



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTORS

HALL OF FAME AWARD

DAN GENGE

INDUCTED DECEMBER 2019



AWARD PRESENTED BY ALLISON CHURCH, ANDY MACLEAN, WALTER TRAUB. SPEECH WRITTEN BY ALLISON CHURCH

I am honoured to be able to talk about Dan Genge and his induction into CASI's Hall of Fame. I gave this speech in December 2019 and did not have formal notes. I am trying to recreate the speech via the CASI link so the following will seem more like a verbal speech than a formal written presentation.

"Hi everyone. My name is Shred and I'm honoured to be able to stand up here and talk about Dan as we have a long history. I have a lot of things to say however I will try and keep it short (Ha Ha).

First of all, I believe Andy MacLean is the only person in this room who was involved with the snowboard association prior to it being CASI. (It was called CSF...Canadian Snowboard Federation). I recall we had a meeting at the Olympic Stadium in Montreal with the Big Kahunas from CSIA and we were informed that the CSIA was going to help run and make us a better organization because they had the infrastructure, resources and everything needed to help the sport of snowboarding move in the right direction. Then, we found out "some guy" was going to be appointed by the CSIA to head up our organization and his name was Dan Genge.

No one knew his name so we asked ourselves..."who is this guy and why him?" We were informed he was a:

- Level 4 CSIA
- Level 2 CSCF
- Freestyle skier
- Stunt Man
- Scuba Master etc. etc

The question amongst the boarders continued to be "OK, but who is this old guy and can he ride?" We were impressed with his accreditations but what was he going to do for us? We heard Dan was a hard worker, strove for excellence; half mast would not suffice, it had to be full sail ahead!

Dan had to take his Level 1, after all, if one wants the respect of snowboarders, they should be able to ride.

Guess who was the lucky one to have Dan in their Level 1 course...that's right, me! I thought "Oh great, I have the old guy with me"FYI, after the snowboarders met Dan for the first time at Tremblant back in December of '94, we referred to him as "The Old Guy." And something I should point out is many of us who are here today are now older than Dan was in '94.

So back to Dan's Level 1 course. At the time, I was working at Blue Mountain. There weren't many riders back then. I was being told by skiers..."you'd better watch out for the Dan Genge Guy." He's going to be tough on you. He's a Level 4 CSIA, Level 2 CSCF. He's going to take what you're doing and analyze it, he'll ride the chair with you and give you the gears. I thought "OMG, I just want to give a Level 1 with my typical young candidates." So, the course weekend arrived. It was a beautiful March weekend, sun, slushy snow, gorgeous weather! I don't recall meeting candidates inside, I believe we gathered for the first time on snow. My candidates emerged from the lodge and all looked to be around 18 years old except for "The Old Guy"; you couldn't miss him! We did our intros, who we are, what we were there, our goals etc.,. Dan didn't mention anything about his skiing background. He was quite modest. He explained he had just begun to snowboard and he wanted to become a better rider in order to help people "his age" to learn to ride.

I knew he was there to see what our progression was, what our courses were like, how we conducted ourselves. Well to jump to the chase, I will say at that time, Level 1 was a 2 day course, I was approximately 33 years old, the candidates were mainly 18 years old or younger and I will admit Dan was one of my favourite candidates. He was pleasant, the younger candidates loved "The Old Guy", they would say "I want to ride with The Old Guy, Wow, look at the Old Guy go! ; the candidates didn't even know his name, they just called him THE OLD GUY!. If Dan still has his Level 1 evaluation sheet, under the name, it would say Dan Genge (The Old Guy).

The next week, people asked me how the course with Dan Genge went. I replied "AMAZING." He was helpful, supportive, gave credit to our progression and said he was thrilled to be part of this organization. In a nutshell, it was a very positive experience!

I like to refer to Dan as The King of CASI ! Here's why:

Back in the day, I was fortunate and got to travel quite a bit with predominantly, if not all, guys. Andy MacLean was my consistent roommate. One year when we went to SilverStar , Andy and Dan were my roommates. When we got to our hotel room, there was 1 bedroom, might I add, a killer bedroom. It had a king bed, big screen TV, French doors that led into the living room. This was perfect since I was the chiquita and 6'1", I claimed the room. Dan and Andy and to sleep on bunk beds that were built for children and had no privacy at all. Our first day on snow was not so pleasant....damp and rainy with sleet. By 4pm, we were frozen and had had enough. We wanted a hot shower and Dan ran into the bathroom and locked the door. Andy and I sat on the couch and turned on the TV. Time passed and we looked at each other and said "Is he ever going to come out???" This went on and on and finally we hear flush, sink running and Dan runs out and says "I GOT IT...POSITIVE TO AND TRY". He also came up with the Raving Fan and A & I while on the throne so this is why I refer to Dan as "The King of CASI!!.

I believe Dan can be compared to 3 animals:

- 1) a dog
- 2) a rabbit
- 3) a cat

The type of dog is a Bulldog. I googled Bulldog and it said a Bulldog is stubborn, courageous, dependable and loyal. If Dan wasn't stubborn. CASI wouldn't be where it is today.

He's loyal! Dan stayed with us and took us from being associated with the CSIA to a very successful independent organization.

He's bold and cheeky and you all know what I'm talking about. He's dependable! He gets the job done and strives for excellence. Dan had a cement Bulldog that sat outside his front door at his home for years. Helmut Sartarelli made it for him and I know Dan, Cathy and family love the statue.

A rabbit: I think Dan's like a rabbit because his work ethic is like the Eveready Bunny (the one with the drum that just keeps going and going). I know Dan's brain is working all the time on how to continually improve CASI.

A cat: Dan's like a pussy cat. He's caring, compassionate and more emotional than many realise. From a personal experience, I had a very bad leg break out West and needed emergency surgery. When I woke up, Dan was at my hospital bedside with my stuffed moose that travels everywhere with me. He had gone back to our hotel to get the moose as he understood the moose would make me feel better when I woke from surgery. The nurse who was attending to me asked who was the nice man? I told her he was my Grandpa and ever since that day in 2000, I call Dan Grandpa!

Dan operates like a well running machine. He is precise, accurate, reliable, speedy and completes the job he sets out to do. Most machines need some sort of power to make it run. Cathy, I believe you are Dan's source of power and energy; together you have been the Dynamic Duo of CASI.

In closing, Dan, from my perspective, you're like a Jake Burton of CASI. You took us from a little dot in the snow sport industry to an Internationally recognised and independent organization. We have 4 levels of certification as well as park certification and all kinds of sessions that members may sign up for. We offer courses in several foreign countries and are highly respected in the world of snow sports. Dan, you are an inspiration, my Grandpa, a lifelong friend. Your legacy with CASI will carry on forever. You will never be forgotten!!!

Dan's other accomplishments and recognition within the industry include:

- CASI Hall of Fame (2019)
- CSC Jimmie Spencer Snow Industry Leadership Award (2018)
- CSC Ski/Snowboard Development Award of Excellence (2004)
- CSC/CASI, Millennium Award (2000)
- CSC Award of Excellence (2000)
- CSC Recognition Award (2000)
- CSIA (Ontario) Hall of Fame (1989)
- CSIA Recognition Award (1987)
- Ontario Ski Council Recognition Award (1984)
- Ontario Ski Resorts Association Recognition Award (1983)