

**The Bobbie Steen Awards of Excellence for Career Achievement** recognizes outstanding role models who have, over the course of their career championed women in sport and physical activity.

The 2008 recipient of the Bobbie Steen Award of Excellence for Career Achievement is **Dee Neukomm**

Dee became involved in Special Olympics BC in 1986 when her daughter Lara expressed an interest in participating in sport. Dee not only supported Lara's quest but attained her coaching certification in order to help her. Dee went on to coach other Special Olympic athletes in Prince George. Lara and Dee worked to have the sport of Rhythmic Gymnastics brought into the Special Olympics. In 1990 her daughter Lara was diagnosed with cancer and although Lara still competed at the National Summer Games, she lost her battle with cancer that fall. Since her daughter's passing, Dee has been the Head Coach and Team Manager for the Provincial, National and World Games. Dee recently coached her Rhythmic Gymnastics team to victory at the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai China.

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**The Bobbie Steen Award for Excellent for Development** is given to an individual or organization for a new or existing program or for professional development which champions women in sport and physical activity (*\$1500 is provided by BC Games Society, Sport BC and the BC Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts*)

The 2008 recipient of the Bobbie Steen Award of Excellence for Development is the **West Coast Nordic Club**.

In 2007, the Nordic club introduced the Biathlon Bears program in the Sea to Sky corridor. The program targets youth under age 13 and ensures they are provided with quality equipment and highly qualified coaches to inspire and instruct them. Wanting to attract more girls to the sport of biathlon, the club set up its own coaches' training program. Since then 4 women have become Biathlon Bears Gold Coaches and two more are Silver Coaches. This mentorship program sees senior women imparting their knowledge and skill to young athletes. The club's future goal is to provide sport opportunities for women of all ages.