

MEDIA RELEASE

Synchro Swim Manitoba

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Competition Honours Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame Member

WINNIPEG – The Marj Simpson Invitational will be held at Pan Am Pool in Winnipeg March 14 and 15, 2009. This will be the inaugural meet to honour Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame Member Marj Simpson, who passed away October 2007.

Winnipegger Marjorie (Marj) Elizabeth Simpson, was one of the synchronized swimming community's best-known and well-loved members both in Manitoba and throughout Canada. Born Marjorie Elizabeth Manson, she had a synchro career as an athlete, coach, judge and Synchro Manitoba board member.

Committed to her growing the sport in her home province, Simpson promoted the sport in rural areas of Manitoba and served in several capacities at Synchro Swim Manitoba including as President from 1962-65.

Simpson founded the Winnipeg Aquilina Swim Club in 1963. She was a Level III coach and Level II as an NCCP Course Conductor. Her coaching resume included the 1971 Canada Winter Games.

Simpson's role as a judge began in the late 1960's and led her to become a Level V FINA Judge. She was considered to be one of the most respected international judges in the world. Her judging resume included numerous international Open Championships, World Aquatic, World Junior and World Masters, two Commonwealth Games (1986 and 1991) and the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

Simpson was awarded Synchro Canada's Certificate of Merit in 1983 – and its highest honour, the Board of Directors' Award in 1984. The EK YM/YWCA named her to their Honour Roll in 1992 and she received the club's 125th Anniversary Commemorative Medal in 1995. (*Information taken from Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame website*)

Marj Simpson's passion and love for the sport and commitment to the athletes in Manitoba is why SSM has chosen to name this competition in her honour. .

The Marj Simpson Invitational is a local competition featuring competitors from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Participating in the competition are Brittany Mueller and Marlene Desaulniers-Bernard – both recently selected to represent Canada in the solo competition at the French Championships in June 2009. Also competing are Vincent-Massey students Holly Ediger and Carly Ayres. Ayres and Ediger were also recently selected to represent Canada at the U.S. Junior Championships at the beginning of April. All four athletes are members of the Winnipeg Synchro Club and are coached by National Team Coach Khadija Cutcher.

The Marj Simpson Invitational begins Saturday, March 14 from noon until 5 pm and continues Sunday (March 15) morning with the solo and duet competition from 9-noon. The competition is free of charge and open to the public. For full schedule details, please visit the Synchro Manitoba website at www.synchro.mb.ca.

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