

# Triathlon Canada History

Triathlon Canada has an incredible legacy and history in our sport internationally.

Canada has been at the forefront of the sport with our athletic performances from the early days in the 80s and 90s. The path of excellence was blazed by Carol Montgomery, Patricia and Sylviane Puntous, Peter Reid and Lori Bowden, just to name a few – athletes who inspired countless triathletes with their world championship performances.

Those trailblazers laid the foundation for Simon Whitfield's nation-moving gold-medal performance when the sport made its debut at the 2000 Olympic Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.

Triathlon Canada never looked back from that historic day, which ultimately cemented us as a premiere triathlon nation on the international scene.

Inspired by all of the greats before us to swim, bike and run, Triathlon Canada has since developed and produced countless memorable performances by triathletes of all ages in a variety of race distances.

From Paula Findlay winning an unprecedented five World Triathlon Series titles to Kirsten Sweetland running into the history books as only the second Canadian ever to reach the World Triathlon Series podium and third ever to win a medal at the Commonwealth Games, our women have rewritten the history books over the last eight years. Joanna Brown has etched her name in the history books as the third Canadian ever to medal on the World Triathlon Series, winning the bronze in Bermuda in 2019. Brown also became the fourth Canadian in triathlon history to run onto the Commonwealth Games podium, claiming the bronze in Glasgow 2018.

Simon Whitfield aside, the performances by our men have been equally remarkable on the big stage, led by Stefan Daniel's Para-Triathlon World Championship title just one year before he won the silver at the sport's Paralympic debut in Rio 2016. Tyler Mislawchuk and Alexis Lepage also captured the triathlon nation's attention in 2019. Mislawchuk won gold in Mooloolaba, Australia while Lepage claimed his first career bronze in Chengdu, China.

Canada's long-distance athletes have also been capturing the world's attention. Brent McMahon and Lionel Sanders cracked an unprecedented sub-8-hour mark in Ironman distance, and Heather Wurtele is a six-time Ironman titleholder who is fully committed to the 'long' game.

We saw explosive growth in the sport after 2000, and we now have a core group of more than 22,000 athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers who make up our unique triathlon community. These are all passionate and committed people and, as a national sport organization, we ultimately represent and govern the sport on your behalf.