



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTORS**

## **HALL OF FAME AWARD**

**ROBERT JONCAS**

**INDUCTED NOVEMBER 2014**



**AWARD PRESENTED BY DAN GENGE. SPEECH WRITTEN BY ALLISON CHURCH**

I was asked if I could possibly put a few words together about the person who is receiving the CASI Hall of Fame award. I was honoured to be asked to do so.

In order to be inducted into a Hall of Fame for anything; whether it be a sport, pastime, government position, charity etc., one must be passionate about what they are being recognized for. In my opinion, they must not only be passionate about that one particular item, they must be passionate about LIFE!!!

The person CASI chosen to be inducted fits this criteria to the tee. I have known this person for at least 20 years. I remember meeting this person at Mont Tremblant. He was so thrilled to be amongst people who shared the love of our sport. He made sure they got to meet as many snowboarders as they could. He went out of their way to introduce them self and find out as much as he could about the other snowboarders, where they worked, their families, their other interests etc. He not only displayed a passion for snowboarding, this person showed a genuine interest in the people at the pre-course and their interests and lives.

When you have true passion for something, you don't care if you get paid to do it; of course it is always nice if one can earn money doing what they are passionate about, however, it is not the driving force. The person who has been chosen for this award worked many years on our technical and educational committee. I had the pleasure of making the first Children's video with this person and we also wrote the original portion of the Children's reference guide. There was never a dull moment working with this man. I was assigned by the TEC to undertake the development of a technique to teach children to ride. This person jumped at the opportunity to help me. He was not asked to do so; he just came right up to me and said he would like to be part of this project. It was a pleasure to work with him and his passion for children and helping to make learning to snowboard from a child's perspective was contagious. Not only did the children we worked with adore this man, I think every lady we met at Sun Peaks thought he was the bomb...after all, he would consistently tell me "Shred, I think she loves me".

This person not only worked on the TEC but was the Chairman or should I say chairperson of the TEC. This person was instrumental in the development of CASI's Internationally recognized reference guides as well as the translation of the guides from English to French....and remember, this was all unpaid at the time. In 2004, the person became CASI's first National Technical Coordinator. He was a great leader of the TEC.

The person I am talking about knows all aspects of snowboarding. He has been very involved in the instructional, freestyle, race as well as competitive side of snowboarding. Now how much more well rounded can you get!!!

I am not sure what year this occurred but this man and his family made the difficult choice, took a chance, and uprooted themselves from their beloved home to move to Vancouver so he could pursue yet a different job in the snowboard industry. This all sounds pretty exciting but moving one's entire family from a predominantly Francophone area to Vancouver is a very big jump. This man's wife was willing to give up her well established career, his kids were willing to leave their friends and knew they would most likely have to attend English schools in order for this new opportunity to be possible. And so they moved.

This person is currently the Manager of the Canadian National Snowboard Team. He has lead our National team to the 2010 as well as 2014 Olympics and has done an outstanding job. You want to talk about passion; this is the man. In 2010 I had just started my first teaching job at an elementary school. I was the French teacher in a little rural town in Ontario called Dundalk. If you haven't heard of it, don't worry as most people from Ontario have no idea where it is. I asked this man if we could do an Olympic French project with the team. He was instrumental in making this happen not only for the 2010 Olympics, but also the 2014 Olympics. He took time from his own schedule and helped me to create a project that the children from Dundalk will never forget. If you mention his nick name at my school, I guarantee every student will know who he is. He took the time to write to them, get the athletes to write to them, send pictures and do translations for them and the list could go on and on. I owe him many thanks for making my first year of teaching French in a totally English community a very exciting and fun time. I hope he will someday be able to visit my school as the staff, parents and students would all love to meet this man as he did so much and asked for nothing in return. Most of my kids will never have the opportunity to snowboard but they have told me " Miss Shred, these Olympic projects have given us opportunities we would never get at any other school. We feel like we are part of a snowboard community". Yes I have shed many emotional tears at my school and this man has made many children love the sport when they know they will most likely not get the opportunity to snowboard.

I started off talking about not just having passion for the thing you love, but also passion for life. I want to make sure to mention that the person receiving this award has these qualities. He is always trying to help others, selfishness is not in his vocabulary, he sees the good in everyone; I kid you not, and he will work hard in order to get the job done and done with 100% effort.

Claude, Fred and David, you too have had to make sacrifices in order for your Dad/ husband to be so successful. I want you to know that there has never been a pre-course, visit to Toronto, TEC meeting where he has not mentioned the 3 of you and each time he speaks of his family, it is with much pride and love.

Le Bob, you are an inspiration to the snowboard community. You are most deserving of this award. Could everyone please put their hands together for Robert Joncas (LE BOB)..the first recipient of the CASI HALL OF FAME AWARD.

PS LE BOB, si j'étais ici je t'embrasserais et je te donnerais un biaser sur les deux joues.