

Ernie Mansueti

by Vince Kreiser

Ernie Mansueti was the President of the RFABC from 1999-2000. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Recreation Foundation of BC for six years until 2020. For his dedicated service to the recreation field Ernie was awarded the Dave Dauphinee Memorial Trophy in both 1996 and 2003.

Ernie was a well respected President of the Association. During his term of office he worked with the other members of the Executive on a couple of notable items. One such project was the hiring of a part-time Executive Director for the Association. Members of the Executive who also had full-time jobs to deal with, felt it was time to create this staff position to help expand the scope of services that the RFABC could offer. The second major project they worked on was in the area of refrigeration safety. The Association worked hard to advocate with the various BC provincial government authorities to promote the value of more education versus the possibilities of fines and facility closures.

Ernie served as the General Manager of Community Services for the Municipality of North Cowichan. One of his highlights in the



position was working with other area local governments to get things done in a cooperative manner. Some of these major initiatives included the 2008 North American Indigenous Games, the 2018 BC Summer Games and working together on things like regional emergency planning.

Ernie is now retired from the field of recreation and lives in North Cowichan with his wife Denise. These days he keeps himself busy while working with Rowing Canada in creating a National Training Centre in North Cowichan, acting as a volunteer with KidSport, and helps out with the NHL/NHLPA First Shift Program. For his personal recreation Ernie enjoys playing hockey, soccer, golf and also looking after his granddaughter.

When asked what his best memories of the RFABC were, Ernie indicated that he was fortunate to start his career when the Island Zone had so many managers that already had long and successful careers. They provided excellent mentorship, guidance and subsequently strong friendships. ■