

Don Farquharson

Don was the founder of Masters Athletics in Canada during the 1970s, was president of the organizing committee for the first World Championships in Toronto in 1975, and served as the first president of the World Association of Veterans Athletes on its formation in 1977. He also served on the Ontario Masters Board of Directors for many years from 1981 to his death in 2000. Part of his duties included administering government grants that were received by OMA. It is not an exaggeration to say that his work over these years was instrumental to the Masters movement in Ontario, Canada, and the world!

Don was also an athlete, and received an award in 1999 for attending every WAVA/WMA Championship since 1975. He held a M70 Steeplechase record until 2011.



Don passed away on July 21, 2000. To honour his contributions to the Masters movement and its organizations, the OMA Cross Country Relay was renamed the Don Farquharson Harriers Relay in 2000 and the trophy for the CAN/AM Challenge was named the Don Farquharson Cup in 2006. The 4Km cross country loop in Sunnybrook Park used by Don's Relay and the OMA 8K Championships was named the Don Farquharson Loop. A tree was planted at the start of the cross country course in his memory.

Don at the inaugural World Masters Championships in Toronto in 1975.



Don receiving his award in 1999 for being one of the few athletes who had attended every World Championship, presented by WMA President Torsten Carlus at the General Assembly in Gateshead

Perhaps one of Don's proudest moments – bearing the flag for Team Canada's march at the opening ceremonies at the World Championships in Gateshead in 1999.



Don in the steeplechase.