

## ***2006 Volunteer of the Year***

(Presentation speech by Kevin Miller for Darlene Cole at our Awards Evening on October 21, 2006)

Every successful organization is comprised of talented, hard-working, and dedicated people. Triathlon Manitoba's Executive Director Jaclyn Vallis certainly exhibits those attributes, as do many of our volunteers.

"Triathlon Manitoba is a volunteer-based organization ...". Those words appear as part of our Mission Statement in the top right corner of our website homepage, so they must be true. The Volunteers page on our website says that "we are committed to treating our volunteers with respect, giving them meaningful work with enjoyable and challenging opportunities, and recognizing 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.

There are many important volunteer roles in this organization. Some of them are critical to our operation as a successful Provincial Sport Organization. One of those is the position of Treasurer.

Triathlon Manitoba's Board of Directors has had excellent Treasurers during the past 17 years. Very few other Provincial Sport Organizations have benefited from such knowledgeable and hard-working people managing their financial health. Darlene continues that string of excellence.

As Treasurer for the past two years, Darlene has done an exceptional job of managing Triathlon Manitoba's finances, and she has consistently presented concise, thorough, and easy-to-understand financial statements at Board meetings.

Her particular achievements and personal situation are impressive:

- In response to annual auditing costs that were spiralling out of control, Darlene initiated a tender process for a new auditor. The company that she recommended, and was chosen by the Board, has now produced two years of fully satisfactory audited annual statements. The new auditor produced them on a timely basis and at a major cost saving to us compared to the previous auditor.
- Major changes to the Sport Manitoba funding formula last year, from Game Plan Funding to Directed Funding, presented the challenge of creating a very different budget for the current year -- 2006-2007. Last November, Darlene acted professionally, impartially, and fairly to deal with differing visions during the creation and review of that 2006-2007 budget, and she presented a budget that satisfied all of Triathlon Manitoba's requirements. The Board unanimously approved it.
- Darlene gave birth a few months ago, so she is on maternity leave from her professional career, but she continues to fulfill her current two-year mandate as Triathlon Manitoba Treasurer.
- Darlene is not volunteering her time to Triathlon Manitoba for personal self-interest because neither she nor any member of her family is currently an active triathlete, but rather because she supports the goals and objectives of Triathlon Manitoba.

Darlene has also been Chairperson of the Awards Evening Committee during the past three years, since the time she joined our Board of Directors. She introduces innovative ideas each year in order to keep the Awards Evening interesting and successful.

A great deal of Triathlon Manitoba's success during the past three years is as the result of our finances being managed in a very professional, transparent, prompt, and cooperative manner by Darlene Cole, so I'm very pleased to present her with the 2006 *Volunteer of the Year* award.