think of anybody more deserving of this award," said Peter Giles, commodore of CanoeKayak Canada (CKC), in Tuesday's announcement. "She has given a lifetime of dedication to our sport in the most generous spirit imaginable. Through her dedication to our officials committee and our trophies and awards committees, among other activities, she has created an incredible legacy for our paddling community across Canada."

In 1993, Tutty won the Gilbert Award from CanoeKayak Canada as a builder.

Tutty recently retired as the flag officer for the Western Ontario division of CKC after 20 years in a volunteer leadership role. Her retirement last fall officially made her the longest-sitting flag officer in the Canadian paddling system. As chair of CKC's officials committee for nearly 20 years, she was instrumental in developing an officiating program regarded as the benchmark for national programs around the world.

"I was truly honoured to be considered for the award," said Tutty. "CanoeKayak Canada is an outstanding national sport organization and it was a pleasure to do what I could to assist it in a sport that has been good to me and my family — and continues to be. This award is to be shared with other volunteers who have been helpful through the years."

Tutty first got involved with the Mississauga Canoe Club in 1972, helping out in the kitchen. Eventually she got out of the kitchen and spent some 800 to 1,000 hours per year helping to run Canada's most successful paddling organization. In gratitude, she has been made a Life Member, the highest honour the club can bestow.

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