



*15<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary*

## **SWT 15<sup>th</sup> Season**

In past letters, I've talked about how good the past season was and how the up and coming season is going to be bigger and better yet. Not to negate how great the 2007 season was, (and it was) or how much better the 2008 season will be, (and it will be), I thought I might talk a little bit on the SWT's History.

The 2008 season will be our 15<sup>th</sup> season as an organization. This in itself is quite the accomplishment as there are but a few tournament trail organizations that have lasted as long and continuously maintained a high level of success. From the humble beginnings where we basically just kept stats and handed out a few year end prizes to where we are now, close to \$50,000 in cash and prizes, not to mention the approx. \$150,000 that the tournaments pay out. Yes, we have come a long way. The SWT has long been recognized as the # 1 Walleye Trail in Canada and we plan to stay there for another 15 years.

I would like to thank all the SWT members past, present, and future for the ongoing involvement and support that you have provided throughout the years. You are the reason that we do this and why we keep on striving to be bigger and better. Of course we couldn't attain the number one status with out having had the honor of working with great sponsors over the years and I thank them all for all of their contributions. Throughout the years we have worked with some great companies and together we have made the SWT "The Walleye Tournament Trail" in Canada. In recognition of our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary we are planning a few things to celebrate this occasion. One of the things we have added is a prize package for all 15<sup>th</sup> place finishers in a SWT tournament to go along with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme. We also are going to recognize all of our longtime SWT members at the Regina Beach Tournament. There are members who have been with us from the start and we want to make sure that you are recognized. This is sure to be a special night so please make sure you are there.

I would also like to thank the many board members who have worked hard to make sure the SWT is running on all cylinders at all times. There are many of you who have given your time and sweat to the SWT and it is very much appreciated. We have also had a few leaders over the years and I would like to name them and recognize their contributions. Michael Snook (1994-1998), Cory Yeomans (1999), Wayne Tumak (2004). I have actually had the privilege of knowing them all personally and working with them. We can't say enough of their contributions to the SWT. I, myself have done two terms, (2000,2003),(2005,2008) and I can honestly say that I know what these past Presidents have done for the SWT. It just wouldn't be right not to mention a few of the Board members who have spent many years working for you, Bob Schlosser who has been there from the start, Dave Deutscher who has been on the board numerous times through out as well as Darryl Ward who I believe has been on the board even longer than I have. There have been many board members throughout the years as I had mentioned but I just wanted to recognize those three who have been there pretty much from the start.

That's about it from me for now and I look forward to seeing you all out on the water. Just remember to grab hold and get ready for another great ride. Good luck to all in the up and coming season and happy 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the SWT.

Rob Furutani, President, SWT