



Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



June, 2006

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

From: Doug Rosser
Chair, **sportalliance** Board of Directors

Re: **June 2006 Update**

On behalf of the SAO's Board of Directors, I am pleased to again be able to provide you with another "Update" on recent areas of SAO activity. As everyone is beginning to prepare for the traditional summer months, I will likely generate only one "Update" covering July and August.

Busy Summer for Ontario Games Program

The next several months will be very busy ones for those involved with three different sets of Ontario Games.

The Ontario **Youth Summer Games** are the largest of these and are scheduled for August 9th to 12th in Ottawa. I certainly extend our best wishes to all of the "Summer" PSO's currently preparing for these Games – I understand that the Games Organizing Committee has a tremendous event planned. It is also high on the Minister's "radar screen" as Ottawa contains his home riding.

The **Ontario Summer Paralympics** are quickly approaching – scheduled for July 7th to 9th in the city of London. As well, the **Ontario Seniors Games** are set for Hamilton on August 14th to 16th. Our best wishes go out to both Paralympics Ontario and their ED, **Cathy Vincelli**, as well as the Ontario Seniors Games Association and their ED, **Carole Lasher**.

2008 Beijing Paralympic Summer Games

Many of you may have already read the recent Press Release but I would reiterate our congratulations to **Debbie Low**, President/CEO of the Canadian Sport Centre, Ontario, and also a SAO Board member, on her recent appointment as Chef de Mission for Canada's team to these Games. This is a well deserved recognition of Debbie's distinguished career in amateur sport and her many contributions to sport at both the provincial and national level.

Ministry Departure

We are very sorry to have received notification from the ADM, Jean Lam that the Director of the Sport and Recreation Branch, **Doris Haas**, is resigning effective the end of June. This marks the culmination of a long career in sport and recreation for Doris. She made a very positive contribution to the SAO's rebuilding process and we wish her every success in the future.

Board of Directors Highlights:

- **Budget Time**

Similar to all PSO/MSO's, the Sport Alliance itself is in the midst of its annual negotiations with the Ministry for funding support. As I mentioned in my May "Update", a key priority for the Alliance is to continue to provide core essential services to our stakeholders at the lowest possible cost. Any "new" areas of involvement would be undertaken only if new sources of funding can be assured. We have submitted some options to the Ministry for activities which would support priorities established for the SAO at the February "Sport Momentum" Conference.

- **Tenant Satisfaction Survey**

Earlier this Spring, as part of our continuing commitment to improving all levels of customer service, we commissioned an external review of all SAO facility services by the Osborne Group. They received an excellent 70% response rate from resident stakeholders.

To quote from the first sentence of the Summary of Findings ... **"There are generally high levels of satisfaction amongst the tenants for the building and services provided by SAO. The staff is recognized for trying hard – real progress has been made"**.

I am pleased to see we are making positive progress in this regard and can assure you that the bar continues to be raised – we are striving to make our facility the finest one in Canada for amateur sport.

- **SAO Loses a Director**

We were very sorry to have recently received the resignation of one of our Board Members – Marnie McBean. Marnie has found that her professional commitments to the Olympic Spirit Toronto combined with an exhausting personal travel schedule and speaking engagements across Canada has made it difficult to be a continuing member of our Board. Marnie's advice and advocacy on behalf of "athletes" will be missed. We will not fill this position until our September Annual Meeting.

- **Ontario Sport Action Plan**

One of the areas that was assigned as a "priority" for the SAO following the Sport Momentum Conference was for us to provide "secretariat" support to enable the Sport Action Plan to move forward.

Since that time the OSAP Steering Committee has met and the members have supported that direction effective June. The SAO will "Chair" the Committee and provide the requisite "secretariat" support but it is very important to emphasize that the entire process and plan remains a **stakeholder owned initiative**. Our next meeting is scheduled for early July and one of our discussion points will be "how to keep the sport community updated" in terms of progress and success stories.

- **KidSport Ontario**

What can we say? This program continues to grow as more and more Ontario communities are working to create local KidSport chapters. I had the pleasure of joining the Minister of Health Promotion, Jim Watson in Ottawa recently where we awarded a cheque of \$25,000.00 to the City of Ottawa for their KidSport Chapter. For information on this outstanding SAO program please visit the website at www.kidsport.on.ca. Enhancement of this program is an important component of our 2006/07 funding application

I would finally remind all stakeholders that the SAO continues to place the highest possible priority on maintaining open lines of communication. My phone line is always "open" (426-7234) and I am always available for a cup of coffee. Our CEO **Jim Bradley** has a very informal coffee session every Wednesday morning. Our Facilities Manager **Lore Dehmel** responds quickly to questions and we have a "Suggestions Box" on the lower foyer outside of the Sports Café. If you do have question, or issue to discuss please let us know. Thanks.

Stay Tuned ...

Upcoming "Updates" will let you know the outcomes of our new **3-year agreement/directions** with the Ministry of Health Promotion as well as beginning to look ahead to our lease expiry in the fall of 2009 and what steps will be taken now as we begin to prepare for that time.

2006 Annual Meeting ... please mark Tuesday, September 19th in your schedule and plan to join us for this year's Annual Meeting.

The **Committee reviewing the Ontario Games Program** (primarily the Summer and Winter Youth Games) has completed their work and we anticipate releasing the Report's findings by the end of July after review by the Ministry and the SAO Board of Directors.