

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Jean-Pierre Champagne and Claude David to receive the Lieutenant Governor's Seniors Medal**

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, May 3, 2024** – On May 11th, two exceptional volunteers from Vaudreuil-Dorion, Jean-Pierre Champagne and Claude David, will be awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Seniors Medal during a ceremony to be held at the Saint-Jean-sur-le-Richelieu Military College. By submitting their candidacy, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Municipal Council wanted these two individuals to be recognized for their involvement in their community over the years. This honorary distinction will act as a formal acknowledgment of the remarkable contribution of these two citizens to their community.

Jean-Pierre Champagne and Claude David have been involved in the sports and youth scene for more than 30 years. It is to these two men and their associates that we owe the founding of the Vaudreuil-Dorion Athletic Club in 2001, among other initiatives, where they remain as members of the Board of directors to this day, and where Mr. David is still Head Coach. Their years of volunteer work and commitment to sports have had a positive impact on thousands of people in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. Without them, athletics would not have become what it is today in the region.

"Anyone interested in athletics or running has heard of Mr. Champagne and Mr. David. They are two well-known figures in the region and for good reason! Their involvement with sports and youth is remarkable. It is largely thanks to them that these sport disciplines have developed in the region over the years. I am delighted that their contribution to the community is being recognised at the provincial level through the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Seniors.", said Mayor Guy Pilon.

### **Jean-Pierre Champagne: a true running enthusiast**

For the past 27 years, Jean-Pierre Champagne has been a member of Les Vadrouilleurs, the organization responsible for organizing the famous La Grande Vadrouille running event, which marked its 40th anniversary in 2023. Year after year, this popular sporting event gathers nearly 1,000 runners of all ages thanks to a few passionate volunteers like Mr. Champagne. With his never-ending supply of infectious energy, this man continues to host about forty running events each year in Quebec, some on a volunteer basis in support of various causes. His commitment to young people calls Mr. Champagne to action year after year. For him, sports and healthy lifestyle habits are essential to the well-being of our future generations. Mr. Champagne has been at the helm of the Sainte-Madeleine Elementary School's triathlon since its very first edition, 21 years ago.

Along with his involvement in sports, Mr. Champagne has been an active member of Club Optimiste Vaudreuil-Dorion for many years, having even served as president in 1998-1999. This organization, which is dedicated to «inspiring the best in young people» brings together volunteers who provide

services to young people and the community in general, mainly through the planning of activities. Mr. Champagne is also involved in organizations such as Carrefour de l'espoir, La Fondation du Centre d'hébergement Vaudreuil-Dorion and La Fabrique de la paroisse Saint-Michel, all of which are dedicated to the well-being of the Vaudreuil-Dorion community.

### **Claude David: a passion for athletics that is contagious**

Claude David is a volunteer at heart and his desire to instill in young people a passion for physical activity is what drives him. Performance was never his focus, but rather achievement and progress. His commitment has been recognized many times in the region on the provincial and national level, both for Coaching Excellence and volunteering. In addition to acting as coach for the Vaudreuil-Dorion Athletics Club, Mr. David has coached the Quebec Cross Country Team and the Quebec Juvenile and Cadet Team at the National Championships and served as coach at the Jeux du Québec for the South-West region. He served eight years on the board of directors of several associations, including Athlétisme Québec. Through his involvement, Mr. David has always pursued the same objective: to allow young people to develop by practicing one of the disciplines of athletics. One might think that with age he would have scaled back his involvement, but that would be to underestimate this person. To this day, Mr. David still dedicates more than 35 hours a week to athletics and he does not see the day when he will stop being involved, as long as he remains in good health. For now, his flame is still burning bright and his Club has never been in better health than it is today with a large number of athletes and a new generation to take over. This man has not said his last word, and he still holds a dream close to his heart, that of providing his region with an outdoor athletic track, which would be his legacy for the youth.