



Eden Donatelli-Green

(1970 -)

Eden Donatelli, a fourth generation Missionite, began speed skating at 4 years of age. Coached by her father George and trained by her mother Jane in Highland Dancing to develop plyometric strength, Eden quickly became the fastest skater in her own age class. Her exceptional abilities allowed her to quickly outpace her contemporaries and even those in older age groups.

At age 15, Eden competed at the World Championships in Chamonix, France, winning a gold medal as a member of the 3000m women's relay team. They set "a new world record while passing the silver medal winning Japanese team and bronze-laden Dutch team." In 1987, she competed at the World Championships in Montreal and won a gold medal in the 500m race.

A year later, she moved to Montreal to train for the 1988 Winter Olympics where she subsequently medaled in short track speed skating which made its Olympic debut as a demonstration event. Speeding towards the finish line in the 500m race in Calgary, Eden was only 6/100th of a second from a gold medal finish! She was also a bronze medalist in the 3000m relay. That same year she was named BC Junior Athlete of the Year and subsequently achieved multiple wins at national and international events.

In 1992, she formally retired from competition and married fellow Olympic speed skater and coach Julian Green. In 1995, she obtained a Bachelors of Education degree from the University of Calgary, moved back to Mission and commenced her teaching career. She subsequently obtained further education, including a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from SFU in 2000, the same year the first of her three children were born.

An ardent volunteer, Eden continues to inspire young speed skaters in the Fraser Valley through her coaching. She also mentors new teachers in the Abbotsford School District and is involved in the BC Changing Results for Young Readers - an initiative that focuses on making a difference for vulnerable readers. She believes you should "share what you love doing."

Eden has been honoured countless times for her contributions as an athlete, a mentor and volunteer. On April 25, 2000, she was the first athlete in her sport to be inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame. Most recently she was named "Woman of the Year" in the Sports/Athletic Sector by the Business & Professional Women's Club of Mission and recognized a second time in the Mission Sports Hall of Fame for her significant contributions to the 2014 Mission BC Winter Games.

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