



Manitoba Artistic Swimming - 2019 Award Recipients

Congratulations to all members for a terrific season. It is difficult to selection one volunteer/athlete/coach of the year when we are surrounded by so amazing people that are so deserving of the spotlight. Thank you to all of the athletes for choosing this great sport, dreaming big and working hard at every practice. Thank you to the coaches for pouring their hearts and souls into developing incredible athletes and women. Thank you to the volunteers for the countless hours given to make all of the dreams of our athletes come true.

Finally, thank you to the clubs and members for submitting the following individuals worthy of recognition for all they do every day – in and out of the pool.

MAS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

All 3 have served many terms on the MAS/SSM Boards as well as Club Executives/Boards. These include many meetings, much work and countless hours. We are so thankful and appreciative of everything all 3 of these recipients have done and continue to do for our sport.

Cindy Ediger

Cindy has spent many years devoted to synchro, including the MAS board for at least 10 years and all she did at the club level. Cindy is a Level 2 referee and has been a dedicated referee for over 10 years. Even after when her daughter is no longer competing, she was still at every competition Sunday this past season. Many parents have bowed out when their daughters retire, but she has stuck around for much longer and always goes above and beyond when she does a job.

In addition to her role on the Board and as a referee, Cindy has assumed key roles when MAS has hosted major competitions which is an enormous undertaking.

Diane Rutherford

Diane Rutherford is the current Competitions Chair on the MAS Board and a Level 2 Referee.

Competitions Chair is, without question, one of the busiest volunteer jobs that we have. Diane stepped up to help when not only did we have the normal provincial competitions to run, but we also had to host Espoir (2016) and CPC (2017). Espoir and CPC were particularly difficult competitions to organize since we did not have an experienced Executive Director at the time

(Allison Gervais was on maternity leave). I recall that it was extremely difficult for me (as President) to find someone willing to take on the task of Espoir (especially since everyone knew that CPC was the year after). Diane agreed to help out even though she no longer even had an athlete swimming! (Kim was the official “Competitions Chair” serving on the Board, and helped with the planning, but Diane was the person in charge of organizing the competitions).

Although Diane has a demanding full-time job (as a teacher), she put all of her spare energy into planning the events, and I think they went extremely well, DESPITE the inexperience of the crew that she had trying to help her. After Espoir was over, Diane helped to update the Synchro Canada Event Organizing Handbook for the benefit of other inexperienced provinces hosting such events.

The 2018-19 competition season was been relatively slow since Diane “only” had to organize the usual Provincial level competitions, but she will be starting to organize the next CPC (2020) this summer, in her role as Competition Chair. However, Diane is completing a two-year term as Competitions Chair for MAS (and before that she was the unofficial “co-chair” with Kim Reimer for two years), so I think that the timing is excellent to recognize her tremendous volunteer effort.

In summary, Diane has selflessly donated hundreds of hours towards planning provincial, regional, and national competitions for our athletes.

Desiree Vanderwel

Des has really done much more than what is required of a President over the past 5 years.

Not only did she really pick up the slack when and where needed when we were without an ED (including doing the time consuming IFF funding applications), she has also done so much more. From volunteering to film all of our required routines at competitions, to preparing and picking up food and supplies for CWG and Rec events, to leading the dryland set ups, she has been a huge help at competitions.

She works tirelessly on behalf of the sport including all of the work on policies on the Board. Her vision and undertaking of the entire Bylaws and Board restructure overhaul and Terms of References creations has been an enormous amount of work.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Winnipeg Synchro – Nadeen Demarais

Nadeen has been part of the Executive Board and was our fundraising coordinator for many years. Nadeen has helped our club whenever we needed her, even coming back as fundraising coordinator after a failed attempt to retire — because we needed her. She is our club chef, cooking and shopping for our canteen for every competition and has volunteered numerous times as a chaperone, traveling to competitions, shuttling and cooking up a storm for the athletes. Nadeen is retiring from volunteering life this year, although you will see her around from time to time helping out with competition hospitality as needed. We appreciate everything she has done for the club.

Aquatica Synchro - Michelle Savard

Michelle has really gone above and beyond this year (and last). She brought in a complete new online registration system, researched, learned to use it and set it up to go live for this year. Thru out the year, she has been tweaking it as required, as with every new venture, there will always be a few "live and learn" snags. In addition to this, she was the gal behind the men's team initiative and the media frenzy that followed. Overall, she has done a TON of work for the club over last year and this year.

CLUB ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

PROVINCIAL STREAM

Aquatica Synchro – Ryland Fudge

Ryland is such a hard worker and doesn't get as much recognition as she should as she is a quiet personality. She had amazing results all season and definitely deserves a shout out.

Winnipeg Synchro – Gili Krongold & Emma Gobeil

Gili Krongold (11 & 12) worked very hard to catch up to the other members on her team from a skill standpoint. She especially worked hard on her attitude throughout the season to try and be more positive about everything she did. Gili was also kind and helpful to everyone on her team.

Emma Gobeil (10 & Under) had an incredible work ethic and a positive attitude all year long and was a great role model for her teammates.

NATIONAL STREAM

Winnipeg Synchro - Tamara Chaput

As a first year Junior athlete Tamara trained 7 routines this past season. She qualified all of them to Nationals. She also swam solo, duet, and team at Winter Games. She has a tremendous work ethic and is always striving to improve.

Aquatica Synchro – Nelaya Wilcox

Nelaya swam up an age group this year, but you couldn't tell she was the youngest of her team. Although she was still technically an 11-12-year-old athlete, she trained with the 13-15N team and not only made the Provincial Team, but was also the highest ranked Manitoba athlete for 13-15 figures at both Qualifiers and Nationals (with a 50 place improvement by nationals). She trained 6 days a week and has some amazing potential ahead of her.

CLUB COACHES OF THE YEAR

PROVINCIAL/RECREATIONAL

Aquatica Synchro – Chloe McElheron

Chloe really stepped up this year in so many ways and was always ready to help out. We could always count on Chloe for whatever was needed, and her athletes (and their parents) love her.

Winnipeg Synchro – Naomi Balsillie and Stefanie Martin

Naomi coached the 10 & under Land program and several star classes. Stef coached several star classes as well as some provincial level routines. They both did a tremendous job coaching our AWD athlete. They were available to help out any other coach that needed it - especially with the 11&12 team that had three different age groups for figures on it.

NATIONAL STREAM

Winnipeg Synchro – Danielle Carnegie

Danielle did an excellent job running the 13-15HP program. This was her first year coaching at this level and she provided a great learning environment for the first year HP athletes on the team.

Aquatica Synchro – Elisa Santin

Elisa has really blossomed as a coach over the past two years and did a fantastic job coaching her first national stream group. We are so thankful to have Elisa on our team, she is always professional, prepared, and sets high expectations for herself and her athletes.