



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTORS

HALL OF FAME AWARD

ROB LEBLANC

INDUCTED NOVEMBER 2017



AWARD PRESENTED BY YUKIKO KAWADA, PAUL MORGAN, JARON PAULS.

Rob Leblanc has been a part of CASI and the Whistler Blackcomb Snowboard School since both organizations were in their infancy; for many of us here in the valley, Rob has been a positive and formative influence not just on our snowboard careers but in our lives as well. As such, it was our great honour to nominate him for the CASI Hall of Fame, and the Board's decision to induct him confirms the contributions Rob has made over the years.

(Paul Morgan)

Rob has been a positive influence since I first met him in a gondola on morning session many years ago. His thoughtful and insightful comments impressed me immediately, as did his sense of humour and the fact that he was riding a DIY swallowtail from the last century. Rob leads by example, and from him I saw how to lead fun and effective lessons, to take responsibility for my actions, cut-out (or at least reduce) my complaining and most importantly how to maintain the CASI standard and deliver tough news. Rob is a master at calling it like it is, and he says what needs to be said, even if people are reluctant to hear it.

(Yukiko Kawada)

Rob was one of the very first Canadian friends I made when I moved to Whistler. He was my "sensei / master" for snowboarding as well as a mentor for life in general. He has been my inspiration for riding mountains, searching for the best lines and how to train and instruct people in the most efficient way. I hold his honest and straightforward opinions in high regard. Back in the early days, he taught me how to survive and live in Canadian society the Canadian way, because I was very new to Canadian culture. He even taught me how to phrase English in a very diplomatic and sophisticated manner so I could communicate more effectively in English.

Working alongside with him opened my eyes and broadened my vision on many levels. I remember once he told me "you're not supposed to say to a person that he or she is wrong... even if that person is completely wrong! Because then they'll just get defensive, and they won't listen to whatever you say afterwards." OK Rob thanks for the advice! Working with Rob conducting CASI courses was the best learning opportunity for me to become a skillful evaluator, especially to believe in what you know about the standard and stick to it. I was very honoured to be mentored and work together this unique and original Whistler CASI legend, the only "Roblahblah".

(Jaron Pauls)

I've learnt many things over the years while working alongside Rob as a YES tours coach. Not just on the technical side of teaching people to snowboard better but how to encourage and motivate students to work hard and try their best. He is great at managing people's expectations so that they take their training quite seriously while also adding in lots of humour and fun to keep it stress free. Rob is also really good at dealing with people who are upset or angry. I've seen him talk for over an hour to a student who was very angry with his course results and afterwards have that student not only take responsibility for their mistakes but also resolve to change their attitude and work harder. He treats everyone as an equal and with respect while maintaining a low tolerance for BS. I can't remember him ever having to tell someone outright that they are wrong, instead he just points out what the consequences are so they can come to that conclusion themselves. He would always say "There is no right or wrong, only consequences." Which is a motto I have tried to adopt into my teaching and also my life. I can't think of a better role model than Rob Leblanc or anyone more deserving of a spot in the CASI Hall of Fame.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are proud to present you a CASI and Whistler legend and now a member of the CASI Hall of Fame, Roblahblah