

# The Lyle Davis Community Engagement Award

## 1955-1991



Lyle Davis was a valued member of the Acadia Recreation Management family and highly respected professional in the recreation field in Canada. Although his life ended tragically in an accident at Lake Louise in 1991, he died while engaged in the outdoors pursuits that he so loved and enjoyed. His hallmark was that he practiced what he professed, that being, to live life fully. He lived every minute of his 36 years as if there were no guarantee of tomorrow seizing every experience and opportunity that came his way. The claim can never be made that he wasted one minute of his all too brief life. His leisure repertoire was vast both in breadth and depth. He was always keen to try new things and mastered all that he turned his hand, heart, and mind to doing. He lived a balanced life always finding time for family, for friends, for

education, for work, and to pursue his personal recreation interests which included a myriad of outdoor pursuits, music, reading, writing, and hobbies to name but a few.

Along with his wife and partner Marla, Lyle had three children Joshua, Carah, and Noah, the eldest two of whom are students in the School of Recreation Management & Kinesiology at Acadia (2007). Lyle had strong ties to Acadia having received two degrees from the university (Bachelor of Science-Recreation in 1976 and a Master of Recreation in 1983), was Assistant Director of Admissions from 1984-1988, taught courses part time, and served as the Coordinator of Research and Workshop Services at the Recreation Resource Centre housed on the campus at the time of his death.

The concept, process, and practice of education was of paramount importance to Lyle. Whether pursuing education formally through his university degrees, instructing the classroom himself, organizing workshops through the Centre, reading great works, expressing his own ideas through writing, or informally sharing something of interest he had learned in any given day with anyone who cared to listen...he loved both learning himself and teaching others. Part of his legacy is the *Rec Check Manual*, a state of the art marketing tool he developed out of his Masters work which still occupies a coveted place on the bookshelves of many recreation practitioners, nearly a quarter of a century after its initial release.

One way that Lyle found to share and acquire knowledge was through his voluntary work on a variety of local, provincial, and regional associations. Although he was well versed with academic literature and teachings, his objective was always to apply such knowledge to grass roots settings. He had a deep understanding of the concept and value of community, and contributed to weaving the fabric of every community to which he belonged by giving freely of his personal assets and motivating/inspiring others to do so as well. It is therefore fitting that the award being named in his memory and in his honor be given to support the engagement of students in community-based initiatives where academic knowledge and skills are being applied to address real life issues in innovative and entrepreneurial ways.