

## **2007 Volunteers of the Year – Maureen & Mark Van Schepdael**

(Presentation speech by Andrea Tetrault for Maureen & Mark at our Awards Evening on October 20, 2007)

Mark and Maureen set up the Winnipeg branch of Tri-Force Triathlon Team in February 2007. From the very beginning they have stressed the importance of the team being recognized by Triathlon Manitoba. In order to fulfill this requirement, Mark and Maureen suggested the Team take over the fall wind-up Kids of Steel Race at Birds Hill Park. They also volunteered to take over the Spring Duathlon Series at Birds Hill Park, when the Markham brothers put the feelers out for someone to take over. They have also stressed the availability to volunteer at bingos, not only to help athletes earn money for Tri related costs, but also to do our part for the organization and profile of the sport. Mark and Maureen are active members of the triathlon community and have always encouraged the team to be involved. To say Mark and Maureen are passionate about Triathlon is an understatement. It is their lives, and the team is their family. They have both dedicated many years to this sport, and have inspired many new athletes to pursue triathlon both in Edmonton, and now Winnipeg.

Mark and Maureen have participated in triathlons since the early 1990's and Ironman competitions (Canada and Coeur D'Alene) since 1998. They both continue to participate and support all the local races. Their daughter, Kaci, is also an avid racer in the Kids of Steel races.