



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

Lifesaving Sport Report

May 2007– May 2008

Prepared by Patricia Kitchen, Sport Commissioner

Introduction

The International Olympic Committee and the Commonwealth Games Federation both recognize the International Life Saving Federation (ILS) as the world governing body for lifesaving sport. The Lifesaving Society represents Canada in ILS and is the governing body for lifesaving sport in Canada. Our lifesaving sport objectives are:

1. To support the humanitarian mission and drowning prevention work of the Lifesaving Society.
2. To provide athletes, coaches and officials with opportunities for participation in lifesaving sport at all levels from developmental to high performance.
3. To position Canada internationally as a leader in lifesaving sport.

Organizational development

The national board of directors approved the incorporation of Lifesaving/Sauvetage Canada as the national sport organization (NSO) to manage lifesaving sport for the Society. The national board of directors appointed the first three directors (Victoria Hemming, President; Karen Genge, Treasurer; Karen O'Neill, Secretary), and approved the content of a formal service agreement that defines the relationship between Lifesaving/Sauvetage Canada and the Royal Life Saving Society Canada.

On January 15–16, 2007, an important national meeting was held to establish the National Sport Commission to manage lifesaving sport under the direction of Lifesaving/Sauvetage Canada Board of Directors.

Chaired by Sport Commissioner, Patricia Kitchen (Ontario), the **National Sport Commission** is organized in eight activity centres each led by managers as follows:

- Athlete Services – Sean Nickerson, Alberta/NWT
- High Performance – Yanick Graveline, Quebec
- Event Management – Kathleen Grainger Finn, Ontario
- Athletes Council – Jeff Arthurs, Alberta/NWT
- Leadership – Brian Connors, Ontario

- Technical Services – Paul D'Eon, Nova Scotia
- Support Services – Sheri Krauss, Ontario
- Funds Development – Manager TBC

At its inaugural meeting October 26–28, 2007 in Toronto, the National Sport Commission articulated a future vision looking out to 2012. The Commission established **2008 priorities** in order to move towards that future state. These are:

- To create a national calendar of events 2008–2012.
- To coordinate officials and coaches certification programs.
- To draft service agreements with Provincial Sport Organizations.
- To send a national team to Rescue 2008 and 2009 Commonwealth Championships.
- To develop a Long Term Athlete Development strategic plan.
- To advocate for lifesaving sport in each province and support implementation through a tool kit and twinning of provinces.
- To support and participate in Lifesaving Society National strategic planning activities.

The Sport Commission also met during the Canadian championships in Toronto.

TYR Canadian Junior Lifeguard Games

- There was no 2007 *TYR Canadian Junior Lifeguard Games (Pool)*.
- The 6th *annual TYR Canadian Junior Lifeguard Games (Surf)* were hosted by the Nova Scotia Branch at Martinique Beach on August 26, 2007. The 2007 champions are Team Quebec. Individual overall champions were: Theresa Westhaven and Luca Fortin.

Senior championship officials were: Paul D'Eon (Meet Manager); Mike Melenchuk (Head Referee); Charlene Pugh and Marc Lambert (Sectional Referees).

Canadian Masters Lifesaving Championships

- There was no 2007 Canadian Masters Lifesaving Championship (Pool) – therefore the 2008 championships were the 6th annual. These were part of the 2008 Canadian Lifeguard Championships (see following page).
- The 6th Canadian Masters Surf Lifesaving Championship was hosted by the Nova Scotia Branch at Martinique Beach on August 26, 2007.

Senior championship officials were: Paul D'Eon (Meet Manager); Mike Melenchuk (Head Referee); Charlene Pugh and Marc Lambert (Sectional Referees).

Canadian Lifeguard Championships

- There was no 2007 *Canadian Lifeguard Championship* (CLC) – therefore the 2008 CLC was the 31st annual.
- The 8th *annual Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championship* was hosted by the Nova Scotia Branch at Martinique Breach on August 27-28, 2007. Thirteen clubs participated. The 2007 champions are Équipe Quebec–Aquam 1. Pentathlon winners were: Jason Cross and Emmanuella Ruel.

Senior championship officials were: Paul D'Eon (Meet Manager); Perry Smith (Head Referee); Mike Melenchuk (Deputy Referee); Barbara Kusyanto, Charlene Pugh and Marc Lambert (Sectional Referees); Wendy Mahony (Head Scorer); Doug Ferguson (Appeals Committee).

- The 100th *Anniversary* (and 1st annual) *Canadian Lifeguard Emergency Response Championship* (CLERC) was hosted by the cities of Mississauga, Toronto and the Town of Richmond Hill on March 6–7, 2008. Twenty-six teams participated. Queen's University is the 2008 Canadian Lifeguard Emergency Response Champion. First Aid Champion is the Mississauga Lifesaving Team; Priority Assessment Champion is the University of Waterloo Lifeguard Team; Water Rescue Champion is the Mississauga Lifesaving Team.

Senior championship officials were: Sheri Krauss (Meet Manager); Perry Smith (Head Referee); Bruce Cox, Eddie Beaucage, Ryan Radford and Michelle Lipkus (Sectional Referees); Wendy Mahony (Head Scorer); Annie Thibeault and Nathalie Vallières Loy (Competitor Liaison).

- The 100th *Anniversary* (and 31st annual) *Canadian Lifeguard Championship* (CLC) was hosted by Ontario Branch at Toronto's Etobicoke Olympium, March 8–9, 2008. Seventeen clubs participated with 150 competitors. The 2008 CLC Champion is the St. Laurent Lifesaving Team (Ottawa). The pentathlon champions are: Katie Ferguson and Mark Kitteringham (14 & 15 years); Chantique Payne and Alex Griffith (16 – 19 years); Christie Smith and Nelson Giraldo (20 years and over).

Senior championship officials were: Sheri Krauss (Meet Manager); Perry Smith (Head Referee); Mike Melenchuk and Rebecca White (Deputy Referees); Wendy Mahony (Head Scorer); Annie Thibeault (Competitor Liaison); Doug Ferguson (Appeals Committee).

Leadership development

Officials

- The Lifesaving Society's 3-level Officials Certification Program continues to roll out in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

Coaching

- The Society's 3-level Coaching Certification Program continues in development. Reference materials include: Level 1 Coach Workbook; draft Level 2 Coach Workbook; draft *Coaching Lifesaving* – the technical reference for levels 1, 2, and 3; draft Level 1 and Level 2 Coach Trainer Notes; Level 1 Coach Skills DVD.

Technical services

- Canada coordinated the publication of the 4th edition (July 2007) of the *ILS Competition Manual*.
- Canada produced the 2008 edition of the RLSS *Commonwealth Competition Manual*.
- The first draft of the *Canadian Meet Manager Manual* is complete.

Athlete services

- Charlene Pugh and Lorraine Wilson-Saliba attended the Petro-Canada Sport Leadership conference in Halifax (October 2007).
- Paula Stevens represented the Society at the Long-Term Athlete Development Conference held in Ottawa, January 15–16, 2008.

High performance

- Canada is sending a team to Rescue 2008 World Lifesaving Championships in Germany, July 2008. The chef de Mission is Barb Kusyanto (Alberta/NWT); Team Manager is Shanna Reid (Ontario). Don Burton (ON) is Head Coach.
- National team athletes representing Canada at Rescue 2008 were selected based on their performance at the Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championship (August 2007) and at the 100th Anniversary Canadian Lifeguard Championships (March 2008). The selection committee was composed of: Head Coach Don Burton; Dan Bérubé (Ottawa); Brian Miess (Bowmanville), Pierre Tabah (Montreal) and Charlene Pugh (Richmond Hill).

Strategic relationships

- Canada is a voting member of International Life Saving Federation Sport Commission's Technical & Rules Committee. Perry Smith represents Canada on this committee.
- Jeff Arthurs is the chair of the International Lifesaving Federation Athletes Committee.
- Canada is a voting member of the RLSS Commonwealth Sport Committee. Barbara Kusyanto and Doug Ferguson represent Canada on this committee.
- Since 2004, TYR Sport has sponsored the Society's Officials Certification Program.
- The Lifesaving Society is a member of and subscribes to the principles of True Sport related to ethical conduct in sport.