

**Beth Whittall, 2008 Hud Stewart Award Recipient**

After retiring as an elite swimmer (Beth swam at the 1954 British Empire Championships, the 1955 Pan-American Games and the 1956 Olympics), Beth coached age group swimming in Montreal and, in 1973, started the St Laurent Masters Club. At the same time, she started the Quebec Masters Committee and co-hosted the first Masters meet in Quebec in 1974.

A move to Ontario meant the Ontario Masters Committee got to enjoy Beth's considerable talents, and she served as its President for two years. Beth then went on to become the Rules Chairperson for the MSO and was instrumental in creating the first Canadian Masters Swimming Rulebook. She also found time to assist in managing the 1987 Canadian Masters Championships.

Another move, and another new club: Beth started the Georgian Bay Masters in 1997 and initiated the annual 1 and 3-kilometre open water swim there. And throughout it all, Beth has written, edited and published *Wavelengths*, a quarterly Masters magazine, for 16 years. Her work was critical in bringing together Masters swimmers and providing an information source long before the advent of the internet.

And of course, Beth is accomplished in the pool as well, setting numerous Ontario and Canadian records in multiple age groups. Thanks to Beth, who has been so pivotal to Masters Swimming on so many levels.