

President's report to the 2007 COF AGM

It has been a year of transition for the COF. Some items in our priority areas have moved along well. Other areas are moving forward more slowly, primarily due to challenges of limited volunteer manpower.

One of the Board's main goals is to make the COF more useful to all Canadian orienteers. The Board has worked to convey the message that the COF is not a small group of individuals, but that it is in fact the entire Canadian orienteering community; and that the COF Board is not a small tight group of administrators, but that it is an elected, representative group of dedicated volunteers whose job is to provide leadership to the national membership.

The COF Board has identified a number of priority areas. Here is a brief summary of each priority areas and progress made in the past year and areas that still require work:

OFFICIALS

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gathering feedback on how to best apply the new course guidelines to smaller events (eg, not the Eastern, Western, Canadian, North American Championships) ▪ Have identified some volunteers to spearhead the revision of the officials' certification program. John Rance is leading this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can finalize guidelines for smaller events after the end of the season ▪ High priority to get the officials' program revisions moving along. More volunteers are required to assist with this. ▪ Need to update the COF rules.

EVENTS & SCHEDULING

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have confirmed the host (New Brunswick) for the 2008 COCs. ▪ Orienteering Week in Canada made great strides this year, with 28 OWIC events in eight provinces and territories. Move from Sept to May was well received. ▪ Looks like we have recruited hosts of the 2010 COCs and NAOCs (AGM item) ▪ Holding 3 World Ranking Events this year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop promotional material (poster, etc) to be used by clubs nationwide to promote OWIC ▪ Require constant feedback from clubs for information / events to add to COF website ▪ Still looking for a host for the 2008 ski-orienteering championships ▪ COF will organize a WRE events advisors clinic in the next year so that we have more WRE advisors in Canada.

HIGH PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jr and Sr teams selected. Selection criteria for JWOC 2008 confirmed. Team selection races organized by FWOC and GHO. ▪ Implemented High Performance Program (HPP) fund policy ▪ Canada was at the forefront of successfully lobbying the IOF to increase the quota of runners able to run in World Cup events (a new system was proposed that would have only allowed one female and one male from a "weaker" orienteering nation to enter a WC event). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to confirm team selection races much further in advance. ▪ Need to create more structure around the HPP, more assistance / motivation to potential and current elite orienteers in Canada. ▪ More volunteers are required to assist with the HPP in the areas of administration, team selection, coaching, long-term elite development planning, sponsorship and fund-raising and team selection.

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Created pan-Canadian committee to revamp membership structure (AGM item). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage Newfoundland to join the COF ▪ Determine if there is a need, and if yes, develop a "teachers kit" for orienteering. ▪ Determine if there is a need, and if yes, update a program such as the badge program for juniors. ▪ includes more relevant information about orienteering on the COF web site for newcomers to the sport.

COMMUNICATIONS

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COF web site continues to evolve ▪ New COF newsletter editor recruited (Nina Wallace) ▪ New COF medals designed, COF banner created ▪ Endeavouring to create awareness of the sport of orienteering and the COF within the Canadian amateur sport community (eg presence with Athletes CAN, Sport Matters, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require more feedback from Canadian orienteers re information / links to add to the web site. Want to include more templates / best practices info on the web site to make things easier for volunteers / officials ▪ Need to encourage more ideas / submissions from all for the newsletter ▪ Will continue overhaul of the COF brand / look ▪ Will ensure that COF Board meeting minutes are distributed to the COF member associations.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The orienteeringcanada@yahoogroups.com email list is being used to share information between clubs and associations. ▪ Held the COF conference this past week. Thanks to Ian Sidders for organizing this. ▪ Attempting to do a better job at saying thank you to people who assist the COF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Want to create a volunteer recognition system (volunteer profiles in the website/ in the newsletter, volunteer awards, etc.). ▪ As indicated above plan to include more templates etc on COF website so volunteers aren't constantly reinventing the wheel. ▪ Need to determine if there are ways that we can encourage technology to ease volunteer workload (eg, on-line officials' database, membership database, etc.) ▪ Require feedback on the COF conference to improve it for future years

COACHING

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great progress this year on the development of the new orienteering NCCP program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NCCP program updates are ongoing

OTHER

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RouteGadget database is being more widely used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Want to get more clubs using RouteGadget

ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

What's been accomplished	Still in the works (assistance needed please)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yearly plan written ▪ Trying hard to get message out that the COF Board is very open to receiving ideas, suggestions, etc year-round from the orienteering community ▪ I have been filling the role of Executive Director in a volunteer capacity until we can determine the best staffing needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigating other opportunities to increase revenue, add on-line donation capabilities to web site ▪ Creation of an up to date COF policy document ▪ Determine if there is a need to update COF constitution and by-laws

Thank you to my fellow COF Board members: Andrée Powers, Ted de St. Croix, Mike Smith, Jennifer Hamilton, Nina Wallace and Ian Sidders. An extra special thanks to Andrée (who is seeking re-election), Mike, Ted and Jennifer (who are not seeking re-election) whose terms are now ending.

We have taken some important steps over the past year to move orienteering in Canada forward. A very grateful thank you to the volunteers who have contributed to this.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte MacNaughton
President