



Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



Memo To: Provincial Sport & Recreation Presidents and Executive Directors/Chief Operating Officers

From: Doug Rosser
Chair, Sport Alliance Board of Directors

Re: **August, 2007 "Update"**

I am pleased to provide the sport community with this "**August Update**" covering activities and directions undertaken by the Sport Alliance of Ontario since my last report in June. This time of year continues to be a very busy one for the SAO and we certainly appreciate it is a busy time as well for sport and recreation organizations.

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING:

For the past six months, the SAO's Board has been working diligently to complete new One, Two & Three year **Operational Plans** flowing out of the new **Strategic Plan**. Under the leadership of Board Vice-Chair, **Mike Murphy**, we have developed the plans to support our new vision and mandate. The Operational Plans will provide a roadmap for our CEO and management team over the next several years and will provide a valid base for building our future budgets.

The Strategic Plan was presented recently in an open meeting with interested Executive Directors. There were some good questions and suggestions which will be incorporated into the final document, and overall was very well received.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING:

Our 2007 AGM is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 18th**, and this will mark the first time in the SAO's history that a new membership model will be in place.

Following the amendment of our By-laws at the most recent Special Members' Meeting, membership in the SAO was broadened to now provide membership status and voting rights to all PSO's, MSO's and related organizations that register as members.

All ten voting Directors positions are up for election at this year's AGM. If you are aware of qualified, committed individuals interested in serving on our Board, please contact our corporate office for nomination details or visit our website at www.sportalliance.com.

At present, the SAO has received membership applications from **56** organizations. If your group has not yet joined, I would encourage you to do so today to be eligible to participate in the upcoming Annual Meeting.

BUILDING FUTURE UPDATE:

It is certainly no secret that our current facility lease draws closer to expiry. We are carefully reviewing all of our options to ensure that we can continue to provide the best possible home for our resident associations in the years ahead. A detailed survey was sent to you this past Spring and we have used this to help focus our geographic search area.

Following an RFP process we selected an extremely knowledgeable real estate consulting firm to provide us with the best possible advice and negotiating strategies. A number of facility options have emerged, including our existing building, and we are in the process of determining which facility would best serve our resident organizations going forward and how future lease costs would be covered. Throughout the entire process we have been extremely diligent on the facility needs of resident organizations and we are very conscious of any cost implications. We have kept the Ministry well-posted on our different options as their support is very critical going forward.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

For most of the past decade, the SAO has functioned in a very tight fiscal environment, more often than not posting year-end deficits. While there may or may not have been valid reasons for these deficits, the bottom line was that they were not reflective of sound financial practices and the Board placed a high priority on management delivering a positive year-end result.

Our audited financial statements will be released with the AGM info package, but I am very pleased to be able to report to you that we have concluded a very strong year financially and have generated a modest surplus that can be used in a positive manner on behalf of our resident organizations. While all of our departments contributed meaningfully to this result, we certainly did receive a very positive performance from Medallion Press. Thank you to all of our clients who utilize the services of our in-house printing department.

I would particularly like to thank the members of our Finance Committee who have spent many long hours reviewing statements, analyzing department performances, establishing meaningful and achievable budgets and examining our financial system controls. **Carol Nickle**, Vice-Chair Finance, **Ilene Watt** and **Roger Robbins** worked tirelessly with our CEO **Jim Bradley**, and Director of Finance, **Edmond Lo**, to achieve very positive results.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

- The **2nd Annual KidSport Golf Tournament** is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 11**, once again at the beautiful Lionhead Golf & Country Club. The Tournament is sold out and should be a great event.
- **SAO's 2007 Annual Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, September 18th** at 3:00 PM in Boardrooms A&B at the Centre. Voting members will receive their Delegate Registration Packages shortly.
- The Sport Alliance, along with the Ministry and all our partners has agreed to undertake a thorough review of the **Ontario Sport Action Plan** and the role of the OSAP Steering Committee.
- The Report from the **Ontario Games Review Committee** has been presented to the Minister and the Report's recommendations were positively received. We hope to have a report out to those involved with the Ontario Summer & Winter Youth Games shortly.

WELCOME & "GOOD BYE" TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

On behalf of the Board, I would extend our thanks and best wishes to **Ilene Watt** who has resigned as the Executive Director of Basketball Ontario. Ilene has contributed countless hours to Ontario sport over and beyond her busy schedule with Basketball Ontario. She was a tireless leader in the battle to restore sport access to school facilities, was a Co-chair of the PSO Council, and for the past several years has been a member of the SAO's Board, providing expertise and enthusiasm to the Finance Committee and to our extensive by-law revisions.

Also, on behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to extend a most sincere "best wishes" to longtime OPHEA Executive Director, **Elio Antunes**, who is leaving OPHEA at the end of August to assume a senior position as Vice President of Partnerships and COO with the newly revitalized ParticipACTION Canada. Elio's contribution over 21 years leaves an enduring legacy for OPHEA.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to these newest Executive Directors:

- **Michele O'Keefe** Basketball Ontario
- **Chris Markham** (Acting) OPHEA

We look forward to seeing you at future SAO functions.

I would again reiterate that if there is **ANYTHING** that you would like further clarification on, or would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (416) 426-7234 or call our CEO, Jim Bradley at (416) 426-7074