

## ***2003 Volunteer of the Year***

(Presentation speech by Kevin Miller for Michelle Barnet at the Awards Evening on October 3, 2003)

“Triathlon Manitoba is a volunteer-based organization ...”. Those are the first few words of our Mission Statement that appears in the top right corner of our website homepage.

“We are committed to treating our volunteers with respect, giving them meaningful work with enjoyable and challenging opportunities, and recognizing their contributions.” That’s from the Volunteers page on our website.

The *Volunteer of the Year* award was only initiated last year when the Triathlon Manitoba Board decided to broaden the scope of our formal awards. However, in previous years, a President’s Citation was often given to recognize outstanding volunteers, and since 1999, Triathlon Manitoba has always nominated one of our volunteers as the Sport Manitoba Volunteer of the Year.

Triathlon Manitoba’s success is as a result of excellent work by our three staff, and major and minor contributions by **many** volunteers.

Most of our volunteers do not receive much recognition, but those of us who are involved in the day-to-day operation of this organization know who they are. A bit earlier, Marc mentioned some examples.

Which leads me to our 2003 *Volunteer of the Year*.

2003 was Michelle’s 7th year as a lead organizer with the Sandman and Lac du Bonnet Triathlons – again this year as coordinator of registration, timing, and results.

Michelle joined the Board of Directors of Triathlon Manitoba in 2000, and she has been the Program Development Committee Chair ever since. Program Development is our biggest Committee with many responsibilities that include:

- Bingo Program
- Regional and Club Development
  - On more than one occasion, Michelle accompanied Jaclyn to Morden to help find and train a new Race Director for the Morden International Triathlon.
- Swim Program
  - Michelle led the reorganization of the Swim Program that took effect last November 1<sup>st</sup>. She worked with the Swim Coaches and the Board of Directors to implement the many important changes to that program.
- Equipment Rental Program
- Clinics for current and potential athletes
  - Michelle reinstated the Thursday Night cycle training program this year. She approached a few coaches for ideas, attended about half the sessions, and led about half of those that she attended.
  - Michelle set-up the bicycle maintenance clinics this past spring.
  - She initiated, designed, and led the Running Room Triathlon Clinic. She spent about 45 volunteer hours from mid-April to late June delivering sessions for the 15 new triathletes registered in that clinic. Their target event was at St Malo. You may recall seeing the photo and reading the story on our website about those 15 new triathletes. Michelle attended every race during the summer (this includes Try-a-Tri at Kids of Steel events) in order to help the new participants with their set-up and race strategy.
- Race Series
  - Michelle volunteered with timing and results at the Triple Threat Triathlon and Morden, she was the registration/timing/results coordinator at Essex Road and Lac du Bonnet. She also volunteered to do the staff function at the Triple Threat KoS, St. Malo KoS and Morden KoS so that Jaclyn could participate in the Try-a-Tri.

A great deal of Triathlon Manitoba’s success in the past year to a result of the tremendous efforts and achievements of Michelle Barnet, and I’m very pleased to present her with the 2003 *Volunteer of the Year* award.