While Elwood was alive, there were very few people in the community who did not know him, especially those involved with minor sports. Anyone who met Elwood quickly came to appreciate him as a personal friend, a friend to sports, and a friend to the community. He has been called “Mr. Track and Field”. For 16 years, Elwood served as president of the Nanaimo Track and Field Club. He provided dedicated leadership and expertise and he was instrumental in developing the club into one of the best-equipped and financially stable track organizations in the province. In so doing, he allowed the club to make track and field participation available to an increasing number of youngsters in the Nanaimo area. Hundreds of young athletes in this city have benefited from the selfless efforts of Elwood Wylie. The track was his second home, and he was always on hand to offer support, to oversee training by 15 the coaching staff, or to encourage young athletes during competition. He could be tough and demanding. What caring coach isn’t at times? It was always with the aim of helping someone improve themselves. But Elwood’s sense of humor was never far from the surface. Seen from across the track infield, Elwood could appear stern, but up close, his open and natural friendliness was unmistakable. To the athletes who passed through the Nanaimo Track and Field Club, he was a father figure in the best sense of the term. Or to some, a grandfather figure – as was suggested by the affectionate nickname “Grumpa”. But if the kids on the track were Elwood’s “children”, then the track itself was definitely his “baby”. He was the man who spearheaded the development of what is now called the Rotary Bowl complex. It was Elwood’s vision to provide Nanaimo athletes with a first-class training venue and to give the citizens of Nanaimo a community facility of which to be proud. Over ten years, a disintegrating cinder track behind NDSS was transformed into one of the best all-weather track and field facilities in Western Canada – complete with change rooms, meeting rooms, concession area and covered grandstands. Elwood devoted thousands of hours to this project. He organized fund-raising, arranged volunteer labor, enlisted support of individuals as well as the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. The Rotary Bowl complex is part of Elwood’s ongoing legacy to our community. Elwood Wylie never sought the limelight. He was not interested in receiving personal recognition of his efforts. For him the reward was in helping others, quietly and without fanfare. Too often we forget to thank such people. Fortunately a group of his friends made Elwood’s contributions known, which resulted in him being awarded a “Celebration 88” medal. It was an honor richly deserved, and it was accepted with typical modesty. In coaching young athletes, Elwood taught that winning a race isn’t the most important thing. Instead, he stressed that trying your hardest i.e. “giving your all” is what counts.