AUGUST 2020 ARTICLE FOR LOCAL MIKE OSWALD

So far 2020 has been crazy! The global pandemic, known as covid-19 had us all hunkered down at home for months on end and now only moderate excursions allowed. Life, as we know it, has changed.

The world of Special Olympics came to a sudden halt, and for athletes, coaches and volunteers, it’s been tough not being out doing what we all love.

There have been some virtual programs offered that many have partaken in all over B.C. Coaches had the opportunity to improve their skills and many of our athletes are keeping up with their own fitness regimes. That can mean going for runs and walks, swimming in the ocean and lakes, working in yards and gardens and doing workouts at home.

People at SOBC have noticed this and are offering a glimmer, a shimmer of hope. Certain sports will be making a return with MANY new guidelines that athletes, volunteers and coaches alike must follow.

The Return to Sport Plan outlines 12 pilot programs they are testing to make sure that safety protocols can be followed. Bocce, Track, Club Fit and Golf returned in the middle of July though our Local is not currently involved. During the test runs, only small numbers of people in certain communities are permitted, to keep it safe for everyone. SOBC will let the rest of the athletes and Locals know when they can begin anew.

In order to participate in these sports, forms must be filled out and steps must be taken. A new designated position has been introduced named Program Safety Volunteer. This person will be in charge of making sure all in attendance understand and follow protocols.

Along with Executive meetings and fitness programs, fundraising initiatives also have undergone changes. The preferred method of communication continues to be virtual. Any event that cannot be done in cyberspace must adhere to several new rules, which again serve the purpose of maintaining health and safety. We are hopeful we will find our way through all of this with courage and determination.

Even if it seems as if change is coming slowly, let’s face it, after months of the same ole same, isn’t change good?

Watch This Space!