



Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



Memo to: Provincial Sport & Recreation Presidents and
Executive Directors/Chief Operating Officers
Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport

From: Holly Abraham
Chair, Sport Alliance of Ontario Board of Directors

Re: November 2010 "Update"

AGM September 2010

Thanks to Jim Bradley our CEO and his staff for a successful AGM. We had excellent attendance this year with over 40 member organizations present, which is the largest to date. I would also like to congratulate Michael Murphy who received the Chair's Award for his outstanding leadership in sport in Ontario and Canada.

Thank you to the nominating committee who secured excellent candidates for the SAO Board. This year we have three new board members, Teresa Moore, John Cowan and Cheryl Finn. They each come with incredible expertise which will assist the board in meeting the strategic plan. I look forward to working with each of them throughout the year. A special thanks to Roger Robbins and Janet Gates who completed their terms with the Board. I wish them all the best and appreciate all their support over the past several years.

Ontario Summer Games 2010

I want to thank and congratulate the staff of the SAO for their efforts with the Summer Games this past August. The Games portfolio is an important function of the Sport Alliance of Ontario. With the leadership of Blair McIntosh and especially the work of Crystal Peiris, the consulting staff, these events were athlete centered, streamlined and well attended. I had the good fortune to attend the Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury and I was impressed with the host society of Sudbury, the facilities and the event management. I was able to watch many excellent athletes from multiple sports compete and showcase why the Ontario Games are an important part of athlete development.

Ontario Senior Summer Games 2010 - Actifest

We are thrilled that over 1170 athletes participated in the games this year and it continues to grow. It is great to have so many adults engaged in the pursuit of excellence through Actifest. Thanks to Steve MacDonald, Secretary of the Board of Directors, for representing the Board at the opening of this event and Jim Bradley for representing us at the closing banquet attended by nearly 1200 people.

2015 Pan/ParaPan American Games

Working groups have been created with many keen individuals in sport from many diverse backgrounds. Over the next month and moving forward these groups will discuss goals and objectives within each key opportunity area in support of the 2015 Games. These working groups are staff lead, with at least one board member supporting the working group.

Strategic Plan 2010-2013

The plan has been finalized and was distributed at the AGM in September. A copy of the strategic plan is available on the SAO website. A business plan and operation plan is being developed in order to ensure goals and objectives are met over the long term.

Staffing

Welcome to our newest staff member Dawn MacDonald who is in the new position of Director of Marketing and Communications beginning on November 1st. This position is made possible through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We will be filling the vacant Games Consultant position and will be maintaining Erin's portfolio internally until she returns from maternity leave in 2011.

Play works and the Youth Friendly Community Program

The Youth Friendly Community Recognition program is the main vehicle through which increased investment in play is achieved. The YFC recognition ceremony took place at Queens Park on October 4th. Playworks is an Ontario partnership for active youth and includes eight partners working since 2003 to increase investment in youth play. PRO has provided leadership support to this partnership. I was pleased to represent SAO and gave out an award to the City of Barrie. Six communities were being recognized by the Minister of HP and Sport, Margaret Best.

KidSport Ontario Annual Golf FundRaiser

The event took place September 1st with Hugh Burrill and Darryl Sittler as hosts. We were thrilled with the increased number of PSO's that participated in the event. We had over 130 people attend with a silent auction and prizes. Our goal was to raise \$45,000 from this event in support of KidSport Ontario.

Canada Winter Games 2011

The plan for Team Ontario is almost completed leading up to the Canada Games in Halifax in February 2011. The Team Ontario Development Grant Program in support of the Canada Winter Games has been renewed by MHPS and eligible athletes will be receiving approximately \$1,500.00 towards their training and preparation of the Games. There will also be a major training camp at U of T for all 400 participants in December.

Ontario Sport Awards 2011

A notice was sent out to members to hold the date of April 14, 2011 for the awards ceremony at Ontario Place. We are excited to return to this fabulous facility to honour Ontario's best Athletes, Coaches, Officials and Volunteers. We hope that Sport Organizations submit their applications to recognize their members that are deserving of Provincial awards.

Benefits of Membership

We are hoping to recruit more sport and recreation organizations this year so the representation at the Pan/ParaPan American Games discussions are inclusive of all interested sport organizations.

If you are interested in free membership, please contact our CEO Jim Bradley or complete the membership application on the SAO website.

Please contact the CEO Jim Bradley at jbradley@sportalliance.com if you have any questions, concerns or ideas regarding the SAO or I can be reached at habraham.sportleadership@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Holly Abraham
Chair
Sport Alliance of Ontario