



## VOLUNTEER WALL OF FAME

Renée Thibeault, QC



1. **What kind of organizations do you volunteer for?**

My volunteer work has been sports-oriented, specifically the sports that my sons participated in. So when François, who is now a coach at the PHNTC, was starting to compete in local ski races with Club la Balade de St-Jean-Chrysostome, I picked up a stopwatch, and I've been involved ever since. I started out handing out Kleenexes, and made it all the way to technical delegate at the provincial and national levels. I became very much involved as a volunteer with Skibec Nordique and that's where I got interested in event organization, be it Haywood NorAms or Canadian Championships. I had various roles in race organization over the years, and I had the good fortune to participate at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, as a member of the timing team for cross-country skiing and Nordic combined. As well, my counterpart Luc Jolicoeur from Mont Ste-Anne and I worked behind the scenes for more than 10 years in order to bring a World Cup to Quebec in 2012. During the last couple of years, I have stepped back a bit, but I am still interested in training officials, and you'll see me on the course from time to time, keeping my skills up to date and also passing the torch to the next generation. Summers are a quieter time for

me, and my partner and I have done some volunteering with competitive baseball teams: for instance, we organized the provincial midget AAA baseball finals in 2009. This has allowed me to be closely involved in the activities of my youngest son, Frédéric, who has inspired us with his passion for summer sports. In sum, sports are a big part of our life as a family.

2. **What is the most gratifying aspect of volunteering?**

For me, the most gratifying aspect is meeting people from all over the country, who share my passion for amateur sports.

3. **What do you think of volunteers, whose hard work makes events possible?**

Without volunteers, amateur sport in Canada would not exist. When I think of volunteers, passion and selflessness are the two characteristics that come to mind. So many late nights spent organizing races, making sure the trails are in the best possible condition for the racers, no matter what level. Volunteers are above all parents who want their children to have great and unforgettable experiences. Hats off to all of our volunteers.

4. **Complete this sentence:**

I volunteer because I love sport and I love young people.