

1996 SUMMIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

TIM AUGER

PARK WARDEN, RESCUE SPECIALIST

From his early days of climbing drain pipes and telephone poles in his native Winnipeg to the walls of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, moving up (and sometimes down) has been an important part of Tim Auger's life. Inspired by the escapades of Walter Bonatti and Fosco Maraini's book, *Karakoram: The Ascent of Gasherbrum IV*, Tim started climbing at the Squamish Chief and, in 1964 at the age of 18, joined Dan Tate in the second ascent of *Grand Wall*. "I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," is how he described the two-day climb. Later, Tim made the first ascent of *University Wall* at Squamish, so named because that's where he was supposed to be at the time!

In 1967, Tim joined the trail crew in Yoho National Park, which was his introduction to a lifelong career with the Park Service in the Canadian Rockies. For six years, he was stationed as a seasonal warden at Lake O'Hara, which he describes as "the most beautiful place on earth, but don't tell anybody!" From 1975 to the present, Tim has worked in the Banff search and rescue and avalanche safety programs, and has been the supervisor of the area rescue team since 1981. He has worked to refine the helicopter sling rescue system, to develop rescue pilot standards, and researched avalanche probing methods.

Tim has been climbing for over 40 years. In the 1970s, he made early Canadian ascents in Yosemite and the Sierras, including *Triple Direct* on El Capitan and first winter ascents of the East Face of Keeler Needle on Mount Whitney and the East Face of Washington Column. He participated in the birth of waterfall ice climbing in Canada with first ascents of *Bourgeau Right* and *Left-Hand* routes. And in northern Canada, his ascents include the East Ridge of Mount Logan, where he survived a spectacular 600-metre fall while descending from the summit. Internationally, he has climbed the South Ridge of Pumori in Nepal and was a member of the Canadian Mount Everest Expedition of 1982. At home in the Rockies, his "best climbing moments" include the third ascent of the East Face of Mount Babel, the North Face of Mount Alberta, and the rock routes *Ultra Brewers* on Castle Mountain and *Homage to the Spider* on Mount Louis.