

Allan Fitzpatrick

Inducted 1993

Behind every great sporting event is a legion of volunteers — anonymous, dedicated, frequently unsung. Without them, the event could not take place. Without them, the tending to the myriad of details which mean the difference between success or failure would be overlooked. And without them, the organizations which support and plan and implement these events would be unable to function.

Allan Fitzpatrick was such a volunteer. And his great event was the Commonwealth Games.

Allan came to the Games through another love — badminton — the sport he played, coached, administered, and promoted with such enthusiasm that he became known throughout Quebec as "Mr. Badminton". From 1964 to 1971, he was the sport's representative to the Association. In 1970 he travelled to the British Commonwealth Games as manager of the badminton team.

Following the Edinburgh Games, Allan was elected treasurer of the Association, a position he held for the next 16 years. Admired by friends and colleagues for his total integrity, his loyalty, his reliability, and his high standards*, Allan tended to almost every detail of the day-to-day operations of the Association, swinging into high gear as each Games approached. He even took care of the team clothing, remembers Ken Smith, who knew Allan well during these years.

"His love of sport and the Commonwealth Games drove him to spend all his spare time working for the betterment of both," says Ken. "He was a true volunteer who finished every task he undertook and helped in every circumstance."

Blessed with solid managerial skills, Allan also served as general team manager at the 1982 Brisbane Games; at Christchurch in

1974 and Edmonton in 1978, he was right-hand man to Neil Farrell.

In his youth, Allan had been one of Canada's all-star soccer players, playing for national title holders in 1934 and 1935. In his later years, he took up golf with equal fervour, playing at least once a week at the Whitlock Golf Course in Hudson, Quebec, until his sudden death three years ago.

Allan's selfless commitment on behalf of sport has not gone unnoticed. He was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for his dedication to amateur sport, and the H.I. Evans Memorial Award for his contributions to Canadian badminton. He was also honoured by the Quebec and New England Badminton Associations.

Fond of young people and interested in their well-being, Allan Fitzpatrick was a great believer in the positive benefits of sport for the youth of Canada. He spent his lifetime striving to make sport a worthwhile endeavour, one that would provide everyone who took part, whatever the capacity, with a sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done.

In honouring him, the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada recognizes an outstanding and devoted sportsman.

* Allan Fitzpatrick as remembered by Ken Farmer, October 1993.

