



MARILYN CORSON



Marilyn Corson

Inducted as Athlete in 1994

Marilyn Corson achieved much fame as a swimmer on both sides of the border. Born in Parry Sound, Ontario, she began her swimming career while living in London, Ontario. When her family moved to Florida, she competed in the USA and Canada. Although Marilyn's U.S. record is quite as impressive, she always did her best while representing Canada.

Marilyn won a silver medal for the 200m Butterfly while competing at the 1966 Commonwealth Games in Kingston, Jamaica. One year later, in 1967, she was extremely successful at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg. Here she won a silver medal in the 4 x 100m Medley Relay and finished third in the 100m Butterfly, 200m Butterfly and the 400m Individual Medley. Marilyn also competed for Canada in two Olympic Games, in 1968 in Mexico City and in 1972 in Munich. She captured a bronze medal in the 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay in Mexico. In Munich she placed 7th in the 4 x 100m Medley Relay and swam in the 100m Butterfly semi finals. There was one other event at the Olympics in Munich that brought Marilyn worldwide attention.

We all remember the tragedy that overshadowed the Games when terrorists murdered several Israeli team members. Three days after the massacre, Marilyn made headlines in the world press with a 'life goes on' story when she married Mike Whitney in Munich's Church of the Ascension. It was a gala affair, with many prominent US, German and Canadian guests attending. The minister delivered a moving sermon on what makes a good marriage. Fortunately, the couple had taken high school German and understood the "Lust and Love" message delivered in German.

There were many occasions when Marilyn made headlines apart from competitions. One of those was for a press report when she was a 15 year old student in Fort Lauderdale. Then, she actually taught International Hall of Fame Honouree and the star of several Tarzan movies, Buster Crab, how to do the flip turn.

At the time of induction, Marilyn lived in Michigan, where she owned her own company as an interior designer. But, we will always remember her career as a swimmer for Canada and specifically for Ontario. Perhaps Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister, said it all when he congratulated Marilyn for her efforts at the 1968 Olympic Games. He wrote: "We all know that the winning of medals is not everything and that there is still merit in deCoubertin's motto that the most important thing is to take part. Nevertheless, medals do represent a standard of excellence for all our amateur athletes, and they make an important contribution to our awareness of ourselves as a Canadian nation."