

OABC Annual General Meeting - Dec 06, 2017

President's Report

The Orienteering Association of BC (OABC) is a volunteer-run organization, and the Provincial Sports Organization (PSO) for our sport. It is also the primary interface between orienteering in BC and our national sports association, Orienteering Canada (OC). Most orienteering activity (competitions, training) in BC is provided by our five clubs, whose collective membership in 2017 is approximately 1800 people. The OABC *Strategic Plan* calls for a steady growth (10-15%) year-over-year in our total membership, a goal that both supports our volunteer efforts and ultimately attracts new resources. It is worth noting that the SAGE O Club has been expanding to the East, with a substantial number of new members in Salmon Arm and in Revelstoke. The Revelstoke group has already organized a number of local events using, among other resources, a new forest map (Mt. McIntyre) produced in 2017 by David Bakker.

The primary financial support for OABC comes in the form of an annual contribution from *viaSport*, the provincial sports governing body within the *BC Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development*. This contribution is reviewed each year. A smaller fraction of the OABC budget comes from an annual per capita levy contributed by each club, based on their membership numbers. Other irregular funding sources are the result of one-off applications to various agencies such as the *Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch*, for support of specific projects. This year, for instance, OABC successfully applied to the GPEB for additional funding to assist with the junior development programs offered through GVOC and KOC.

The Association's activities are guided by the *OABC Strategic Plan* whose current, interdependent, goals are to:

1. Increase membership to 2500 by December 31, 2020
2. Strengthen technical and administrative expertise within clubs
3. Recruit, coach, train and financially assist elite orienteers
4. Support province-wide development of orienteering maps
5. Develop sufficient financial resources to achieve the goals of its strategic plan.

The OABC *Strategic Plan* is reviewed and updated each year by the Board of Directors. Over the past year, OABC has been increasing its efforts to assist clubs with training and certification of their club officials, and to encourage the development of club-level coaches. Both of these areas have benefited from the integration of the *Long-Term Athlete Development* (LTAD) model into their instructional materials. The roll-out of the *Analyze Performance and Support the Competitive Experience* (Comp-Intro) coaching workshop for orienteering in BC this year was another important step for strengthening orienteering coaching in the province. Strong youth development programs in GVOC and KOC, supported by OABC, are continuing to attract new young people to our sport.

Development of new and revised orienteering maps remains an essential part of the OABC mandate, both to provide suitable maps for major competitions such as provincial/regional/national championships (e.g. BCOC), and to support community-level training and competitions. The major mapping projects supported by OABC in 2017 have been, or will be, used for the BCOC2017, WCOC2018 and BCOC2019 events. While these projects were able to use Canadian professional mappers, training more volunteer mappers at the club level remains a priority for our association, since recruitment of new club members relies heavily on production of local park and urban maps, for which professional mappers are usually not necessary.

The 2017 BCOC was very ably hosted this year by the VicO club, but it was unclear who would be hosting 2018 BCOC. Subsequent discussion focused on how to help our clubs with their planning for championship events. The Directors, together with the club presidents, have now built a five-year rolling schedule for major orienteering events in the province.

Reflecting the heightened interest in advancing reconciliation between BC's First Nations peoples and the European settlers who largely displaced them, OABC felt it was inappropriate to continue using a logo that clearly tried to emulate First Nations motifs without their involvement. A design contest was therefore organized in 2017 to produce a new organizational logo. There were 30+ entries, and the winning design (shown on the left) was submitted by Aaron Lee (Vancouver), who received a \$100 *O Store* gift certificate as his reward.



OABC is an official non-member-funded, non-profit society, and is therefore governed by the BC Societies Act. That Act was revised in 2016 to require a new structural model for each society's constitution and bylaws, and the association is now implementing these changes. Once those have been approved by the province, we will be revising the content of these documents to bring them into line with modern practice. The revisions will include the re-naming of our association as *Orienteering British Columbia (OBC)*.

Brian Ellis
President