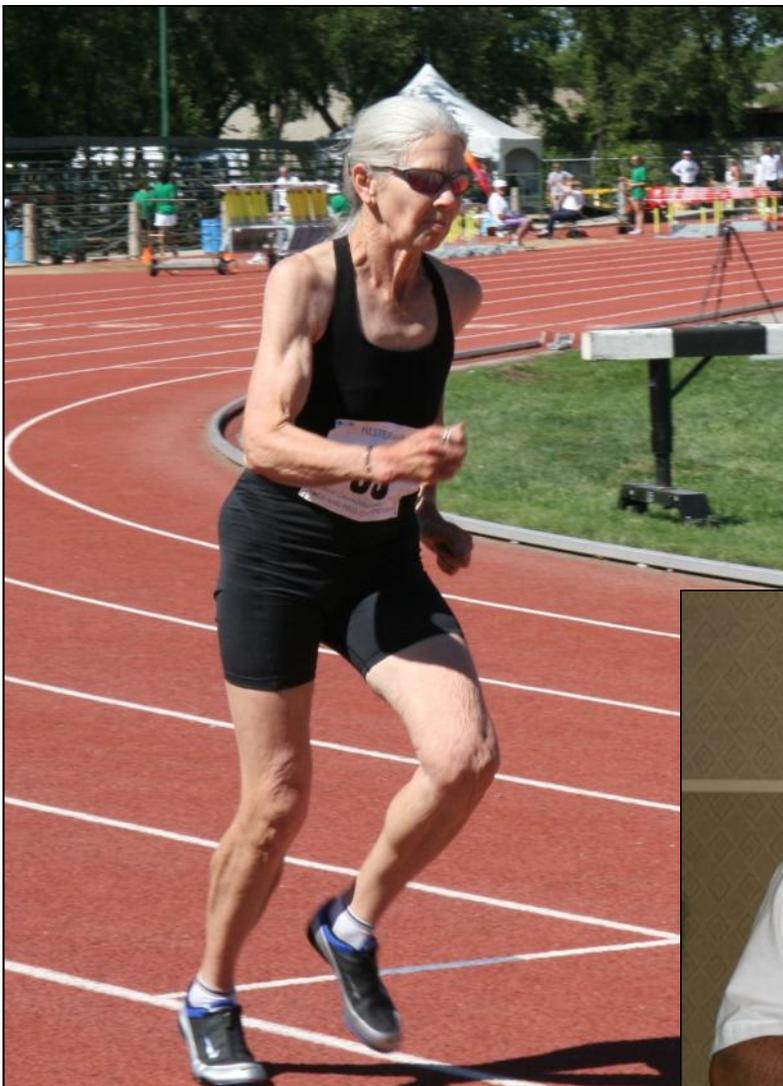


Canadian Masters 2008 Athletes of the Year

July 18, 2009 - At the Athletics Banquet held as part of the CMAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships on Saturday, July 18th, in Kamloops, BC, the CMAA honoured current athletes, by presenting awards to the 2008 Athletes of the Year, and some current and past athletes, by inducting eight new members into the Canadian Masters Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Athlete of the Year award for 2008 was expanded compared to 2007, to include separate awards for Running/Walking and Field Events, for men and women. In the presentation, it was indicated that the expanded awards were introduced to give more athletes a chance to be considered for the annual awards, and as a response to requests from members.

Running / Racewalking - Female **Diane Palmason BC**



Diane won this category as a result of her W70 records set in 2008 – a Canadian record in the 200m and a World record in the 400m, plus being part of record-setting relay teams, a 4 x 100 Canadian record and a 4 x 400 World record.



Diane accepts her award from CMAA President Brian Keaveney

Running / Racewalking - Male

Alain Boucher ON



Alain Boucher, an accomplished W45 runner from Ontario, won for his Canadian records set in 2008, with very high age-graded scores, in the 800m, at 94%, the 1500m, at 93% and the Steeplechase, at 92%. Don Ritchie was the runner-up in this category.

Field Events - Female

Margaret Tosh SK

Margaret Tosh from Saskatchewan, who set Canadian W70 records in 2008 in five Throws events, the Weight, Shot, Discus, Hammer and Javelin, and in the Throws Pentathlon. In winning, she received more votes from the CMAA Executive than Liz McBlain, W60, and Myrtle Acton, W75, two other throwers who had been short-listed.



Judy Warick accepts on behalf of Margaret

Field Events - Male

Don Ritchie ON

Don Ritchie, a Combined Events athlete from Ontario, who had set Canadian records in the Heptathlon, the Decathlon and the Indoor Pentathlon. Because of the “combined” nature of his events, Don qualified in both the Field Events and the Running/Walking categories. Don beat out M60 Jean-Pierre Mayer, who had set Canadian records in several Field events in the World Indoor Championships in France.

