

## 2022 NOTO President's Award Recipient Les Sparks, Mercury Marine

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***Presented by NOTO President Bob Garson (Garson's Fly-in Outposts) at the Northern Ontario Tourism Summit in Thunder Bay, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.***

Hello everyone, I am very happy to be back to the Tourism Summit where we are able to be face to face. I appreciate that I can present the NOTO President's Award personally this year.

I would like to give some perspective as to why I selected this year's recipient. The average time someone spends employed with the same employer is 5 years. This does not reflect people who own their own business, as tourism operators well know.

An employee who stays employed with the same company for 10 years is most certainly valued and obviously happy in this career.

An employee with 25 years at the same company is rare because it takes a reputable, productive and adaptive company and the employee must be an integral part of that.

Some at the same company for over 40 years have picked the right career. I would say they live and breathe their career.

The recipient has been a part of NOTO since 1991, yes 31 years, but more incredibly has been with Mercury Marine for 51 years.

The recipient of this years 2022 NOTO President's Award is Les Sparks!

Les has been a regular attendee at the NOTO Conventions and the tourism summits for three decades. He is an incredibly supportive Preferred Supplier who has always been quick to jump in and help out. He has always been a strong ambassador of membership in NOTO.

Les has announced his retirement from Mercury Marine and we want to thank him and wish him well. Thank you Les for everything!