

# **ANNUAL REPORT**2017 - 2018

**Special Olympics**Newfoundland
& Labrador





#### **Regional Leadership Council Executive**

Paul Peddle, Chair Shirley Miller, Vice-Chair Marg Byrd, Secretary

#### **Club & Program Coordinators**

St. John's

Maryanne Walsh, Velma Mueller

**Mount Pearl** 

Paul Peddle, Beth Robson

**CBS Brightstars** 

Gail Baker, Shirley Miller

**Tri-Con Gentle Giants** 

Carmel Oliver, Jill Robinson

Placentia Lions

Gord Pike, Joyce Walsh

**Burin Peninsula North Bears** 

Trudy Harris-Power, Lori Hunt,

**Grand Bank-Fortune Seahawks** 

Cecilia Dodge, Barbara Barnes

**Labrador West** 

Junior Humphries, Shelley Blackmore

#### Clarenville All Stars

Donna Walsh, Colleen Abbott, Courtney Prince

**Bonavista North Polar Bears** 

Dave Crocker, Hubert Spurrell,

**Gander Wings** 

Carmel Casey, Marg Byrd, Philly O'Grady

**Exploits Hurricanes** 

Michelle Rye-Gardner, Colleen Ryan

Baie Verte Peninsula Strikers

Brenda Banks, Glenda Goulding, Sheila Clance

**Corner Brook Vikings** 

Wayne Park, Sid Hillier

Bay St. George:

Robyn-Young Bennett, Rosie Ryan

Happy Valley-Goose Bay Howling Huskies

Susan Lamond, Debbie Russell

#### **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers**

We are fortunate enough to have an amazing group of volunteers who work daily with our organization. Two of our volunteers were recognized this year by receiving the Sovereign's Medal for Volun-Congratulations to Mel Earle and Kevin teers. Dunphy on this prestigious award!





#### **Board of Directors**

Mark Dawe, Chair Susan Collins. Vice Chair Kevin Dunphy, Past Chair Lynn Healey, Treasurer Amanda Hancock, Director Carmel Casey, Director Jamie Roche, Director Judy Dobbin, Director



Juleah Patten, Director Ken Marshall, Director Kate O'Neill. Director Paul Peddle, RLC Chair Vacant, Parent Representative Paul Currie, Progress Club Representative Robert Howard, LETR Representative Heather Miller, Athlete Representative

# **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador is proud to be part of a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

2017-2018 was a great year for Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador. The year began with the Provincial Summer Games which saw 334 athletes come together from July 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> to compete in the sports bowling, bocce, swimming, athletics, soccer, powerlifting and rhythmic gymnastics.

The Games had phenomenal community support; more than 228 volunteers facilitated the operations of the games from coaching to scoring and conducting activities for the athletes. The athlete's experience was enhanced by volunteer groups such as the Law Enforcement Torch Run, The Knights of Columbus, the Canadian Progress Club, and St John Ambulance. Each volunteer brought their unique talents that made for a superb athlete centered event.

As a result of their performance of the 2017 Provincial Summer Games, SONL had 14 athletes and coaches attend the Special Olympics Canada Bowling Championships in PEI and 61 athletes and coaches attend Special Olympics Canada National Games in Nova Scotia. The Bowling Team had a strong showing winning 6 medals. The Team that went to Nova Scotia came home with 61 medals, 18 Gold; 26 Silver; and 17 Bronze.

Mark Peddle and Heather Miller had been recognised nationally for their athlete leadership. Mark has been featured in the Special Olympics Canada 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awareness Campaign and Heather has been chosen to represent Canada at the Special Olympics International Global Athlete Congress in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Although many these accomplishments are onetime events, they represent much more. They are the result of countless hours of preparation by athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters. Our greatest impact and the successes of what

# **Special Olympics**Newfoundland & Labrador



we do starts at the grassroots with our community clubs.

SONL has trained motivated coaches and volunteers. Along with delivering superior sports training they have had great success instilling confidence and self-esteem in our athletes. Their encouragement has lead to healthier athletes with life-long physical fitness habits.

Research has shown that for every \$1 invested in Special Olympics Community Sport Programs in Canada, a minimum of \$7 of social benefit is created through improved athlete physical and mental health and increased athlete employment. Some of the impact is as follows

- 10% fewer Special Olympics athletes who are obese or overweight, vs average individuals with ID
- Improved lifespan, and significantly improved overall health for Special Olympics athletes
- 16% higher employment rate for Special Olympics athletes vs average individuals with ID

The Board of Directors and the Festival Committee have worked diligently to ensure the financial success of the chapter. Dedicated community partners such as the LETR and Canadian Progress Club have contributed greatly to the financial stability of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador.

The athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador can all take pride in the overall success of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter. As we embark on our 50th year we are working together to enrich the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability through active participation in sport.

# **PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS**

## Male Coach of the Year: 2018—Guy Richard



Guy is valued member of the Mount Pearl club. embodies characteristics that are valued in outstanding an coach - commitment to his athletes and his sport: athletecentred program-

ming and training; and mentoring the next generation of coaches. Guy plans his practices and programs so the coaches know their roles, giving them the responsibility and the chance to take the lead. This in turn, produces young coaches who feel part of the team. He always makes sure to match his coaches with his athletes whose safety, needs and abilities guide his decisions.

Guy never plays favourites. He gives as much thought and time to training beginner athletes as to an elite performer. Some athletes want to expand and test their abilities to train and compete so Guy provides them the opportunity. Some athletes attend for the friendship and camaraderie, so Guy makes the program fun!

## Volunteer of the Year 2018—Joe Philpott



Joe's contributions to Gander Wings are invaluable and without his efforts the club would not be as successful as it is. Joe has a great sense of humour that helps endear him to everyone he meets. His

business sense, however, shines when necessary. Joe has a unique rapport with other community organizations and uses the relationships he has established to bring awareness of Special Olympics to the community at large.

Joe has been instrumental in helping establish other clubs in the region. His term as Chair of the Provincial Regional Leadership Council has contributed greatly to the overall success of the provincial organization.

## Female Coach of the Year: 2018— Rosie Ryan



Rosie has been a member of Bay St. George since the club's inception 10 years ago. Rosie has held various positions over the 10 year span and is currently the Club Coordinator. Rosie was head coach for our Pro-

vincial team and was selected as an Assistant Coach for the National Team travelling to Abu Dhabi for World Games.

Rosie is an accredited coach and also coaches several courses. She takes the time to put off coaching seminars and can be seen at any meet helping athletes from across the province, sharing her knowledge base and encouraging all. Rosie will go the extra mile to make sure that athletes are equipped with proper footwear and clothing, her philosophy is when the athletes look good and feel good, they will perform better.

## Team of the Year 2018—Exploits Hurricanes Curling Team

**Exploits Hurricanes** Curling Team have been playing and competing together for 3 years and all have learned to communicate with each other in a respectful and effective manner. The team has learned not only to win as a team, but to lose as a team. They support and offer each other encouragement on and off the ice. They participate in team huddles and wholeheartedly believe there that there is no "I" in "Team".

In light of their success in performing as team, it has carried over to other aspects of Special Olympics as they have learned to focus on others and be encouraging and empathetic. Always high fives and big smiles!



L-R: Kim McDonald-Wilkes, Kim O'Neill, Gary Wicks, Tony Kyritsis, Margaret MacNeil, Joshua Gardner, Coach Joe Tremblett

# **PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS**

#### **Gina Blundon Award**

To earn the Gina Bludnon Award an athlete must exhibit the qualities of Heart, Commitment, Dedication and Leadership.

2018—Daniel Horne



**Daniel** has shown tremendous improvement in his athletic abilities while at Special Olympics during the past 12 years. Every week he attends his practices determined to do his best. Recently, Daniel's dream came true when he was chosen to compete with Team NL at the National Bowling Championships in Prince Edward Island. Although Daniel did not receive any medals, he was proud to be choses as the flag bearer for Team NL and returned home very proud of all his great work.

Daniel has also proven to have great leadership skills while participating at Special Olympics events. He constantly helps his teammates by helping choose the right equipment to use and encourages everyone to do their best and have fun. Daniel not only shosw what it is to be a

Special Olympics athlete, but also embodies everything the Gina Blundon Award stands for. Way to go Daniel!

# Male Athlete of the Year 2018 - Daniel Moores



Daniel pleasant and courteous young man. He is always polite and friendly with othathletes. coaches and volunteers. He always gives 110% at every Special Olympics practices and competitions. Not only does Daniel give all his durina he's practices. also adaptable to

routine changes that are critical to success as a Powerlifter.

In Powerlifting competitions throughout the 2017-2018 Special Olympics year, Daniel achieved 5 personal bests and he matched another.

Daniel was named to the Provincial Team and competed at the National Games in July 2018. Daniel performed very well at the games, coming home with Gold in Deadlift and Squat, Silver in Bench and Silver Overall! Amazing Daniel!



# Female Athlete of the Year 2018—Samantha Walsh



#### Samantha

wears as smile on a regular basis. She is a friend to all in the club with great respect for her teammates. coaches and volunteers. She praise enjoys and encouragement, but also loves to bestow it on others. often She is heard complimentina

teammates or other competitors.

A year ago, most would not have heard her voice. This winter, after completing the 400 m race, she gave the winner a big hug and said "You beat me" with the biggest smile on her face.

Samantha is very committed to her sports and always attends practice, she had perfect attendance this year. She gives 100% every practice and is always looking to please.

Samantha worked hard preparing for the National team. Her coaches watched her develop amazing skills and determination. Through her hard work she came home from Nova Scotia with a Bronze medal in the Mini Javelin. So proud of you Samantha!

# **2017 PROVINCIAL SUMMER GAMES**

The 2017 Provincial Summer Games were hosted by our three metro area clubs: St. John's, Mount Pearl and the CBS Brightstars from July 13-15, 2017 with over 550 athletes, coaches, volunteers and mission staff from 15 clubs in attendance.

There was spirited competition in Athletics, Bocce, Bowling, Powerlifting, Rhythmic Gymnastics and Swimming.

Opening Ceremonies were held Thursday evening at the Techniplex in Pleasantville and was well attended with special guests, dignitaries, friends, fans and family. The Law Enforcement Torch Run ended its final leg with an athlete from each host club lighting the cauldron. The evening started when the Knights of Columbus, dressed in their 4th degree regalia, marched the 15 club teams into the Techniplex. Clare Follett, a local singer/songwriter performed the National Anthem, 'Fly' by Avril Lavigne and a number of inspirational songs at the end of the evening. Following this performance was Fusion Dance Studio's Youth Performing Group who performed a street jazz routine. All in all, the ceremony was a huge hit with the audience, bringing almost all to their feet to cheer and dance.

The next day we got off to a running start with Athletics competing at the Pearlgate Track & Field, Bocce at the MUN Soccer Field, Bowling at Riverdale Lanes, Golf at Clovelly, Powerlifting at Metabolic Meltdown, Rhythmic Gymnastics at Campia and Swimming at the Summit Centre. We were lucky to get a beautiful weekend weather wise, so no activities were hampered by weather!

Saturday was another beautiful day with fierce competition all day, followed by Closing Ceremonies at the Remax Centre. We witnessed plenty of SO Spirit with encouragement for teammate and opponents alike.







#### 2018 NATIONAL BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2018 National Bowling Championships were held in Charlottetown, PEI from May 14 - 20. We had two teams of bowlers, 10 athletes, Coaches and Missions Staff take part.

Opening ceremonies were at the University of PEI with local singers and dancers, it was an event to remember. It was an event to remember with incredible PEI hospitality. Athletes really enjoyed it and were looking forward to hitting the lanes to start the competition the next day!

Our athletes had a great competition with 6 of our 10 athletes coming home with medals, a great showing! We had many first time to National Games team members, and it was the first time for the coaches and mission staff as well! Not only was it the first time attending National Games, but it was the first time on a plane and out of the province for several of our team!

Our bowling teams not only had the opportunity to compete but also to participate in the Healthy Athletes program. Each of our team members had the chance to go through all three of the disciplines offered, Strong Minds, Fun Fitness and Opening Eyes. It was a great experience with some of our athletes receiving eye glasses from attending!

There was also some social activities planned. PEI hosted a paint night where the athletes were all walked through how to paint and picture. Everyone really enjoyed that and got to bring their panting home. They also went to Cavendish Beach and Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum both of which were great hits!

Newfoundland and Labrador OWNED closing ceremonies! There was a terrific DJ who brought his own tickle trunk. Our athletes dressed up, hopped up on the stage and rocked out with air guitars, stealing the show!















# **2018 NATIONAL SUMMER GAMES**

Victorious!! That is the only way I can describe Team NL! And I don't mean just victory on the field, pitch, floor, court, track, pool, or platform - we were certainly victorious there. Our team was victorious in attitude, decorum and sportsmanship.

It was an incredible week of competition for Team NL! We are headed home with 61 medals. 18 Gold; 26 Silver; and 17 Bronze. All athletes had a tremendous week that was the culmination of the hard work and dedication each and every athlete has put into the team. Our impressive results certainly show how hard they worked, with many athletes making new personal bests.

Our team wouldn't be anywhere without the support and dedication of our coaches and mission staff. Each and every coach was invested in their athletes, they felt every loss and celebrated every victory as if it was their own. We had a hot week of weather in Antigonish and this was something that our team overcame due to the care and concern of our coaches and mission staff. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Casey accompany our team and help our coaches make sure that we were all doing

well in the intense heat.













# **LETR**

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle worldwide. At its most basic level the Torch Run is an actual running event, in which officers and athletes run the Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies of local, regional, provincial Special Olympics competitions and National Games.

Today, the Torch Run is more than just a run and encompasses a variety of fundraising vehicles such as T-shirt sales, special events including Polar Plunges, Cop on Top, Battle of the Badges, and a host of other events that have local appeal.

All funds raised through the Law Enforcement Torch Run Newfoundland & Labrador events are directed into program support that directly affects all community Special Olympic NL programs. Funds are then put into community programs and help pay for various expenses including: games travel, accommodations, meals, grants to new community programs, volunteer and athlete training, administration and information/promotional materials.



#### **50th Anniversary**

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador joins Special Olympics in Celebrating it's 50th anniversary, honouring the legacy of the past, while also looking to the future.

From its humble beginning with just 1,000 athletes on Soldier Field in Chicago in 1968, Special Olympics has become a global movement with more than 5 million athletes from 170 countries around the world.

In 1968 Canada was represented by a Floor Hockey team from Toronto at the first International Special Olympics Games held at Soldier Field in Chicago. Canada became the first nation outside of the USA to participate in Special Olympics.

In celebration of Special Olympics' 50th year, Special Olympics Canada has identified 50 Movement Makers who've played an integral role in helping to make it to this milestone, or have a powerful voice in the movement's future.





#### **50th Anniversary**

Dr. Frank Hayden was one of those people. It was his research on the impact of fitness and sport on individuals with intellectual disabilities that helped found Special Olympics in 1968. Many of our athletes and coaches got the opportunity to meet Dr. Hayden and his wife, Marion, while in Nova Scotia for the 2018 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

Our own Jackie Barrett was also recognized for his significant role in Special Olympics. Jackie became a member of SONL in 1987, shortly after it was started in Newfoundland and Labrador. Jackie was recognized not only for his recording breaking 656 pound deadlift while attending the 2015 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Los Angeles but for his achievements on and off the powerlifting platform.

Jackie is no longer competing, but now volunteers his time mentoring others, such as Daniel Moores who attended the 2018 SOC Summer Games.



#### **Coach Development**

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador believes strongly in educating our coaches. The National Certification Program (NCCP) offers different coaching courses for Special Olympics. One stream of SO coaching is the competition course; this course is required for all coaches intending to participate at competitions. national



Another coaching stream is the Coaching Young Athletes Course; this course is intended for coaches working with the Active Start and FUNdamentals program.

SONL hosted a number of Competition Courses this year, across the island and in Labrador City and Happy Valley - Goose Bay. This course is for coaches who would like to take their athletes to the next level - provincial, national or international - Go printed and focuses on training practices.

SONL also hosted a coaching clinic for Athletics and Snowshoeing that was held in Labrador City. This was a fantastic event led by Rosie Ryan. All participants, coaches and athletes, received practical, technical training.

#### **Young Athletes**

FUNdamentals and Active Start are our Young Athletes programs that introduce young athletes and their families—not only to Special Olympics—but also to the key components of living a healthy active lifestyle and all the basic motor skills needed for life. They are built on the rationale that, when children with an intellectual disability receive early instruction in basic motor skills and developmentally appropriate play, there is an excellent opportunity for improvement in their physical, social and cognitive skills.

#### **Competitions**

Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador has 16 community-based clubs that offer a variety of sports programs including athletics, bocce, bowling, cross country skiing, curling, floor hockey, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, softball, snowshoeing, soccer and swimming. Each club works diligently to ensure that athletes have an opportunity to showcase their skills in their chosen sport.

With a variety of sports offered by the clubs throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, SONL has multiple Provincial Competitions each year. Many of our athletes are multi-sport athletes so between Provincial Games years; athletes are encouraged to compete in Provincial and Invitational Competitions by sport.

#### S.O. Give it a GO!

**S.O. Give it a GO** are "try-it" days for potential and returning Special Olympics athletes. S.O. Give it a Go provides opportunities for individuals with an intellectual disability to try different activities. S.O. Give it a GO started in schools; where SONL introduced students, student assistants and teachers to the world of Special Olympics and what it has to offer.



#### Unified

An exciting program was introduced to Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador over the past couple of years - Unified. Team sports bring people together. Special Olympics Unified Sport teams do that too, and so much more.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is an inclusive program that combines Special Olympics Athletes (individuals with an intellectual disability) and partners (individuals without an intellectual disability) on teams for training and competition.

Special Olympics Unified Sport promotes social inclusion through shared sport training and competition experiences for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. Unified Sports helps increase the skills necessary for individuals with an intellectual disability to be accepted and fulfilled socially.





# **IN MEMORY**

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador would like to remember the following members that have



July 9, 1996 - February 2, 2018

#### Joshua Nicholas Loughlin

Joshua was a member of the Corner Brook Vikings club who loved to participate in bowling. Joshua was known as for being friendly, with a big heart and even bigger smile that lit up any room he was in.



March 27, 1964 - August 02, 2018

#### Gordon Leon Ryan

We lost our friend Gordie Ryan in August. Gordie loved attending bowling right up until June. He especially enjoyed when we had a pizza party with lots of treats.

Gordie also loved action movies, books about hockey, motorcycles and bikes but most of all he loved his family and his second mother, Coach Maxine Whitten.

#### **Special Olympics Team Canada**

Special Olympics Team Canada were honoured in the House of Commons on November 29 by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Sports & Persons with Disabilities, Kent Hehr for their accomplishments and performances at the 2017 SO World Winter Games. It was an incredible display of support from the Government of Canada.



#### **Day Of Inclusion**



#### **Day Of Inclusion**

To mark the 50th Anniversary we celebrated the first of 'Global Day of Inclusion'. On July 21st, we lit the province Red with Cabot Tower and Confederation building lit up to honour the start of the year long celebration and proclaiming the Day of Inclusion. This day was created to help build a world where all people are recognized and included. We started off with the signing of the Declaration for Day of Inclusion with The Honourable Lisa Dempster, MHA Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development, Minister Responsible for the NL Housing Corporation and Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities. She was joined by athlete's Jarod Blake and Jessica Summers.

Our National Partner, Tim Horton's came onboard and we had a SO donut to mark the day. Our athletes were out in Tim Horton's stores helping mark the occasion. #ChooseToInclude





# Mark Peddle - Ambassador for Special Olympics Canada

Mark was chosen by Special Olympics Canada to be an Ambassador for the 50th Anniversary #ChallengeAccepted Campaign. He was flown to Toronto to film promotional videos that are televised as part of the campaign, showing how individuals with intellectual disabilities are faced with challenges, both big and small, every single day of their lives - challenges most will never encounter. We are all so proud of Mark and all he has accomplished!







# **Heather Miller - Representative at the Global Athlete Congress**

Heather was selected as an Athlete Leader to represent Canada at the Global Congress in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic this coming November. Heather was chosen for her work as a member of the Canadian Athlete Leadership Council and has attended training camps to develop her skills. Heather is a member of our Board of Directors and has engaged in several speaking opportunities this year, such as co-hosting our Send Off for the National Team. What an incredible opportunity! Way to go Heather!







# **PROVINCIAL SPONSORS**





Canadian Progress Club

Club Progrès du Canada







# SPECIAL OLYMPICS FESTIVAL

The Special Olympics Festival is one of Newfoundland and Labrador's most popular and unique fundraisers. The event included a Sponsor Luncheon on April 20th - Special Olympics NL athlete Crystal Young was our keynote speakers; with athlete Mark Peddle sharing hosting duties with popular personality, Andy Newman.

The April 21st evening festivities kicked off with Satellite Pre-Parties around town before heading to a glitzy Main Event at the beautiful Clovelly Clubhouse course. A lively After-Party Concert with music from the Handsome Devils band capped off the evening.

A big thank you to the Festival Committee and all who supported the Festival!

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# **Special Olympics** *Newfoundland & Labrador*







Trish Williams
Executive Director

#### **Staff**

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