



Builder Category

Dorothy Nelson
Calgary, Alberta
Inducted: 1999

Dorothy began coaching in 1956. She was a certified Level III and helped develop coaching programs throughout the Calgary area. She and her husband Bill worked primarily with youth bowlers.

In 1962, Dorothy and Bill initiated the first bowling program in Canada for mentally challenged youth and it was called "Talents Unlimited". In the beginning, local members volunteered as assistant coaches, and parents became involved as numbers grew at the local bowling centres, Silver Dollar Lanes and Let's Bowl.

Dorothy was head coach for the Canadian Special Olympics Championships held in Vancouver, and for the World Special Olympics Championships held in Minneapolis and Connecticut. Over the years Dorothy was also involved at the administration levels - from Secretary-Treasurer for provincial and local Junior Bowling Associations, to President of the Women's Bowling Associations in Calgary. She was Tournament Director of the first Canadian Tenpin Bowling Tournament for Special Olympics and Canadian Special Olympics Sport Technical Representative. In the late 1960's, Dorothy represented tenpin bowling on the Board of Directors for Calgary's Sports Women's Association.

As an athlete, Dorothy competed in Calgary and the United States. In 2006, she was recognized by CTV on their "Athlete of the Week" program. In 2008, at the age of 91, Dorothy was still bowling once a week. The city of Calgary has recognized Dorothy as an Honoured Athletic Leader.

