

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

In an earlier article I promised to devote a column to the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games. This is it!

Let me start with Volunteers. There are expected to be 20,000 volunteers at these Games. Volunteers are needed and will be deployed throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe area [Toronto to Hamilton area generally] at over 50 competition and non-competition venues and facilities. You may express a preference as to where and what you wish to be and do as a volunteer but you may not necessarily get what you seek. Pan Am volunteers will contribute an estimated 12 shifts over 18 Games – operation days (July 10 – 26, 2015).

All volunteers must have a good command of the English language. To support athletes and visitors, organizers are also looking for volunteers who speak French, Spanish or Portuguese.

What can you expect as a volunteer – rewarding experience that you will look back on with pride. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to contribute to the largest international multi-sport event ever held in Canada.

To volunteer, visit the volunteer website [www.Toronto2015.org/volunteer](http://www.Toronto2015.org/volunteer) for more details.

For shooting specific volunteer positions, contact me at [shaw@smilaw.ca](mailto:shaw@smilaw.ca) and I will forward your name and contact information to Pat Vamplew who is assessing what volunteer positions are needed right at the Pan Am Shooting Centre (i.e. Toronto International Trap & Skeet Club).

Here are some facts that may interest you about the Pan American Games (most of these facts were furnished at my request by the 2015 Toronto Pan Am Committee and for which I wish to give credit):.

1. What are the Pan American Games?

- Multi-sport event held every four years within the (Continental) Americas;
- Governed by Pan American Sport Organization (PASO);
- Second largest multi-sport event next to the Summer Olympics;
- Take place the year before the Summer Olympics;
- Unlike the Olympics, there is only one set of Games (no winter version).

2. History:

- First Games in 1951 – in Buenos Aires, Argentina;
- Has been held in 15 cities (10 countries);
- Toronto will be the 17<sup>th</sup> Pan American Games event;
- Canada has hosted these Games two times previously in 1967 and 1999 both in Winnipeg. United States has hosted them at least once (Indianapolis 1987).

3. Who participates in the Pan American Games?

- Athletes from countries that make up the Americas;

- A country must have established a National Olympic Committee (NOC) recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and affiliated with PASO.

4. What do the Pan American Games include?

- Pan American Sports program which includes:
  - All sports and disciplines of the Summer Olympics;
  - Additional (non-Olympic sports) determined by PASO;
- Most of the usual collateral events and attractions associated with a major multi-sport event including opening and closing ceremonies, culture and festival programs, athlete village, transportation network, enhanced security, concerts, celebrations and activities.

5. Here are the Sport events (Olympic and non-Olympic):

Olympic Sports (28):	Olympic Sports (28) continued:	PASO Sports (8):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatics;</li> <li>• Archery;</li> <li>• Athletics;</li> <li>• Badminton;</li> <li>• Basketball;</li> <li>• Boxing;</li> <li>• Canoe/Kayak;</li> <li>• Cycling;</li> <li>• Equestrian;</li> <li>• Fencing;</li> <li>• Field Hockey;</li> <li>• Football;</li> <li>• Golf;</li> <li>• Gymnastics;</li> <li>• Handball;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judo;</li> <li>• Modern Pentathlon;</li> <li>• Rowing;</li> <li>• Rugby 7's;</li> <li>• Sailing;</li> <li>• Shooting;</li> <li>• Table Tennis;</li> <li>• Taekwondo;</li> <li>• Tennis;</li> <li>• Triathlon;</li> <li>• Volleyball;</li> <li>• Weightlifting;</li> <li>• Wrestling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseball</li> <li>• Bowling</li> <li>• Karate</li> <li>• Racquetball</li> <li>• Roller Sports;</li> <li>• Softball;</li> <li>• Squash;</li> <li>• Water Ski / Wakeboard.</li> </ul>

6. There will be:

- 10,000 athletes, coaches and officials;
- Over 40 venues across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Golden Horseshoe – this includes Toronto International Trap & Skeet as the venue for the shooting sports;
- 20,000 volunteers.

7. There will be:

- Economic legacies (jobs, infrastructure and opportunities);
- Sport legacies – with new world class sport facilities (Toronto International, for instance, will have shooting facilities created that will be a benefit to athletes in the shooting sports for years to come;
- Special legacy – bringing over 41 communities together in a common cause.

8. Key partners include:

- Federal, provincial and local municipal governments;
- COC;
- Greater Golden Horseshoe (including GTA) municipalities and universities;
- Significant industry sponsors.

9. There will be prime time English and French coverage of the Games. Spanish and Portuguese media will also cover the Games. In 2011 at the Guadalajara Pan Am Games, over 300 million households in the Americas watched the opening ceremonies. Although shooting competitions will not be live, they will be taped and hopefully the shooting community can help get coverage out far and wide. [Note: Media coverage is often a challenge for the shooting sports – there is often more coverage of major American shooting events in faraway lands than with our own American media.]

10. Shooting Events at the Pan American Shooting Centre (Toronto International):

- Competition days will be July 12 – 19, 2015;
- Training days will be July 7 – 11, 2015;
- There will be a test event on the new ranges in May 2015;
- 250 (shooting) athletes plus 100 coaches and team leaders;
- 3 disciplines – rifle, pistol and shotgun;
- This is an Olympic qualifier event for the Rio Olympic Games 2016;
- ISSF sanctioned event;
- 22 plus Nations;
- 15 shooting events (6 for women (w) and 9 for men (m));
- On the 10 meter range:
  - Air pistol (M & W);
  - Air rifle (M & W);
- On the 25 meter range:
  - Rapid fire pistol (M);
  - Pistol (W);
- On the 50 meter range:
  - Pistol (M);
  - Rifle prone (M);
  - Rifle 3 position (M & W);
- On the 2 Shotgun ranges:
  - Double trap (M);
  - Trap (M&W);
  - Skeet (M&W);
- This venues, like all other venues, will be a secure site with tight accreditation protocol;

11. The 2015 Pan Am committee, event organizers, host venues and others (including myself) continue to spend tons of time in preparation for the Games. It is on schedule but the time line is tight.

12. For the shooting sports in Canada, Toronto International will be a multi-discipline competition and training center that will benefit Canadian shooters and non-resident guests for years to come.

13. Now – back to the first part of my article – Volunteer if you have the time.

Paul Shaw

Ontario Delegate