

## 2006 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

### Category: Team

Inductee: Canuck Stuff

The reign of the Canuck Stuff men's volleyball team has left a permanent stamp on senior men's volleyball in Canada and the United States. Canuck Stuff proudly owned the title of National Champion seven out of eight years between 1991 and 1998. They have had a number of different team names such as Stuff It, Canuck Stuff, Canuck Hot Stuff, Canuck Old Stuff, Canuck Young Stuff, Canuck Relics and Canuck Stuff Classic; however the one constant has been their success.

Don Saxton put together the original Canuck Stuff team with a few ex-national team players and former U of C athletes. The club then evolved and added several players who had recently returned from the 1992 Olympics including long term Canuckers: Al Coulter, Dave Jones and Terry Gagnon. 1994 was notably the strongest year for the club with up to 12 former national team players playing on two separate teams. Canuck "Old Stuff" played "Young Stuff" in the final of the National Championships with the young guys taking the Gold that year. They also brought home a silver medal from the North American Club Championships in Corozal, Puerto Rico where the team slept on bunks in the gymnasium and were awoken every morning by chickens squawking in the gym and kids looking for autographs.

One of Canuck Stuff's biggest accomplishments was in 1997 when they decided to forego their 6 year winning streak at the Canadian National Championships to take a serious run at winning the U.S. Open National Championships in Kansas City. Ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 47 teams in the Open category the organizers obviously weren't expecting much from the Canadian team from Calgary. The American teams quickly came to realize that Canuck Stuff was very serious about taking their National Championship back to Canada. After defeating a California team with several US National team players on it in the final (Paul Mitchell) the US Open National Championship was headed back to Canada for the first time ever. The winning continued as many players from this team then competed in the World Masters Games in Portland that year where they won Gold in the over 35 division.

In 1998 Canuck Stuff returned to the Canadian National Championships in Winnipeg this time appearing as Canuck Relics and winning their 7<sup>th</sup> National Championship of the nineties.

After a hiatus of several years a comeback was definitely in the works with Canuck Stuff winning the Masters Division at the Canadian Open and the over 40 category at the 2005 World Masters Games this past summer in Edmonton. Canuck Stuff Classic continued their winning ways this year winning the gold medal in the Masters division in Hamilton at the 2006 Canadian Open Championships and finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the over 40 division in New Orleans at the US Open.