

# A W A R D   O F   M E R I T



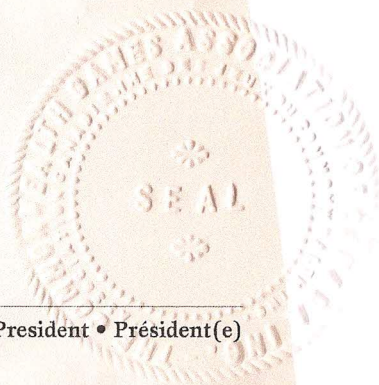
# DISTINCTION DE MÉRITE

*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 :

*Robert Adams*



President • Président(e)

*2005*

Inducted • Intronisé(e)



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## ROBERT ADAMS

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*Very few Canadians can say that in the course of their lives, they have participated as athlete, coach and official in both Olympic and Commonwealth Games, while also making an outstanding contribution to Canadian sport as a builder. Robert "Bob" Adams is one of them.*

*In the course of a lifetime dedicated to education and athletics, Bob Adams began his competitive career relatively late, when he took up teaching in his native Saskatchewan following his military service in the Canadian Army in World War II. He competed for Canada in decathlon at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, and went on to compete in pole vault and high jump events at the immortal "Four-Minute Mile" Commonwealth (Empire) Games in Vancouver in 1954.*

*Bob began his coaching career in 1956 following a knee injury in 1955 and served as Head Coach of the Saskatoon Track and Field Club for 20 years. As coach, he took the Canadian Track and Field Team to the 1958 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Wales, and to the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, with a remarkable cast of top Canadian athletes including Bruce Kidd in 5,000 & 10,000m events), Abby Hoffman (800m events), Harry Jerome 100m - bronze) and Bill Carruthers (800m - silver). As coach at Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon, he was also a major influence and mentor to Diane Jones Konihowski as she began her track career.*

*Along the way in his coaching career, Bob also found the time, energy and love to coach the boys' and girls' senior high school basketball teams at Nutana and Aden Bowman Collegiates to three provincial titles.*

*Bob's third career, as an official, began in the late 1960's. He reached the world stage at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal where he was Chief Judge for pole vault. He officiated at many national and international meets thereafter, highlighted by the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, the 1983 Universiade in Edmonton, the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Vancouver, and the 2001 World Track and Field Championships in Edmonton.*

*As administrator, he played a leading role in amateur sport in his native province, serving at various times as President of the Saskatchewan Track and Field Association, the Saskatchewan Amateur Athletic Union, and the Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association. He was instrumental in getting the AAU of Canada to hold national outdoor championships in Saskatoon, in 1958, 1960 and 1963. He brought indoor track and field to Saskatoon as well, organizing the Knights of Columbus Indoor Games, which were internationally recognized for decades as one of the best meets in North America and which still exist today. He participated actively in the organization of the 1971 Canada Winter Games in Saskatoon as a member of the Organizing Committee.*

*In and around his dedication to sport, Bob volunteered his time with his favourite community service organizations, being a member of the Kiwanis Club for 52 years, and serving as President of the Nutana Kiwanis Club and Kiwanis Club Victoria.*

*In the early 1970s, Bob was asked to join the Advisory Board of the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada (afterward the Honourary Members of Commonwealth Games Canada) by the legendary Col. John "Jack" Davies. He remained with the CGC ever after, serving on the Sport Selection Committee for the 1974 (Christchurch) and 1978 (Edmonton) Games. He represented CGC on the Victoria Commonwealth Games Sport Committee in the lead-up to the 1994 Games. He regularly participated in Annual General Meetings, particularly in the 1990's when CGC was undergoing major changes in its constitution and bylaws. He served on the Award of Merit Committee in 1996 and 2000, making necessary improvements in the criteria and process of nominations. In 1999 and 2003 he acted as chief scrutineer for the quadrennial elections.*

*Over the years, Bob has received many honours from a grateful community. They include induction into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 1984, the University of Saskatchewan Wall of Fame, the Canadian Track and Field National Officials Committee Wall of Honour in 1985, and the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame as a builder in 1997.*

*The Bob Adams Foundation, established in his honour by the track and field community of Saskatchewan in 1983, and of which he is a Director, continues to foster the development of the sport through bursaries to coaches and officials and two post-secondary scholarships to developing athletes.*