

Triathlon Nova Scotia
Annual General Meeting – February 26, 2006

President's Report – Review of 2005

It's been another big year for triathlon in Nova Scotia, including hosting Triathlon Canada's first National Sprint Distance Triathlon Championship. A big thanks goes to the Investors' Group and the team put together by Sylvain Morin and Jason Murphy.

In 2005, TNS saw many other exciting new developments, and new challenges for our association.

On the athlete development front, our age group provincial team has grown to fifteen members. These athletes chosen, at the provincial championships and using the TNS point series program, represent Nova Scotia at regional or national championships. TNS also formed an *ad hoc* committee to put together a bid to form a national training centre in Halifax. The bid has been reviewed with Triathlon Canada, and we are hopeful, that the training centre will be a reality in the next year or two.

The youth provincial team has also grown to six members. These youth athletes are indeed an inspiration to their peers and to many of us age groupers; we only could wish we could keep up with them. As the 2009 Canada Games (in PEI) approaches, we must continue our efforts in attracting such young athletes to our sport. In addition, these young athletes will require coaching resources in order to excel in this upcoming triathlon event.

If Halifax is successful in its bid to host the Commonwealth Games, Triathlon Nova Scotia will need to bring up its game even more. On the technical side, this means more highly qualified officials to oversee the course design and officiate such a world class event. This past year, TNS initiated a series of level 1 officials courses for race volunteers. Over fifty new officials were trained at these courses and at the level 2 officials course offered two weeks ago, 12 new officials received their level 2 qualifications.

On the organizational front, TNS hired a part-time executive director and has drafted a new set of bylaws. Just a few years ago, our membership was half of what it is today, with only a fraction of the programs we currently run. Together with the continually increasing governmental bureaucracy, it has been a struggle for the volunteer board members to keep up. Our executive director has helped our board immensely with these challenges. Unfortunately, our current budget only allows for 10 hours a week. Still this gives a little more time for the board members to be a little more forward thinking in its strategic planning.

This past year, we saw some challenges as well, as some key volunteers stepped down from the board, particularly on the communications side of things. A few board members

also took on the challenge presented by *Ironman Corp.* With the training required for such events, their volunteer time was significantly reduced, leaving a great many things on too few shoulders. Our members saw this and expressed their disappointment when TNS became unable to keep up to date with its extremely cumbersome and time consuming point series. In answer to that challenge, TNS formed an *ad hoc* committee headed by our former treasurer, Dan Gautreau, and consisting of technical members, athletes and race directors. The result is a streamlined point series requiring less than 25% of the time the old one took to administer, with many added bonuses, (to be expanded upon shortly.)

Additional challenges for TNS continue in terms of maintaining and improving the quality of our races across the province and in serving its members and stakeholders. On the positive side, a new chair has been found for the communications committee and the technical committee has re-energized itself with the influx of new officials looking to help improve the quality of our races. But our Kids of Steel committee chair is stepping down, leaving a big void to be filled. A volunteer strategy review concluded last year that TNS needs a volunteer coordinator to assist in recruiting, retaining and rewarding our greatly valued volunteers. We could also use volunteers with marketing skills to help TNS access sponsors for its many programs.

Having donated over 3000 hours to our sport over the past five years or so (three years as treasurer, and two years as president), I feel that it is time for me to pass on the reigns. While I will continue to volunteer my time to TNS, it probably won't be at the 20 or so hours per week I used to donate at the start of my presidency. I am confident that TNS will continue to thrive through its new leadership.

Thank you all for your support and understanding. It's been a blast.