

Saskatchewan 2009-2010 Year End Report

Our exciting year began in September, with many of our athletes returning to the sport. We also had many newcomers, which we were very excited about. Our overall SBTA membership numbers, which include athletes, coaches, parents and volunteers, have increased to 396 up from 349 the year previous the year previous.

SBTA implemented a New Member Incentive Grant this past year that seems to have helped increase our membership numbers. SBTA was aware of many successful recreational programs throughout the province. None were members of SBTA. One of SBTA's goals this past year was to target these communities and encourage them to take out SBTA memberships. A grant was created to do just that. The grant promotes SBTA and encourages the community groups/programs/clubs that teach baton to take out SBTA memberships. In addition to the monetary support they receive from SBTA, they are also able to participate in some of the provincial programs and clinics we have to offer.

Our Fall Clinic was held in October and was our first big event of the year. In conjunction with the clinic, a lovely awards banquet was held at Memories Fine Dining celebrating the successes of our Saskatchewan athletes.

Our AGM and Annual Planning Session, was held in November, where many new board members were voted in.

The Santa Claus Parades in both Saskatoon and Regina had a strong presence from baton with most clubs participating. Three of our clubs hosted "Bring a Friend Days" which successful in introducing and recruiting new twirlers.

In February 2010, the SBTA hosted recreational C clinics in both Regina and Saskatoon with the goal of attracting beginner/non competitive twirlers. The clinic focused on fun and participation. It provided non-members a chance to see what SBTA had to offer. Both clinics were a success and were well received.

In February 2010, Saskatoon held a Fun North Winter Wonderland Fun Contest that was a huge success and Regina followed shortly after holding a Fun South Shamrock Showcase in March. The events enabled recreational athletes from outside of the city to participate in skills development type activities.

Our SBTA competitions this year included the annual Spring Surprise, Twirl-A-Myracle, Shamrock Twirl, Queen City Classic/Provincials and Twirl to the Top. Our Saskatchewan clubs once again, did a fantastic job this year and we are very proud of their accomplishments. In addition to our provincial competitions, some of our clubs traveled to Baltimore Maryland to participate in the annual Congressional Cup Competition. Other clubs made a trip to Alberta and/or Manitoba to participate in theirs.

SBTA also hosted the 2010 Canadian Team Trials in May. Many thanks to Elan Paluck, Cindy Deitrich and the SOBG hosting committee who all contributed in making the event a huge success.

Our SBTA technical committee once again ran the Skills Challenge events for a second consecutive year. The purpose of the STAR (Skills to Achieve Results) Program is to develop the strength, flexibility, speed, and technical skills of our beginning athletes. The program is designed for pre competitive athletes (ages 5-12) and is run immediately after the pre events at local competitions. This program is consistent with long-term athlete

development (LTAD) models that both Sask Sport and Sport Canada are encouraging be implemented in all sports. The program promotes fun, fitness, and participation in a non-competitive setting.

SBTA purchased a table and attended the Sask Sport “Supporting the Dream” awards banquet. The banquet is hosted every year and celebrates the successes of our provincial athletes in every sport throughout the province.

SBTA continued with the popular Training Assistance Program – or TAP gym time in both Regina and Saskatoon. This is an SBTA funded program, which provides gym time in high performance facilities for all of our SBTA athletes to take advantage of.

In December SBTA implemented a High Performance Senior Athlete Retention Grant. It too was a huge success. Sask Baton awarded 3 grants for \$1000.00 to 3 of our senior athletes, Sara Thibeault, Kayla McKinnon and Danielle Priel.

We also continued to develop our “home grown” officials. The CBTF Level 1 coaching course was held in both Regina and Saskatoon this past year. A number of badge programs were also held throughout the year.

Zone Development has been and will continue to be a main focus of SBTA. To promote the sport of baton over the summer months, SBTA will be providing programs to the City of Regina Play Escapes and the City of Saskatoon Playground program. Both programs were well received previous years and we have been asked to return this summer.

From guest appearances at high school and University sporting events in both Saskatoon and in Regina, to participating in various parades throughout the year, each club did their best to promote the sport of baton.

As was last year our plan is to continue to focus on rural development. We would like to add one new zone to our membership list and increase overall membership by another 10%.

We are thrilled to say that have 6 athletes attending World Cup in Bergen Norway this August. SBTA was able to provide some monetary funding to both our athletes and coaches attending to help offset some their expenses.

Although SBTA has had another extremely successful year in many aspects, we are sad to say the we have lost a great coach Alison Brown and a wonderful club the High Noon Optimist Twirlers this past year. Many of HOT’s twirlers have moved to other clubs within the city of Regina. We hope Alison will keep in touch.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for a great year. My term as SBTA president will be ending in November. Many many thanks to the CBTF board for their patience these past 2 years. It has been a long learning road for me. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Larkin
SBTA Chair
July 2010