

Steve Sheffield, 51, has been involved in judo since the age of five. The coach and club owner was honoured by the province last week.

SPORTS

Provincial award floors veteran judo coach

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA

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In the 46 years Steve Sheffield has been involved in judo, he's been a student of the sport along with being a coach, volunteer and coowner, with his wife Aartje, of the Sheffield Judo Club in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

While being actively involved in that martial arts discipline for as long as he has, what the 51-yearold Whitchurch-Stouffville resident takes the most pride in is when others take careful notice of his devotion to the sport.

The Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport paid a fitting tribute to his dedication towards the sport when they presented him with the Syl Apps Volunteer Award for 2013 during the annual Ontario Sport Awards dinner in Toronto last week.

The Ontario Sport Awards recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of athletes, coaches, volunteers and the corporate community.

The province presents this award annually to volunteers who have contributed to the development of sport throughout Ontario.

A nominee must have made significant strides within sport in one or more category for at least 10 years.

Those include: promoting the sport, history of involvement in the sport and performance as an athlete, coach, official or administrator, to build or develop sport.

Sheffield was nominated by Judo Ontario for his volunteer efforts.

"It was a great honour to be recognized by the Judo Ontario association and my peers," Sheffield said. "I volunteer for the love of the sport and in hopes of helping to make things run more smoothly."

In learning about his nomination, Sheffield acknowledged it caught him totally off guard.

He found out about it three weeks prior to the Sport Award dinner when he was contacted by a

representative from the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport requesting him to send in a digital photo.

Having attained numerous milestones during his time on the mat, Sheffield acknowledged his latest citation had added personal significance.

"No doubt to get this award was extra special because the nomination was made without my knowledge and shows that my volunteer work with Judo Ontario has been valued by their board of directors," he said.

Introduced to the martial arts discipline through his parents when he was five years old, the Cedar Valley native has been running the judo club with his wife since 1992.

Currently possessing a sixth degree black belt. Sheffield doesn't have any plans to rest on his latest laurels. There's still plenty more work to be done to assist other aspiring judokas and in his own quest to move up the competitive ladder.

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Will be holding a public meeting to present its annual report on Class 9 pesticide use as required by Ontario Regulation 63/09 under the Pesticides Act. The annual report summarizes the use of Class 9 pesticides used in 2013:

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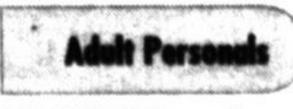
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