

Brian Oxley



Brian (top) in the Steeple at the Worlds in Japan '93

Although **Brian Oxley** is being honoured for his many contributions to masters athletics as an administrator, his initial involvement was as an athlete. In his words, he “tried them all” – 200m to the marathon, plus steeplechase, jumps and throws. He loves cross-country, and cites the team bronze that he, Arthur Taylor and Johnny Johnston won in the WAVA Cross Country race in New Zealand in 1981 as one highlight in a master career that stretches from 1973 to the present.

Amazingly, his stint as a member of the CMAA executive covers this same time frame, from 1973 to the present. He chaired the Organizing Committee for the first World Championships in Toronto in 1975, and subsequently succeeded Don Farquharson as president of CMAA (then CMITT) when Don became first president of WAVA. At one stage in those early years, Brian found himself serving as President, Treasurer and Bulletin editor, all at the same time. He then became involved at the international level, becoming president of NCCWMA, and thus serving on the WAVA/WMA council where he had earlier played a part in developing the constitution. He occupied a number of roles at the international level, including that of Records chairman. As any member of CMAA who follows masters athletics at the international level may be aware, contributing at this level can be stressful thanks to what Brian diplomatically refers to as a “European management style”. After several instances in which the European leaders seemed to be ignoring the Constitution, Brian “walked away from it all. It was no longer fun”. Demonstrating his keen sense of the fun of masters athletics, Brian included the following anecdote from his early competitive days:

“I couldn’t throw the javelin any further than the discus and was puzzled by this. My father-in-law claimed to know a bit about it, so I asked him to watch what I was doing. I threw the discus, then threw the javelin – which pierced the discus! “Do that again”, he said. I had to have the discus repaired by a carpenter at work”.

The executive and all members of the Canadian Masters Athletic Association thank and salute Brian for his years of dedication to the administration of masters athletics, and welcome him to their Hall of Fame.



The **2009 inductees** into the **Canadian Masters Hall of Fame** were announced at the Championships

Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 18th in Kamloops.

Diane Palmason is the Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. Members of the Committee presented the HOF plaques.

As Brian Oxley had other volunteer commitments with his community’s Music Festival this weekend, Vern Christensen (L), vice-president of CMAA and executive liaison for the Hall of Fame committee accepted the certificate on Brian’s behalf.

Vern read Brian O’s words:

“To have seen our sport grow, to have met so many wonderful people in so many countries over so many years, and to have been able to help a little along the way – these are rewards enough. However, I do thank the Committee and CMA’s Executive for this honour. Wish I could be with you on the track – one of these days!”