

## Media Release

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### Horizon School Division's 2015 Wall of Fame Inductees

**Humboldt, SK** – The latest inductees to the Horizon School Division Wall of Fame were announced to staff and guests late last month as part of Horizon's 2015 Celebration Day event held in Humboldt, Saskatchewan on August 28. This year, seven impressive Horizon alumni were chosen in recognition of their contributions to fields such as the arts, athletics, business, politics and academics.

"We are very fortunate to have such remarkable current and former students who have achieved exceptional success in their studies and lives beyond the classroom," says Horizon School Division's Director of Education, Kevin Garinger. "The Wall of Fame is a great way to celebrate and acknowledge the success of our alumni and inspire our students and staff for many years to come. I would like to thank this year's inductees for joining us on Celebration Day to share their remarkable stories."

"When our students achieve success, it is important to acknowledge our school and division personnel for their contributions to that success," says Horizon Board of Education Chairperson, Jim Hack. "The fact that we have so many remarkable people in our Wall of Fame is a testament to the outstanding efforts of Horizon's past and present staff. Just as this award recognizes our exceptional alumni, it also recognizes the many teachers, coaches, administrators and staff members who have been guiding and encouraging our students over the course of many years."

Inductees to the Horizon School Division Wall of Fame for 2015 are:



#### **Jeffery Straker – Graduate of Punnichy Community High School**

Jeffery Straker is an award-winning singer-songwriter-pianist and performs over 100 shows per year across Canada. He has recorded for CBC radio's 'Canada Live', had a music video chart in the top 10 on Much More Music TV and has toured internationally as far as Peru, Mexico and Ghana. His tour stops range from intimate house concerts to club and theatre shows, including sold-out concerts with symphony orchestras in Regina, Saskatoon and Sudbury. A significant career boost came from winning the prestigious Vina del Mar (Chile) International Song Competition in 2014, representing Canada. Performing live to a festival crowd of 20,000 people and to a TV audience of 100,000,000 viewers across the Spanish speaking world, he gained a fan following putting him in demand for performances in Latin America.



### **Ryley Thiessen – Graduate of Winston High School**

Ryley Thiessen is currently the Vice President of Resort Design at Ecosign Mountain Resort Planners Ltd.; a world leading design firm specializing in Ski and Mountain Resort design. Ryley has been involved in four Olympic Winter Games and was lead designer for the Snow Cluster Athletes Village for the recently awarded 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China. He has designed over 100 resorts in 22 countries worldwide and was lead designer on two of the most successful four-season resorts in the world: Bukovel Resort in the Ukraine and Changbaishan Resort in Northern China, with an estimated investment of over \$2.5 billion (USD).



### **Cori Morris – Graduate of Lanigan Central High School**

Cori Morris represented Canada at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver as lead for the Canadian women's curling team. Stepping onto the podium to receive a silver medal was the culmination of her childhood dream. In 2002 Cori was selected to a National Training Centre team that travelled to Karuizawa, Japan, site of the 1998 Olympics where Sandra Schmirler's team won gold. In 2005 she joined the Cheryl Bernard rink, with teammates Carolyn McRorie and Susan O'Connor. The team represented Alberta at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in 2007 and 2009. They won their first national title at the Canadian Olympic Curling Trials in Edmonton, in December 2009, and two months later they represented Canada at the 2010 Olympics.



### **Dan Halyk – Graduate of Foam Lake Composite High School**

Dan Halyk attended the University of Saskatchewan from 1986 to 1992, where he received his Bachelor of Commerce (with Great Distinction) and Bachelor of Laws (with Distinction) degrees. In 1996, Dan founded Total Energy Services Inc. He currently serves as their President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director. He is also a principal of Trident Capital Partners LP, a private limited partnership that he co-founded in 1997. Dan serves on the Board of Directors of Innovation Saskatchewan, the Advisory Board at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy and the Dean's Advisory Council at the University of Saskatchewan's Edwards School of Business. He also serves as a director of several private for-profit energy, energy service, real estate and hospitality companies operating throughout North America, and is a member of the Law Society of Alberta.



### **Al Duerr – Graduate of Humboldt Collegiate Institute**

Al Duerr is a founder, CEO and Director of General Magnetic International Inc., a company that produces energy efficient permanent magnet motors products for the energy industry. Prior to General Magnetic, Mr. Duerr served as the CEO of a Swiss based international finance company from 2001 to 2005. In the public sector, Mr. Duerr was Mayor of Calgary from 1989 to 2001, obtaining the highest public support in successive elections of any Mayor in Calgary's history.



**Dr. Jacqueline Ottmann – Graduate of Wadena Composite High School**

After years of elementary and secondary teaching in public, separate, and private systems in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and a principalship, Jacqueline entered the University of Saskatchewan, Educational Administration graduate program where she earned a Masters of Education degree (2002) and a Ph.D. (2005) after completing research and dissertations on First Nations spirituality and leadership, and First Nations leadership development.

Ottmann is currently Associate Professor, Director of Indigenous Education, Coordinator of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Program at the Werklund School of Education, and Second Vice-President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Indigenous Education. Jacqueline has been active in research and publications that focus on successes of Indigenous education, supporting Indigenous students, Aboriginal language and literacy, Indigenous leadership and governance, leadership development, organizational culture, change management, diversity and intercultural leadership.



**Byron Bashforth – Graduate of Kelvington High School**

While studying computer science at the University of Saskatchewan, Pixar Animation Studios released the world's first computer-animated feature film, *Toy Story*. After receiving his Bachelors and Masters in Computer Science in 1996 and 1998, he moved to California to begin his career at Pixar.

Byron's first job was on *Toy Story 2* as a 'render wrangler' which involved generating images with Pixar's massive computer farm and making sure the final frames in the movie were free of problems. Shortly afterwards, he specialized in 'shading' - a department that employs both software construction and digital painting to make virtual surfaces look like the real thing.

To date, his film credits include *Toy Story 2*, *Monsters Inc.*, *For the Birds*, *Finding Nemo*, *The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille*, *Up*, *Brave*, *Monsters University*, *Inside Out*, and *Lava*.

Inductees were nominated by Horizon staff and stakeholders over the course of the previous school year. All nominations submitted are carried over each year and remain under consideration for future inductions. Horizon's Wall of Fame was established in 2014 to honour graduates of Horizon schools, including schools within the division boundaries that existed prior to amalgamation. For more information on Wall of Fame nomination guidelines or to submit your own nomination form, please [click here](#).

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For more information/photos, please contact:

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