



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

## **Lifesaving Sport Report** **May 2007– October 2008**

*Prepared by Patricia Kitchen, Sport Commissioner*

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### **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. In the summer of 2008, Karen Genge resigned from her position as director.

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 as follows with a status update as of October 2008:

- To create a national calendar of events 2008–2012. - *completed. Waiting for web site launch for posting.*
- To coordinate officials and coaches certification programs. – *Officials program is in progress. Coaches' manual anticipated launch in 2009.*
- To draft service agreements with Provincial Sport Organizations. – *In progress. Waiting for similar models from other sport organizations.*
- To send a national team to Rescue 2008 and 2009 Commonwealth Championships. – *Full delegation to Rescue 2008. Plans underway for selection of Commonwealth national and development team and mission staff.*
- To develop a Long Term Athlete Development strategic plan. –*draft plan by January 2009*
- To advocate for lifesaving sport in each province and support implementation through a tool kit and twinning of provinces. – *part of sport development plan*
- To support and participate in Lifesaving Society National strategic planning activities. - *ongoing*

The Sport Commission also met in the last year by conference call in December 2007, during the Canadian Pool Championships in Toronto in March 2008, by conference call in June 2008 and at the Canadian Surf championships in Toronto in August 2008.

## **TYR Canadian Junior Lifeguard Games**

- There was no 2007 **TYR Canadian Junior Lifeguard Games (Pool)**.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> **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).

- The **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (and 7<sup>th</sup> annual) TYR Canadian Junior Lifeguard Games (Surf)** were hosted by Ontario Branch at Toronto's Woodbine Beach, August 23, 2008. Three teams competed; Team Ontario, Équipe du Québec and Team Alberta. The 2008 champion is Équipe de Quebec with 753 points to Team Alberta's second place 471 points. The pentathlon champions are Karol-Ann Roy and Kourosh Ahani (14&15 years) and Patricia Dorval and Francis Villeneuve (16 years).

## Canadian Masters Lifesaving Championships

- There was no 2007 Canadian Masters Lifesaving Championship (Pool) – therefore the 2008 championships were the 6<sup>th</sup> annual. These were part of the 2008 Canadian Lifeguard Championships (see following page).
- The 6<sup>th</sup> 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).
- The **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (and 7<sup>th</sup> annual) Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championship (CSLC)** was hosted by Ontario Branch at Toronto's Woodbine Beach, August 23, 2008. Nine Masters Athletes competed.

## Canadian Lifeguard Championships

- There was no 2007 **Canadian Lifeguard Championship (CLC)** – therefore the 2008 CLC was the 31<sup>st</sup> annual.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> **annual Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championship** was hosted by the Nova Scotia Branch at Martinique Beach 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 **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (and 31<sup>st</sup> 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).
- The **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (and 9<sup>th</sup> annual) **Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championship** (CSLC) was hosted by Ontario Branch at Toronto's Woodbine Beach, August 22-24, 2008. Seventeen senior teams competed. The 2008 CSLC Champion is Équipe du Québec Aquam - Québec Élite. The pentathlon champions are Marilou Lepine and Jason Cross.

Senior championship officials were: Sheri Krauss (Meet Manager); Perry Smith (Meet Referee); Kevin Tordiffe (Deputy Referees); Derek Krauss, Paul D'Eon, Eric Girard (Sectional Referees); Wendy Mahony (Head Scorer); Annie Thibeault (Competitor Liaison); Doug Ferguson, Kathleen Grainger Finn and Barb Kusyanto (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.
- Canada was represented at Rescue 2008 by the following officials: Sarah Ingleton, Ontario, Mike Melenchuk, Nova Scotia, Rebecca White, Ontario, Perry Smith, Ontario, Troy MacArthur, Nova Scotia, Michelle Lipkus, Ontario, Sara Jennex, Nova Scotia, Hugo Rodrigues, Ontario, Elise Matthey-Jacques, Quebec, Lorraine Wilson-Saliba, Ontario and Shanna Reid, Ontario.

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Nelson Giraldo, National team athlete, attended Athletes CAN forum October 3-5, 2008 in Toronto.
- Canada was represented in the Masters championship at Rescue 2008 by Ottawa's St. Laurent Masters Lifesaving Club coached by Dan Bérubé and Tony Zezza. The club placed first overall among the 198 teams competing. St-Laurent's overall medal haul was 11 gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze – and featured world record performances in the pool by Tony Zezza in the 50 m Manikin Carry and by Dan Bérubé in the 100 m Tow with Fins.
- Canada was represented in the Interclub championships at Rescue 2008 by the Canadian Forces team coached by Dan Bérubé and Steve Box and managed by Tony Zezza. The team placed in the top third in a field of over 160 teams lead by Marc Prudhomme's gold medal in the 100 m manikin tow with fins and 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 100 m manikin carry with fins.
- The Long Term Athlete Development LTAD plan is ready for review by a technical panel with expected first draft by January 2009.

## **High performance**

- 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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).

- Under the leadership of coach, Don Burton, team manager Shanna Reid and chefs de mission, Barb Kusyanto and Lorraine Wilson-Saliba, the following athletes represented Canada at Rescue 2008 in the national teams competition: Men – Jason Cross, *Captain*, Nova Scotia, Nelson Giraldo, Quebec, Will Walters, BC, Alex Griffith, Ontario, Jordan Duggan, Ontario and Scott Van Doormaal, Ontario; Women – Christie Smith, *Captain*, Ontario, Emmanuelle Ruell, Quebec, Chantique Payne, Ontario, Laura Kendall, Ontario, Renata Jaciw-Zurakowsky, Ontario and Allyson Tayler, Ontario.
- The Canadian team finished 13<sup>th</sup> out of 36 national teams; the top three national teams overall were: Australia, New Zealand and Italy. Canadian records were set in 7 events; Men's 200m Obstacle, women's 4x50m Obstacle Relay, Men's and Women's 200m Super Lifesaver, Men's and Women's 4x50m Medley Relay and Men's 100m Rescue Medley.
- Alberta NWT Branch hosts the Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships in June 2009. Canada will be sending a national and development team. Selection criteria for the 2009 Commonwealth Championships will be published in mid-October. The selection committee will be Head Coach Don Burton, Brian Miess (Ontario), Tia Town-Schon (BC), Pierre Tabah (Quebec) and Paul D'Eon (Nova Scotia).

## **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.
- Both Perry and Jeff attended the ILS General Assembly, Germany, July 2008
- 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.