



# Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



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

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

**Re:** May 2010 "Update"

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## **18th Ontario Winter Games March 4-7, 2010 – Muskoka region**

This event was one of the best Ontario Winter Games on record. Beginning with the opening celebration with The Stereo's and ending with the fireworks over picturesque Lake Muskoka, the athletes were astounded with the hospitality of the host communities. This event is Ontario's largest multi-sport event providing young athletes with development and competitive opportunities to prepare them for national and international competitions. There were over 2500 athletes competing, with 555 coaches and managers and 380 officials in these games, making this the largest multi-sport winter event in Ontario. The Organizing Committee from across the Muskoka region delivered a top notch program for the athletes ably assisted by Erin Hamilton whose expertise helped to make it all come together.

The Sport Alliance of Ontario was very proud to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Promotion, the multiple Host Communities and the over 850 volunteers at these games. I would also like to recognize the continued support by the Ministry of Health Promotion and especially Minister Best for the Ontario Games Program. With that in mind, we hope that many athletes that competed at the Ontario Winter Games aspire to compete in 2011 as part of Team Ontario at the Canada Winter Games in Halifax.

Congratulations to the athletes whose performances were inspiring and the coaches, officials and managers that support the athletes in their quest for excellence.

## **2015 Pan and ParaPan American Games Think Tank April 24<sup>th</sup> at the 2010 Radisson Hotel Toronto East**

In early April, several staff and board members met with the CEO Ian Troop to discuss how the SAO can contribute to the execution of the 2015 Games. As a result of that meeting we set up the agenda for an event with PSO's and MSO's. In our ongoing efforts to continue the dialogue and collaboration with sport, SAO hosted a Think Tank where over 35 sports were represented. The event was facilitated by Marg Strus of Strus and Associates whose guidance allowed us to devise some objectives and strategies in moving forward. Our goal was to engage the sports to determine the top 5 areas that sport would like to see as a result of the Pan/ParaPan Am Games.

### ***As a follow up from the Think Tank, the CEO of the 2015 Games Ian Troop will join all sport at our next event on Saturday May 29th at Radisson Hotel Toronto East.***

We will have a presentation to the collective on the 5 main strategic thrusts devised from the several meetings that have taken place over the past three months. All are welcome so if you are interested, please contact Jennifer Joseph to confirm your attendance.

## **Ontario Sport Awards on April 15th 2010, Atlantis Pavilion, Ontario Place**

The Ontario Sport Awards is an example of what can happen through partnerships. The SAO has worked diligently over the past few years to strengthen our partnerships with not only the Ministry of Health Promotion, but with Provincial Sport Organizations. We hope this trend continues and Ontario sport organizations recognize the value of celebrating the successes of their athletes, coaches and volunteers with all of sport. We want to be able to continually improve our event and hope that our stakeholders will support our efforts by increasing the number of award nominees in each category. There are so many deserving people in sport that should be celebrated.

Ontario Place was a wonderful venue to host this prestigious event. We had a capacity crowd, over 350 people attended with representation from many sports, teams, universities and colleges. Our Master of Ceremonies for the evening Hugh Burrill and Alexandra Orlando were fantastic and kept the evening moving.

I wanted to thank Jason Birch and Ashley Haynes, the Awards Committee and the masters of ceremonies, for their wonderful execution of this event. We look forward to the next installment at Ontario Place where we will celebrate the success of our athletes, coaches and volunteers during the 2010 Olympic Year.

## **Strategic Plan 2010-2013 on April 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Radisson Hotel Toronto East**

Marg Strus of Strus and Associates lead the strategic planning process to update our Strategic Plan from the last cycle. The planning session was well attended by board, staff, and a cross section of PSO's and MSO's.


The board will spend the next couple of months finalizing the document with strategic measurements and targets and will be circulating the new document at the AGM.

## **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 if you have any questions, concerns, ideas regarding the SAO at [jbradley@sportalliance.com](mailto:jbradley@sportalliance.com) or I can be reached at [habraham.sportleadership@gmail.com](mailto:habraham.sportleadership@gmail.com)

Sincerely,



Holly Abraham  
Chair  
Sport Alliance of Ontario