



2013 MSC Hud Stewart Award Recipient
-Chris Smith, Trillium Y Masters Swim Club-

A lifelong participant, Chris has had a major impact on his sport as an athlete, official and administrator in swimming for all ages at his YMCA, in Ontario, in Canada and beyond. Prior to joining Masters, he swam competitively in high school and University.

Chris began swimming with a masters group at the Glendon-York U Campus in 1986. In 1989 he joined the masters at the Sheppard Y in Toronto, a club he played a key role in developing. It would grow to include individual swimmers from smaller YMCAs in Ontario who wanted to swim at competitions with a “team”, the Trillium Y Masters.

Chris was in his sixties when he started competing as a Masters swimmer and has since competed from coast to coast across Canada and in more than a dozen other countries. He has broken about thirty Canadian Records in all strokes and distances. He was a member of a World record-breaking relay team in Christchurch, NZ. Chris has often been the highest ranked MSC swimmer in his age group, including fourteen consecutive years from 1999 to 2012.

Chris attended the World Masters Championships in Indianapolis in 1992 and was introduced there to the administration of Masters Swimming. On his return he was elected to the Masters Swimming Ontario (MSO) Board and has served them in some capacity ever since, including as President in 1997-1998. In 2002 Chris was appointed Ontario rep to the MSC Board, where his focus was organizational structure. In February 2004 he became MSC President. He was instrumental in the development of many existing MSC programs, including the Million Metre Challenge and MSC Awards.

One of the longest serving officials in Canada, Chris began officiating in 1966 as a swimming parent. He joined the Ontario Swimming Officials Association (OSOA) in 1995 when it was formed and has been on their Board more than a decade. He helped OSOA secure funding, in part through MSO, to develop training materials and programs. As an official, Chris has taken a special interest in Masters swimming rules and is currently Chair of the MSC Rules Committee. He still volunteers about six days a month during competitive seasons and volunteers with the YMCA’s aquatic programs.