



Message from the Ontario President

Last fall OBTA held their Board of Directors and Annual General Meetings. We were off to a great start, all positions were filled with much enthusiasm from everyone for the busy year ahead. Unfortunately during the year 2 executive members resigned leaving us short handed and struggling to maintain all our commitments to the athletes and members of OBTA.

August 2009, our Coaches Rep Susan Palmer and Judges Rep Brenda Baltkois ran coaching and judging certification courses. Ontario is proud to announce 10 new L1 Coaches, 4 new L2 Coaches and 3 new M1 judges to our Technical Association! Congratulations to all participants.

Several Ontario athletes gathered to perform at the Toronto Argo game late August. Thanks to Amy Genton and her experience with half time performances, we were able to pull off quite a show. It was a good time bonding and great promotion of our sport.

Thanks to Kim Genton, who, along with her club and team, offered to be competition director for the OBTA Easter Twirl, Ontario Team Trials and the Provincial Championships. This was a huge undertaking that was greatly appreciated as all 3 events were successful and well run. We were privileged to have Sheri Carter and Jackie Stewart judge for us; their experience and expertise were invaluable.

Ontario Athletes Samantha Metelski and Matthew Johnson along with judge Brenda Cooper represented us at the Congressional Cup Invitational in March 2010.

Stephanie Hewis attended the Ontario Sports Awards Banquet on our behalf in April. OBTA nominated Rebecca Maciver for Female Athlete of the Year and Matthew Johnson for Male Athlete of the Year. They had some very strong competition, being a successful Olympic year for many Ontario athletes.

Ontario continues to work on increased membership however we face many ongoing challenges. As a province that gets no external government funding, the sport of baton twirling is becoming more expensive for those that participate. The economical situation in Ontario, the choice of other twirling organizations and lack of funding have all aided in a decline of new registrations. We are hoping with some great media coverage during Nationals, this will once again promote the sport in our province.

Ontario is thrilled to be welcoming baton twirlers from all across the country to compete at the 2010 Canadian Championships. I would like to thank the OBTA Board, Club Directors, Coaches, Parents and Volunteers for making this event such a success. May everyone leave with memories, a new trick and lasting friendships.

On behalf of Ontario, I would like to submit a bid to host the 2011 International Cup Qualifying Competition. Your consideration of this proposal would be appreciated.

OBTA has had a very successful year, I am proud to have worked along side so many wonderful people whose passion for the sport is seen in everything they do. Thank you OBTA BOD for all you have done!

Respectfully submitted, LeeAnn Wilson, OBTA President