



TPA Announces the 2021 Excellence Award Winners

April 1, 2022 – The Tennis Professionals Association has honored several important figures in the Canadian tennis landscape for their service to the sport with TPA Excellence Awards.

The 2021 Coaching Excellence Award was given to Eddie Miron, a certified Coach 3, teaching out of Advantage Tennis International at Veneto in Ontario where he is currently the Head of Player and Coaching Development. Eddie has over 20 years of experience and has guided several Ontario players to National Selection, National Championship titles and Provincial Championship titles.

Nick Coutts of Alberta was the recipient of the 2021 Club Professional Excellence Award. A certified Coach 3, Club Pro 2 & HP Mentor Grad, Nick is the Tennis Director at Osten & Victor Alberta Tennis Centre. In his role, he has helped transform their tennis program into one of Canada's top tennis development programs and has overseen the growth of both junior and adult programs.

The 2021 Course Facilitator Excellence Award was awarded to Craig Mercer of British Columbia. Craig is currently the Tennis Director at the Arbutus Tennis Club and is a certified Coach 3 & Club Pro 3. This award is presented to a TPA Course Facilitator who has consistently demonstrated excellence in the delivery of Certification courses in Canada. Craig has joined the Course Facilitator team in 2018 and has quickly impacted numerous course candidates at the Instructor, Club Pro 1, 2 and 3 levels through his knowledge, competencies, and role modeling of quality standards. His contribution has gone beyond the courses as he has contributed as well to numerous certification resources.

Prince Edward Island's Brian Hall was the winner of the TPA Service to the Game Excellence Award. He has been involved in tennis for over 25 years, is a certified Coach 3, and the current Executive & Technical Director Tennis PEI. Not only a successful junior & adult player, Brian has also been an impactful coach for several decades and has been an exceptional leader. He has taken several Atlantic teams to Nationals and several groups of athletes to Canada Games and has supported many generations of athletes in succeeding at highly competitive levels and competing in college and/or internationally. Brian has been extremely dedicated to the growth of tennis in PEI.

Marijke Nel of Nova Scotia was announced as the fifth recipient of the Rene Simpson-Collins Excellence Award for outstanding female coaching, which is accompanied by a \$2,000 scholarship to help offset training and development costs. A certified Coach 2 and Club Pro 2, she is currently enrolled in the Club Professional 3 certification course to further her development. Marijke has been the Technical Director of Tennis Nova Scotia since 2003 and continues to service seasonal member clubs with multiple visits each year offering everything from coach workshops to HP training to fun tennis socials for players of all ages & abilities.

The Gary Caron Scholarship was awarded to Quebec native Philippe Courteau, a certified Club Pro 2, who has competed at the national level and on the NCAA circuit for a number of years. He is currently enrolled in the Coach 2 certification course and plans on continuing to Coach 3 in the future. At Tennis Beauce, where he is employed, a couple of his contributions includes of the growth of existing competitive programs along with the creation of additional junior programs and a Cegep team (which ranked first in their division).

Congratulations once again to each recipient on this incredible achievement.

The Tennis Professionals Association (TPA) is a member-based association devoted to growing the profession of tennis coaching throughout Canada. The TPA was developed by Tennis Canada for Canadian Certified Instructors, Coaches, and Club Professionals. All funds raised from the membership go directly back into coaching development. For more information visit www.tpacanada.com.