



## 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Masters Council Report

#### Council members:

- Doug Smith – Chair
- Damian Dupuy – Vice Chair
- Norm Creen – Treasurer
- Alan Davis
- Mirco Graenert
- Peter Zowkewych
- Laura Houston
- Lynn McFerran
- Paul Roberts
- Anthony Biggar – staff

#### Council Meetings:

- February 11<sup>th</sup>
- October 13<sup>th</sup>

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 a special meeting of the OMA members was held and a Resolution was passed; *'To dissolve the Not For Profit (NFP) Corporation that is Ontario Masters Athletics Inc. and become a Masters Council under the auspices of Athletics Ontario.'* A timeline of events and activities is listed in Appendix A.

Since Ontario Masters Athletics dissolved into the governance of Athletics Ontario in March of 2020, Athletics Ontario has made it a priority to promote masters athletics and provide equal opportunity and exposure to all Masters athletes.

By being part of AO, has eliminated the need for OMA to purchase Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, saving approximately \$4,500 per year.

Ontario master's members are able to benefit from Athletics Ontario coaches, cubs and officials. Through AO promotion of masters more and more AO clubs have started including masters age divisions in their training groups and competition teams. Thanks to AO trained and certified officials, several outdoor meets have been able to take place this summer, all of which masters members were eligible to compete at.

Athletics Ontario lead the way in lobbying national efforts to include masters members in return to training and return to sport guidelines. Many countries around the world did not include master's members in their considerations. In doing so, this allowed masters members to compete

at outdoor track and field competitions and cross country events, making it possible for them to achieve provincial and national records. In the months of August and September alone, four National records and two Provincial records were broken.

Athletics Ontario has leveraged their website, social media platforms, email marketing database, and other communication channels to promote all important information related to Ontario master's activities and results since March.

Ontario masters have been specifically highlighted in 15 of AO's newsletters since the beginning of March with information regarding indoor championship events, the warm weather training camp, the AO/OMA trillium running series, all things WMATO2020, and promotion of several record-breaking performances by masters athletes, as mentioned above.

In addition, AO was involved in heavily promoting all pertinent information regarding WMATO2020 including the volunteer portal, important registration dates, event details, eventually the cancellation, and the supplemental WMA Virtual 10km Race. In light of the cancellation, AO launched a commemorative campaign on social media that aligned with the two weeks of scheduled competition dates. Throughout the two weeks, AO highlighted photos of Ontario athletes from past WMA championships, with a description of which events would have been happening each day if the championship would have taken place. They also launched a video, created by Equals 2 Videography, highlighting two Ontario master's athletes, the Ontario master's member experience and promoting the upcoming championship in Toronto. [Click here](#) to view the full video.

Throughout the months of May, June, and July, AO provided the virtual programming, Time Trial Saturday's, which saw a high volume of participation from master's members. Each week, members were challenged to complete a time trial for a different distance, offering them a safe race-like experience, even during a time of complete social isolation.

More recently, through AO's lobbying of the City of Toronto Parks & Recreation department AO was able to hold the Don Farquharson Memorial 4K cross country event on October 18<sup>th</sup> and the Sunnybrook 4K cross country race on November 1<sup>st</sup>. These events were a huge success following the AO COVID-19 protocols. Masters will also be included in the AO provincial cross country championships being held November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Finances**

As per the terms of OMA Special Resolution, to officially dissolve the organization, all assets have been transferred to Athletics Ontario. This includes approximately \$70K in photo timing and throwing equipment as well as approximately \$49K in cash. The cash has been deposited into a separate bank account to be used exclusively for masters activities under the direction of the AO Masters Council.

Report Submitted November 3, 2020

Doug Smith

Chair, AO Masters Council

## **Appendix A**

### **Timeline of proceedings for the dissolution of OMA and formation of AO Masters Council**

**Jan 13** – Issued a Notice to the membership for the Special Meeting of Members on January 21, including the Proposal to dissolve the OMA and create a Masters Council under Athletics Ontario.

**Jan 21** – Special Meeting of Members at the Goldring Centre.

The Special Resolution was passed; *'To dissolve the Not For Profit (NFP) Corporation that is Ontario Masters Athletics Inc. and become a Masters Council under the auspices of Athletics Ontario.'*

**Jan 25** – Issued an Enews to solicit applications for the new Masters Council.

**Feb 11** – 1st AO Masters Council Meeting at the AO Boardroom. The Executive was appointed.

**Feb 21** – Issued an Enews with the draft of the Terms of Reference that was posted on the web site – soliciting comments and input. Deadline for submissions March 6

**March 7** – Terms of Reference posted.

**Oct 13** – Masters Council meeting – minutes posted on OMA website