



2013-2014 Biathlon Canada Annual Awards

Biathlon Canada recognized its athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers during the 2013-14 Biathlon Canada Annual Awards at the Canadian Championships Banquet on March 15th in Charlo, NB. The following recipients were awarded for their efforts and achievements:

Ruedi Setz Memorial Award - The Ruedi Setz Memorial Award is presented annually to the individual who has made a significant contribution to Biathlon in Canada in the past year.

Donald Villeneuve, Quebec

Donald is dedicated to biathlon and has been involved in this sport for over 20 years. He has worked as instructor for the officials courses and competition director for several events. Last year, he was appointed as technical delegate for the majority of the races in the Quebec circuit.

He is always ready to help organizations who need assistance in running their events. He has spent countless hours volunteering and has been instrumental in ensuring that all competitions are run according to the highest standards. When faced with any issue, he is an expert in addressing the problem and coming up with possible solutions. He is a pillar in the Quebec biathlon community.

June Hooper Memorial Award - The June Hooper Memorial Award (Builder of the Sport of Biathlon in Canada) is presented annually to an individual(s) who has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the sport of Biathlon over many years with service of the quality, dedication and unstinting devotion exemplified by June Hooper.

Tim and France Hurley, Ontario

Neither Tim nor France is a cross country skier, nor had they used an air rifle or .22 until 2006. Their interest in biathlon started with supporting their daughter, first in Cadets and then as a civilian athlete. She later nominated him for a position on the Biathlon Ontario Board of Directors, where he serves as Vice-President, Technical, and is a former Divisional Representative with Biathlon Canada.

Together, they routinely team up to coach as well as manage accommodations and travel arrangements for BiON athletes and parents; if only Tim can attend an event, France works behind the scenes making sure everything is organized and everyone accounted for. Tim is Team Ontario Manager, an advanced-level official, an expert wax technician, and a level-3 coach. France coaches Cadets locally and is a lead organizer for the Cadet Outaouais Regional and provincial championships.

They both provide technical support, coaching and advice for civilian athletes. Their national-level athletes can call them at any time of the day or night, while younger ones lean on their encouragement and yes zeroing. France manages uniform and medal ordering and Tim ensures biathletes benefit from government funding, and has secured numerous coaching and training grants. To build a coaching legacy in Ontario, Tim has worked hard to encourage biathletes to take the introductory coaching course while still competing.

Ontario's biathletes, volunteers and parents are deeply grateful for Tim and France's unstinting commitment; they are, quite simply, the driving force behind the ongoing development of the sport in the province of Ontario.

Myriam Bédard Award - To formally recognize individuals who have displayed extraordinary dedication and commitment in the achievement of excellence in the sport of Biathlon. This may be seen by athletes, coaches or other people involved in working towards the achievement of the mission of the association.

Brendan Green, Northwest Territories

Brendan made a remarkable comeback on the international stage this season. After missing the entire competitive season last year, he was gradually able to return to training following two back surgeries for a herniated disc. Since then, he made steady progress towards his goal of returning to high-level competition, the crowning achievement being a spot on the Olympic Team with convincing back to back wins at the trials.

While at home in Hay River, this athlete helps in leading clinics for the local biathletes and attends their practice sessions. He also visits the local schools and attends sporting events when the opportunity arises.

Athlete of the Year Award – We recognize one male and one female athlete annually who demonstrate through example a positive image as an athlete and a good ambassador for the sport of Biathlon. They are athletes who demonstrate personal achievements and excellence while also contributing to the sport in various ways.

Female Athlete of the Year Award

Audrey Vaillancourt, Quebec

Audrey is a disciplined and hard working athlete whose results have been continually improving over the past few years. This athlete had an excellent 2013-2014 season, winning the IBU Cup on January 30th and twice placing in the top-5, twice in the top-15, once in the top-25 and 34th on the IBU Cup circuit. She also earned her first international title by winning gold at the IBU Open European Championships.

She is an exemplary athlete who has the ability to make smart and strategic race decisions. She is a skillful and strong competitor who gives it her all when training and competing. She is a wonderful teammate who helps create a positive team environment. She never misses an opportunity to get involved in helping younger athletes and promoting biathlon in Québec.

Male Athlete of the Year Award

Jean-Philippe Le Guellec, Quebec

Jean-Philippe captivated the nation with his outstanding performances this year: 4th place at a World Cup, 5th at the Olympic Games and his pursuit at the Olympics where he overcame adversity and showed us all what it means to be a competitor. He also made history when he became the first Canadian to win a World Cup.

Thank you for all your achievements and the excitement you have shared with us over the years. You have helped to increase the interest and visibility of our sport in Canada. You are a positive, focused, determined, hard working athlete, a role model for all biathletes, an exceptional teammate and leader.

The Biathlon Canada community salutes this remarkable athlete and his remarkable career. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours. Your contributions to biathlon will have a long-lasting impact and we look forward to your future involvement.

Coach of the Year Award - We recognize one male and one female athlete annually who demonstrate through example a positive image as an athlete and a good ambassador for the sport of Biathlon. They are athletes who demonstrate personal achievements and excellence while also contributing to the sport in various ways.

Female Coach of the Year Award

Kathy Davies, Alberta

Kathy is a brand new coach in biathlon, but has coached cross country skiing for twenty years. Kathy joined the Biathlon Alberta Training Centre in Canmore last year as a coach and has had great success working with the athletes individually to improve their performance. She is one of the first women in Canada to attain the new NCI (National Coaching Institute) coaching certification (replaces NCCP Level 4). With her drive for improvement and focus on the athletes, we hope she plans to continue to coach biathlon for another twenty years.

Male Coach of the Year Award

Mike Lushington, New Brunswick

Mike has been coaching for over 40 years. He always has a positive attitude and continues to bring out the best in his athletes, regardless of age and experience. He is continually mentoring new coaches and he brings to this role all of the best ingredients: training, attitude, positive environment, and personal confidence and satisfaction for his athletes, colleagues, support staff and parents.