

Revised – APRIL 2005

## TOPIC: Triathlons

### Trend / Issue

Municipalities are becoming increasingly aware of the popularity of Triathlon events within their communities.

Municipal Parks and Recreation departments and Provincial Conservation authorities have been approached by private triathlon series event companies to set up triathlon race event in their communities.

Aquatic safety concerns, road closures and event saturation are all issues that surround Triathlons. Municipalities also are being approached by the private companies to provide aquatic staff to supervise the water portions of triathlons/events without protocols to the same standard as generally accepted indoor or beachfront aquatic protocols.

### Background

Triathlon series events are popular fitness events that run in many communities within Ontario. The largest two events are either triathlons that is a swim-bike-run or Duathlon, which is a run-bike-run. (Adventure racing: City Chase, Adventure Race Canada, Frontier Adventure Race, Sea to Summit)

Triathlon which were once the vested with elite athletes has now matured to encompass a wider community-based participation bases. *Kids of Steel* is an age based Triathlon series event for children age categories that run from 7 and under up to 14 to 15. Many Triathlons and Duathlons events also offer a try-a-tri course length (swim, run, bike) to entice notice and weekend athletes to participate.

3 private sector companies, run most of the Triathlon events in Ontario. In 2004 these 3 companies operated 30 Triathlon series events.

Ontario Association of Triathletes is the governing body of Triathlon in the province. To participate in a sanctioned Triathlon you must be a member of O.A.T.

Last year O.A.T. had 1,800 full year membership and solid approx 13,000 one-day memberships

### Links

Ontario Association of Triathletes: Governing Ontario Body

Somersault Promotions: Private Company runs Triathlon & Duathlon events most in Ottawa area

Trisport: Private Company runs Triathlon & Duathlon events most in Southern Ontario area

Multisport: Company runs Triathlon & Duathlon events most in Southern Ontario area

Triathlon Canada: National Governing Body

International Triathlon Union (ITU): International Governing Body

### Impact / Implications

Event risk management standards should be understood, and established. The absence of generally accepted triathlon safety standards in the water portions of such events should be of concern to municipal or agency risk management or senior executive staff. A tragic death August 2003 in SW Ontario in the water portion of a triathlon with involvement by municipal aquatic staff have caused concerns with a need to review municipal risk management protocols involving such events

### Contact

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