



For Immediate Release

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### **Victoria sailor wins W.R. Bennett Award for Athlete Excellence**

A sailor from Victoria, Phillip Round, was presented the W.R. Bennett Award for Athletic Excellence by Mr. Bennett at the Closing Ceremony of the Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games.

Round is making waves on the water in the sport of sailing. He was the BC Summer Games gold medalist in the laser class this weekend, and has had remarkable placing at Provincial, Western Canadian, and North American regattas. He is vying to be selected to the youth national team this year and is pursuing his goals of competing at the 2009 Canada Summer Games and ultimately the 2016 Olympic Games. A Lambrick Park Secondary student, Round is planning to apply his focus on sport performance to a degree in Kinesiology at University. His passion and respect for all aspects of his sport shows in his commitment to volunteer coaching and mentoring to junior athletes.

The W.R. Bennett Award for Athletic Excellence recognizes one BC Summer Games athlete for their achievement in sport. Nominees were evaluated on major sport accomplishments, future potential and ambition in sport, and leadership. Phillip Round was nominated by the BC Sailing Association and chosen by a BC Games Society selection panel.

The W.R. Bennett Athlete Excellence Award was named in honour of the former Premier of British Columbia, William Bennett, who was instrumental in starting the BC Summer and BC Winter Games program in 1978. Mr. Bennett was at the Closing Ceremony to present the award which also includes a \$2500 bursary to use towards future sport expenses or post secondary education.

"I have been extremely proud of the BC Summer and Winter Games since their inception. The Games celebrate the diversity of our province's talented athletes, communities and regions. It is indeed an honour to have my name attached to the Award for Athletic Excellence and I offer my sincere congratulations to Phillip Round who is a very deserving recipient," said Mr. Bennett.

Kelly Mann, President and CEO of the BC Games Society said, "This award is designed to recognize and support the ongoing development of young athletes. We hope that Phillip's experience at the BC Summer Games combined with this financial support will assist in her pursuit of his sport dreams."

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