

Helping children develop a sense of pride and accomplishment

Federal government employee has devoted two decades to organizing sports and club activities for PEI children

By Mandy Hutchinson

Sept. 7, 2006 - Charlottetown, PEI – For 20 years, John Edwards has made it a priority to help children experience the joy of participating in organized sports and clubs. His work has earned him a number of awards, including one from the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island, and helped instill pride and a sense of accomplishment in children.

Mr. Edwards has volunteered for the Special Olympics and coached baseball and hockey. He is a member in good standing with Scouts Canada, participates in the PEI provincial council as a Service Scouter, is a Certified National Wood Badge Trainer (Scouts Canada), and has been a leader with the West Royalty Scouting group.

“Some of my fondest memories are from the camps that I attended,” said Mr. Edwards. “At one camp, we had an autistic child in our care. After the camp was over, the child would not stop hugging all the service staff. He actually refused to go home. His father told us afterwards with tears in his eyes that we could have no idea how much our help meant to his family. Moments like that make the 18-hour days seem worth it.”

Mr. Edwards has been an employee of Veterans Affairs Canada in Charlottetown for 23 years, and is also very proud of his family life. He and his wife, Janet, have two children, Chris and Caroline.

Mr. Edwards is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.

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