



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

**From:** Doug Rosser  
Chair, Sport Alliance Board of Directors

**Re:** June, 2007 "Update"

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

The past two months have been memorable ones for the SAO on a number of fronts.

### NEW GOVERNANCE MODEL:

After a number of years of discussion, and after several "false starts", we can proudly report that the original incorporating By-laws of the SAO have finally been amended, broadening our membership base to include all recognized PSO/MSO's, along with key provincial sport and recreation authorities. This is a huge step forward, enhancing the democratic base for participation in the SAO and I commend the original four constituent members (the PSO Council, the ED Council, PRO and the Education Alliance) for their unanimous support in making this transition a reality. This is a major accomplishment in the continuing evolution of the SAO and for amateur sport in this province.

According to the new By-law, potential members have to apply for membership. Membership forms have been circulated and are required to be sent back to our office by **June 15, 2007** so our membership numbers can be confirmed. There is no fee for membership, but in order to vote at the upcoming AGM on September 18, 2007 your association will need to be a member.

### ONTARIO SPORT AWARDS:

On Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> this year's Ontario Sports Awards Gala Dinner was held with a capacity crowd at the beautiful Toronto Granite Club. (The SAO hosts this event on behalf of the Ministry of Health Promotion).



Minister Watson presenting the Female Athlete Award to Vicky Sunohara

**Minister Jim Watson** was present to honour all of the evening's recipients. A very special tribute was made to long time sport champion and life time Honorary IOC Member **Jim Worrall** by **Peter Fonseca**, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister.



Jim Worrall and Peter Fonseca, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister

This marked the second year of our partnership with the faculty and staff of **Centennial College** and the benefits can easily be seen in the class of the event.



Building upon the tremendous success of last year's Awards Dinner, Gala Chair **David Saad**, and SAO's **Herb Gray**, again "raised the bar" by staging a first class event that honoured outstanding athletes, coaches, officials, long time volunteers and corporate partners.

Planning is already underway for next year's Awards Gala scheduled for Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 once again at the Toronto Granite Club. Tickets will go very quickly and we anticipate a complete sellout of more than 400!

### **WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?**

- As everyone is aware, **Team Ontario** was successful in winning the Games flag at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse back in February. Chef de Mission, **Blair McIntosh** and the Team Mission were recognized earlier this Spring in the House by the Minister and most recently on May 15<sup>th</sup> the Minister, together with Premier Dalton McGuinty hosted a Reception for Team Ontario at Queen's Park.
- Under the leadership the SAO's Vice-Chair, **Mike Murphy**, we are continuing to make great progress in finalizing our **Strategic Plan**. The Board has reviewed and discussed the Draft at its most recent meeting in May, and are now reviewing the linkages between the 3 Year Strategic Plan and the Operations Plan being assembled by our CEO **Jim Bradley** to support the Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Plan will be available very soon for distribution to the sport community.
- By now each stakeholder organization will have received a **survey from our facility consulting firm** asking you a number of questions related to our future building. With our existing lease expiring at the end of October 2009 we have undertaken to commence planning now for that date. Should we remain or leave? Where can we be located to best serve the needs of organizations with resident offices? What type of building do we need and what is affordable? Please take the time to complete and return this preliminary survey.
- Building upgrades are well underway as I am sure you are aware. Construction began several weeks ago to improve the look of the external decking at our front entrance, and most recently renovations have begun to modernize the front lobby. We certainly appreciate our landlord's efforts in this regard, and the work of our Facility Manager, **Lore Dehmel**, who pushed for these upgrades.

### **WELCOME TO NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:**

On behalf of the Board I would like to extend a warm welcome to a number of new Executive Directors:

- **Jim Crosscombe** Ontario Cycling Association
- **Glen Lethbridge** Ontario Sailing Association
- **Doug Hannum** Boxing Ontario

We look forward to seeing you at future SAO functions.

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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.