

Troop lauded for ability to motivate

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I'm going to have to do with the Pan Am Games at multiple venues across the GTA," the 50-year-old Troop said.

"It's funny. A few months ago I phoned the Pan Am bid corporation to see if some dollars could swing our way for Field of Dreams if we were somehow incorporated into it. I'm not sure if that's still possible because they tend to prefer grass fields for their venues, but we'll see what happens over the next five-and-a-half years."

Most of the 2015 Pan Am venues are already in place, but will need extensive "renovations and rehabilitations" to bring them up to International Association of Athletics Federation standards. Along with the athletes' village, the \$170-million aquatic and sports training centre at the University of Toronto in Scarborough and a \$150-million stadium in Hamilton will be built from scratch.

The federal and provincial governments have committed to chip in \$500 million each in the \$1.4 billion budget, and the province is guarantor should there be any shortfalls.

"(Troop) is a self-starter who has built organizations from the ground up and



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—Pan Am Games CEO Ian Troop

has proven he can motivate and lead diverse groups in challenging environments," Roger Garland, chair of the 2015 organizing committee.

"His hiring is the most critical decision made by the board. We were looking for

an unusual individual because it's a very complex job and it had to be someone who looked at this project as a way of life and not just a job."

An avid sports fan who attended the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal,

Troop was high school athlete of the year at Kipling Collegiate and went on to play university football at Wilfrid Laurier University. He was a member of the 1978 team that was inducted into the Laurier Hall of Fame and an Ontario University Athletics all-star, drafted in 1981 by the Hamilton Tiger Cats of the Canadian Football League.

He moved to Georgetown in 2001 with wife Nicole, daughter Sofia, a hockey player who will attend Queen's University next year, and son Spencer, a defensive lineman on Wilfrid Laurier's football squad.

An Etobicoke native, Troop began his business career at Procter & Gamble and then moved to become president of Con-Agra Foods International. He spent six years living and working in Mexico—a crucial member of the Pan American Sports Organization, which oversees the Games.

"One of the three main goals for this project is to bring our country closer to our neighbours in Latin America, the U.S. and the Caribbean to celebrate not only athletics, but things like culture and music as well in fun and meaningful ways. With the number of sports and participants in the Pan Ams, they're every bit as big as the Olympics."

Troop is expected to travel to Vancouver this month to see the Winter Olympics up close and learn from VANOC's experience and will keep close tabs on the organizing group for the 2011 Pan Am Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, with a visit there planned for the near future.

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