

February 4, 2012

The Canadian Yachting Association (CYA) awarded the 2011 Volunteer of the Year to the Central Okanagan Sailing Association's (COSA's) Ron Rubadeau at their annual awards ceremonies in Toronto. Ron has been an instrumental part of the race committee at five world championships, more than 30 national championships, and countless regional regattas. He has taught sailing and race management courses to kids and adults, and has lent his handyman and policy development skills to his local club in Kelowna to ensure that they remain one of the best sailing facilities in Canada.

Ron has also been a volunteer at the annual Canadian Olympic Regatta at Kingston (CORK) for more than 20 years. According to Tim Irwin, Regatta Chair, "Ron is one of our very best Senior National Race Officers and as a result is assigned to govern the courses for Olympic qualifiers. He's got a great personality for dealing with anxious competitors and has a reputation for running fair, safe, and fun races. He's one of the reasons that CORK hosts sailors from all over the world at our internationally acclaimed regattas."

This is not the first time that CYA has acknowledged Ron. In 1998 he won the Ted Chisholm trophy for being the best race officer in Canada, while COSA, his local sailing club was awarded CYA's most outstanding sailing school in 1991 and in 2000. Ron was also awarded B.C. Sailing's Volunteer of the Year in 2005, the City of Kelowna's Fred Macklin (Man of the Year) award in 2008, and the B.C. School Superintendent Association's Superintendent of the Year in 2005. Ironically, Ron did little volunteering this last year as he has been battling cancer. Ron says that, "my health is improving and I hope to be back on the water this spring."



*Photo caption:*  
Ron Rubadeau, Central Okanagan Sailing Association, accepts the 2011 CYA Volunteer of the Year Award from Gillian Thomson of the CYA Board of Directors

*Photo credits: Steve Brunsden*