

Shirley Randall

2003 Inductee - Builder/Sportsperson Category



Shirley Randall started her career in softball in 1960 as coach of her oldest daughter's softball team. She gave up the job of coaching to become President of the New Westminster Minor, a position she held from 1961 to 1968. During her term of office, the Association grew from 8 to 30 teams.

In 1968, Softball BC began to organize the potential growth of Minor Softball in the Province. Shirley was appointed as one of three District Minor Coordinators. During the five years spent as Minor Coordinator of the Lower Fraser Valley District, the District grew from three associations to eleven.



In 1972, Shirley was elected to the Board of Directors as the first Minor Coordinator of the Province. Over the five years as Provincial Minor Coordinator, Shirley's name became synonymous with Minor Softball in BC. At the end of this time, through her efforts, minor softball was well established in every part of the Province. In 1974, on a trip to Victoria for the Senior Men's National Championship, Shirley met the President of Softball Alberta and during their conversation the idea of a Western Canadian Championship was born. Within two weeks of this meeting, Shirley had a site lined up and the Alberta-BC Championship for Midget Boys and Girls took place in Kamloops, BC. Needless to say, something this good didn't take long to grow and involve the four Western Provinces and the two Territories. In 1975, in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan she was elected Chairperson of the Western Canadian Championship Committee.

In the fall of 1977, Shirley was elected to a three-year term as President of Softball BC. She found that Softball BC had outgrown the administration. During her term as President, the growth of minor softball was phenomenal and a new classification to Softball BC was also introduced, Slo-Pitch. It was also at this time that corporate involvement and sponsorship began to be developed. Softball BC started its own Lottery with help from corporate sponsors. Under Shirley's advice the Insurance program that now includes a number of other Provinces was started. Shirley soon realized that with the size of the organization the communications and day to day planning could not be kept up strictly by volunteer help, so it was decided an Executive Director would be hired.

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Shirley's involvement with, and loyalty to, Softball Canada started in 1972, when she attended her first CASA Annual General Meeting in Whitehorse. She attended 15 consecutive CASA General Meetings, 12 as a voting delegate and 3 as an observer at her own expense. In 1976, Shirley was elected 3rd Vice President. In 1978, re-elected as 3rd Vice President. From 1980 to 1982, Shirley was the Commissioner of Softball Canada to BC. Shirley also saw her dream of a novice coach program started with the introduction of the Coaching Certification Program. Shirley helped organize the Softball portion of the 1973 Canada Summer Games.

Those of us who have been associated with Shirley over the last number of years know first hand of her significant contribution to softball. Those of you, who do not know her but have been involved in the sport, have been the beneficiaries of her efforts.