

Athletics Manitoba

September 2017 President Report

This was an “eventful” summer. I went to Ottawa for the Athletics AGM and the national championships in the first week of July, and got to sample what a wet summer with mosquitoes was like, as opposed to paradise in Manitoba. The conditions were actually mostly good (I was told it rained every day for weeks before I got there, and the waterways were all full to overflowing). Our athletes performed well, and the event was a success. The championships next year will be in the same venue, along the Rideau River. The AGM will be in late May, though, instead of during the championships.

The AGM installed a new chair of the board of AC, Bill MacMackin of New Brunswick, who had been serving as vice-chair (unofficially). The chair position has a 4 year term, but we are looking at bylaw changes that would result in consecutive 2 year terms, and a vice-chair elected by the branches, as well as a formal status for past chair. Gord Orlikow left the chair after 8 dedicated years. Gord lives in Vancouver but was originally from Winnipeg. He will continue to provide support to Bill and the board through the transition.

We discussed many other issues at the AGM. One matter that was pointed out is that Manitoba is the only province that has no representative in the Masters organization. Donna and I will try to find a representative to fill that vacancy.

I attended the tri-province meet. It would be great if more board members could come out for these events.

Later in July at Winnipeg’s Canada Summer Games, I volunteered at the track in the medals ceremony team, and also served as the chair of the jury of appeals for athletics. A number of interesting issues came up, and I learned a lot. The Games competition went extremely well, although the first day featured a humidex of 38, which was hard on everyone, especially the officials. There were an abundance of volunteers at the track, and many of my old competition cronies were among them. There was even a table assigned to Razorback alumni.

The next event was the Legion’s National Youth Championships in Brandon (for the first of 2 consecutive years). Donna and I were there for the 3 days of competition and I stayed for the banquet the following night. The athletic facilities were great, enhanced by our equipment that debuted at the CSG, and the hope is that Brandon will once again become the centre of a strong track program. A suitable indoor facility in Brandon will be an issue, however.

Following all of these events, I continued to be active in communications with Bill MacMackin and in meetings of the AC Governance Committee.

I have enjoyed very much serving as your president, and feel that I have learned a lot and benefited from the experience of attending so many events. Our executive will be up for election at the board meeting this month, and the board will decide which of the current executive will continue.

Projects for the coming year include staff evaluation and strategic planning.

Grant Mitchell, AM Board president