



VOLUNTEER WALL OF FAME

Rod Somppi, ON



1. What type of organizations do you volunteer for?

My volunteer activities have generally been with organizations with which my children became involved. For example, I coached soccer for the Volunteer Pool Soccer Club when Michael and Krista were very young. I eventually became the president of VP Soccer for a time. A similar thing happened with skiing. I started as a Jackrabbit leader when Michael and Krista joined the program at Lappe Nordic and I have been involved since that time, now mostly timing races but also sitting as a member of the Lappe Board. As well, I currently sit on the Lake Superior Ski District Board as the Officials Coordinator and continue to deliver officials training. In the not too distant past, I volunteered as a board member and then treasurer for the National Development Center in Thunder Bay. So skiing has become the focus of my volunteering.

2. What is the most rewarding part about volunteering?

The most rewarding thing about volunteering is that I find it to be a very stimulating aspect of my life. The stimulation comes from many sources. Timing races is a definite challenge with all the complexities of the equipment and logistics, but the feeling I get knowing I have been part of a well-run event is a terrific high. The meeting and rubbing shoulders with talented and fantastic people (it seems only fantastic people seem to volunteer) is invigorating. Continuous learning and terrific opportunities such as heading up the timing crews at the 2006 SkiNationals and two recent World Junior Trials and volunteering at the 2010 Olympics help keep me energized.

3. What do you have to say about all the volunteers who make events possible?

Of course, if it weren't for the volunteers, events just wouldn't happen. It's because there were volunteers that my children had many of the opportunities they were afforded. So I say "thank you" to all those who volunteer.

4. Finish this sentence: I volunteer because...

I volunteer because I want to give back for all those who have volunteered and thus enriched my and my children's lives. I volunteer also because I believe we all have a better life as a result of volunteer activities and I want to do my part. I volunteer, as well, because active volunteering enriches me personally.