

# SNO-FOO AWARD



TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGET IT WOULD BE DIVINE.

## SNO FOO 2005–Claude Duguay

The Eastern Snow Conference annually bestows this award on some poor hapless snow and ice researcher, who, while striving to push back the frontiers of science, is overcome by a bout of “bone-headedness,” ill planning, or just plain bad luck—in military parlance, referred to as SNAFU.

This year’s winner is a prominent scientist and well-liked member of the Canadian and/or American snow research communities. He is a bit confused as to his actual status: from what we can see, he collects his paycheck, tax receipts, and mail in Alaska, and breaks things and otherwise causes trouble in Canada. His judgment and leadership have been rewarded with the highest honor in snow science, the Presidency of the Eastern Snow Conference.

Although there was stiff competition for the award this year, the winner distinguished himself by outstanding examples of the same traits that won him the Presidency: judgment and leadership.

1. **Judgment.** In the Arctic, life and death hinge on the selection of a competent, steady, sound, and careful pilot to transport the field party to remote study sites—and more importantly, retrieve them safely to base. Anonymous sources (his fellow field workers) state that our winner hired a pilot and plane to take them to the field. The choice of the “King of Churchill” to be the helicopter pilot was an outstandingly misguided one, as “the King” was the local porn star who directed, filmed, and “demonstrated his prowess” in his own movies, and, in fact, tried to rent these out from his helicopter base/porno-film studio.
2. **Leadership.** Leading by example is a maxim of every Arctic scientist. Possibly the most egregious transgression of our winner was his choice to “take a little break” after commanding his fellow researchers to dig after a chance disaster tipped a sled carrying expensive, borrowed equipment. The fact that our winner was photographed relaxing—yet again (see next page)—in a now-habitual pose, was what tipped the balance (for this award, not the sled). We have it on good authority that a third shovel was available. He remains unrepentant, and claims to this day that “it was not my responsibility” because “it was not my fault.”

