

Triathlon Manitoba 2004 Volunteers of the Year – Donna & Bill Davidson

Award was presented at the 2004 Annual Awards Night – October 30, 2004

Donna and Bill were the Chairs of the Triathlon event for the 2004 MTS Manitoba Games in Dauphin. This race was a key event on the Triathlon Manitoba calendar and in our game plan/program portfolio. Donna and Bill put a tremendous amount of time and energy into the event to ensure that all details were well planned. Over the 2 years leading up to the August event they began to learn about hosting an event and familiarize themselves more on the details of our sport. In 2003, they staged a small local youth event so that they could get the feel for hosting a triathlon. They also volunteered and officiated at KOS events this season to gain a better understand for the event flows.

In preparation for the event Donna and Bill attend all the Host Society Sport meetings, worked with TriMb on plans and they made countless trips up to Riding Mountain to do course measurements/route planning and talk with the park to develop an excellent relationship. Donna and Bill recruited an awesome group of volunteers (both from Dauphin and within Wasagaming) who they trained and held advance meetings with prior to the event so that all volunteers were knowledgeable of their roles. Without the well-managed final event, our association's effort over the past 2 years to strength our Games program would not have been complete. The triathlon event was one of the best organized of all the separate sport events that comprised the 2004 Games. This was a remarkable feat, in light of the fact they were "hosting" the event in Clear Lake and had the added challenge of dealing with several other jurisdictions.

Within the Parkland region they helped to coordinate an official's and coaching clinic in Dauphin to develop officials for the regional & final event and prepare a coach for the Parkland/Host team. In addition to running a nearly flawless event they developed a local group of energetic and committed volunteers who will help to promote the sport of triathlon in and around Dauphin for many years to come. They also procured a bike trailer during the process, which is part of the legacy of the Games that will prove to be of great service in the future.

The significant development of triathlon in Parkland in the last 2 years was due to the volunteer efforts of Donna and Bill. They were excellent representative for triathlon on the Dauphin host committee and delivered a very well organized event that left a very positive image of our sport with athletes/spectators/funding partners and sponsors.