

## Elisabeth ("Betsy") Anne Clifford



Inducted CSHF: 1982  
 Hometown: Old Chelsea, QC / Ottawa, ON  
 Date of Birth: October 15, 1953  
 Affiliated Discipline(s): Alpine: Giant Slalom, Downhill, Slalom  
 Active Career Date(s): 1967-77  
 FIS Code: -10091  
 Club: Ottawa Ski Club

A "very frank, determined and strong person", Betsy Clifford was talented in three alpine skiing disciplines: Downhill, slalom and giant slalom.

From 1968-1976 she was voted Ottawa's Outstanding Skier and in 1970/1971 was voted Athlete of the Year for the City of Ottawa.

Upon her retirement, she was awarded the John Semmelink Memorial award given by the Canadian Ski Association to a skier who, through sportsmanship, conduct and ability, best represents Canada in international competition.

### Racing highlights:

- 1967 1st place, Canadian Junior Slalom Champion, Mont Sutton, Quebec.
- 1968 Selected at the age of 14-years as the youngest member of a Canadian National Women's Alpine Ski Team.  
 Competed at the winter Olympic Games, Grenoble, France placing 23rd in the Downhill event. At that time she was the youngest skier to compete in the Olympic Games.  
 6th place, Slalom event, Du Maurier International World Cup Alpine, Rossland, British Columbia.
- 1969 5th place, Downhill event, World Cup Alpine, Grindelwald, Switzerland.
- 1970 2nd place, Slalom event, World Cup Alpine, Grindelwald, Switzerland.  
 2nd place, Slalom event, World Cup Alpine, Bad Gastein, Austria.  
 Gold Medalist, World Giant Slalom Champion, Val Gardena, Italy. At the age of 16-years she became the youngest female competitor ever to win a World Championship medal.
- 1971 1st place, Slalom event, World Cup Alpine, Schruns, Austria.  
 1st place, Slalom event, World Cup Alpine, Val d'Isere, France.  
 2nd place Overall Standing, World Cup Competition.
- 1972 Selected as a member of the Canadian Women's Alpine team at the winter Olympic Games, Sapporo, Japan, but was unable to compete because of injury.
- 1973 Dominated the Can-Am racing series winning 5-races and the title, the first time a Canadian female had won this honour. She rejoined the Canadian Women's World Cup team and won the Canadian Championships in Thunder Bay, Ontario.
- 1974 2nd place and Silver Medal winner, Downhill event, Alpine World Championships, St Moritz, Switzerland.  
 1st place, Giant Slalom event, Canadian National Championships, Owl's Head, Magog, Quebec.  
 1st place, Giant Slalom event, Chilean National Championships, Portillo, Chile.

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- 1975 1st place, Giant Slalom event, Canadian National Championships, Jasper, Alberta. She also placed on 12 occasions in the top ten in World Cup racing with a 4th place finish in Giant Slalom at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia.
- 1976 1st place, Slalom event, Canadian National Championships.  
Retired from active competition following the Winter Olympic Games, Innsbruck, Austria.

#### Hall of Fame Honours:

- 1970 Nominated to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame  
1978 Nominated to American National Ski Hall of Fame  
1982 Nominated to Canadian Ski Museum Honor Roll (Canadian Ski Hall of Fame)  
1983 Nominated to the Greater Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame  
1995 Nominated to Les Panthéon des sports de l'Outaouais  
1995 Nominated to Laurentian Ski Hall of Fame