

2005 Volunteer of the Year

(Presentation speech by Kevin Miller for Angela Douklias at our Awards Evening on October 15, 2005)

As most of you know, Triathlon Manitoba is a volunteer-based organization that has many opportunities for enjoyable, challenging, and useful work. We respect our volunteers, and recognize their contributions. The highest form of our recognition is the *Volunteer of the Year* award, and we always make the effort to nominate our *Volunteer of the Year* as the Sport Manitoba *Volunteer of the Year* at their *Night of Champions* each April.

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

This year's recipient was a very strong candidate for the award last year, but it was a Manitoba Games year, and the very deserving 2004 award recipients, Bill & Donna Davidson, did an outstanding job as Chairs of the triathlon organizing committee for the 2004 Manitoba Games in Dauphin.

This year's recipient has been a consistent participant at our events since 2002, and she has officiated at many of our Grand Prix, Kids of Steel, and other events during the past three years.

She joined our *Board of Directors* in October 2003, and her major efforts and outstanding work have resulted in major and lasting contributions to Triathlon Manitoba during the past two years. In particular:

- As *Appeals & Policies Director* in 2003-2004, Angela contributed an extensive amount of time and effort while working with Executive Director Jaclyn Vallis and volunteer lawyer Jennifer Goldenberg (who is now our *Management Director*) to review and rewrite all of our existing policies, and write necessary new policies. In 10 months time, almost our entire portfolio of policies improved from a status of "old and semi-adequate" to being completely up-to-date, relevant, and in compliance with Sport Manitoba's current guidelines. A few of the policies have been used by at least one other Sport MB PSO as a template for their policies. All of these policies are posted on our website's Policies page.
- As *Special Programs Director* in 2003-2004, Angela planned and worked on fund-raising, sponsorship, and promotional ideas. Working with Jaclyn, she produced a sponsorship letter, and she was the driving force behind the production of our 2004 poster that promotes triathlon as a lifetime lifestyle sport and fitness activity.
- As *Special Programs Director* this past year, she developed a Participant's Survey (which captured demographics and attitudes/actions towards sponsors). Angela's goal is the one that has eluded Triathlon Manitoba for many years: attract title sponsors to our organization.
- Angela has been a member of the *Awards Evening Committee* for the past two years. She's been here doing set-up since this afternoon.
- Angela has directed one of our largest committees, Program Development, during the past year. Program Development has a very large number of responsibilities, and Angela has handled it well. Just three examples:
 - Angela led the review and update of our *Swim Program Policy*, and she was recently heavily involved with the effort to replace both of our veteran swim coaches who recently retired.
 - Triathlon Manitoba's long-served *Bingo Coordinator* left Winnipeg this past year, so Angela assumed that responsibility.
 - Many interesting, relevant, and popular clinics have been offered to our membership.
- At our 2005 Annual General Meeting three weeks ago, Angela was re-elected to the Board as Vice President

Angela is honest, friendly, helpful, thoughtful, and dependable. Her pleasant demeanour contributes to a very good work environment at Triathlon Manitoba for both other volunteers and our staff, and she is very well-liked by everyone who comes into contact with her.

Much of our success during the past two years is as the result of the tremendous efforts and achievements of Angela Douklias, and I'm very pleased to present her with the 2005 *Volunteer of the Year* award.