

Canadian Institute of Forestry Gold Medal Award 2009 by Trevor Rasmussen

It is an honour to be selected as the CIF/IFC Gold Medal Award recipient for the Forestry Technician program at Algonquin College. This award is for outstanding scholarship, sports and citizenship recorded throughout the academic year – 2008/09.

Academically speaking, I did alright. I will graduate with Honours and was on the Dean's Honour Roll for each of the programs' semesters. Another award, that I was fortunate to receive, is the Angus Campbell Scholarship Award, which recognizes academic excellence from all the campus programs. Finally, my name is on the Council of Eastern Forest Technician Schools Honorary.

Over the past academic year I have been quite busy. Starting in the fall, of 2008, I joined the loggersports team and went on to two competitions. My best placing was a fourth in the snowshoe race held at Montreal. I also played recreation soccer in the fall and indoor volleyball throughout the winter. These were a college gathering of students who played once a week.

I am constantly volunteering my time when the opportunities arise. I participated in running the Envirothon, held at Logos Land, near Cobden. This event is where county high school teams compete against each other on field activities about aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife. They also competed on presentation skills about biodiversity. While acquiring my chainsaw certificate, I safely removed hazardous trees from Hugli's Blueberry Ranch, a place with numerous nature tours for children of all ages. Also, I cleared out brush and debris at the local Kiwanis Club Tree Farm. With the Friends of Petawawa Research Forest, I cleared ski trails and roads with a variety of forestry equipment.



From left to right on photo: Minga O'Brien (Ontario Parks Association award recipient) – Alison Luke (CIF – Algonquin Section Councilor) – Trevor Rasmussen (CIF Gold Medal award recipient) – Frank Knaapen (CIF – Algonquin Section Councilor)

I am also a world class volunteer with my sport of Short Track Speed Skating. This winter, at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, I will be on the ice as an active official. Currently my brother is in the process of qualifying and my mother and I are registered to volunteer. In the Fall of 2008, I flew back to Vancouver two separate times on my own dime to qualify as a volunteer. The competitions were the Canadian National Team Selection, and the World Cup Vancouver stop. As part of my qualifications, to be eligible for the Olympics, I am in the process of becoming a Level 3 Track Steward Official. I am already a Level 2 Speed Skating Coach.

Throughout the year, I was very fortunate to receive the James Croll Memorial Award. This award is in showing a general concern for environmental matters, demonstrating leadership abilities, having fieldwork skills, contributing to school life, and for achieving academic excellence. In addition, I share the role of the CIF/IFC Algonquin Section College Student Representative. Also, I am on the organizing committee for

the 2008-2009 CIF-Algonquin / Forestry Dinner and the CIF Silver Ring Ceremony. Such duties include writing articles for the CIF/IFC Newsletter.

I would like to thank Algonquin College for providing me with a superior learning experience and education. Once again, thank you