

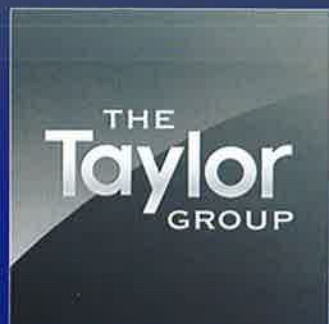
IMAGININGS *Let the dreams begin*

**Special
Olympics**
Ontario



2012 Annual Report

Over \$430,000 raised since 2008 for Special Olympics Ontario!



BMO



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ADDRESS FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD • DISCOURS DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Ontario, I am extremely pleased to present an overview of our accomplishments, celebrations and introduce some

new and exciting initiatives. 2012 has proven to be an extremely busy yet successful year on many fronts. As you know, Special Olympics encourages individuals with intellectual disabilities to engage through sports. Although registration is steadily increasing, there is much more we need to do. There are still thousands of individuals who could benefit from the programs we offer. As such, promotion of WHAT IS Special Olympics, and WHAT Special Olympics does is of paramount importance. We do however know one thing. Athletes currently participating in programs across the province have improved physical fitness, access to quality competition and training, but more importantly are given an opportunity to socialize, make friends and be involved in a world-wide movement that has changed perceptions and increased awareness and respect for Special Olympics athletes.

Our success would not be possible without the support and dedication of thousands of volunteers and coaches who continue to provide quality training and competition for athletes. Sponsors, donors, corporations and government support

enable our organization to move to the next level. Without financial and in-kind support, new initiatives and programs could not be implemented. Special Olympics Ontario prides itself on being a leader in sport, competition, training and health promotion. We are proud and delighted that you continue to be a part of this special movement.

As you review this report, you will better understand the elements that make our organization a world-class entity. I am certain that you will agree that the world needs Special Olympics now more than ever. As Special Olympics moves into its fifth decade, the movement has reached out to a larger demographic and thus, more lives are being transformed. Please join us in changing lives, and in changing the world.

"A rewarding life is full of challenge, so do not pity me. Give me a chance!"

—Thomas, Special Olympics Athlete

De la part du Conseil d'administration des Olympiques spéciaux Ontario, je suis extrêmement heureux de présenter une vue d'ensemble de nos réalisations et célébrations, ainsi qu'une introduction à de nouvelles initiatives attrayantes. L'année 2012 s'est avérée un grand succès et une année très occupée sur plusieurs fronts. Comme vous le savez, Olympiques spéciaux encourage les individus présentant une déficience intellectuelle de s'impliquer à l'organisation en participant aux sports offerts. Malgré que l'enregistrement d'athlètes est toujours croissant, nous avons du boulot à faire – il y a encore plusieurs individus qui pourraient profiter des programmes que nous offrons. Cela étant dit, la promotion du mandat et des activités qui constituent les Olympiques spéciaux est primordiale. Cependant, nous pouvons porter témoignage à l'épanouissement des athlètes présentement inscrits aux programmes à travers la province. Nos athlètes ont profité d'une meilleure condition physique, l'accès aux compétitions et à l'entraînement sportif de qualité, l'opportunité de créer de nouvelles amitiés et prendre part dans un mouvement mondial qui change les perceptions, favorise le respect et sensibilise les gens aux réalisations de ses athlètes.

Notre succès ne pourrait être possible sans le soutien et le dévouement des milliers de volontaires et d'entraîneurs qui fournissent aux athlètes l'accès aux compétitions et à l'entraînement sportif de qualité. L'appui des commanditaires, des donateurs, des corporations et du gouvernement a propulsé l'organisation à un niveau supérieur de performance. Sans

l'appui financier et les dons en nature, les nouvelles initiatives et les nouveaux programmes ne seraient pas en place. Olympiques spéciaux Ontario se présente fièrement comme leader dans les domaines suivants : sports, compétition, entraînement et promotion de la santé. Nous sommes fiers et ravis de votre participation à ce mouvement spécial.

Lorsque vous effectuez la revue de ce rapport, vous allez mieux saisir les composantes qui font de notre organisation une entité de niveau international. Je suis certain que vous allez agréer que notre société pourrait profiter des Olympiques spéciaux maintenant plus que jamais. En se déplaçant dans sa 5^e décennie, le mouvement des Olympiques spéciaux a rejoint une démographie plus vaste et comme résultat a transformé plus de vies. Veuillez nous joindre dans cette transformation de vies et d'attitudes.

«Une vie enrichissante est remplie de défis. Ne prenez pas pitié pour moi. Donnez-moi l'occasion de réussir!»

—Thomas, athlète des Olympiques spéciaux

Matthew Cockburn
Chair, Board of Directors
Special Olympics Ontario Inc.
Président, Conseil d'administration
Olympiques spéciaux Ontario Inc.

ADDRESS PRESIDENT & CEO • MOT DU PRÉSIDENT ET PDG



I am very proud and pleased to be able to present this Annual Report showcasing many new activities and initiatives that have encouraged and enhanced the growth of this organization.

Having been with Special Olympics Ontario in a number of capacities for close to 30 years, I have witnessed many changes in the way we train and deliver sport and competition.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting many athletes, their families, their friends, their fans ... watching athletes grow, not just in age, but in skill, in confidence, self-esteem and becoming good friends with them along the way. The Special Olympics "family" grows daily which is a testament to staff, volunteers and coaches alike. We all have important roles to play in ensuring that not only does this organization provide sport training and competition, but such things as health and fitness education, health screenings, athlete-speaker training, to name a few. Most of all it provides athletes with a safe nurturing environment allowing their passion for sport to evolve and grow in its truest form.

I am especially excited about the overall growth of children and youth participation in our programs. Approximately 50% of the overall athlete registration base is now 21 years and under; which is a huge transition from 10 years ago when the average age of an athlete was 37. This speaks volumes to the commitment and dedication of staff, resources and grant

opportunities. This growth in children and youth also aligns with Special Olympics Ontario's strategic plan.

It would be remiss of me at this time not to mention the powerful and respected involvement of the Law Enforcement community across the province. The Law Enforcement Torch Run celebrates 25 years in Canada this year. We certainly would not be where we are today without their passion and astounding ability to raise funds. When I spoke earlier about friendship and camaraderie among athletes, family and friends, it is evident that the men and women in Law Enforcement ARE our biggest FANS by far. You will read more about the Torch Run program later in this report. Please take a moment to review. I am positive you will agree that great things can, and ARE being accomplished by many. Making a difference is what Special Olympics is all about! Plenty of individuals still need to be served and supported by our organization. Help us spread the word and change lives!

"As a parent I know that my son, as do all our athletes, plays his heart out week after week. This is not just an event or a form of recreation for him; it's been a life changing experience! To Adam, it doesn't really matter if his team wins or loses a game. He is just delighted that he is a part of Special Olympics."

Jay Whaley
Coach/Parent

Je suis très fier de vous présenter ce rapport annuel qui démontre les nouvelles activités et initiatives qui ont encouragé ainsi que renforcé la croissance de cette organisation.

En étant impliqué dans plusieurs capacités avec les Olympiques spéciaux Ontario pour au-delà de 30 ans, j'ai été témoin de plusieurs changements dans l'entraînement sportif ainsi que l'accès aux sports et aux compétitions.

J'ai aussi le plaisir de rencontrer plusieurs athlètes, leurs familles, leurs amis et leurs partisans. J'ai également le plaisir d'observer l'épanouissement des athlètes, non seulement en maturité mais dans leurs capacités, leur confiance, leur estime de soi et leurs amitiés. La famille des Olympiques spéciaux grandit quotidiennement; preuve du travail extraordinaire de nos employés, nos bénévoles et nos entraîneurs

Nous tâchons tous d'assurer que l'organisation puisse fournir non seulement de l'entraînement sportif et l'accès à la compétition, mais autres constantes comme l'éducation à la santé et le conditionnement physique, les dépistages et la formation d'athlètes intervenants. Principalement, les Olympiques spéciaux Ontario fournit aux athlètes un milieu propice qui encourage leurs passions pour le sport de fleurir à maturité.

Je suis surtout excité par la croissance de la participation des enfants et de la jeunesse à nos programmes. Environ 50% de notre enregistrement d'athlètes compte des participants âgés de 21 ans et moins ce qui marque une transition énorme de l'âge moyenne de 37 ans enregistrée il y a une décennie. Cet acheminement n'aurait pas été possible sans le dévouement et l'engagement de notre personnel ainsi que l'accès aux

ressources et aux bourses. L'enregistrement grandissant de jeunes s'aligne avec les objectifs identifiés dans le plan stratégique des Olympiques spéciaux Ontario.

Je serais négligent si j'oubliais de mentionner l'implication indispensable de la communauté des agents de la paix à travers la province. La Course au flambeau des agents de la paix célèbre son 25^e anniversaire au Canada cette année. Notre succès est attribué à leur passion, leur dévouement et leur habileté ahurissante de lever des fonds! À mention d'amitiés et de camaraderie parmi nos athlètes, nos familles et nos amis; il est évident que nos partenaires, les agents de la paix, sont nos partisans les plus précieux! Vous pourrez lire plus de détails sur la Course au flambeau dans ce rapport.

Veuillez prendre un moment pour la revue de ce rapport annuel. Vous allez être en accord que l'année a été fructueuse par les accomplissements de tous ceux engagés au mouvement. Olympiques spéciaux tient à faire une différence! Il y a encore plusieurs individus que notre organisation peut servir et soutenir. Aidez-nous à divulguer notre message et enrichir des vies!

Glenn MacDonell
President & CEO
Special Olympics Ontario Inc.
Président & Chef de la direction
Olympiques spéciaux Ontario Inc.

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ATHLETE/COACH RECOGNITION



PRESIDENT'S AWARD – SARAH HOOVER

Currently serving as Registrar, Secretary and Treasurer for Special Olympics Belleville, Sarah has been involved with Special Olympics Ontario for

more than 16 years. Sarah, along with her coaching responsibilities, also undertakes the position of Team Manager for each sport she coaches.

Sarah's dedication to Special Olympics can be seen by her leadership, particularly in a fundraising capacity. Sarah administered and participated in many fundraising events, with an enthusiastic involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, ensuring the program's success in the Belleville area.

Over the years, Sarah has attended many Provincial Games as a coach, and as Region 12 Team Manager. She was Team Liaison for National Games in Brandon (2006) and Prince Albert (2012). Leadership roles of this nature require a considerable amount of administration tasks and Sarah has always excelled in that regard.

In Sarah's profession, it has been her duty to organize, plan, administer and oversee the workshop for developmentally delayed students, offered by the Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board. Sarah was also responsible for the organization and implementation of a program named Kirk Catering, where she trained and supervised developmentally delayed students in the catering business. Sarah was required to administrate these very successful programs.

In each and every challenge undertaken by Sarah, she did so with commitment and enthusiasm. Throughout her professional career and her role with Special Olympics, Sarah has, and continues to be, a role model to all athletes.

She is a strong advocate for athletes, teaching both

athletic and life lessons. She is so deeply involved in the organization that we can't imagine she has time for much else! Sarah has selflessly given her time with no thought of personal gain and for that, we thank her.

Congratulations Sarah on being awarded the 2012 President's Award!



PRESIDENT'S AWARD – MARY WILSON

Mary took on the challenge as President of Belleville & District Special Olympics during difficult times. She was able to administer and

reintroduce the true meaning of Special Olympics to athletes in the Belleville area. Through it all, she coached athletes in all sports. Due to her perseverance and determination, Special Olympics was once again introduced to athletes of the Belleville/Quinte area.

Mary's dedication to Special Olympics is highlighted by her leadership skills in fundraising. Her creativity in finding ways to raise funds is to be commended. Bingo's, car washes, barbeques, Toyota, and STAPLES events are all part of Mary's life. Mary works closely with the Law Enforcement community to organize the Torch Run and arrange for athletes to run with the officers.

She has coached at many Provincial and National Games, and assisted athletes with their fundraising efforts. She is organized and pays attention to detail, including making notes on individual athlete's performances, to assist and encourage them to obtain improved results, and to praise them for their good work. Athletes come first — that's Mary's motto.

Mary was instrumental in ensuring that athletes were integrated into generic sports at the facility in which she taught. Mary works closely with the

athletic director of the school organizing and scheduling times when Special Olympics athletes can train with generic athletes. Athletes are integrated and compete at generic meets and often come home with a medal. Mary has showcased her administrative skills throughout her profession and most definitely through her love of Special Olympics.

Congratulations Mary on being awarded the 2012 President's Award!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – KATIE ELLIOTT

Katie Elliott joined Special Olympics as a volunteer in 1998 and has been offering outstanding service to the

athletes and the organization ever since. Katie's commitment to Special Olympics is exceptional. She drives approximately 30 kilometres each way on a frequent basis to participate in community programs.

What makes her a favourite among athletes with whom she works, is that Katie sees the abilities of athletes, NOT the disabilities. Her demeanour is easy-going and cheerful. She also has an infectious laugh that draws everyone in to her.

One of Katie's major accomplishments was the introduction of the community bocce program. What began with 6 athletes in the first year, grew to 29 athletes in 2012 and continues to grow. She acted as the Head Coach for the new bocce program in London, and assisted in hosting the provincial qualifier. Her team won and qualified for Provincial Games in Kingston, where she acted as Head Coach.

Apart from her coaching capabilities, Katie also volunteered to act as the Provincial Team Liaison (PTL) for Region 2 at the National Games in St. Albert, Alberta.

In the Spring of 2012, she organized the Thames Valley District School Board Track and Field meet and had no hesitation in agreeing to set up a bocce demonstration area for the day of the event. Katie had no prior involvement with school programs, but instantly agreed to participate in order to promote the sport and Special Olympics. Katie also arranged a bocce demonstration for the participants in the 2011 World's Largest Truck Convoy for Special Olympics in Paris, Ontario.

She is a "go-to" person who has stepped up to the plate many times. Due to all these qualities and more, she is highly respected by all her fellow volunteers and athletes.

Congratulations Katie on being awarded the 2012 Volunteer of the Year!



**FEMALE COACH OF THE YEAR –
HEATHER SMITH**

As a certified swim coach with the Durham Dolphins, Heather has been involved with Special Olympics for 18 years. She is also involved

on the parent council with the Association for Community Living for over 19 years.

Her confident and outgoing approach with athletes is what makes her one of Durham West's more popular and well recognized coaches. She is known for her positive and cheerful coaching style as well as being respected by her fellow coaches and volunteers for her experience in dealing with many multi-faceted challenges faced by athletes including developmental, mental health and physical challenges.

Since 2005, Heather has attended many Provincial, National and International Games in a number of capacities. This includes the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens and most recently the Provincial Spring Games in Kingston.

She has been an invaluable mentor to fellow swimming coaches and has built a strong team of coaches

and volunteers to support the Durham West swim team.

She believes in training and inspiring athletes to do their best and have fun. She also encourages them to make friends with newer athletes to help them adjust to their surroundings.

Heather has a strong belief in fair play and ensuring that there is a place for every athlete within the community. These qualities make her shine as a Special Olympics coach. Her encouragement towards athletes, regardless of athletic ability, has helped many to believe that they CAN succeed in sport.

Congratulations Heather on being awarded the 2012 Female Coach of the Year Award!



MALE COACH OF THE YEAR – BRIAN CARR

Brian has been involved with Special Olympics for 13 years and serves as head coach for Softball, T-ball and Swimming. He is also an active volunteer

in Speedskating.

Brian works hard to ensure that all responsibilities are fulfilled. He has taken an active role in hosting various competitions, as well as seeking outside competition opportunities for athletes.

He was the Provincial Team Liaison for Region 4 for the 2012 National Winter Games in St. Albert, providing support and leadership for the regional members of Team Ontario. Brian also attended the Provincial Games in Kingston as a swimming coach. Brian has become directly involved in coach development not only by encouraging coaches in his community to attend National Coaches Certification Programs (NCCP) courses, but also by organizing local offerings of NCCP courses (including securing a complimentary theory course in Hanover during Coaches Week 2012).

Since Brian became Community Coordinator in Hanover, previously a community with limited sport opportunities, it now offers multiple programs including:

Softball, T-ball, Floor Hockey, Swimming, and most recently Athletics. He coached a Softball/T-ball program in the earlier stages and is currently coaching Swimming and Athletics.

In 2012, the communities of Hanover and Walkerton merged to create the community of South Saugeen. Brian was a catalyst for this change, which brought improved and expanded opportunities.

Outside of Special Olympics, Brian has been a leader in the development of the local club for Special Olympics Ice Hockey.

Congratulations Brian on being awarded the 2012 Male Coach of the Year!



**FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR –
ELISHA DONAGHEY-JOHNSTON**

Elisha has been a registered athlete with Special Olympics since 1998. Swimming was the first sport she was introduced to incorporating her love of the water and good swimming ability. From the beginning, she demonstrated hard work and determination to succeed. Even to this day, her first question out of the pool is ... "what was my time?".

Elisha has been an eager and enthusiastic participant of Rhythmic Gymnastics, Athletics, Softball and most recently Soccer.

Elisha's athletic ability and healthy lifestyle has improved significantly. Always challenging herself with a strong belief in her ability and trained mental focus, she was honoured to represent Canada at the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens where she achieved gold.

Rhythmic Gymnastics is her primary sport and she chooses to participate in various programs as a cross-training supplement. Elisha was awarded an athletic scholarship from the Oakville Sports Hall of Fame in September, 2011. Elisha is the first Special Olympics

athlete to receive such an award from the Oakville Sports Hall of Fame.

Elisha was thrilled to help design a competition outfit and is now working on a costume design for her ribbon routine.

Elisha has struggled with the notion: "when is my best good enough?" The response: "until you reach a new best." Her long-term goal is to reach the podium at the National Games. Elisha's smile will be equally as bright, no matter what position on the podium. She is always humble, always grateful, always pushing the limits of hard work and dedication in her sports.

Elisha exemplifies the true spirit of Special Olympics. By training daily and consistently rising to the goals and challenges that present themselves along the way. Her confidence, healthy lifestyle, and athletic ability have significantly improved with her participation in Special Olympics. She is a strong role model and well respected within the community. Sport is Elisha's life. She is highly competitive and will continue her journey with a desire to "win at life."

Congratulations Elisha on being awarded the Female Athlete of the Year Award!



MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – JASON GORDY

Jason Gordy's connection with Special Olympics began in 1992, while participating in competitive swimming, 5-Pin and 10-Pin bowling. A year

later, an opportunity to join Athletics events gave Jason another chance to showcase his abilities and amazing stamina in long-distance running. Jason attended many local and regional sporting events where he carried the local banner. He was successful in bringing home gold, silver and bronze medals.

In 1997, Jason attended the Chatham Regional sports competition where he was awarded a gold medal in the 400- and 800-metre races, as well as silver in Long

Jump, which qualified him for Provincial Games.

Jason is well-known in the Special Olympics arena as a strong competitor and an individual who loves doing what comes naturally to him. His hard training paid off as he was recognized by Mayor Roger Vermeulen with a plaque from the Township of Delhi honouring him for his competitiveness and team spirit.

Jason has attended countless practices, competitions and has travelled many miles over his 20 plus years of association with Special Olympics. Jason has shown his versatility by competing in a variety of sports and recreational activities. He thoroughly enjoys the camaraderie of his teammates, coaches, friends, and credits these friendships to his involvement in Special Olympics. Jason has collected numerous participation ribbons, newspaper clippings, plaques and other items that showcase his many successes. Jason was selected as a Regional Ambassador for Region 2 and is available to attend fundraising and awareness events. Jason displays the utmost sportsmanlike conduct at all times. He always considers the feelings of others and is an incredibly kind and dedicated person.

Congratulations Jason on being awarded the 2012 Male Athlete of the Year!

TEAM OF THE YEAR – THE NEWMARKET RINGERS



The Newmarket Ringers Floor Hockey Team was formed in 1996. Since then, the team has been to four Provincial Games. In 2000, they won bronze at their first ever Games, which were held in York Region. In 2003, they took silver in Ottawa, which was followed by another bronze in Toronto in 2007.

The team won regionals in 2010 and 2011. Their regional successes were followed by a provincial competition in Sudbury where they won gold. A few months later, more good news. They joined Team Ontario at the National Winter Games in St. Albert, Alberta. The whole team was proud and excited but also realized the amount of additional training and effort that would be required of them over the coming months. They met the challenge with enthusiasm and commitment and brought home Gold as a result!

Their sportsmanship, team spirit and love of the game are evident whenever they play. Each individual made a commitment to play to the best of their ability. The players and coaches treat each other with respect and there is great camaraderie among the athletes both on and off the pad. They are proud to be Special Olympics athletes and are positive role models when competing.

The Newmarket Ringers are excited to be joining Team Canada and are looking forward to competing at the World Winter Games to be held in South Korea in January, 2013.

Congratulations to the Newmarket Ringers on being awarded the 2012 Team of the Year!



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR – KATHY GIVEN

Since 1988, Kathy Given has worked as a teacher for students with special needs at John Diefenbaker Secondary School in Hanover, Ontario.

Since her debut as a teacher, she has involved her students in Special Olympics. Over the years, students have participated in Swimming, Athletics,

SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Bowling, Speed Skating, Snowshoeing and Nordic Skiing at the Regional and Provincial level. Athletes from her class also participated in the National Games in Speed Skating and Athletics, with one student travelling to the 2008 World Games in Beijing.

Since 2003, Kathy has organized the Region 4 Swim Meet for school-age athletes every spring. Although she is not a swimmer herself, she volunteered to organize this event because she knows how important it is to the students. She recruits and trains 20 high-school student volunteers from John Diefenbaker Secondary School to help with the event. Kathy would like to thank many adult volunteers who have assisted with this event especially: Tammy Doersam (Hanover Heights Community School) and Adriene Mackenzie (Walkerton District Secondary School).

15 years ago, Kathy approached police officers who were organizing the local Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics to see if the students could get involved. Since then, Special Olympics athletes from JDSS join local police officers every year to participate in the Torch Run.

Kathy encourages other teachers to get more students involved in Special Olympics by starting school-based programs. She is often contacted by teachers, educational assistants, or parents who want to get their kids involved. She has also provided help and advice to volunteers who wish to start community sport clubs in the area. This year, she helped host the Region 4 Swim Meet for community athletes which was held in Hanover for the first time.

Kathy feels that Special Olympics provided many educational opportunities for her students. They have learned the physical benefits of sport and have enjoyed the challenge of competition. They met new friends, and gained independence and responsibility. They were recognized by their peers at JDSS, by their families, and by the community as a whole. Kathy would like to thank Special Olympics for providing these great opportunities for her students.

Congratulations Kathy on being awarded the 2012 Educator of the Year!



Golf Development

Golf has been developing in Ontario at an exciting pace. With a focus on building capacity within golf programs, Special Olympics Ontario aims to acquire more golfers and golf enthusiasts. Golf will have its Provincial Games debut in 2013 and National Games debut in 2014.

In June, 2012, Special Olympics Ontario hosted the Learn To Play Golf Clinic in conjunction with the Eldorado Golf Club, Bruce's Golf Rewards and the Golf Association of Ontario. The clinic was a pilot program with youth athletes participating in a development clinic.

The collaborative approach ensured that athletes learned new golf skills in a fun environment! 4 learning stations were set throughout the golf course, which consisted of 2 putting stations, one chipping station and a driving/iron station. Athletes participated in activities for 30 minutes learning skills and engaging in mini challenges. Once the 4 stations were completed, athletes headed out on the course for a 3-hole mini game, putting their newly developed skills to the test.

The day was described as 'simply amazing' by the athletes in attendance. The excitement and laughter athletes provided could be heard throughout the course by both volunteers and coaches. Special Olympics Ontario looks toward the development of future Learn To Play clinics as a developmental step for our golf programs.

We would like to thank our generous partners for making this day a success.

National Test Event

Team Ontario sent a team of 17 participants to a National Golf Test event in September, 2012. This event marked the first time Ontario athletes competed against other Special Olympics chapters. The event also hosted a sport development and rules workshop for coaches across the nation in addition to a coach education opportunity. This provided valuable opportunities which will enrich program development.

Coaches connecting with each other

Special Olympics Ontario's sport discussion groups have taken off in 2012. The groups provide an opportunity for coaches to acquire the latest information about their sport, connect with fellow coaches and discuss rules or upcoming competitions. It has become the go-to place for sport information.

Pre-season sport discussions take place in the upcoming months. These calls provide a convenient way for coaches and Special Olympics Ontario to ensure the athlete's needs are met. They are open to all coaches in Ontario and provide an opportunity for coaches to ask questions, discuss important sports-related matters, receive upcoming events updates and shape the development of their sport.

"Thanks to the many donors and supporters of Special Olympics — my daughter is lonely no more. Thank you for being so patient, kind, and generous but above all thank you for believing in her and helping her accomplish her dream."

**Cindy LaBrecque
Parent**

NATIONAL WINTER GAMES



From February 28-March 3, 259 members of Team Ontario attended the 2012 National Winter Games in St. Albert, Alberta.

Team Ontario saw athletes competing in all 7 official winter sports: Alpine, Curling, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Nordic Skiing, Snowshoeing and Speed Skating. The week was filled with great competitions generating many amazing memories. Sincere thanks are extended to team sponsors and fans. Athletes received many interactive messages from home. Team Ontario established an incredibly interactive Facebook page which received the

highest number of "Likes" across Canada.

Athletes brought home 72 gold medals, 70 silver medals and 61 bronze medals. There were 47 personal bests achieved in Snowshoeing and 45 personal bests in Speed Skating!

As a result of hard work and dedication, Team Ontario is proud to announce the selection of 49 members to Team Canada for the 2013 World Winter Games in PyeongChang, South Korea. We wish all advancing athletes and coaches the best of luck as they continue to train hard in preparation for these games.



PROVINCIAL SPRING GAMES



From May 31-June 3, 2012, Kingston hosted over a 1,000 athletes and coaches for the Provincial Spring Games. Community support for the Games was

outstanding and motivational. Over 500 registered volunteers assisted in all aspects of the event.

Queen's University was the proud home of the Athletes Village. Queen's University, Canadian Forces Base Kingston, Prost Bowling Alley, and Olympia Bowl in Cornwall provided athletes with an opportunity to compete in top-notch facilities. This was the first time two police agencies co-hosted Games and what a fantastic job they did! With the commitment and dedication of the Ontario Provincial Police and the Kingston Police Service, the Games were an enormous success.

Athletes from across Ontario participated in 5-Pin and 10-Pin Bowling, Basketball, Swimming, and Powerlifting. Bocce was showcased for the first time ever at a Provincial Games. Cornwall Police Service



supported the infrastructure needed for 5-Pin Bowling, as well as contributing to a large component of fundraising efforts. Local media partners in particular, K-Rock Radio and The Kingston Whig Standard, emanated enthusiastic support and encouragement. All events were well attended by the local community and sponsors. The 2012 Spring Games will no doubt leave a lasting impression in Kingston and Eastern Ontario. The success of the Games will continue into the future with the addition of an Outreach Coordinator to ensure continuity and growth. Special thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Queen's University, Ontario Power Generation, VIA Rail, and CFB Kingston for their kindness and generosity.



Helping make dreams come true!



For 9 wonderful years, the **Special Supporter Golf Series** has been providing golf tournaments with an exciting "Hole-in-One" program that enhances the enjoyment of all participants who attend charity golf tournaments. The **Special Supporter Golf Series** has provided tournament players with the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes, while providing tournament organizers with prizing support and "value added" benefits that have helped make each tournament more enjoyable and successful. In addition, by making a donation to Special Olympics Ontario, organizers and their guests are invited to a year end "Tournament of Champions" which was held this year at ClubLink's beautiful Wyndance GC in Uxbridge, compliments of **Special Olympics Ontario**.

For more information on this program, please contact:

John Bonis at 416.801.8023

Email: jbonis@globalgolfaccess.com

Visit our website at: www.goforthegreen.ca/soo/index.htm

"Hole-in-One" WINNER!



Gerry Smallegange scored a "Hole-in-One" on July 19th at the Burlington Rotary Club golf tournament at Crosswinds GC, and won a trip for two to Vancouver, compliments of our sponsor VIA Rail Canada

Thank you to the following sponsors of the "Special Supporter Golf Series" for your continued support



We would also like to thank the following organizations that raised significant funds for Special Olympics Ontario this year at their annual golf tournaments. Thank you!



The **pahl** project has experienced significant growth over the past year. With the introduction of new resources and programs, **pahl** continues to improve and enhance the ability of athletes to train and compete, and most importantly, empower them to invest in their overall health and well-being!

To accomplish the program goals, **pahl** is focused on the delivery of fitness and health promotion resources and programs. The following showcases events, and newly introduced resources and programs that were launched over the past year.

October 1st, 2011, saw the introduction of a new fitness resource called the High Performance Training Guide. The training guide was designed to equip athletes and coaches competing at the National Games in St. Albert, Alberta with the necessary tools needed to reach their full athletic potential. This guide consists of 6 different modules:

- a) Goal Setting Guide,
- b) Mental Preparation Guide,
- c) Competition Guide,
- d) Nutrition Guide,
- e) Strength and Conditioning Guide, and
- f) Periodization Guide.

In total, 185 athletes and 57 coaches

received a copy of the guide and used it on a weekly basis in preparation for National Games. Feedback from coaches identified the resource as both positive and beneficial in the athletes' preparation.

On November 23, 2011, **pahl** officially introduced the **Step Into Action** program at Maxwell Heights Secondary School; with 205 students and 95 educators from the Durham District School Board in attendance.

Step Into Action is an interactive web based program designed to increase the physical fitness levels of participants by tracking their physical activity and nutritional diets online at step.specialolympicsontario.com. The 'Step' component of the program includes any type of activity that can be measured by a pedometer, such as: walking, jogging, running, sporting activities, or dancing. **pahl** provides pedometers and resources free of charge to coaches, teachers, or volunteers who register as a Program Leader.

There are 4 **Step Into Action** resources included in the program:

- a) Step Into Action Guide,
- b) Program Leader Guide,
- c) Athlete Guide, and
- d) Nutrition Guide.

These resources are designed to educate athletes/students about goal setting, physical fitness and nutrition. It's ultimate goal: helping them along the path of incorporating

an active and healthy lifestyle into their daily lives. Overall, **Step Into Action** aims to develop the participant's skills in the following areas: goal setting, goal achievement, responsibility, accountability, and computer literacy.

Since **Step Into Action's** inception, the following statistics have been recorded:

- 37 registered programs (schools and community clubs);
- 330 active participants (students and community athletes);
- 25,038,605 steps taken by active participants (number of steps as of July 12, 2012);
- 824 pedometers distributed, and;
- 1,418 **Step Into Action** resources distributed.

Finally, on June 1st and 2nd, in conjunction with the 2012 Provincial Spring Games, **pahl** offered 4 Healthy Athletes disciplines (Fit Feet, MedFest, Opening Eyes, and Special Smiles) at Queen's University Athletic Recreation Centre. Over 2 days, 130 health care specialists from across the province volunteered their time and expertise to better serve Special Olympics athletes. In total, the Healthy Athletes team interacted with 310 athletes and completed 585 screenings. As a result of the screenings, 175 cases were flagged for follow-up care. Based on

feedback and numerous discussions with the coaches and athletes in attendance, the Kingston Healthy Athletes expo was a great success!

The next steps for **pahl** include: (a) the continued expansion and improvement of **Step Into Action**,



- (b) hosting a Healthy Athletes event in the GTA,
- (c) producing fitness and nutrition videos (to be posted online), and
- (d) developing a sustainable funding stream for **pahl** through grants, gifts-in-kind and corporate partnerships/sponsorships.

For more information on **pahl**, visit the program website at pahl.specialolympicsontario.ca. Also be sure to visit **pahl's** Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SOOpahl) for weekly fitness and health related tips and videos.

"Thank you for helping my son achieve his full potential. Thank you for giving Stephen the confidence to succeed. Thank you for the many unforgettable moments and experiences that he can now cherish forever. I am so grateful to all those who have made this possible. "Where would he be without your help? Thank you for changing not only Stephen's life but ours as a family as well."

Elaine Sheritt
Parent

OTTAWA FESTIVAL



2012 marked the 8th year of the Special Olympics Festival Breakfast in Ottawa. The Festival is proud and honoured to be a part of the Special Olympics movement. Over \$150,000 has been raised to directly support athletes in the Ottawa area.

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ATHLETE/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Special Olympics Ontario youth programs continued to prosper this year, seeing youth participation rise to over 18,700 athletes aged 21 years and under. Through school programs, community programs and local partnership programs, youth now constitute almost half of Special Olympics Ontario's total athlete involvement. With greater avenues of recruitment and expanded programming allowing for more effective and successful retention, we look forward to providing continued and enhanced opportunities.

At the community program level, over 3,100 young athletes are participating in programming spanning the province in multiple sports. Community clubs specifically dedicated to youth now include: Softball, Soccer, Athletics, Swimming, Golf, Basketball, 5-Pin Bowling, 10-Pin Bowling, Floor



Hockey and Bocce. We are also seeing successes with Active Start (ages 2-6) and FUNdamentals (ages 7-12) programming. Active Start seeks to provide early instruction in areas of basic motor skills and developmentally appropriate play, providing for an excellent opportunity for improved physical, social and cognitive abilities. Over time, athletes will graduate to

FUNdamentals programs. These programs will offer a more developed introduction to sport-related motor skills, training and competition in a fun and meaningful interactive setting. They will also incorporate elements of nutrition, physical fitness and the integration of the family unit in a healthy athlete's development.

As described by FUNdamentals Head Coach Mary-Ann Kourko in Thunder Bay: *"I have been running the program here at our centre as part of the program day two times per week. I currently have 10 children enrolled in the program and have a recreational therapy student helping me with the activities. The area that they struggle most with is ball skills. We have not been able to advance to catching balls consistently or to dribbling skills. Some of the children have motor planning difficulties, so they require more time to learn and develop new movements such as inchworm wiggle and side-stepping. We continue to build on their successes and try to introduce new movement when possible. The children are enjoying this program and will continue to do activities until the end of June. We will start back up again in September".*

With the increased participation of youth athletes across the province, we have also seen a rise in



competition. This year's National Winter Games saw Ontario send its youngest athlete: 13 year old speedskater Brady Conley (Central Bruce), two-time medal winner.

Special Olympics Ontario's youth participation continues to grow rapidly. This growth raises accessibility to appropriate programming, improved opportunity to train and compete for advancement to major games. This year's successes and achievements are a positive reflection of the hard work and dedication provided by many volunteers, young athletes and families. They help shape a positive outlook for youth in Ontario.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School programs are imperative to the continued success of our organization. Students are introduced to Special Olympics at a young age and reap the benefits associated with sport training and competition opportunities that are provided to numerous school boards across the province. As they near graduation, students transition into community-based programs becoming lifelong members of the Special Olympics' movement.

Special Olympics Ontario has been involved with schools for over a decade. School programs have become more comprehensive as we continue to develop year after year. The year 2011/2012 was no exception! Building on the momentum from the previous year, registration numbers continued to grow across the province.

Our continued success is a testament to school program supporters across Ontario: congratulations on a job well done! Programs were launched and exciting competitions were held from Thunder Bay to Cornwall. Highlights included the introduction of the *4 Corners Basketball Program*, the 10th anniversary of the Waterloo Region Track and Field Meet, school events in conjunction with the Provincial Spring Games in Kingston, along with the continued expansion of programs in Northern Ontario.

Last year saw many well established annual school competitions continue across Ontario, such as the Waterloo Regional Track and Field Meet. This joint effort between the Waterloo Region District School Board and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board celebrated its 10th anniversary in style as sunny skies provided the backdrop for success which was one of the largest and longest running school events in the province. Similar success was also seen in Hamilton as the

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board expanded their successful Track and Field Meet/Have-A-Go to include a second day. Over 700 competitors participated in a variety of events at Saltfleet Secondary School and Mohawk College. A similar event occurred in Ottawa at the Ottawa Catholic School Board Swim Meet. This meet expanded to a second day of competition after 10 years of single-day events. We are thrilled to see some of the biggest and best events extending to a second day to allow for even more fun and competition.

School programs contributed to the excitement that surrounded the Provincial Spring Games in Kingston as two incredible school events were held in conjunction with the Games. In early May, over 200 athletes from 25 schools visited Queen's University Athletics and Recreation Centre for the first ever school Have-A-Go in the area. The event was followed later that month in Cornwall where a very successful extension of the 4 Corners model was held at Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational Institute. This tournament featured 9 teams from 4 schools. A great time was had by all!

School programs saw the continued expansion into Northern Ontario. This included Sudbury where the *4 Corners Basketball Program* was held at Laurentian University, as well as exciting Have-A-Go's in Thunder Bay and Timmins. We look forward to continuing the on-going expansion in the North over the coming years.

A special thank you to all administrators, educators, volunteers and parents who ensure that



student-athletes are provided the opportunity to train and compete in sport through structured programs. It continues to be our goal to have all students in Ontario, with an intellectual disability, involved in school programs.

**SPREAD THE WORD
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"The relationships I've developed with the athletes and coaches over the past 10 years are some of the most special ones I have. It's very rewarding to help the athletes achieve their goals and we have a lot of fun at practice and tournaments. I look forward to the start of a new season just as much as the athletes do."

Michael Douglas, Region 11,
Downtown Muscles, Powerlifting

4 Corners Basketball Program

This past school year, Special Olympics Ontario introduced the *4 Corners Basketball Program*. This program targeted youth aged 13 – 21, and saw qualifying tournaments in Sudbury, Ottawa, London and Oakville. 3 teams from each of these regions advanced to the 4 Corners championship which took place at Wilfred Laurier University in early May. This highly competitive tournament saw 4 teams presented with championship banners from their respective divisions. In conclusion, the program introduced Special Olympics to a total of 400 new student-athletes as well as 80 coaches and 60 volunteers.

Special Olympics Ontario plans to build on the success of the inaugural *4 Corners* program with expansion plans for the 2012/2013 school year. Soccer will be added to the program, joining basketball with an emphasis on physical fitness and teamwork.

The number of qualifying events will also increase: Basketball and Soccer will both have 8 regional brackets. Host cities for these qualifying events will include Timmins, Barrie, Kingston and Grimsby. Advancing teams from both sports can look forward to a 2-day championship event in Toronto at the end of the school year.

The program will provide quality training and competition opportunities for up to 1,600 school-based youth athletes with intellectual disabilities across the province. In addition, through partnerships with host secondary schools and universities, we hope to engage over 300 generic secondary school and university students in a volunteering capacity. We look forward to another year of excitement, fun and competition through the *4 Corners Basketball Program*.

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The Knights of Columbus' exemplary commitment and dedication to Special Olympics is truly valued by thousands of people with intellectual disabilities. Their caring and compassion makes a difference in the lives of many. Sincere thanks, and appreciation for your ongoing support and camaraderie.



THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



The Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics has completed yet another successful year thanks to the tireless support and dedication from Law Enforcement Officers from across the province. As we continue in our historic 25th anniversary of the program, the Law Enforcement Torch Run continues to be the pinnacle fundraiser for Special Olympics Ontario.

As a direct result of the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment of the men and women who volunteer

their time, the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run was presented with the 'Diamond Award of Excellence' at the International Torch Run Conference in the Fall of 2011 in Calgary, Alberta for raising in excess of \$1 million. Additionally, the OLETR was awarded with the "2nd Highest Increase in Gross Revenue in the World."

This past year, Law Enforcement played a significant role in hosting the Provincial Spring Games in Kingston, Ontario. The Games were jointly



hosted for the first time ever, by the Kingston Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police, and were a tremendous success. In all, over 900 athletes and coaches from across Ontario travelled to Kingston to compete in 6 official spring sports: 5-Pin Bowling, 10-Pin Bowling, Basketball, Bocce, Powerlifting,

and Swimming. Over 175 Torch Runners helped run the "Flame of Hope" into the Opening Ceremonies.

Each year, the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run recognizes Officers who have made significant contributions to the movement. This year, the following awards were presented at the OACP Conference

THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



in London, Ontario on June 17, 2012: Award of Honour, Distinguished Service Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. We are pleased to congratulate the following recipients (see picture below).

The Torch Run is looking

forward to the National Be a fan Day which will take place on October 25, 2012 from coast to coast to celebrate the 25-year relationship between the LETR and Special Olympics. 140 communities across Canada will participate by wearing red "Be a fan" shoe laces

and will conduct community and media events in celebration of this great partnership.

The support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run has been invaluable to Special Olympics Ontario over the past 25 years.

We say thank you to the men and women of Law Enforcement who selflessly contribute so much, not only to the Special Olympics movement, but to their communities every day.



Top left to right: **Paul Klassen** (Smiths Falls Police), **Derek Spence** (London Police), **Joanne Pendrak** (Torch Run Director), **Dean Grbich** (Aylmer Police)
Missing from picture: **Ian Maxwell** (Peterborough Police), **Shelley Garr** (OPP), **Kendra Carter** (SO Athlete), **Lorne White** (Toronto Police – retired), **Don Hillock** (York Regional Police – retired), **Chris Hartley** (Owen Sound Police)



THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



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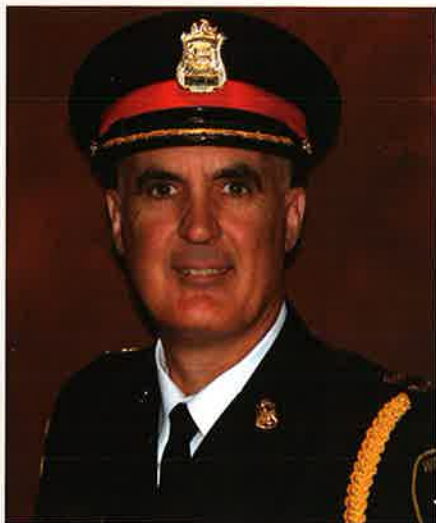
The Playoff Hockey Pool began in 1988 by a group of friends, combining their love of sports with a commitment to give back to their community. Their generous contributions have played a significant role in Special Olympics Ontario's growth.

Since the inaugural draft, the circle of friends and sponsors have grown, allowing the "Wizards" to continue the annual tradition.

In 2003, the Wizard Foundation expanded their events and has since assisted NFL Canada with their annual Fantasy Football Draft, helping to raise funds for Special Olympics Canada Foundation. The Wizard Foundation has raised over \$1.1 million for Special Olympics Ontario.



THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



**Message from the Chair OACP
Torch Run Executive Committee
Acting Chief Al Frederick
Windsor Police Service**

"It is with great pride that I report on another year of tremendous achievement for the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run. LETR represents an enduring partnership between Law Enforcement agencies and Special Olympics, currently in its 25th year.

Dedicated men and women across Ontario collaborate daily in the pursuit of safer communities and through LETR, raise funds and awareness for over 18,000 Special Olympics athletes. This continuous commitment is instrumental in providing

sustained sport programs and competitions across the province. The impact LETR has for Special Olympics, transcends the significance of fundraising and serves to galvanize whole communities in support of courageous Special Olympics athletes. From the leadership of Law Enforcement personnel and the annual Torch Run, community volunteers are inspired to coach, donate and participate in Special Olympics programs. This influence is critical for the ongoing success and development of the athletes as they seek to grow and enrich their lives.

The OACP Torch Run Executive Committee is dedicated to working with all partners in the pursuit of a strong LETR for Special Olympics. Continued success will

build from the foundation of the hard work and experience of over 25 years of dedicated service of Law Enforcement personnel. This legacy, coupled with a collaborative approach of sharing ideas and continuous planning, will ensure the sustained growth of the LETR in Ontario. The OACP recognizes and commends all Law Enforcement personnel who selflessly give their time and energy as participants and champions of the Torch Run Programs in communities they serve. On behalf of the OACP Torch Run Executive Committee, I sincerely thank all of the men and women in Law Enforcement who volunteer in so many capacities for Special Olympics.



motionball

motionball is a registered not-for-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation. The mandate is to introduce the next generation of donors, volunteers, sponsors and supporters to the Special Olympics movement through integrated social and sporting events. motionball is currently running 12 annual events in 7 cities across Canada (Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Calgary, Ottawa, Montreal, and Kelowna). Since inception in 2002, motionball has donated over \$3,000,000 to the Special Olympics Canada Foundation.

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The Ontario Trillium Foundation is proud to support Special Olympics Ontario.

Our grants fund initiatives that encourage people of all ages and abilities to lead healthier and more physically active lives.

We provide funding to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, environment, human and social services and sports and recreation sectors.

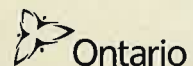
Bâtir des communautés saines et dynamiques

La Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario est fière d'appuyer les Olympiques spéciaux Ontario.

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La Fondation accorde des subventions aux organismes de bienfaisance et sans lucratif dans les secteurs des arts et de la culture, de l'environnement, des services sociaux et des sports et loisirs.

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Ontario

COMMUNITY

Special Olympics Ontario's programming continues to grow in communities across the province. With the support of 8,500 volunteers across 1,800 clubs, Special Olympics Ontario provides sport training and competition opportunities to over 18,000 athletes.

Both new and long-time athletes alike continue to benefit from the leadership and dedication volunteers devote to Special Olympics programming. Athletes have the opportunity to remain active and train in all seasons, including a wide range of competitions. Whether they participate in local, regional, invitational, or school competitions or in Hometown Games,

Provincial Qualifiers, or Provincial Games, athletes continue to exemplify excellence. They proudly represent themselves, their families, their coaches, their communities and Special Olympics Ontario.

Success stories that illustrate the organization's programmatic excellence are found in communities across the Province. Club development is vital and serves as the vehicle in which Special Olympics Ontario provides accessible opportunities to new and long-time athletes. Special Olympics Ontario Newmarket & District has only one Special Olympics Softball club in its community – the Newmarket Challengers. This year, with a



VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Simply put, without the dedication of over 8,500 volunteers across the province, Special Olympics Ontario would not exist. You name it, volunteers do it and do it well each and every day!

Volunteers transform the lives of athletes in their communities when they coach, arrange facilities, referee a tournament, organize fundraisers, act as scorekeepers, or facilitate parents seeking information on how to get their child involved in Special Olympics.

The strength behind every Special Olympics sports club, community, and event is made up of volunteers who make it all possible. Special Olympics Ontario has over 18,000 athletes in over 1,800 sports clubs across the province.

Volunteers generously devote their time, talent, and expertise to help every athlete aspire to be the best they can be. Sometimes this means leaving work to drive directly to the soccer field while eating dinner on the way. It could mean spending a Sunday morning preparing monthly meeting minutes, or giving up an evening to complete entry forms.

Over 500 volunteers ensured that the 2012 Provincial Spring Games in Kingston were a huge success. Volunteers arrived to serve breakfast at 5:30 a.m. As a testament to their dedication, York Region volunteers are already preparing for 2013 Provincial Summer Games.

Ontario has experienced an explosion of athlete growth over the last several years. With the endless help of community volunteers and coaches, Special Olympics Ontario communities were able to accommodate this growth.

Volunteers are proud ambassadors of the movement. By simply spreading the word every day in their home communities, they make a difference.

The skill, experience and knowledge that volunteers possess has allowed Ontario to establish itself not only as a leader in this country but around the world.

Volunteers are driven by the athletes' smiles, personal best achievements, skills development and the social fabric that constitutes the Special Olympics movement.

sudden upsurge in softball interest, Newmarket & District was able to form two new teams this summer: the Georgina Giants and the East Gwillimbury Coyotes. New volunteers for these teams range from partner agency staff to parents who have generously taken on leadership and coaching roles to ensure that new athletes have the opportunity to train and compete in sport. Let's play ball!

On August 8, 2012, the City of Timmins celebrated its Centennial by unveiling a mural of the city's 100 most influential citizens. Included in the mural are publishing magnate Roy Thompson, country recording artist Shania Twain, professional hockey players Frank Mahovlich and Bill Barilko, and Special Olympics Ontario athlete Nicole Ferguson who has proudly represented her community for over 15 years.

Her sporting accomplishments include 2 trips to Special Olympics World Games in Powerlifting, where she won 8 medals (4 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze). Nicole explains her success in powerlifting: "I like it because it is my favourite sport and I can help the other athletes. I can't compete anymore because of my heart condition but I still like to go coach and help out and be social."

Timmins Community Council member Cathy Davis had this to say about Nicole's accomplishments:

"Nicole's face is on this prestigious mural because she exemplifies the true essence of sport – determination and dedication - both to her sport programs and to Special Olympics. I'm proud of my friend and athlete. She exemplifies the spirit and heart it takes to be a true champion. For the past 35 years, Special Olympics Ontario – Timmins has had the fortune of strong working committees to be able to offer successful sports programs that are essential to help develop athletes like Nicole Ferguson."

"No doubt Nicole will continue to make us proud as both an exceptional athlete and an incredible representative for Special Olympics Ontario. We wish her luck in her upcoming competitions and congratulate her on this prestigious achievement."



*Special Olympics athlete Nicole Ferguson from Timmins with Paulette Brzozowski, mural artist.
(Picture courtesy of Timmins Press)*

"It is so hard to put into words – the look on the athletes' faces is worth the entire word to me. Many of my friends who had volunteered became coaches and we all felt the same way. There were many days when we dreaded going to class, but we always looked forward to Tuesday evenings with the athletes. The hugs from the Special Olympics athletes ... I can only explain as unconditional love".

Aly Champsi
Coach & Brother of
Special Olympics Athlete



BIG TICKET

In association with



The Ontario Hockey League is proud to support Special Olympics through the OHL BIG TICKET event. During the season, OHL teams host a Special Olympics night, along with the dedicated men and women of the Law Enforcement Torch Run program.

The OHL is proud of its involvement with Special Olympics - an organization that strives to make a difference in the lives of many. Thanks to everyone who supported the program. See you next season!



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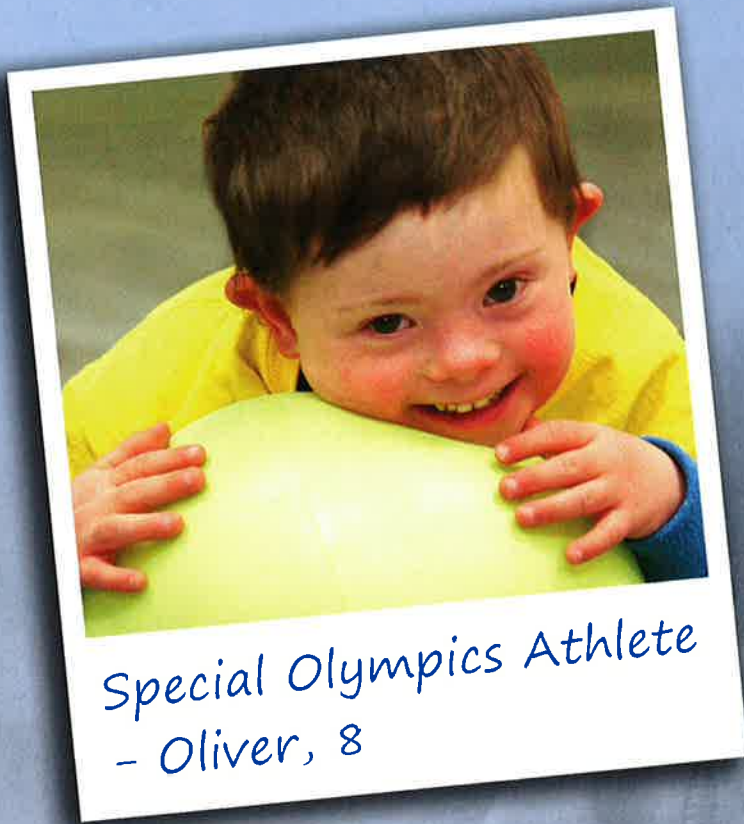




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