Ian Maplethorpe

Ian Maplethorpe started competing in track and field at school in England, excelling at the hammer throw. After moving to Millet, he joined the Leduc Track Club in 1982 at the age of 16.

Ian quickly made himself known at competitions. Dedicated to improving his skills, he started training with University of Alberta Coach Gabor Simonyi in 1984. He competed in the junior national competitions in 1983, '84 and '85. In 1985, he was selected for the national junior team, and won gold in the hammer throw at the Canada Games. In all, Ian was crowned Canadian champion five times in hammer and weight throw combined. Other achievements include competing on the 1988 senior national team, winning the 1989 Canada Games championship, competing in the 1991 Pan American Games, and competing in the Commonwealth Games in 1990 and 1994.

After the Francophone Games in 2001, Ian retired but continued to compete in Masters competitions, setting numerous Canadian records. He also coached at the University of Alberta for over 10 years.

More than the wins and the losses, Ian remembers the relationships he developed with coaches, mentors and fellow athletes over the years. Memorable moments of his career include times when he was part of history in the making, such as when he became the first foreigner allowed to compete in the Hungarian Athletics Championships in 1989 during the collapse of the Iron Curtain.

Ian is the co-founder of Jumpstart Athletics Inc., which has grown to be one of the largest Canadian suppliers of track and field equipment. Ian and his family live near Beaumont.