

# Sverre Hietanen



Photo courtesy Mario Bartel / Newsleader

Now 90 years old, Sverre can look back to a long career as a middle and long distance runner. The Norwegian native was based in BC for most of that career, though he did travel widely, starting with the First WAVA meet in Toronto in 1975, where he won gold and silver medals. He especially remembers his marathon races in the '77, '79 and '81 WAVA meets, and his sub-3-hours race in Boston in 1979 (by 36 seconds!) by 1985 Sverre held 39 BC records – 17 track and 22 road – at distances from one mile to the marathon, a distance he completed 50 times. Quadruple bypass surgery in 2000 didn't prevent him from remaining active, with daily walks and polar bear swims. BC athletes particularly appreciate his many years of officiating at local track meets. He was BC's Masters athlete of the year 3 times, and BC Athletics' Masters athlete of the year at least six times. Now we are pleased to honour his accomplishments at the national level by inducting him into the Canadian Masters Athletics Hall of Fame.

Citations for Athletes inducted into the Canadian Masters Athletics Hall of Fame 2010 were presented at the gala Awards Banquet in Toronto on July 16th.



John Hawkins accepted Sverre's certificate on his behalf. from HOF Chair Diane Palmason