



# Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



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

**From:** Dr. Michael F. (Mike) Murphy  
Chair, **sportalliance** Board of Directors

**Re:** August 17, 2009 "Update"

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In this, my last message as Chair, I am pleased to report that once again the SAO has made excellent progress since the previous year's AGM. Here are some highlights:

- Instituted regular communications meetings with members and clients.
- Completed the objectives outlined in the strategic plan. The next revision will take place in February 2010.
- Staged outstanding Ontario Games. This program remains one of the brightest jewels in the SAO crown. The work accomplished by our staff with the respective local organizing committees in 2008-09 is first rate.
- Completed the challenging move to Concorde Gate. The new building brings members and clients into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Hosted a highly successful Sport Awards' Banquet.
- Put the KidSport Ontario program into the black. This program is now realizing its earlier promise.
- Operationalized the new financial accounting system, thereby improving levels of service to the board, to the members and to the clients.
- Instituted a small sport internship program composed of university and college students, which will commence this fall.
- Developed a Directors' Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, as well as a Whistleblower Policy.
- Proceeded, in conjunction with Sport4Ontario, with the planning for a proposed Sport Conference. We will look forward to the inaugural session in 2010.
- Undertook a successful Pan Am Youth Program in 2009.
- Struck a committee to improve internal and external SAO communications.
- Developed a fundraising package which is now near completion.
- Assembled a formidable Team Ontario for the Canada Games in PEI.

- Eliminated the contentious charge-back policy.
- Made a commitment to the members that it is our objective not to pass on the shortfall caused by the move to the members.

Of course the work is ongoing, and the SAO continuously strives to meet its mandate and to identify and implement new policies for the benefit of its members.

I will conclude with a few thank yous. This concludes my fourth year with the SAO. The first year I served as a member-at-large. Then I was a Vice-Chair, and for the past two years I have acted as Chair. I had intended to stay for two years only, but the people were so enjoyable, and the challenges so intriguing, that I stayed longer. I have many people to thank for re-educating me about the challenges facing both Ontario sport and the SAO. I have listened carefully to each person and acted upon their advice as best I could given certain circumstances.

I am also grateful to the SAO membership for electing me to the Board and to Board Members Holly Abraham, Janet Gates, Adam Evans, Sue Holloway, Carol Nickle, Roger Robbins, Stephen MacDonald, David Saad, Ilene Watt and Doug Rosser for their confidence in me. Although each Board Member contributed in specific, important ways to the SAO's mandate, I am particularly thankful to the Executive and the Finance Committees. The former group is comprised of Holly Abraham, Carol Nickle, David Saad and Doug Rosser. Each of them undertook significant projects in 2009 and made the SAO better because of their service. The latter group consists of Finance Committee Chair Carol Nickle, Ilene Watt and Roger Robbins. Their service during this past year has been outstanding. In addition, special thanks is extended to the Ministry of Health Promotion officials who have assisted the Alliance greatly this past year. On behalf of the SAO Board, therefore, I thank Minister Best, Jean Lam, Janie Romoff, Rick Beaver, Anita Comella and Bryan Ozorio. Last but not least, I am grateful to CEO Jim Bradley and his talented, dedicated staff for their dedicated service to the SAO. Jim, in particular, has distinguished himself in 2008-9. The challenges often were large, but his calm approach and his depth of experience, created circumstances for people to move the Alliance forward.

Thanks Team!



Dr. Michael F. (Mike) Murphy  
Chair

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If I can provide clarification on any matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-686-4507 or call our CEO, Jim Bradley, at (416) 426-7074. Also for your information, I will travel from London (my home) to an office in the SAO headquarters on the first Monday and the second Wednesday in each month. I expect to work there from about 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. My email address is [murphy@sympatico.ca](mailto:murphy@sympatico.ca).