

Mission Statement from the Head Coach

Welcome all new and returning members to the Toronto Swim Club. As we begin a new season, we do so firmly entrenched as one of the top full-service competitive swim clubs in Canada. This distinction was again solidified by more consistently great performances on the provincial, national and international stage. TSC is thrilled about the opportunity to work alongside the University of Toronto High Performance Centre and is excited to be forging a relationship that will lead to even higher levels of swimming excellence.

TSC swimmers had another glorious season. Four TSC swimmers competed this summer at the World Championships in Rome: Zsofi Balazs competed for Canada, along with Terrance Haynes and Martyn Forde (both competing for Barbados) and Luke Hall (competing for Swaziland). In January, Paige Schultz and Zsofi Balazs competed for Canada in Guam at the Jr. Pan Pacific Championships where both won Bronze medals, in the 200IM and 1500 Freestyle respectively. Other TSC swimmers who competed internationally for Canada this past season were: Hilary Bell (Australian Olympic Youth Festival), Marco Monaco, Heather Maitland, Warren Barnes (World University Games), Jeff Sudbury (National 'B' Team at British Nationals), Lukasz Kosiorek, Jillian Stoyan, Rebecca Hinds, Paige Schultz (North American Challenge Cup, California). Also, three of our swimmers qualified to represent Ontario at the Canada Games in P.E.I. in August: Kaleigh Heard, Rebecca Hinds and Nick Karpov.

TSC swimmers also continued the assault on the Canadian record book by setting several National individual and relay records. Paige Schultz set new national records for the 15-17 year old girl's 200IM, both short course and long course, breaking one of the oldest previous records dating to 1993. Relay records were set by the 13-14 year old boys in the 4x100 Medley Relay (David Riley, Sean Domingo, Edward Liu and David Ou), and the 15-17 year old girls in the 4x200 Freestyle Relay (Hilary Bell, Kaleigh Heard, Jenna Bull and Paige Schultz).

There were many amazing accomplishments from swimmers of all ages this past season. TSC continues to show it is a power, both provincially and nationally. Some team highlights include winning the Division I Team Championships, placing 5th at the Spring Nationals at University of Toronto, and placing 2nd at the Jr. Provincials. In addition, our coaching staff was well represented throughout the season through their selection for several Provincial and National teams.

In terms of quality, the club continues to grow and thrive. Thanks to the incredible efforts from some of our parents, we have been able to negotiate a favourable position with respect to our use of TDSB pools. We also continue to have strong relationships with the University of Toronto, the Toronto District and Catholic School Boards, Havergal College and Toronto Parks and Recreation. We are hopeful that when the dust settles from the new commitments to the TDSB pools we can improve and increase our capacity to provide excellent service to our membership and continue our ability to offer one of the best full-service competitive swimming programs in Canada.

The expectations of our Club for the 2009-2010 competitive season will be high as our swimmers strive to reach lofty goals. Many swimmers will be learning and refining the fundamentals of competitive swimming, while others will be training to be at their best for various National Team opportunities.

The swimming program at the Toronto Swim Club has been crafted and nourished over time to bring out the best in every athlete. TSC has been developed as a full-service swim club dedicated not just to competitive success at the very highest levels but to the personal growth and fulfillment of all swimmers at all levels. We can proudly claim that we are a full service competitive swim club, with athletes at the development level right through to the senior National and Olympic levels. As eager as we are to attract and develop provincial, national and world-class swimmers, we also pride ourselves in our ability to offer great programs at all levels of competitive swimming.

Our mission is to create the opportunity for success experiences in competitive swimming, which range from Olympic dreams at one end of the spectrum to physical fitness and fun at the other.

We believe in the fun of learning, the fun of participating, the fun of competing, and the fun of improving. It is the fun that goes with being part of a really great team. It is the fun of achieving success, both on your own terms and up on the clock, for every one to see.

For the coaching staff, that kind of fun means a lot of hard work, along with at least an equal amount of personal satisfaction, of course. A large part of our role is teaching the mechanics, and if I may say so, we do that very well. The other large part of our role is to inspire, motivate and kindle a love of competitive swimming, and to help each individual swimmer pursue his or her individual dream, and I would like to think we do that very well, too.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Toronto Swim Club, the swimming program, or the sport in general, please do not hesitate to call me at (416) 410-6431 or e-mail at j.grootveld@rogers.com. I hope and expect that we'll meet in the early days of the exciting season before us. For now, on behalf of the coaching staff, it is my very great pleasure to welcome you to the Club.

John Grootveld
Head Coach and Director of Swimming