



## Message from the Ontario President

Last fall OBTA held their Board of Directors and Annual General Meetings. Both meetings were productive in getting plans started for the year ahead, unfortunately, our board is short a volunteer for the coaches and judges reps positions, putting more pressure and work on the shoulders of our Technical Rep. The entire board has stepped up to alleviate much of the workload and for that I am grateful to the wonderful group of volunteers that we have on the OBTA Board.

OBTA was very proud to have held several courses throughout the year. What a great accomplishment to have organized and successfully run an L1 Coaches course, M2, M3 and Masters Judges Certification. Thanks to course conductors Ron Kopas and Lynda Garland for working so hard to increase our coaches and judges pools.

OBTA decided to give another try at hosting an Athlete's Clinic, in the past this has not been a successful endeavor, however we had over 60 athletes attend the clinic in February with coaches Bridgette Bartley Ridley, Leisha Strachan, Kyla Wilson, Andrea Reid and assistants Rebecca, Kasey and Stephanie. It was a great day, with all the participants promising they will for sure come back next year!

OBTA pilot tested and offered video opportunity for the SDP specialty badges, in particular with several athletes being the FIRST in Canada to earn these badges. (We are still awaiting the badge itself to present the successful athletes)

OBTA also piloted a "coaches badge" concept for practice gym monitoring, in light of the new directive that only certified & registered L1 and higher coaches be allowed in the practice gym.

Thanks to Kim Genton, who, along with her club offered to be competition director for the OBTA Easter Twirl, and Jennifer Meron offering to be competition director for our Provincial Championships. This was a huge undertaking by both ladies that was greatly appreciated as both events were successful and well run. We were privileged to have Elan Paluck and Loren Dermody judge for us; their experience and expertise were invaluable.

Ontario Athlete Matthew Johnson along with Judge Kim Genton represented us at the Congressional Cup Invitational in March 2011.

Kyla and I attended the Ontario Sports Awards Banquet in April. OBTA nominated Amy Genton for Female Athlete of the Year and Matthew Johnson for Male Athlete of the Year.

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. Our membership numbers this year is a total of 303, I would really like to focus on increasing our numbers in the coming year.

On behalf of Ontario, I would like to submit a bid to host the 2012 Canadian Team Trials Competition.  
Your consideration of this proposal would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, LeeAnn Wilson, OBTA President