



Report from the Chair

sportalliance INFO



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

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

Re: October 1, 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 SAO areas of activity.

2006 ANNUAL MEETING

On Tuesday, September 19th the SAO held its 2006 Annual General meeting. Like most of your AGM's, we presented our Annual Report, the Members received the audited financial statements and we conducted elections for two vacancies on the Board. I am pleased to announce that following the election **Carol Nickle** (our current Vice Chair & Treasurer), was re-elected to another two year term and a new face joined our Board – **Roger Robbins** from London, Ontario. Roger is a long time volunteer with Basketball Ontario. Congratulation to both Carol and Roger.

One of the challenges that we face with the SAO is the governance model that we are currently functioning under. While everyone recognizes that change is necessary to enable the Alliance to more effectively achieve its mandate, agreement on how best to achieve this change is elusive. Following a discussion on a proposed Bylaw change and a subsequent amendment to Amended Agenda Item #10, By-law Amendment, it was withdrawn and will be brought forward for further discussion amongst the members.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOVERNANCE

The Strategic Planning & Governance Committee is moving ahead quickly to develop options for our Board consideration. This committee contains a mix of SAO Directors and stakeholders, working to clarify the issue of "who" are our primary stakeholders and how they can become more involved in the organization. Should every provincial sport and recreation organization be a direct member, with voting privileges? Should we expand, or eliminate, the concept of constituent members? Should the SAO increase its emphasis on advocacy or focus only on effective delivery of programs and facility services? Our deliberations have identified some interesting challenges but have also revealed a strong commitment to have change happen.

Stakeholder representation working on this committee include **Wendy Cathcart** (Softball), **Holly Abraham** (Gymnastics), **John Craig** (Athletics), **Al Will** (Sailing), **Cathy Vincelli** (Paralympics), **Ilene Watt** (Basketball), **Margaret Emin** (PSO Council) and **Doug Gellatly** (Educational Alliance). Board members include **Mike Murphy**, **David Saad**, myself, and our CEO, **Jim Bradley**.

2008 ONTARIO YOUTH GAMES

The SAO has completed the circulation of tenders for both the 2008 Summer & Winter Youth Games and will shortly begin the evaluation process on bids received. Based upon the success on both the Winter & Summer 2006 Games, and with the possibility of enhanced funding from Quest for Gold, there is a much greater interest from potential host communities.

KIDSPORT GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday, September 12th our Inaugural KidSport Golf Tournament was held at the beautiful Lionhead Golf & County Club and it was a tremendous success!

The event was a complete sell-out and planning is already underway for a "double shotgun" (two courses) tournament in the Fall of 2007. This was the first successful fundraiser staged by the SAO and the net funds raised exceeded our expectations.

Rod Black was our MC and we were pleased to have Walter Gretzky join us (a key supporter of the Brantford KidSport Chapter). Mike Gardner of the National Hockey League Players' Association along with a number of Toronto Maple Leaf alumni participated in the golf tournament and attended the dinner, all in aid of a worthy cause helping disadvantaged youth to get involved with sport.

NEXT ON THE HORIZON

So what's up for the Sport Alliance now that the AGM is behind us?

- Finding a successful solution to our "governance model" is definitely a #1 priority
- Completing work on our strategic plan and translating this into a business plan
- Consulting with PSO's on the outcomes of the Ontario Games Review and agreeing on those activities that will enhance the Games experience
- Evaluating and selecting host communities for the 2008 Youth Winter & Summer Games
- Initiating preliminary planning for the next Ontario Sport Awards event in partnership with Centennial College

BEST WISHES

I would like to extend "best wishes" on behalf of the SAO to the Ministry's new Director of the Sport & Recreation Branch, **Janie Romoff**.

Prior to September Janie was a member of the SAO's Board representing Parks & Recreation Ontario. She was formerly Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of London.

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