



A Word from the President

Dear Olympian,

Finally the warmth of summer has arrived! The winter sport athletes are finishing up their competitive seasons and the summer sport season is now in full swing. Congratulations to all the athletes who performed so well for Canada this past year!

With just eight months to go until the next Olympic Games, the eyes of the sport world are on Turin. In less than a year, we will cheer proudly as a new group of Canadian athletes earn the title "Olympians." We wish the best of luck, and an extra dose of determination and perseverance, to all of those training for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

We are pleased to note that several Olympians Canada chapters are beginning to flourish around the country. There are many exciting plans for summer activities in the making, including many social events that will take place on June 23 - International Olympic Day!

I encourage all of you to get engaged in the activities and operations of your local Olympians Canada Chapter. Your chapter can provide you with the unique opportunity to reconnect with your Olympic teammates, make an impact in your community, and build new networking relationships and friendships with other Olympians in your area. The contact information for a chapter near you is available at the end of this newsletter. Get involved today!

Yours in sport,

Charmaine Crooks
President, Olympians Canada

National Update By Chris Farstad, Olympians Canada, Secretary General

Thank you to all of you who have been working so hard to launch the Olympians Canada chapters in your regions! The camaraderie I have witnessed at the Olympians Canada Chapter events I've attended has certainly convinced me that your efforts are not in vain!

While we have been occupied getting the chapters up and running, we have also been busy preparing working drafts of the Olympians Canada by-laws and constitution, Olympians Canada Chapter by-laws and constitutions and a letter of understanding between Olympians Canada and the Canadian Olympic Committee. Currently, these documents are being reviewed by both the COC and the regional chapter leaders. We look forward to making these documents readily available on the COC's Olympians Canada webpage (<http://www.olympic.ca/EN/athletes/tc/olympians/index.shtml>) by the end of the summer.



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Olympians Canada Executive Board Members

- Honorary President – Michael Chambers
- President – Charmaine Crooks
- Vice-President – Tricia Smith
- Secretary General – Christian Farstad
- Ex Officio – Richard Pound
- Ex Officio – Paul Henderson
- Ex Officio – James Worrall

Get Involved Today!

Reminder to Get your World Olympians Association (WOA)**E-mail Address**

Need a professional-looking email address to impress a potential employer or to spruce up the top of your resumé? You can obtain your own personal Olympian.org email address today – free of charge! It's easy, just check out www.olympian.org and follow the instructions.



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Where Are They Now? By Atila Ozkaplan

It is with great pleasure that I report that I was recently able to confirm the oldest living Olympian in Canada! Just a few days ago, I had a wonderful conversation with 94-year-old Betty Tancock, (née Edwards) a swimmer from the 1932 Olympic Games. We are hoping to celebrate with her at the Olympians Canada, Ontario Chapter social event on June 23.

Our records show that the following Olympians are distinguished as the oldest Olympians in Canada:

1. Betty Tancock, Swimming 1932 (94 years old)
2. Claude "Sandy" Saunders, Rowing 1936 (93 years old)
3. Irving "Toots" Meretsky, Basketball 1936 (93 years old)
4. Marjorie Saunders, Archery 1972 (92 years old)
5. James Worrall, Athletics 1936 (91 years old)

It is with sadness that I report that Douglas Peden, who was profiled in the last Olympians Canada newsletter, passed away on April 11. Mr. Peden was a member of the 1936 Men's Basketball Team and voted one of Canada's Best Athletes of the Half-Century (1900-1950).

As always, please keep me posted with updates to your contact information or the contact details of your fellow Olympians.

Keep checking the "Where Are They Now?" section to read interesting tidbits of information about Canadian Olympians!

Athlete Poster Cards

Are you looking for ways to promote yourself? Have you thought about preparing poster cards or business cards to distribute to others? Look no further! If you are an Olympian and are interested in ordering these or other Olympic items, visit: www.worldolympian.org/cards

Up Front: The Importance of Olympic Alumni in Canada**An Interview with Chris Rudge, CEO of the COC**

Why is it important to establish a strong Olympians Canada (Olympic alumni) program?

CR: For many years, the COC has been an enigma to our Olympic athletes. We haven't been as close to them as we should have been, abdicating this responsibility to the sport federations. We have to play a bigger role in both athlete development and preparation for Games and in helping our Olympians connect with Canadians and develop other careers once their competitive years are finished. Olympians Canada has to be a part of this evolving partnership. We need to draw on the experience and success of those who have gone before. We need to help young athletes connect with former Olympians who can help mentor them as their new careers develop. Finally, we need to recognize that the great institutions in the world are often built with the support of their alumni and other wealthy patrons. Staying connected with our athletes through Olympians Canada will help us build a stronger organization for the future.

Up Front (cont'd)

As the CEO and Secretary General of Canada's National Olympic Committee, what will you do to support the efforts and mandate of Olympians Canada?

CR: We've already moved to build a much more robust athlete and community relations department. We will continue to support and augment these initiatives. In addition, we will continue to look for new ways to engage former Olympians in our programs on a more frequent basis.

Why are you so passionate about the Olympic movement in Canada?

CR: In an increasingly conflicted world, the Olympic movement has the potential to bring people together to celebrate humanity in ways that nothing else can. The Olympic Village during the Olympic Games is a unique celebration of diversity...diversity of race, religion, and politics. In addition, sport has always been an important part of my own life. All my business metaphors came from sport when I was in the corporate world. The ideals of Olympism and support for our young athletes who sacrifice so much to bring pride to Canadians deserves much more than we have historically given them. Hopefully I can make a small contribution to the advancement of these ideals.



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Olympians Chapter Information**Olympians Canada, B.C. Chapter***Upcoming Event*

- 6th Annual Olympians Canada, BC Chapter Celebration: Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005 at 5 p.m. in Vancouver. More details coming soon!

Olympians Canada, Alberta Chapter

Olympians Canada, Alberta Chapter is Back in Action! Please contact Atila Ozkaplan (aozkaplan@olympic.ca) with your updated contact information so we can keep you up to date with our latest activities and events.

We are currently looking for new Chapter Board members. If you are interested in getting involved with the board please contact chapter president, Kathy Salmon-Farstad: kathysf@shaw.ca

Upcoming Events

- Rodeo Ridin' Stampede Dust Up: Friday July 8, 3:00p.m. to sundown at Cycle Works (4127 6th Street NE)
Dress - Stampede Wear
Food Service - 4:30 - 7:00p.m.
Tickets - Free for Olympians and Guests
RSVP by July 1, kathysf@shaw.ca or 403-208-7006
- Under the Torino Sun, Torino-bound Athlete Send Off: Coming in the fall of 2005. Details to come!

Olympians Canada, Prairies Chapter

Calling all Prairie province Olympians! We need you to stir up some of your famous Prairie enthusiasm to activate an Olympians Canada Chapter in your region. If you're interested in getting something started, contact Atila Ozkaplan (aozkaplan@olympic.ca)

Olympians Canada, Ontario Chapter

Upcoming Event

- Ontario Chapter Olympic Day Social: June 23 from 7-11 p.m. at Olympic Spirit Toronto, <http://www.olympicspirit.ca/location.asp>. To RSVP, contact Claire Carver-Dias: cdias@olympic.ca

Olympians Canada, Quebec Chapter

The Olympians Canada, Quebec Chapter is going through an exciting period of transition. We are pleased to announce that the COC has brought Marc Gélinas on board as Director, Athlete and Community Relations. Among his many responsibilities, he will be responsible for supporting and overseeing the development of the Olympians Canada, Quebec Chapter. Stay tuned for more information on this chapter!

Olympians Canada, Atlantic Chapter

The Olympians Canada, Atlantic Chapter held an orientation meeting on May 7 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. A small but motivated group of Olympians were in attendance. This "kick-off committee" is laying the groundwork to launch a strong and successful Atlantic regional chapter of Olympians Canada.

The committee's first item of business is to identify Olympians who might be interested in leading or participating in the group. The second task is to organize our first official assembly of Olympians Canada, Atlantic Chapter for the fall of 2005. The kick-off committee is trying to spread the word to more Olympians in Atlantic Canada.

All Olympians are encouraged to make sure that they contact Atila Ozkaplan (aozkaplan@olympic.ca) with their updated contact information!

If you would like to get involved, or if you have information that might be of interest to our chapter, please contact Peter Giles (petermgiles@yahoo.ca or 902-444-6629).



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Be sure to visit the COC's TeamCanada website to check out the exciting programs and services available to Olympians and Olympic hopefuls, (Go to www.olympic.ca and click on the TeamCanada banner).