

Tym Barker

I became involved in swimming 7 years ago when my two kids joined the Sault Ste. Marie Aquatic Club. They are both still swimming competitively in Ontario. Very soon after my kids started swimming, I started volunteering on deck and I immediately felt an attachment to the sport. Since then I've grown to love the sport, and am very interested in contributing to its development in Ontario and Canada.

After completing my engineering degree at the University of Waterloo, I have practiced as a professional engineer and also a business person who has owned and operated a number of companies over the years, primarily in the technology field. These include private businesses with 10 to 30 people, as well as being the Business Unit President of a \$50 million division of a public company. I have lived and worked in different cities across Canada and the United States, and currently live in Sault Ste. Marie and own an online distribution business selling outdoor products across North America.

My personal strengths are exceptionally strong business acumen, entrepreneurial spirit, and strong technology background. I am a very innovative and forward thinking person, and I like to move forward with constant improvements. I'm a strategic person, but I also know how to get things done. I have a variety of board experience, in addition to my leadership of various private and public companies. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation, and also the Board of Directors of a 1,000 member outdoor recreational association. I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Sault Surge Aquatic Team, serving as Chair of the Meet Managing Committee for my second year.

I am currently a Level 4 official, and actively working on my Level 5. I have officiated at various pools across Ontario, from Thunder Bay to North Bay to Windsor and Toronto, to name a few, and also in Tampa FL and Ann Arbor, MI. This officiating experience over a wide geographic area has provided me with a broad perspective of the sport. I have met many senior officials and club administrators, and I'm always curious about their operational issues and experiences with the sport, and I learn as much as I can from each venue.

I come to the sport without any preconceived notions, and this helps me see new opportunities and things that could be improved. I will bring a perspective from swimmers who are not always within easy reach of the latest facilities, and the challenge of achieving the highest level of success for swimming in Ontario while still developing as many of these other young swimmers as possible. I realize this is not a simple task, but I'm looking forward to helping to contribute to swimming in Ontario.

I've been told I'm a very fair and open minded person, who is able to make logical decisions based on the facts. If elected, I will check my local team hat and my regional hat at the door, and make decisions that will be in the best interest of Swim Ontario and all swimmers across the province.

John Grootveld

As a passionate participant in competitive swimming since 1977 as an athlete, coach and now a sport administrator, the future direction of swimming both in Canada and specifically in Ontario is something I care deeply about. As such, the potential opportunity to become a Swim Ontario Board member, is both something that I feel would be both personally rewarding and something which my skills and background would contribute to in a very positive and impactful way to Swim Ontario and the membership.

My background in swimming is quite extensive. As a competitive swimmer, my career spanned over 17 years and that continues to this day as a Masters swimmer. I had the fortune as a competitive swimmer of competing at all levels of the development pathway, including winning medals at Canadian Club and University Championships, Canada Games, representing Canada Internationally at World Cup competitions and on National Development Teams. Additionally, as an athlete, I gained perspective of representing both small clubs (Guelph Y Trytons, Ancaster Alligators) to big clubs (North York Aquatic Club, University of Toronto Varsity Blues).

As a coach, my contributions have spanned over 23 years, from development rolls with the North York Aquatic Club and Mississauga Aquatic Club then on to be the Director of Swimming and Head Coach of the Toronto Swim Club for over 16 years; to now for the past 6 years as a mentor coach with the Granite Club. While at the Toronto Swim Club, I, along with many dedicated volunteers, and coaches, transformed a small club of 30 (at the time was the Toronto Aquanaughts Swim Club- TASK), to a Nationally prominent competitive swim club of over 300. During my time as coach, I had the fortune of coaching National Champions, National Record Holders, Jr. and Sr. National Team Members and Olympians. Perhaps, however, the thing I am most proud is how many former athletes I coached went on to very successful achievements after swimming.

My role in sport administration, began in 2010 as Director of Sport Performance, at the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO) and evolved into the role of Director, Business Development. At the CSIO, my role as a Director; assists in both, providing overall leadership and direction for the CSIO in the design and implementation of their strategic plan; as well as the management of key CSIO partners and stakeholders. Specifically, in my role as Director, Business Development, I define, develop, implement strategic goals and provide leadership for Business Development, Communications and Marketing (creation and implementation of communications, marketing and digital strategy) in line with CSIO's overall strategic context. Additionally, I identify new revenue generation and sponsorship opportunities that enhance and promote CSIO's mission, vision and values. These are areas of experience that could be assets for Swim Ontario.

My time at CSIO has given me valuable insight into the workings of what is a very complicated and multi-layered sport system. My understanding of that system, specifically around the mechanisms of strategy, funding and targeted excellence and development pathways, could also serve the Swim Ontario Board very well.

I am hopeful, for an opportunity to contribute to the Swim Ontario Board of Directors. I am confident that the breadth of my experience would serve Swim Ontario well. On another note, my late father, John Grootveld Sr. served admirably for many years as a Master Official and both Swim Canada and Swim Ontario Board member, so following in his tradition would be very meaningful to me.

Jocelyn Jay

With the utmost enthusiasm, I would like to express my interest in nominating myself as a potential board member. My love of swimming has taken me from competing as an athlete and coach, to becoming an administrator of a club, director of a region and chair of finance at the provincial board level. I believe that my passion for organization and logistics, strong commitment to communication and big picture views, and my continued support of high performance sport, make me an ideal candidate to be nominated.

In the past 2 years, I have engaged myself as a board member to support and encourage our Swim Ontario staff and coaches to continue leading our sport in Canada, through collaboration, teamwork and accountability. As the chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, I have worked hard at looking for consensus but taking others' opinions towards a common goal of maintaining Ontario as the leading province while keeping an eye on the 2020 Strategic plan.

Working primarily as a coach and administrator, I have connected frequently with member families, volunteers, and officials in addition to local vendors and coaching staff. In my volunteer life, I organize and coordinate assigned provincial, regional and local events including registration, volunteer coordination, sponsorships, as well as in-competition logistics and trouble-shooting. In my professional role, I oversee the financial position and obligations of the Brantford Aquatic Club, including management of budget, all bookkeeping and communicate directly with the treasurer and president.

Throughout my career, I have maintained the highest performance standards within a diverse range of administrative functions, which are clearly illustrated by my past successes. My experience in swimming extends over 35 years, starting first as a competitive swimmer and developing into a Canadian National Team member, moving into coaching and administrating. I have continued to support our sport as a swim parent, Level IV official and masters swimmer. I serve on our Local Organizing Committee and have enjoyed serving on the Provincial Board of Directors.

I look forward to contributing my skills and experiences to the Swim Ontario Board of Directors and moving forward as a nominee for the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Paul Legault

I was a member of the Ontario Provincial Police for over 33 years, I retired in January 2016. I am still employed with the OPP as a Background Investigator for new applicants to the OPP; this is a part time civilian position.

I have gained valuable skills, training and experience over my tenure with the OPP and I believe these skills and competencies are directly transferable to issues relating to the Governance of an organization such as Swim Ontario.

I have been involved as a volunteer from the age of 15 yrs. of age coaching Hockey and supporting youth groups such as Cubs and Scouts. In later years I coached my own children in Hockey and took on a more administrative role of working on local Minor Hockey Boards and committees. In 2002 my daughter started swimming in Perth and in 2003; I became President of the Perth Stingrays Aquatic Club. I remained the club president of the Perth Stingrays until 2010 when my daughter stopped swimming competitively.

I stayed involved with swimming as the EOSA Chair and SO Board member and as a Board member I was asked to chair the Finance and Audit committee which I did from 2008 until 2016.

I have remained involved with Swim Ontario as I am presently the chair of the Sport Development Committee.

The above experience was important in my development as a sport administrator. It soon became evident that a lot of people volunteering as coaches or board member were not there for the sport, they were there for their child or a specific agenda. This is the main reason I am applying for this Board position, I have always followed the Swim Ontario Strategic Plan which was developed with the help of many and all possible stakeholder's within the swim community. I have and will always make informed decisions on the board which will benefit ALL the swimmers in Ontario. I have no agenda except to help the organization work toward making Swim Ontario the best it can be by supporting our participants to become the best swimmers and people they can be.

I believe competitive swimming in Ontario has improved greatly in the last 10 years. I also believe we are moving in the right direction to improve on our present goals for 2020 as we have already met many of them including our high performance goals.

I have supported and understand that in order to grow the sport we need to have a very strong competitive component and this will build the base. I also understand that the base is involved in supporting competitive swimming in Ontario and those swimmers will benefit from this system when they move up into competitive swimming. I feel swimming in Ontario is in a very good place and with the support of a competent Board, SO staff will move swimming forward in a positive and successful manner.

I believe my expertise can assist with leadership in financial, risk and legal issues. My work history can add credibility to the organization by holding staff and other Board members accountable for their actions.

I believe our staff is second to none and I feel it is imperative that they receive support from the swimming community and SO Board.

I believe my experience professionally and as a volunteer meets and exceeds the advertised requirements for a nomination for the election to the SO Board at the 2017 AGM.

Eric Martin

I believe in Swim Ontario.

I support a strong provincial organization that advocates for the sport of competitive swimming and believes in continuing to build a future based on professionalism. To return to the years of kitchen-table governance would be wrong. As well, governance by the loudest voice is wrong.

In the past number of years there have been changes, but often overlooked is our committee structure. Our committees manage many different aspects of our organization and draw expertise from around the province. As a result, members have more – not less – opportunity to be heard on specific issues.

We now have over 19,000 registered swimmers. Other sporting organizations report declining registrations while competitive swimming is increasing in numbers. We are at the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's highest level of performance funding category. Our relationship nationally is strong with Swimming Canada, Canadian Sport Institute-Ontario and Own the Podium as examples. It has taken many years to reach this point and the results are beginning to be realized.

I have contributed 16 years of volunteer service to Swim Ontario as President, Vice-President, Policy Chair, Communications Chair. For 15 years I was coach and head coach at Lakeshore Swim Club. I have spent two years with Central Region as coach's rep. With two (now retired) swimmers I have spent countless hours on the deck as an official and in the stands as a parent.

I love this sport (as do you) and I look forward to and ask for your vote at our Annual General Meeting.

Dan Thompson

It gives me great pleasure to submit my interest in serving on the Swim Ontario Board of Directors. I have always been committed to Swimming in Ontario and Canada. I grew up Swimming in the Ontario Club system where I swam for both small and large clubs. I'm most proud of the fact that I elected to stay in Canada to swim and attend an Ontario University. Both my children swam with the Newmarket Stingrays where I participated in club activities including fundraising and as a level one official. I am a big believer in swimming for life and have been an avid Master swimmer for many years. I have a deep understanding of the Ontario Clubs system from many perspectives.

As a Director of Swim Ontario, I bring a deep understanding of both sides of a policy board. As the volunteer President of Swimming Canada 2005 to 2009 I oversaw the fiducially responsibilities of the board (Strategic Plan, Operating Budget, Board policies) and worked with management to ensure the yearly operating plan was consentient with the associations strategic plan and membership policies. More recently, I was the CEO of Skate Canada 2013 to 2016 where I lead a staff of 55. My job as the sole employee of the board was to provide strategic and operational leadership as defined from the boards governance charter. Both experiences have given me respect for the roles of both directors and management.

I also believe in the importance of alignment between both international and national sport community interests. We are one swimming community and whether you are a swimmer coach or official at the club, regional, university or master level system alignment and common objectives and strategies are critical. Alignment extends to the partnership relationships our community has between the Swim Ontario and Swim Canada and all the stakeholder relationships within the system. I look forward to bringing my extensive knowledge in this area.

If I had to summarize three major areas of expertise I would bring to the Swim Ontario Board they would be **strategic planning** (contributor to three major plans Swim Canada, Canadian Jumpstart, Skate Canada) **policy board role definition** (board & management) and **stakeholder relations** (Governments, MSO, Facilities, etc).

Happy to be a constructive contributor to move our great sport forward.