



ALBERTA 5 PIN BOWLERS ASSOCIATION

Recognizing excellence and dedication to coaching in the sport of 5 Pin Bowling

**FRAN CLARKE "GRASSROOTS"
ALBERTA 2023/24 COACH OF THE YEAR**

STACEY WEBER

(CC #724504)



The year 1989 was designated as "The Year of the Coach" by the Coaching Association of Canada and, as a participant in the National Coaching Certification Program, the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association participated.

In January of 1991, the award was renamed the "Ernie Roggie Coach of the Year Award" to honor the man who has spent a lifetime in the development of the technical programs for the Canadian 5 Pin Bowlers' Association (C5PBA). Without the countless hours and hard work of this dedicated volunteer, our technical programs would be far behind those of other sports. A tribute to Ernie's commitment is the fact that 5 Pin Bowling has one of the largest numbers of certified coaches in any sport across Canada. In 1998, the program was changed to recognize the "Grass Roots" coach.

In 2018, the A5PBA award was then renamed the "Fran Clarke Coach of the Year Award" celebrating the person who contributed to every coaching program that the sport has 5 Pin Bowling that has ever created.



**The Alberta 5 Pin Bowlers Association
is very pleased to announce the recipient of the
Alberta 2023 / 24 Fran Clarke Grassroots Coach**

It is my absolute pleasure to stand before you today and speak about someone who has given so much to the sport of bowling, a whose passion, dedication, and leadership have shaped the lives of countless bowlers.

In 1998, she just graduated from YBC Bowling. But for her, that wasn't the end of her journey—it was just the beginning. She wanted to continue growing as a bowler while also giving back to the sport that had given her so much. So, she took a coaching clinic and began working with young bowlers at her family's bowling center.

Now, over 26 years later, she remains a driving force in the bowling community. She wears many hats; bowler, coach, league proprietor, and leader. Whether she is chairing tournaments at the national, provincial, or zone levels, assisting with events, or volunteering, her dedication is unwavering.

So why does she do it? When asked, she says simply that this sport is important to her. She believes that without youth programs, bowling cannot grow. She has seen firsthand the friendships, personal achievements, and life lessons that bowling provides—not just for herself, but for her own children, her students, and the broader community. She is driven by the joy of seeing a child throw their first strike, watching them move through the ranks, and eventually, continuing in adult leagues.

Her greatest coaching achievements? She has many. But two stand out, her first time coaching at YBC Nationals for the Senior Girls team, and a deeply personal moment: watching both her daughter and son win gold individual medals in the same year, knowing she played a key role in their love for the sport.

So today, we celebrate her, not just for what she has done, but for what she continues to do. Because with leaders like her, bowling isn't just a sport. It's a legacy.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF
ALBERTA GRASSROOTS COACH OF THE YEAR!**

STACEY WEBER

Calgary, Alberta