

Kenneth H. Farmer

Inducted 1996

What begins as a childhood passion often turns into a life-long love that brings inspiration to all those who are touched by it. Such was the case with Ken Farmer. As a young man he was an exemplary athlete and as a member of Canada's silver medal hockey team at the 1936 Olympics and a university tennis champion, sport was a focus of his life.

When he began his career as a chartered accountant in Montreal, he did not forsake this love of sport, but turned his focus to sport administration where he became a highly respected sport administrator and leader — first, with the Canadian Olympic Association and, later, the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada. Secretary General of the COA in 1949, then president from 1953 to 1961, he was chef de mission of the 1953 Canadian Olympic Team in Helsinki and treasurer of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games Association from 1948 to 1951. Key organizer of the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, he was an inductee into the Olympic Order of Canada twenty years later.

A Member of the Order of Canada, his contributions to sport were second to none, but it was during his years as president of the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada from 1978 to 1983 that his

unequaled talents reached their peak. The CGAC's evolution into a model of excellence for sport organizations is due largely to his nurturing in the formative years.

Over the years, his primary goal was to bring people, particularly young people, into sport and he did this with dignity and conviction. Today, his spirit lives on in those he inspired both on the playing fields and in the board rooms.

First and foremost a gentle man and a gentleman, Ken Farmer is the personification of what amateur sport was and should be. The Commonwealth Games Association of Canada is proud to honour Ken Farmer with the Award of Merit for his lifelong dedication to sport, his inspirational leadership and his commitment to the values of the Commonwealth movement.

