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2011 Annual Report

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ADDRESS FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD

DISCOURS DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL



Special Olympics
Ontario

As the Chair of the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Ontario, I am very pleased to present an overview of 2011's activities and accomplishments. Each year goes by with the organization continuing to demonstrate values of excellence, inspiration, collaboration and integrity.

This past year proved the commitment and enthusiasm that Special Olympics Ontario has for improving the organization in all areas. Thanks to the energy and commitment of donors, but more importantly the dedicated volunteers, we believe that we can continue to meet the needs of this organization and ensure that more individuals are engaged and have access to programs throughout the province for generations to come.

As you read through this report, you will meet athletes, volunteers, families and educators who all agree that Special Olympics Ontario makes a difference in their lives. It demonstrates significant change is being made in communities across the province and how Special Olympics Ontario is looking to the future to reach new achievements for individuals with an intellectual disability.

Special Olympics Ontario is appreciative of the confidence and support expressed through generous donations and for the funding we receive from granting agencies and the Government. Special Olympics is not a government agency or a member of the United Way. By way of generous and supportive donors like you, programs and competitions are increasing in numbers every year.

We encourage you to continue your support by attending local competitions and events, without your help, none of this would be possible.

Matthew Cockburn
Chair, Board of Directors
Special Olympics Ontario Inc.

À titre de président du conseil d'administration des Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario, je suis très heureux de vous présenter un aperçu des activités et des réalisations survenues au cours de l'année 2011. Chaque année, l'organisation continue à démontrer les valeurs d'excellence, d'inspiration, de collaboration et d'intégrité.

Cette dernière année a prouvé l'engagement et l'enthousiasme que les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario ont mis pour améliorer l'organisation dans tous les domaines. Grâce à l'énergie et à l'engagement de nos donateurs, mais par-dessus tout, de nos bénévoles dévoués, nous croyons que nous pouvons continuer à répondre aux besoins de cette organisation en plus de nous assurer que le plus grand nombre possible de gens sont impliqués et ont accès aux programmes dans toute la province pour plusieurs générations à venir.

À la lecture de ce rapport, vous pourrez rencontrer les athlètes, les bénévoles, les familles et les éducateurs qui sont tous d'accord pour dire que les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario ont fait une différence dans leur vie. Cela démontre quel est le changement significatif réalisé dans les communautés dans toute la province et la façon dont les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario sont tournés vers l'avenir afin d'atteindre de nouveaux exploits pour les personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle.

Les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario sont reconnaissants de la confiance et du soutien exprimé par les généreux dons et pour le financement que nous recevons des agences qui offrent des subventions et du gouvernement. Les Jeux olympiques spéciaux ne sont pas un organisme gouvernemental ou un membre de la Centraide. À titre de généreux donateurs et de soutien comme vous, des programmes et des compétitions augmentent dans ses nombres tous les ans.

Nous vous encourageons à continuer votre appui en participant aux compétitions et aux événements locaux, car sans votre aide, rien de tout cela ne serait possible.



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



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

Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) embraces the universal value of enriching the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability through their involvement in sports. The organization continues to grow (athletes and sports clubs) that maintain the passion which thrives on the competitive spirit. This year SOO has over 18,000 registered athletes and over 8,500 volunteers.

There were a number of significant milestones this past year including the largest Provincial Winter Games held in Thunder Bay, the launch of the Special Olympics information portal, the development of Active Start and Fundamentals Program and increased competitive opportunities.

As human beings, the opportunity to be part of something lasting and significant often passes us by due to our fast paced and often hectic schedules. As stakeholders, you seize the opportunity to be part of something important. We all have thrown a rock into a still pond and watched its effect. It forms a circle and this circle creates another.

This is the amazing thing about Special Olympics Ontario. It helps an athlete grow more self-reliant and teaches them the importance of sportsmanship.

With passionate and dedicated staff, coupled with great community support through volunteers, families and donors, Special Olympics Ontario is building on the inspiration of the athletes we serve.

Thank you for being part of something lasting and significant. Your belief and action makes everything imaginable!



Glenn MacDonell
President & CEO
Special Olympics Ontario Inc.

Les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario englobent la valeur universelle d'enrichir la vie des personnes ayant une déficience intellectuelle à travers leur implication dans le sport. L'organisation ne cesse de croître avec les athlètes et les associations sportives qui entretiennent la passion qui se nourrit de l'esprit de compétition. Cette année, SOO a eu plus de 18 000 athlètes inscrits et plus de 8500 bénévoles.

Il y a eu un certain nombre d'étapes importantes cette dernière année dont les plus grands Jeux provinciaux d'hiver tenus à Thunder Bay, le lancement du portail d'informations des Jeux olympiques spéciaux, le développement du programme Enfant Actif et S'amuser et les possibilités de concurrence accrues.

En tant qu'êtres humains, la possibilité de faire partie de quelque chose de durable et significatif pour nous s'écoule souvent en raison de notre horaire trépidant et souvent mouvementé. Comme les intervenants, il faut saisir l'opportunité de faire partie de quelque chose

d'important. Nous avons tous jeté une pierre dans un étang immobile et regardé son effet. Elle forme un cercle et ce cercle en crée un autre. C'est la chose étonnante au sujet des Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario. Ils aident un athlète à développer une plus grande autonomie et lui apprend l'importance de la sportivité.

Avec un personnel passionné et dévoué, associé avec une grande communauté grâce aux bénévoles, aux familles, aux donateurs, les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de l'Ontario mise sur l'inspiration des athlètes que nous servons.

Merci de faire partie de quelque chose de durable et significatif. Votre croyance et votre action rend les choses imaginables.



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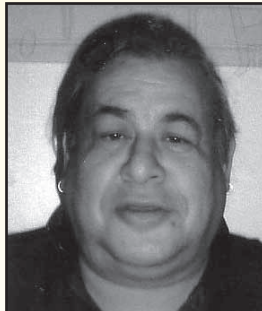


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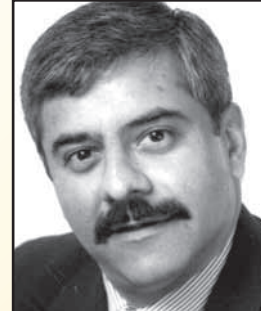
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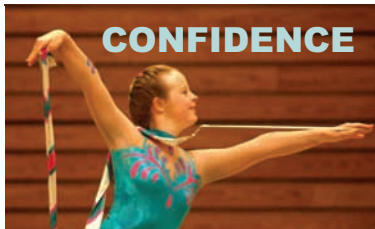


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ATHLETE/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



During the past year we saw the introduction of youth focused programs. Programs that began well continue to grow. With partnerships beginning across the province and the initial and very successful Active Start Program in Grimsby, show indication of tremendous future growth along with an ability to meet the needs of parents of future Special Olympics athletes.

Active Start is a 12 week program for children 2-6 years of age. The Active Start Program supports the rationale that if children with intellectual disabilities are provided with early instruction in the areas of basic motor skills and developmentally appropriate play, there is an excellent opportunity for improved physical, social and cognitive abilities. By participating in weekly activities that focus on the basic motor skills of manipulation, transport and balance, children will gain perspective on their development skills.

The FUNdamentals program is a follow up to the Active Start Program and strives to provide young athletes (7 to 12 years of age) with a more in-depth introduction to sport-related motor skills, training and competition while maintaining an atmosphere of fun and meaningful interaction. An additional role is the provision of continued education in nutrition, physical fitness and the importance of the

support of the family unit in developing a healthy athlete. The FUNdamentals program also introduces young athletes and caregivers to sporting opportunities and resources provided through Special Olympics.

Along with the above two programs, a variety of partnerships with health services agencies such as Blue Balloon and Erinoak Kids, are being offered via community parks and recreation departments and as community Special Olympics programs. A Youth Programs Developer is also working to support “ready to compete” young athletes with the development of sport specific youth programs like basketball, golf and soccer. There has been great success within the

mainstream youth soccer clubs to host Special Olympics programs and we anticipate continued growth around the province.



ATHLETE/COACH RECOGNITION

President's Award – Rob Goodfellow, Hamilton



Currently serving as the Community Coordinator for Special Olympics Hamilton, Rob has been with Special Olympics Ontario for the past 21 years. He has done everything from being a local coach in soccer and swimming, to attending all levels of

major Games, including the 2003 World Summer Games in Ireland. For 8 years Rob served as Ontario's Sport Technical Advisory Team Member for soccer bringing not only awareness to the sport, but assisting with the growth of community tournaments and proper rule implementation. He was instrumental in the inclusion of lower ability teams into tournaments.

Rob started with Special Olympics in Hamilton the way many volunteers do. He signed his son up to play soccer and when they were short of coaches, Rob offered to help out. Throughout the years Rob has worked tirelessly and given up much of his personal time to ensure that programs in Hamilton continue to grow and prosper. Each year he organizes Hamilton's Annual Soccer Tournament with up to 30 teams from around the province in attendance. Rob has created great partnerships with the City of Hamilton to ensure that all Special Olympics programs are given top priority when it comes to space allocation.

Rob puts all athletes first. He has rearranged his

schedule to accommodate other sports programs in need. His extra efforts have ensured sports programs without coaches function efficiently until coaches are in place. Rob Goodfellow truly demonstrates his passion, dedication and love of Special Olympics.

Congratulations Rob on being awarded the 2011 President's Award!

Volunteer of the Year – Claudia Diebel, Toronto

With over 15 years of experience with Special Olympics in two different sports, many would think that Claudia is a coach who has been to many competitions and major Games, but that is not the volunteering Claudia takes part in. Claudia Diebel has a unique style of volunteering that every athlete can rely on. She has taken on the challenge of working with athletes to ensure they get to practices on time, have a good meal and an overall readiness for training and competition. Once practice is over, Claudia starts her role all over again as she ensures that athletes arrive home safely. Claudia has taken it upon herself to be the team "mom" of transportation. She knows the TTC schedule inside and out and works each week with athletes from swimming and floor hockey teams to meet them at stops, gather them from families and make calls to parents to ensure that athletes travel safely and arrive on time. As an Educational Assistant with the Toronto District School Board, Claudia is very aware of the challenges that some athletes



face when it comes to getting around in large communities. Claudia is admired by all members of the Toronto Metro Leafs Floor Hockey and the Barracudas Swim Team for her dedication to athletes and their well-being, to ensure that everyone is able to participate in Special Olympics.

Congratulations Claudia on being awarded the 2011 Volunteer of the Year!

Female Coach of the Year – Sue-Ann Laxton, Hamilton

A member of Team Canada for the 2011 World Summer Games, Sue-Ann Laxton is the rhythmic gymnastics coach that every young girl wants to train with.

Sue-Ann is a caring, patient and kind individual who treats all the girls as though they are her own. Sue-Ann is currently the Head Coach of the Hamilton rhythmic gymnastics program and also assists with softball, basketball and a variety of fundraisers in the community. Being with Special Olympics Ontario for over 10 years, Sue-Ann was part of the regional and provincial teams on multiple occasions. Sue-Ann leads with great enthusiasm and heart and shows athletes what great success they can achieve with a little hard work and dedication.

Sue-Ann is a cheerleader to all Special Olympics athletes and can always be counted on for a shoulder to cry on along with strong words of encouragement. Suffering the tragic loss of her husband in 2009 right before Provincial Summer Games, Sue-Ann was the one that needed the shoulder to cry on, but in true



ATHLETE/COACH RECOGNITION

form, she attended the Games to support the athletes with a big smile on her face.

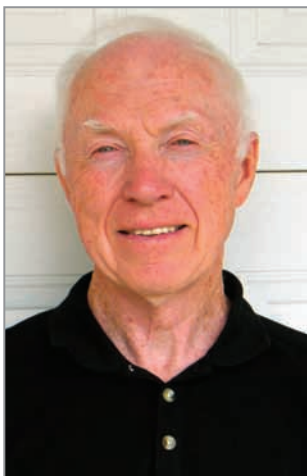
Sue-Ann Laxton is the true representation of a kind, compassionate and all-around wonderful coach who assists athletes to reach their maximum potential.

Congratulations Sue-Anne on being awarded the 2011 Female Coach of the Year!

Male Coach of the Year – Del Bonham, Port Elgin

After responding to an ad in the local paper looking for volunteers, Del Bonham quickly became the resident expert on floor hockey as he came to Special Olympics in Port Elgin with a background in minor league hockey. Del was quick to bring the team to new heights using his skills as an ice hockey coach to teach local athletes and help develop their floor hockey game. Del famously became the man behind the floor hockey team, taking them to as many competitions as he could, ensuring that all athletes had equal playing time and that all athletes and fellow coaches always had a great time whether it be training or competition.

Del is not just a one sport man, he also jumps in wherever needed, whether it is softball, speed skating, track and field, helping to run regional competitions, or coaching the regional powerlifting team at Provincial Games. Del has also taken the



time to ensure that when he is getting involved in a new sport or adventure, he is fully prepared. Del believes that you should be the best qualified coach that you can be and has become knowledgeable in many sports and is always quick to pass on what he knows so that others can learn.

Del is always open to new ideas and makes a point to include new and young coaches in practice planning, coaching and encourages them to acquire their coaching certification. Del takes his role as a coach and mentor with a light hearted approach.

Del Bonham attended the 2010 National Summer Games and this experience has only made him a more loved and dedicated coach in all sports. If you speak to the athletes that Del coaches you will hear the praises of his time, effort and dedication. He is an overall nice guy and believes in one thing when it comes to sport: “you get out of it, what you put into it”. The athletes of Port Elgin are very happy with what Del “puts into it” for them.

Congratulations Del on being awarded the 2011 Male Coach of the Year!

Female Athlete of the Year – Leslie Woodyatt, Toronto

There is one thing you can say about Leslie Woodyatt; she will never miss a training session and if she does, there has to be a problem. In her twenty years as an athlete, Leslie has missed less than a dozen



practices. She attends each week with a smile on her face and her equipment prepared. Leslie takes her role as a Special Olympics athlete very seriously and encourages all athletes to do the same. Leslie participates in softball, floor hockey, swimming, bowling and skiing. Not only does she play catcher on the softball team, she also acts as the equipment manager, ensuring that everything is where it needs to be for training. Leslie ensures the team has the proper amount of helmets, bats, balls and more for everyone to have a great experience.

Along with Leslie's participation in many sports, she has also been an active Athlete Ambassador on behalf of Special Olympics Ontario. Leslie takes her public speaking roles just as seriously as her sports, ensuring that she is prepared for any engagement she may be asked to attend.

Leslie has been to Provincial and National Games in the past and is determined to qualify for World Games one day. Leslie has set her sights on the next World Summer Games so much that she recently had a total body transformation. Leslie took on a new exercise regimen, she began making healthy meal choices and bought herself new clothes to show off her new look. Leslie has always been a very outgoing young lady who is not afraid to talk to anyone. She is always first to sign up to assist at local fundraising initiatives.

Leslie Woodyatt is an all-around athlete who is not so much worried about the gold or the win, but that she and everyone around her has a great time and that anyone watching them knows that she is proud to be a Special Olympics athlete.

Congratulations Leslie on being awarded the 2011 Female Athlete of the Year!

ATHLETE/COACH RECOGNITION

Male Athlete of the Year – Austin Featherstone, Manitoulin Island



Austin has only been with Special Olympics for a short time and has already reached his dream of attending World Games. Austin was a member of Team Canada 2011 and travelled to Greece. Austin started out bowling with Special Olympics in

Manitoulin Island and was quickly encouraged to try athletics. When Austin learned that he had a chance of making the regional team that would attend the 2009 Provincial Summer Games in Windsor, he took on extra training at home, running regularly and joining a gym.

Because of the limited public transportation in Manitoulin Island, joining a gym was no easy task. For Austin to be in attendance on a regular basis he had to show great dedication; with the kindness of family and friends, Austin was able to stick to his personal goals of multi-day training and cross-training.

Austin holds a job that has his day starting at 5am and regularly returns home at 9pm. Along with his job and sports training, he assists with Manitoulin Island's largest fundraiser, the Bluegrass Concert, that he is also lucky enough to play in.

Austin has a great outlook on life, high moral standards and is polite and respectful to everyone he

meets. Austin is considered a role model amongst his peers and has not only raised the standards of all athletes, but of the coaches as well. Everyone in Manitoulin Island is proud to say they have benefitted from Austin's enthusiasm and perseverance.

Congratulations Austin on being awarded the 2011 Male Athlete of the Year!

Team of the Year – Oakville Sky Walkers

The Oakville SkyWalkers came together six years ago when the existing basketball club was split into two separate clubs. The SkyWalkers coaching staff, under Head Coach Stu Thomas, focussed on training athletes with more experience, to prepare them for a higher level of competition.



Back Row: Matt Bowers (coach), Jeff DeGroot (coach), Greg Thomas (coach), Mike Thomas, Kevin James, Keith Makil, Matthew Duff-Tytler, Michael Fantin, Surjit Bhogal, Gary Fantin (coach), Joe Schamerhorn (trainer), Paul Collins (coach)

Front Row: Stu Thomas (head coach), Marc Campbell, Ivor Brooks, Jamie Campbell, Jonah Denty, Jonathan Kavanagh, Dave Campbell (coach)

Absent: Mina Da Costa (coach)

Three years ago the team travelled to New York to participate in the Genesee Super Regional Basketball Tournament, where they were able to put their hard work and training to the test against New York's top teams. Initially, they did not win. However, they made some great friends, saw and evaluated the skills of others and were able to showcase what they had worked so hard for in training. The team made such a great impression on the organizers that they have been invited back each year and also attend other competitions within the U.S. The Oakville Sky Walkers have become known as "that" team from Canada and they surely do us proud. This year, the SkyWalkers won the gold medal in their division in the annual Genesee Tournament. This season, they were invited to compete in Special Olympics Quebec Basketball Provincials, in which they not only won their division, but were able to make more friends and offer Quebec great competition for the higher level teams.

To pay for their travels, the athletes, coaches and volunteers work as a team to participate in fundraisers including 50/50 draws, making appearances at STAPLES stores and most recently, the volunteers began to work during the bingo sales at a local bingo hall. Not only does the team compete and raise funds together, they work with other communities who host competitions and travel with the coaches to assist where needed. Most recently they have been working on their 3 on 3 game, and will be hosting a tournament in the fall to promote the growth of 3 on 3 basketball. The team welcomes people to attend their training sessions and are eager to showcase their skills.

The eleven young men with an average age of 24, along with their nine coaches (including a trainer) are one of the most well-rounded teams

ATHLETE/COACH RECOGNITION

competing in Ontario. They truly define what a team is as everyone is a dedicated member and treats one another with respect.

Congratulations to the Oakville Sky Walkers Team on being awarded the 2011 Team of the Year Award!

Educator of the Year – Deborah Cox, Ottawa



Deborah Cox has worked in Special Education with the Ottawa Catholic School Board for the past nine years including roles as teacher, resource teacher,

itinerant behaviour teacher and a student services resource teacher. Born and raised in Ottawa, Deborah attended both Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. She has been involved with Special Olympics Ontario School Programs for the past five years through her board's annual Special Olympics swim meet.

The annual Ottawa Catholic School Board Special Olympics swim meet is one of the best school based competitions that takes place in the province each year. For the past three years Deborah has served as co-chair of this great event which celebrated its 10th

year this past May. A total of 225 elementary and high school students from 37 schools took part in the competition at the Nepean Sportsplex. Formerly a one day event, this competition has grown to the point that it will be spread over two days in 2012.

Deborah works closely with Special Olympics all year to ensure that everything is in place for a successful event. Her hard work, along with fantastic support from co-chair Brian Bartlett, helps to make this day special. We would also like to offer a special thanks to the entire organizing committee for producing such a great competition year in and year out: Deborah Langdon, Sherry Bellefeuille, Diane Kroeker, Heather Maitland, Karen Morin, Catherine Gasper, Valerie Delorey, Brandon Shirley, Wanda Symes, Wendy Visser, Tina Shanahan, Farida Ackerland, Carla Gadula, Nancy Good, Jackie Mason, Krista Sarginson, Linda Vasudev, Margarita Zirolto, Nancy Kalil Yvonne Whalen, Tanya Geary and Marc Power.

We thank Deborah for her tremendous support and dedication to Special Olympics Ontario and we congratulate her on the Educator of the Year award and we look forward to her continued involvement with Special Olympics Ontario in the years ahead.

Congratulations Deborah on being awarded the 2011 Educator of the Year !

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2011 Provincial Floor Hockey Championships • Sudbury, ON



The Greater Sudbury Police Service was the proud host of the 2011 Provincial Floor Hockey Championships held June 9-12, 2011. Twenty-four teams from across the province arrived in Sudbury for an eventful weekend of competition.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies took place at Laurentian University. Among the speakers at Opening Ceremonies were Dr. Frank

Hayden, OHL Commissioner and Honorary Games Co-Chair David Branch, Honorary Games Captains Ron Duguay and Andrew Desjardins. The LETR Torch Runners bringing the Flame of Hope to the ceremonies and the lighting of the cauldron generated much excitement. Highlights of the Closing Ceremonies included the Games Reflection by athlete Angela Ackerland and David Branch joking with the athletes that he needed to do a video review of some of the floor hockey action as he was sure there was going to be some late roughing penalties handed out! The Ceremonies ended with the passing of the Games Flag to Chief Tanner, Kingston Police Service, scheduled to host the 2012 Provincial Spring Games.

The athletes also participated in the Healthy Athletes Expo and given the opportunity for screenings in Opening Eyes, Fit Feet, Med Fest as well as the *pahl* program.

The Knights of Columbus hosted the Hockey Shootout at the main entrance of Cambrian College where athletes had the opportunity to test their shooting skills to win prizes. Congratulations to Jenny Pringle of the Windsor Warbirds for achieving the highest score of the weekend.

Families were treated to a health forum where presenters provided information on youth program opportunities, post-secondary opportunities, receiving the best medical care and "The Power of the Family". After the forum, families attended a reception and dinner where they were addressed by Dr. Frank Hayden and SOO athlete Francine Houle.

The Floor Hockey Competition took place over two days in two venues: Cambrian College and LaSalle Secondary School.

Congratulations to the following teams:

Canucks Division:

Gold: Muskoka Rattlers;
Silver: Manitoulin Wild Bills;
Bronze: London Stingers

Mighty Ducks Division:

Gold: Brockville Islanders;
Silver: Sudbury Tornadoes;
Bronze: Arnprior Axemen

Flyers Division:

Gold: Newmarket Ringers;
Silver: Renfrew Millionaires;
Bronze: Milton Mighty Ducks

Senators Division:

Gold: York South Hawks;
Silver: Guelph Jr. Buns Master Rollers;
Bronze: Windsor Warbirds

Bruins Division:

Gold: Peterborough Wolves;
Silver: London Blazers;
Bronze: Midland Hawks

Maple Leafs Division:

Gold: Guelph Buns Master Rollers;
Silver: Kingston Kanucks;
Bronze: Toronto Metro Leafs



Congratulations to all the athletes who competed in the Championships. Thank you to all the coaches for giving their time and energy. Good luck and congratulations to the Guelph Buns Master Rollers, Newmarket Ringers and Brockville Islanders who have advanced to the 2012 National Winter Games in St. Albert, Alberta.

Thank you to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make these Games a truly enjoyable and memorable experience. Thank you to the Greater Sudbury Police Service for hosting this event and for their insistence on high quality competition that will be remembered for many years.



The Knights of Columbus' commitment to Special Olympics and to hundreds of grassroots programs for people with intellectual disabilities is an expression of its belief in the intrinsic worth of every human being.



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IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



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pahl



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Over the past year, the *pahl* Program experienced continued success in developing the four pillars of the program: Health Promotion, Healthy Athletes, School and Youth and Community Outreach.

The newest resource in the *pahl* toolbox is the Health Promotion, 'Preparing to Compete Workbook.' It provides a seven day program for athletes to follow while preparing for upcoming competitions. It includes: checklists, nutritional tips, inspiring quotes and goal setting tips to help athletes focus on being positive and confident in their abilities. Additionally, SOO has recently unveiled the *pahl* website (pahl.specialolympicsontario.com) in order to increase accessibility and awareness of new and exciting resources. While surfing the website, one can find useful tips and resources about nutrition, fitness and wellness!

Another resource in the development stages is the StayFit Walking Program. With funding from Special Olympics International, *pahl* was granted the necessary resources to execute a pilot Walking Program.

To assist in the creation and execution of the pilot, a collaborative partnership was established with the Durham College Fitness and Health Promotion Program. October to December 2010, four Fitness and Health Promotion students developed two five-week sessions for seven High Schools from the Durham District School Board. From January to April 2011, the four



Durham College students (Walk Leaders) visited assigned high schools weekly to conduct a series of interactive lessons educating the participants on proper walking techniques, walking benefits, the importance of hydration and nutrition, impact of personal hygiene and ways to improve their strength and flexibility.

Based on the results and feedback from the pilot, *pahl* is working on

developing the StayFit Walking Program that can be easily implemented in communities as well as secondary schools across the province. Excitingly, the Durham District School Board saw the benefit in the pilot program and now wishes to implement the Walking Program in all 20 high schools!

In 2011, underneath the *pahl* umbrella, five Healthy Athletes

disciplines (Fit Feet, FUNfitness, MedFest, Opening Eyes and Special Smiles) were offered in Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Toronto between the months of January to

July. In total, SOO successfully screened 300 athletes and completed 649 screenings over the last year. Most notably, the Healthy Athletes discipline 'MedFest' was offered in Canada for the first time ever in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, respectively. Additional screening will be hosted over the next year at Provincial and National Games.

Finally, with regard to community outreach, *pahl* has successfully developed partnerships with the (aforementioned) Durham College Fitness and Health

Promotion program, University of Ontario Institute of Technology Kinesiology Department, Durham District School Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, and the Burlington Hometown Games. In addition to these organizations, *pahl* has made inroads in the communities of Durham West, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, and London with the intent of extending the program's reach to communities across the province.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School programs enjoyed another great year in 2011 as it continued to build on past successes. Programs are growing and expanding all across the province, as student-athletes came out in large numbers including an incredible one day total of 550 participants at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Track and Field event in the spring.

The School Program Department is excited to have reached hundreds of new students around the province as part of our quest to provide all individuals with an intellectual disability the opportunity to train and compete as Special Olympics athletes. An example of this excitement was on display in Thunder Bay this past spring as the first ever school “Have-a-Go” took place over two days in May. Students from a variety of schools “had-a-go” at soccer, basketball, bowling and floor hockey, before celebrating their



accomplishments with a catered lunch and presented with awards. As we build on the legacy of the 2011 Provincial Winter Games, we look forward to more great events like these as we continue to develop new programs in Northern Ontario.

An objective of Special Olympics Ontario School Programs is to engage individuals with an intellectual



disability at a younger age. We have begun to make strides towards this goal as the median age of athletes has dropped significantly in the past few years. This is due to the significant progress of the Active Start and FUNdamentals programs in schools around the province. We are proud of this accomplishment and look forward to introducing programs to students at a young age, allowing them to enjoy the benefits of a life in sport.

More than fifty school competitions took place around the province this past school year. In the spring, we celebrated milestones at two cornerstone events. The Wellington Catholic District School Board/Upper Grand District School Board Special Olympics Track and Field Meet celebrated their 10th year in style: a pep-rally at the Sleeman Centre followed by a parade through the streets of downtown Guelph in the week leading up to the competition. In Ottawa, the Ottawa Catholic District School Board Special Olympics Swim Meet also celebrated its 10th year as a record number of participants took part in an exciting and competitive day. Plans are in place to introduce many more new events in the coming school year as we strive to provide additional competitive opportunities for student-athletes.

As always, Special Olympics continues to provide exciting opportunities for a few of our member school programs. This included three grade school programs in Toronto who attended a Blue Jays/Yankees game at the Rogers Centre in July. Students received the added benefit of making their way down to the field during the “7th inning stretch”. This past November a few lucky Special Olympics school athletes were welcomed into the private box of Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager Brian Burke as the Leafs took on the Vancouver Canucks. These events provided a wonderful and exciting experience for everyone involved.



Special Olympics Ontario would like to take this time to thank all administrators, educators, volunteers and parents who work so hard to ensure student-athletes have ample opportunities to train and compete in sport. It is our goal to have all students in Ontario with an intellectual disability registered with Special Olympics and offer them a rewarding experience with the organization.

We look forward to working diligently towards this goal as we build on our past successes.



JOY/FUN



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Special Recognition



Special Olympics Ontario is a member of Imagine Canada's Ethical Code Program. The Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code lays out a set of standards for charitable organizations to manage and report their financial affairs responsibly.

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At Provincial/Territorial Events



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Special Olympics
Ontario

THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



The Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics has completed another successful year thanks to the endless support and dedication of Law Enforcement Officers from across the province. As it approaches the 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 2010 for raising in excess of \$1 million.

This past year, Law Enforcement played a significant role in hosting two Special Olympics Games-Thunder Bay and Sudbury respectively. The Provincial Winter Games were hosted by the Thunder Bay Police Service with officers volunteering in a variety of capacities on the Games Organizing Committee. The Games consisted of over 400 athletes, coaches and volunteers from



THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



across the province as well as approximately 100 Torch Run participants who braved the frigid weather and helped kick off a very successful Games. In the spring, Greater Sudbury Police Service proudly hosted the Provincial Floor Hockey Championships and did a tremendous job. Over 100 Torch Run participants ran 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, awards were presented at the OACP Conference in Huntsville, Ontario on June 26, 2011 for the: Award of Honour, Distinguished Service Award and the Torch Award. We are pleased to congratulate the following recipients below.

The Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run continues to grow every year and with the 25th anniversary milestone close by, a plan to honour the past and evolve into the future with an array of anniversary initiatives and celebrations. Additionally, the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference will be held in Calgary, Alberta from November 3-5, 2011. It will mark the first time ever that the Conference be held on Canadian soil.



Top left to right: **Glenn MacDonell** – SOO, **Carole French** – Provincial Corrections, **Russ Nesbitt** – OPP, **Dan Michaud** – OPP, **Mike Currie** – Chatham-Kent PS, **Peter McHarg** – OPP, **Peter Bakker** – Chatham-Kent PS, **David Michaud** – Cornwall PS

Bottom left to right: **Chris Hartley** – Director LETR, **Ryan Jewitt** – SOO athlete, **Lucille Kroeze** – CBSA, **Commissioner Chris Lewis** - OPP

THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



Special Olympics
Ontario

The support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is invaluable to Special Olympics Ontario and as this partnership grows towards its 25th anniversary, 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.

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SPECIAL Recognition



**The Wizard
Foundation**
www.wizardfoundation.com



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 and ability to reach out and impact the lives of thousands of individuals with an intellectual disability.

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.



Special Olympics
Ontario



Special Olympics
Olympiques spéciaux
Canada
Foundation

THE ONTARIO LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



**Message from the Chair
OACP Torch Run Committee
Deputy 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. OLETR represents an enduring partnership between Law Enforcement agencies and Special Olympics Ontario, now entering its 25th year.

Dedicated men and women across Ontario collaborate daily in the pursuit of safer communities and through OLETR

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 of annual and local LETR events for Special Olympics transcends the significance of fundraising alone and serves to galvanize whole communities in support of 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 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 Program for Special Olympics Ontario. Continued success will build from the foundation of the hard work and experience of over 24 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 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 in the communities they serve. On behalf of the OACP Torch Run Executive Committee I sincerely thank all men and women in Law Enforcement who volunteer in so many capacities on behalf of Torch Run for Special Olympics.



motionball™

TENTH ANNIVERSARY



motionball is a registered not-for-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for 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. Since its inception in 2002, 44 events have taken place in 6 major Canadian cities (Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Calgary, Ottawa and Montreal). To date, *motionball* has donated over \$2,200,000 to Special Olympics Canada Foundation.



Proud to Support



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www.motionball.com



Building healthy and vibrant communities

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.

Nos subventions financent des initiatives qui encouragent les gens de tous âges et habiletés à adopter un mode de vie actif et sain.

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

2⁰¹¹ was another incredible year for Special Olympics Ontario in sport development. The commitment is to develop athletic programs by providing enhanced training, coach education and competitive opportunities.

Highlights from this year include the progression of youth programs, the continued growth of bocce and golf programs, sport science/coaching research project and the success of the Sport Summit.

Special Olympics Ontario was delighted to have received funding through the Ministry of Health Promotion enabling SOO to work closely with educational partners in satellite research teams across the province to analyze the relationship between improving athlete's physical literacy and sport skill development in five key areas of fundamental movement skills: run, jump, throw, catch and swim.

Satellite teams were paired with targeted Special Olympics Ontario sport clubs (athletics, basketball, 5-pin bowling and swimming) to determine the effectiveness of the physical preparedness in their respective sport club practice. The physical preparedness primers are activities that prepare athletes physiologically for the development and performance of their respective sport skill. The research included physical testing, coach and athlete interviews, biomechanical analysis and coaching research.

This project has produced and enhanced

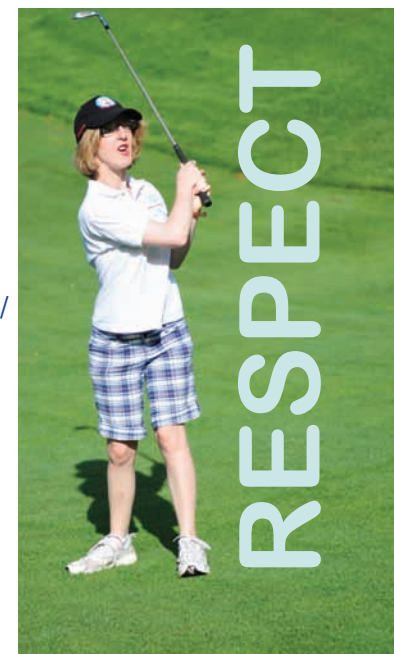
coaching resources such as the pilot coach to coach mentorship program and the development of coaching resources to be delivered through the "Coaches Toolbox" on the information portal. A full overview and review of the project can be found in the Coaches Toolbox: <http://go.specialolympicsontario.ca/coaches-toolbox>

Sport Summit - On May 14, 2011, over 50 Special Olympics volunteers from across Ontario met at Seneca College-King Campus to discuss how to increase the opportunities in the organization for the 46% of athletes who are under the age of 20. Following an overview of Special Olympics Ontario by Glenn MacDonell, several testimonials of youth who have been actively involved throughout Special Olympics programs were presented.

Delegates worked in groups to discuss potential opportunities and pathways to increase youth engagement and their implications. Following an overview of the evolution of Special Olympics' organizational systems and support, delegates prepared presentations and recommendations on a variety of common areas which included: competition development, sport technical support systems, youth engagement and using enhanced technology.

Report Highlights courtesy of Judy Kent – Sport Summit Facilitator.

For the full Sport Summit Report, please visit <http://go.specialolympicsontario.ca/sportsummit>



COMMUNITY



Special Olympics Ontario is part of the world's largest movement dedicated to promoting respect, acceptance, inclusion and human dignity for people with intellectual disabilities through sport and competition. Special Olympics Ontario continues to grow each and every year, currently serving over 18,000 athletes and over 8,500 dedicated volunteers in over 1,700 sport clubs with many more on the way!

Through a wide range of competition including local, regional, invitational, Hometown Games and Provincial Games, we strive to provide equal opportunities for all athletes. Special Olympics Ontario has had a tremendous year, both on the Provincial and

National level as well as on the world stage; sending 32 athletes to World Games in Athens, as part of Team Canada, consisting of 146 athletes from across the country. All athletes upheld the four pillars of Team Canada: Dream, Commit, Achieve and Celebrate. Special Olympics Ontario extends our thanks and congratulations to the athletes and volunteers who represented the province and the country to the highest degree.

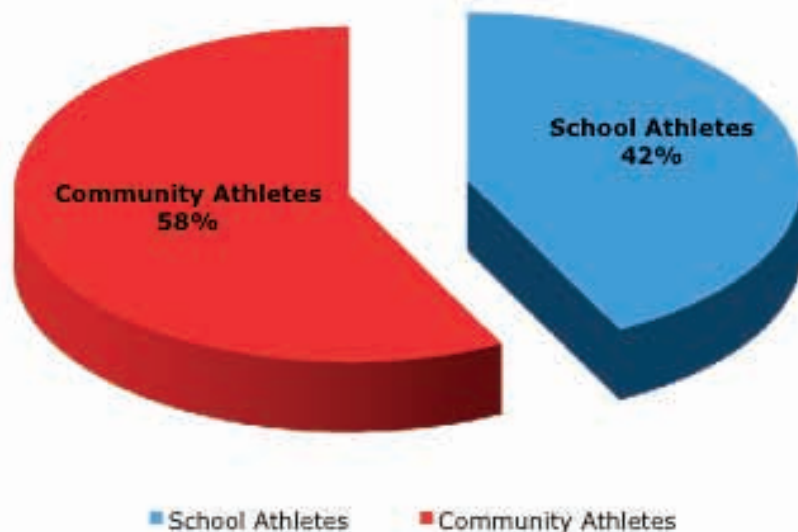
Closer to home, Northern Ontario played host to both Provincial Games this year. On

January 20th, more than 400 athletes and coaches gathered in Thunder Bay, Ontario to compete in the 2011 Provincial Winter Games. Athletes demonstrated what the athletes' oath truly means throughout the Games. We would like to thank the City of Thunder Bay and all of the volunteers and coaches who made these Games possible.

In June, Sudbury played host to the Provincial Floor Hockey Championships. There was an outstanding level of game play and true sportsmanship from all athletes who competed in

Region	New Athletes	Total Athletes	Total Clubs
1	45	1572	124
2	138	3042	328
3	36	871	96
4	30	929	87
5	304	2085	196
6	127	2011	183
7	134	1901	192
8	15	592	65
9	28	997	99
10	6	396	50
11	59	1807	171
12	109	1799	160
Total	1031	18004	1751

Special Olympics Ontario Breakdown



this tournament. We congratulate them on their success and we thank the northern community hosts for their gracious support.

This year, we have welcomed many new faces to teams and programs across Ontario. We welcomed over 700 new athletes and 39 new community clubs to the SOO family! New programs include golf, bocce, track and field and basketball.

Central Ontario has been hard at work creating new partnerships with Ball Hockey International hosting a weekend-long international street ball hockey tournament in Orillia. As well, they have re-invigorated from

almost no volunteers, to a fully functioning community council. We thank Central Ontario for their hard work with these programs.

This year, London named former Chief of Police Murray Faulkner the first ever 'Fan of the Year', a deserving achievement for one of our greatest supporters.

Eastern Ontario had a great year of development and is looking forward to even more excitement with the Provincial Spring Games coming to Kingston in May, 2012. In October, Eastern Ontario held a summit to bring together many volunteers to discuss the current state of the district and its goals for the



EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER DAY was September 24, 2011. An annual celebration of her life and a global call for people to commit actions of inclusion, acceptance and unity for and with people with intellectual disabilities. Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day has been created to inspire new fans to experience her legacy and embrace the movement she founded in her backyard. What started as an inclusive sports camp in the early 1960s has blossomed into a worldwide movement transforming lives in over 170 countries.



future. As a result, we have seen significant growth in many of the communities through new sports clubs and the formation of community councils.

Across the province, Special Olympics Ontario has shown true dedication and compassion in improving health, and athletic ability, of people with intellectual disabilities. There are always challenges and more lives to touch, but sport and competition offer the ability to advance the human spirit and Special Olympics Ontario can be the instrument of change.

Helping make dreams come true!

For the past 8 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 once again 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: jbomis@globalgolfaccess.com

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

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



The Special Supporter Golf Series would also like to acknowledge the following three organizations who this year chose to designate Special Olympics Ontario as their charity of choice at their fundraising events.

Thank you very much for your support this year.



Special Olympics 2011 Provincial Winter Games

“BE INSPIRED” - THUNDER BAY



The great City of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Police Service were the proud hosts of the 2011

Provincial Winter Games January 20th to 24th, 2011. The Provincial Winter Games were the first Provincial Games to ever be hosted in the great North West and what an experience it was for all.

Over 350 athletes participated in curling, Nordic skiing, alpine skiing, speed skating, figure skating and snowshoeing. The first ever Unified Sports Day saw 125 athletes and students with and without intellectual

disabilities come together on the playing field. The frigid temperatures will forever be remembered by many, it will also be remembered for that cold January day as a day where myths were dispelled, barriers were broken down, opportunities were created and attitudes were forever changed.

Winter Games Chairperson Deputy Chief J.P. Lévesque of the Thunder Bay Police Service and Games Manager



Special Olympics 2011 Provincial Winter Games

Constable Julie Tilbury worked closely with the Games Organizing Committee and over 700 community volunteers. The Games showcased the world class sporting venues of Thunder Bay, but more importantly the heart & soul of the city. The tag line for the Games was “Be Inspired”, and for all who had the pleasure and opportunity to participate, it truly was an “inspiring” experience.

The Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay at the Opening Ceremonies. Fort William Historical Park hosted a warm and inviting atmosphere for the families who made the journey to Thunder Bay. It provided an “over the top” venue for the Unified Sports Day, closed the Games with the Athlete Victory Dance and then wowed the crowd one more time with a spectacular fireworks display!

It is fair to say that upon the announcement of the Games being awarded to Thunder Bay, most only thought of the logistical challenges of hosting a Provincial Games in the North West. However, the commitment and dedication of so many, proved that no obstacle was too great for the community of Thunder Bay!





Where and When?
Sudbury - October 28-29, 2011
Ottawa - November 25-26, 2011
London - February 10-11, 2012
Oakville - March 2-3, 2012

What is it?
Four Corners is four, two day 3-on-3 basketball tournaments held across the province (North, South, East, West). The program is aimed at Secondary School students and youth athletes.

For more information please visit...
<http://fourcorners.specialolympicsontario.ca>



OTTAWA FESTIVAL

Now in its 7th year, the Special Olympics Annual Festival Breakfast has quickly become an event that is not-to-be-missed due to the great support of the Ottawa business community. Over the years, this support has resulted in over \$120,000 being raised in support of Ottawa area athletes.

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