

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 Osborne

President • Président(e)

Inducted • Intronisé(e)



ROBERT OSBORNE

Many people have a passion for sport, or teaching or volunteering. Robert Osborne has made outstanding and significant contributions in all three areas. His work within the Commonwealth Games movement, his vision, and leadership was spurred by his dedication to all three passions.

In 1954, he was a member of the Organizing Committee of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games Society, providing invaluable support to Col Jack Davies, then President of the CGAC. Bob's objective was to ensure that the Games would become "a lasting monument to amateur sport in Canada". He was indeed successful. For these very same Games, Bob was also Assistant General Manager of the Canadian Team. In 1958 Bob was General Manager of the Canadian Team for the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff. He was honorary Vice-President of the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada from 1975 until 1990. His continued support as an Honorary member, even participating in Annual General Meetings until very recently, was respected and sought out.

He has been an active volunteer in many organizations, contributing as member or President. He was general manager, liaison member or Chef de mission on several Canadian Pan American Games teams from 1959 to 1975. He has also worked tirelessly with the Canadian Olympic Association, as vice-president, and member of the board of directors.

As an elite athlete, Bob Osborne competed in many sports including track and rugby, but it was basketball that brought him to the 1936 Olympic Games. He was considered one of the best basketball players in Canada. He later coached the Canadian Olympic basketball team in 1948, and became manager of the Canadian Olympic track and field team in 1956. Always giving back to a system that made him successful.

Bob Osborne is responsible for starting a degree program in physical education at UBC, at the time one of only three schools in Canada to provide such a degree. He was involved in the creation of the Bachelor of Recreation Education degree, and he was the first president of the B.C. Recreation Association.

Many awards have followed a life of volunteerism and dedication to ideals. He is a member of the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Amateur Hall of Fame, has received the 1967 Canadian Confederation Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal (1977). He received an Honorary LL.D. from the University of Western Ontario in 1987. He was appointed to the Olympic Order (silver medal) and to the Order of Canada.

The Commonwealth Games Association of Canada honors Robert F. Osborne with the Award of Merit for his contribution to the ideals of the Commonwealth movement and to the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada.

