



49th Legion Athletic Camp

Winnipeg's Wayne McMahon will be honoured Wednesday July 14, 2010 as the recipient of the Royal Canadian Legion Sports Foundation's 2010 C.A.P. award. This prestigious award honours an individual for outstanding service in the roles of coach, athlete and promoter of a selected sport; in this case the sport of track and field.

The C.A.P. will be presented at the 49th Legion Athletic Camp, which is situated at the International Peace Garden on the Manitoba/North Dakota border.

"Wayne has been an ambassador for the sport of track and field in Manitoba and across Canada," said Legion Athletic Camp founder and head coach George Phillips, 82. "He attended this camp as both an athlete and later a coach. This most prestigious award is given to a former coach or athlete that has attended the program."

McMahon was born in Winnipeg but grew up and began his athletic career in Boissevain Manitoba under the direction of Larry Hodkinson and Eric Pohl. He has been associated with the Legion Athletic Camp for 47 years as he was first sponsored by the Lions Club of Boissevain to attend the camp in 1963. McMahon left Boissevain in Grade 10 and completed his last years of high school in Brandon's Vincent Massey High School continuing to attend the track and field portion of the multi-sport summer camp from 1963-to-1969.

And then in 1972, the same year he won the Canadian Junior National 3,000 metre steeplechase title, he returned to coach at the Legion Athletic Camp. He has been head coach of the advanced track and field program since 1979.

Athletics is a life long fascination for McMahon, a resident of Winnipeg. For nearly 16 consecutive years he has been responsible for the development of athletics with his association with Athletics Manitoba, the governing provincial body of amateur track and field.

He is Past President of Athletics Manitoba and was also their technical director and executive director. His distinguished coaching resume includes various national appointments highlighted by a European tour and Pan Am Junior Games along with four Canada Summer Games and three Western Canada Summer Games. A founding father of the Winnipeg Optimist Athletics in 1979, McMahon has been an associate coach at the University of Manitoba since the early 1980s. He has specialized in coaching jumps and combined events working with many CIS Champions, National Junior and Senior Champions and National team members. The University of Manitoba has an annual scholarship named in his honour.

McMahon has had numerous awards bestowed on him for his dedication to athletics. Named four times as Athletics Manitoba "Coach of the Year" and receiving Athletics Canada's 3M National Coaching Award for Developmental Athletics in 1992.

McMahon, now retired, was also honoured for his quality work in physical education at Winnipeg's Sister MacNamara School. Certified NCCP Level III, McMahon is a popular presenter on the coaching circuit and continues to be part of the Athletics Manitoba's Coaching Super Seminar.

Of his continuing Legion Athletic Camp experience he states: "It has always been a positive learning environment. A chance to work with a lot of great colleagues and to work with the finest young athletes not only in Manitoba but Canada. The best in the history of the sport."

McMahon was honoured with the Path of Excellence award in 2005 for his outstanding contribution to sports at the Legion Athletic Camp. More than 38,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches have developed their skills at this popular Manitoba summer multi-sport camp.

Past winners of the C.A.P. are Curtis J. Phillips, of Fort McMurray, Alberta for basketball in 2008 and Winnipeg's Garth Pischke for volleyball in 2009.

For more information www.legionathleticcamp.com