

A W A R D O F M E R I T



DISTINCTION DE MÉRITE

In recognition of distinguished contributions
to sport through the Commonwealth Games

Pour sa contribution remarquable à la cause du
sport dans le cadre des Jeux du Commonwealth

Presented to • Décerné à:

Doreen Ryan

President • Président(e)

Inducted • Intronisé(e)



DOREEN RYAN

Doreen Ryan is a most remarkable individual, a champion of 'goodness' and decency. She is a woman who is the best example of what is good about the world of sport. Her significant and lasting contribution to the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada as a founder, builder and leader, in addition to her accomplishments as an elite athlete, testify to this fact.

She is a fierce competitor. Hates to lose. Gracious when winning. Loves to compete. The 'process' is what 'it' is really all about, and not just the moment caught at the finish line, or in her case, on the podium. Doreen was a major force in speed skating, winning 39 major titles, including 12 national championships. She was a member of the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Teams, and the 1964 World Teams. She won the 1959 Olympic time trials, and the 1964 Swiss international time trials. She was also a leader in Summer sport. An extremely accomplished track and field athlete, she competed in the 100m, 60m hurdles, high jump, and discus, to name a few. She also swam, played softball and badminton competitively. Doreen was a member of the Canadian Champion Morton's Softball Team.

Her many years as a dedicated founder and builder, include working as Vice President and Secretary of the Commonwealth Games Foundation of Canada; member and Vice President of the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada. For six years leading to the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, she was a director, an executive member of the Sports Committee, as well as Manager of the Women's Village. A tireless volunteer, she was also a national team manager of the Canadian Track and Field team for the 1974 Commonwealth Games; 1976 and 1980 Olympics; and 1979 Pan-Am Games, as well as for international tours and competitions. In 1981, she was chair of the International Conference University Games "Women in Sport". She has advised on athletes' villages for both the 1994 Victoria Commonwealth Games and Lillehammer Olympic Games. Doreen has also contributed at the provincial and local levels of sport and education by being on various education and sport committees, even to this day.

She was the first employee of the Association: from 1985 to 86 she worked at the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada as the Games Mission Coordinator for the Edinburgh Games. Then in 1986, she began work as the supervisor/operating manager of the Athletes' Olympic Village for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games.

Doreen is a woman of tremendous passion, energy and integrity. She is a woman of substance that has met each challenge faced in her life as a wife, mother, competi-

tor, administrator, and teacher. Doreen was named Sportswoman of 1964, was the 1st woman inducted into Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame. She is also a member of the Canadian Speed Skating, Alberta and Alberta Softball Sports Halls of Fame. No one can look at Doreen Ryan's contribution to the Commonwealth Games without being moved by her energy, her desire to excel, and her efforts to ensure that others - especially Canadian athletes - have everything it takes to succeed. Her twenty-five years of distinguished service to the Commonwealth Games movement has set a standard of excellence for all volunteers.

Doreen Ryan is a world champion in so many ways. We are lucky to have had her be part of our lives at the Commonwealth Games because she made a contribution. She left us in a better way than she found us. Doreen was a mentor and supporter to evolving leaders; her positive and objective outlook, ability to bridge past...helped us understand each other's perspectives. She proposed the compromises, asked the questions that made us dig deeper, think harder, come up with the better approach. Along the way, Doreen gathered a vast number of friends and admirers who have looked on in wonder at the determination and skill that she possesses.

The Commonwealth Games Association of Canada is pleased to award Doreen Ryan, a dedicated builder, leader and life-long volunteer, with the Award of Merit for her distinguished and lasting contribution.

