



## 2009 Official of the Year:

**Valerie Pearson**

This award is presented to the person who has provided outstanding leadership and skill in the area of triathlon officiating in our province. As we all know, this can be a very demanding job where one receives little in the way of compliments or expressions of gratitude. When faced with criticism officials are still required to demonstrate a fair and balanced disposition.

The recipient of this year's award is someone who every competitor, volunteer and parent will know. Valerie Pearson



Valerie Pearson (nee Smith) first got involved with Triathlon in 1993. With the encouragement from her cousin, Maureen Strathdee, she started doing the little mini triathlons in Prince Albert. Between 1993 and 1997, Valerie competed at several sprint races and completed the Frank Dunn Triathlon on her own – a personal accomplishment. In 1998 Valerie participated in Nationals at Winnipeg and then in Edmonton in 1999. While in Edmonton in '99 Valerie completed the Level 3 National Officiating Course. And in 1999 she officiated at the World Championships in Montreal.

In 2000, Valerie officiated as a National Triathlon Official (NTO) at ITU World Cup races in Toronto and Edmonton. 2001 was a busy year as she was a NTO at Nationals in Drummondville, ITU World Cups in Toronto and Edmonton along with Worlds in Montreal. Officiating at Edmonton ITU World Cups continued for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007. In 2008 she was an NTO at Kelowna for Nationals and also at Lloydminster for the Summer Games. Over the years, she also officiated at numerous races in Saskatchewan.

Valerie was involved with STAC as a Board member from 1998, through to 2006 serving as President from 01 to 06. During this time, she participated in National meetings with Triathlon Canada and worked to have Triathlon accepted as an Olympic sport. Valerie also participated in initial discussions to have Triathlon included in the Summer Games for Saskatchewan and the Canada Summer Games. On behalf of STAC, Valerie has delivered the Level 1 and 2 Officiating Course.

The last few years, while not actively participating in triathlons in the Province, Valerie has made an effort to keep up her accreditation as a National Official. It has been a personal

priority for her to keep in touch with Tri folks who had such a positive influence on her life and also from her years on the STAC Board.

Valerie has always demonstrated a fair, conscientious approach to officiating and her thoroughness and attention to details brings each race up to the highest level.

Congratulations, Valerie this is an award that is long overdue.