



BC Blind Sports and Recreation Association

INSIGHT

Summer Edition 2010



DON'T MISS IT! FRIDAY,
MAY 28TH, 2010
LUMBERMAN'S ARCH
STANLEY PARK

MEMBERSHIP !!!!

April 1st is the beginning of the new membership year. For those of you have yet to renew your membership please find enclosed a 2010 membership form with this edition of the newsletter. If you require any assistance in filling out the form please let us know and we will be happy to assist you. We've included an additional form so you can register a friend or family member. If you need additional forms contact Susan or Helen at the office.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!!!!

Once again our volunteers have made all our programs a great success. In addition to the work of our office volunteers, the many different events and programs such as our many sport programs, Run for Light, the gift wrapping booth, and Bingo and would not exist with out your contribution and commitment. On behalf of the Board and Staff, we thank you. Keep up the great work!!!!!!

THE 30th ANNUAL RUN FOR LIGHT FUN RUN

The **run** will take place at Lumberman's Arch in Stanley Park on Friday, May 28th, 2010. We are looking forward to seeing everyone who has joined us over the past 30 years to celebrate and promote our run and BC Blind Sports. If this will be your first time coming out we welcome you and know you will have a great time. **Warm up starts at 9:00pm and the 4.3 km run/walk at 9:32 pm.** All registered participants will receive a **glow-in-the-dark t-shirt and light stick.**

Participants are also eligible for the post-run prize draws. Participants can register online or through the office. Online:

www.eventsonline.ca/events/run_for_light.

Office (Run Hotline): volunteer or register: 604-321-1638.

SPORT BC'S 16th ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD AND THE 44TH ANNUAL BC ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Sport BC held its 16th Annual President's Awards and the 44th Annual Athlete of the Year

Awards on March 31st. This was a celebration of BC's top builders, athletes, coaches and officials.

This year's **President's Award** went to **Dianna Johnston**. We were pleased to recognize her for her sixteen years of volunteering in the Dragon Boat program and the success in bringing the Eye of the Dragon Team from the novice to the competitive category. Congratulations!

The **Disabled Athlete of the Year Award** recognizes achievements and dedication to a chosen sport. Two members of BCBSRA were nominated for Disabled Athlete of the Year: **Donovan Tildesley**, swimming, and **Dustin Walsh**, athletics. This year's choice was Donovan Tildesley. Congratulations to both of you.

2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Many BC Blind Sports Members were selected for the Paralympic Torch Relay in various parts of the province. We congratulate them on achieving this honour.

Congratulations to all the athletes who participated in the Paralympic Games. BC athlete, **Courtney Knight**, skied in Cross Country and Biathlon, and Vivienne Forest and Brian McKeever skied their way to the medal podium!

ATHLETICS (TRACK AND FIELD)

This year's newest addition to our track team is **Braedon**, he is a 16 year old student from Langley, BC, he competes in the B2 (low vision) category and is proving to be a promising future Paralympian. Braedon ran in the prestigious Penn Relays in Philadelphia, finishing 3rd in the 100 meters and 1st as part of Canada's 4 X100 team. He set a Canadian record of 1.75m in the High Jump, and broke the Canadian (B2) record in the Long Jump with a jump of 6.09 meters. The previous record was set in 1986. Braedon won the Upper Fraser Valley High School Championships (grade 9-10) in Long Jump with a jump of 6.09, and was second in the 100 meters at 11.88 seconds. Braedon will be competing in many other events this summer,

so if you are interested please see the calendar of events for upcoming meets.



Photo of Braedon running

DRAGON BOATING

For those of you who like to be out on the water we have a perfect sport for you. The BC Blind Sports Eye of the Dragon, dragon boat team has started practices and will be competing in several events this summer. Eye of the Dragon hosted their first Dark Dining Vancouver on November 14, 2009. The fundraiser was held at Moose's Down Under and drew more people than could be accommodated. Now back by popular demand, the new and improved Dark Dining Vancouver will be held on June 12, 2010. Visit www.darkdiningvancouver.com for more details and to make your reservation.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympics & Paralympics brought out the best in everyone. Several Dragon Boat members volunteered throughout the Olympic and Paralympic games. The team didn't let the closure of False Creek deter them from their regular late winter start date. Eye of the Dragon traveled to Richmond and practiced alongside the Olympic Oval.

With the addition of 4 new athletes, things are looking good for another successful season. Please see the calendar of events listing for upcoming events, if you would like more information on how to get involved please contact the office and we will put you in touch with the team manager.

GOALBALL

BC's goalball program is stronger than ever. We have now developed not only a stronger senior women's and senior men's team but also now have a developing junior men's and junior women's team. provincial coach, Robert Lebel, and our assistant coach,

Cherie Lu, have been working with the goalball program for over four years now. Goalball continues to be played a number of communities in the province including the lower mainland, in the Okanagan and up in the Kootenay area.

In March 2010, we were pleased to send a men's and a women's team to the 2010 Canadian Blind Sports National Goalball Championships held in Calgary, AB. Our **BC men's team won Gold** against the Ontario Blacks. The game was tied 2 – 2 in regulation time, but Doug Ripley scored with a minute and a half left in the second overtime to secure the victory and give BC its first ever Men's National Goalball Championship Title.

On the women's side, Ontario One won the Gold. The BC Women's team improved upon last year's Bronze medal performance by winning the Silver medal for the first time since any of their current roster has

played the sport, while Team Ontario Two took the Bronze by defeating Quebec 6 – 4.

In April, our junior men's and junior women's teams went to Brantford, Ontario, to the Canadian Junior National Goalball Championships, where the event featured 23 games played in both junior men's and junior women's divisions. Both teams did a great job as the **BC men brought home the Gold and the BC women brought home the Silver** finishing with a score of 3 – 2 to Ontario. It was a very exciting competition for all, the teams were very competitive. Congratulations goes out to all team members as we know they all have been training hard.

If you would like detailed results on any of the competitions and upcoming events in goalball please visit the Canadian Blind Sports web site at www.canadianblindsport.ca. If you're looking to join a goalball program please call the provincial office and we

will help you find the program nearest you.



Photo of the Junior Goalball Teams



Photo of the BC Women receiving Silver Medal.



Photo of the Men's Gold Goalball Team

GOLF

Come and join in the fun!!! We will be hosting a round of golf at the Riverway Golf Course in Burnaby on June 9th. If you have knowledge and experience in the game we invite you to contact Mike at the Provincial office for registration details.

ICE HOCKEY

The Vancouver Blind Hockey team has wrapped up another season. The program will start up again in **September**. If you are a beginner or have experience we welcome you to join us. For more information on participating in our hockey program please call the office.



Photo above of the 2009 - 2010 Vancouver Eclipse blind hockey team

LAWN BOWLING

As we move into summer, the lawn bowling season is starting again. I'm sure most of you are already on the greens enjoying some outdoor activities. The

Nanaimo group is in full gear and starts up on May 4th. You are all invited to the Nanaimo Mixed Pairs event on **Tuesday, May 24**. Plan to arrive for 10am and we will start bowling at 10:30. NO RAIN but a delicious lunch.

BC Blind Sports **Provincial Championships for Lawn Bowls** will also be held in Nanaimo this year. Start date is Tuesday, July 6, at 9:00a.m. We will play 3 days for sure and possibly on Friday depending on numbers. Registration forms will be available from the Provincial office in the near future. Have a good season and spread the word.

ACCESS FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED CONSUMERS (ASIC)

Tami Grenon, Vice President for BC Blind Sports is currently our representative

to the ASIC board. She and the ASIC board are continuing to work on issues that affect consumers who are blind, visually impaired and deaf-blind. The following report contains a summary of ASIC's initiatives.

1. ASIC is continuing to lobby financial institutions for the installation of audio ATM machines. In recent months, discussions have been taking place with various credit unions. As of January 2010, 21 of the 52 Coast Capital Savings Credit Union branches are equipped with audio ATM's.
2. ASIC has been consulting with Pulsar Technologies, a United States based software engineering company regarding the production of a taxi fare announcer. Please stay tuned for more developments on this project.
3. ASIC is continuing to lobby for the installation and maintenance of audible pedestrian signals in several municipalities throughout Metro Vancouver. Most recently, ASIC has been consulting with representatives from the City of Surrey.
4. ASIC has been participating on a committee with other consumer organizations to amend the BC

Guide Animal Act.

5. ASIC has recently updated it's "**resource**" page on its website.
6. ASIC has recently partnered with Coast Mountain Bus Company in an effort to work collaboratively on fine tuning the automated stop announcements on the public transit fleet in Metro Vancouver.

ASIC will be holding its Annual General Meeting sometime in the next few months. We will send out the details to you as soon as they have been confirmed. For information and details on all these initiatives please visit www.asic.bc.cx or contact ASIC at asic@telus.net.

Submitted by Tami Grenon

2010 SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 17th – 20th Athletics, Fraser Valley High School Championships, Abbotsford, BC
 25th Lawn Bowling, Regional Play Down – Nanaimo, BC
 28th BC BLIND SPORTS 30th Annual Run for Light fun run,
 Lumberman's Arch in Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC

JUNE

- 4th – 5th Athletics, BC High School Championships
 5th Alcan Festival Regatta, Vancouver BC
 9th BC Blind Sports Mini Golf Tournament, Burnaby, BC
 18th Athletics, Pacific Invitational, Langley, BC
 19th – 20th Rio Tinto/Alcan Dragon Boat Festival
 27th **BC BLIND SPORTS - Annual General Meeting, Vancouver, BC**

JULY

- 3rd – 4th Whistler Dragon Boat Festival, Whistler, BC
 6th Lawn Bowling Provincial Championships
 Nanaimo, BC
 28th – 31st Athletics, Canadian Championships, Toronto, Ont.

AUGUST

- 14th -15th Victoria Dragon Boat Festival, Victoria, BC
 24th -27th Lawn Bowls Nationals, Toronto, ON

SEPTEMBER

- 11th – 12th Portland Dragon Boat Festival, Portland, Oregon

Preferred Communications Format **Braille** **E-mail** **Print**

Membership in BC Blind Sports and Recreation Association includes membership in the Canadian Blind Sports Association.

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