



CBTF Fall Conference 2013

Message from the Ontario President

OBTA has enjoyed another successful year of hosting and organizing several baton twirling activities. The Board met last fall to kick start our year of preparations starting with our elections followed by our AGM.

OBTA had 4 Clubs run open competitions this year, and thanks to Jen Meron, who offered to be competition director for the OBTA Ontario Provincial Championships. This was a huge undertaking that was greatly appreciated as the event was successful and well run. Many thanks to Kim Genton along with her club and all her volunteers for running a successful Trillium Invitational and IC Qualifiers. Ontario was very proud to have had so many opportunities this year for all their competitive athletes.

In February OBTA's Kim Genton ran Ontario Baton Days. We had 60 athletes attend and they all enjoyed a full day of classes with Jackie Stewart and Ron Kopas. There were many badge tests done this weekend as well as a Coaches and Judges Workshop and a Master Judges Focus meeting for the IC events. I am happy to say Baton Day's are back and successful in Ontario.

Ontario Athletes Nicole Johnson, Chantal Sutton and Matthew Johnson along with judge Brenda Cooper represented us at the Congressional Cup Invitational in March 2013. Congratulations to Matthew for making final round and finishing 3rd in the Men's Invitational.

I attended the Ontario Sports Awards Banquet in April. OBTA nominated Nicole Johnson for Female Athlete of the Year and Matthew Johnson for Male Athlete of the Year. They had some very strong competition in there categories. OBTA submitted Kim Genton's name for a Syl Apps Award for volunteering with the organization and I am thrilled to announce that she was selected as one the recipients.

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.

Ontario Coaches and Judges seem much divided right now on the Graded Assessment Motion. Many comments are such that they see the Level C benefitting but are dead set against implementing for the Level BN.

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