



Ontario Shuffleboard Association Inc.

President's Report
Annual General Meeting
June 3, 2025

Last year was a good year for the Ontario Shuffleboard Association. We had six tournaments last summer. We were scheduled to have seven tournaments this season.

Sadly, we lost Goderich due to the city closing their facility. This is a big loss for the OSA as Goderich holds a special place with most of us who have played there for years. I am going to miss having dinner and drinks at the patio restaurant of the Bedford Inn. We had up to 20 people join us each year. I always took a photo of my beer and sent it to Rendall Bilton as a toast. He and I had many beers and laughs on that patio.

Much worse, I feel sick about the many Goderich players losing their facility. They had a large membership base and they were the most enthusiastic players I have ever seen. They were fun and just wanted to play shuffleboard. I'm hoping something develops in their favour so they can get back on the courts.

The good news is that Coldwater is back in our calendar. It too is the bedrock for our organization. They are terrific hosts, with a great venue, and always deliver a terrific tournament. For those of you who have not played there, make the trip, you won't regret it.

At last year's AGM, I declared that one of my main points of focus would be on the website. I think our website is becoming a better "go to" tool. Just a few weeks ago, I was approached by the Guelph Shuffleboard Club, asking about the OSA. The coordinator found us on the internet. She wants me to speak with their players about organized shuffleboard. Another lady, from Orangeville, recently reached out to me as she found the OSA on Facebook. After a short conversation, she promptly paid her membership fee, and she wants to play in tournaments. I'm currently working with her to get partners for the tournaments she can attend.

As an aside, Guelph is now listed on our "Clubs" page. Photos of Guelph and Niagara Falls have recently been added to our home page. At the time of writing this report, I am scheduled to play and speak in Guelph on May 28 and to play in Niagara Falls on May 29.

I still believe the grass roots players are our low-hanging fruit. These are folks that play one or two times most weeks. The OSA must figure out how to connect with this demographic, as I think they are the future of our organization.

My second focal point was the finances. I suspect we have run deficits for ten years. Although it all comes from one pool, think of membership fees covering the day-to-day operations. The OSA spent less than \$1,100 last year in operating costs. Before insurance premiums of \$700, we're spending less than \$400. That is efficient. With membership fees and donations of \$765, and costs of \$1,100, we ran a deficit of \$312 last year. The new membership fees will give us a \$136 surplus. This should be good for a few years.

Other than membership fees and day to day operations, we have tournaments. For many years, the OSA kept \$4/team. From that, they pay hosts \$250 per tournament. Last year, we collected \$1,028 in tournament fees and paid our hosts \$1,900. For many years, the tournament director kept \$3/team. This was to help offset the costs of travel and accommodations for attending tournaments. Most of the time, the tournament director must arrive the night before the tournament and pay for an extra night's accommodation. Last year, this would have averaged \$128 per tournament which is likely fair.

One of the reasons for the format and rule changes was to eliminate the need for one traveling tournament director. I have never personally kept any tournament director fees. But that is not sustainable. I think it should be handled by the host. It is easy enough now that we have many of the bugs worked out. Last year, tournament director fees turned over to the OSA were \$771. Despite that, the OSA still ran a deficit of \$100 with their tournaments last year.

With the new registration fee, the OSA plans on offering an additional \$150 to hosts who wish to provide their own tournament director. This will help offset the increased costs the hosts have experienced over the past decade and put the OSA at a \$164 surplus with their tournaments. Should hosts not want to provide their own tournament director, the OSA will provide that service for them, keeping the \$150 to help offset the tournament directors travel and accommodation costs. As an aside, Chatham and Rodney were not offered the opportunity to provide their own tournament director. The eight court facilities have a couple of bugs being worked out. By next year, they too can take advantage of this offer.

After serving for three years, I have decided to step down as OSA president. I was appointed 1st VP of the CNSA. I can honestly say I did not aspire to be involved at the national level. It just happened. However, I feel I have a somewhat limited set of skills for this job. I believe I have likely done as much as I can for this organization. The skills needed to finish what I have started and carry this organization into the future requires somebody with better technical skills ... essentially somebody smarter. Trevor Martin has accepted the nomination to run for president. He is exactly the person needed right now. I hope he gets your support during the election further down the agenda. He has many terrific ideas and the energy to act upon them.

I wish to thank my board. They have shown tremendous support for me. I'm sure they took heat behind the scenes, but they always presented their concerns, and those they heard, as positive criticism, with a view to make things better. I also want to thank some of my biggest critics. You maybe didn't see it, but I did take your concerns and issues seriously. I pondered many things for many hours. And because of you, I think we got most things right. I also want to thank you, the members. You put a lot of faith and trust in me. We made some major changes the past two years. I could see it, but it was not possible without you granting me the time to work through things and iron out the bugs. I especially want to thank Ann. You know what she must deal with on a day-to-day basis. But I had many sleepless nights the first year or two just hoping beyond hope I didn't screw up things too bad. She had to put up with me then and that was more than she deserved.

I am 100% committed to helping this organization in any way I can whenever they want. I'll still be around for y'all to take turns beating me on the courts.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.