

MARC LEMAY



INDUCTED 2015

The Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame recognizes exceptional contributions to the sport of Cycling by both Athletes and Builders.

The Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame is pleased to welcome Marc Lemay as the initial Builder inductee acknowledging his significant and ongoing contributions to cycling at the provincial, national and international levels.

Marc Lemay was a provincial, national and world leader in the sport of cycling and a pioneer in bringing mountain biking to its Olympic status.

In his youth, Lemay was a passionate cyclist. He translated this into a career spent in the organizational side of cycling – and there made a major impact on a sport that now accounts for some of the most popular events at Olympic Games.

For several years in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the native of Amos, Que. was technical director of the Tour de l'Abitibi – a major race that is part of the official Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Junior World Cup tour.

From there, he rose to positions of significant influence. President of the Quebec Cycling Federation in 1980-1981, Lemay entered the Canadian Cycling Association and served as President from 1982 to 1992. During much of that tenure, he was also a

Board member with the Canadian Olympic Committee (1982-1996), bringing the needs of cycling to the forefront.

In the early 1990s, Lemay's cycling influence went global. In 1991, he was elected president of the UCI's Mountain Bike Commission. He remained at the helm of international mountain biking until 2001.

That year, Lemay was awarded the Union Cycliste Internationale Merit for his contribution to the development of international cycling. Under his UCI tenure, the sport of mountain biking experienced tremendous growth that included a berth in the coveted Olympic program.

That International Olympic Committee decision occurred in 1993, just six years after the first World Mountain Biking Championships.

The sport was first contested at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games and now is one of Canada's strongest summer sport events. One of Lemay's crowning moments came in 2001 when Canadian mountain bikers won two gold and two silver medals at the World Championships, and he presented Victoria's Roland Green with the men's world champion jersey.

Within Quebec sport, he has received many honours. Lemay is a three-time Administrator of the Year (1981, 1991 and 1994), Gala de Sports-Québec's cycling "builder of the past quarter-century" (1997) and a member of the Quebec Cycling Hall of Fame (1999). In 2011 he was selected to the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame.