

Law enforcement torch run Wed.

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The News-Optimist

For the third year in a row, Battlefords law enforcement officers are participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which raises funds for — and the profile of — the Special Olympics for the mentally handicapped.

Beginning at about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, about 30 officers will set off from City Hall in North Battleford, and run down Highway 16 to Maidstone, where they'll meet up with a contingent of law enforcement officers running to that community from Lloydminster.

In total, about 50 Northwest law enforcement officers ranging from RCMP to Parks and Recreation officials are expected to participate in the run from the two cities this year. Last year, about 25 Northwest law enforcement officers participated.

The purpose of the run is to raise money for Saskatchewan Special Olympics. These are special games for the handicapped.

Last year, Northwest law enforcement officers raised about \$8,000 for the Special Olympics, including money raised through special fundraising projects involving local businesses.

Spokesman Cpl. Terry Wozniak of the North Battleford RCMP subdivision is hopeful they'll raise at least that much again this year.

Glaslyn RCMP have already raised \$700 through a breakfast a couple of weeks ago, and the local branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce raised \$236.75 through a recent bake sale, he notes. The CIBC is the provincial sponsor for the run.

All money raised goes directly to Saskatchewan Special Olympics to ensure continuation and hopefully expansion of programs designed to enhance the quality of life for people with mental handicaps.

"The athletes of Special Olympics have a unique view

of winning," a news release says. "To them a ribbon earned simply for participation may mean as much as a gold medal.

"Saskatchewan Special Olympics helps individuals with a mental handicap discover their potential. It equips them with real-world skills that benefit them at home, school and in the workplace."

In Saskatchewan, more than 2,000 athletes participate in 12 different Olympic-type sports year-round.

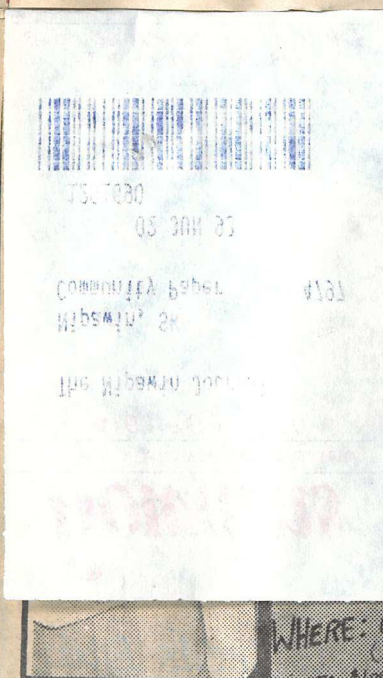
Law enforcement officers are running to Maidstone this year because the Special Olympics torch is not coming anywhere near this area of the province.

The Special Olympics are being held in Regina this year. Last year they were held in

Yorkton, so the torch is going from Yorkton to Regina. Two years ago the Special Olympics were held in North Battleford.

Participants will be running one kilometre each on a rotating basis all the way to Maidstone, a distance of about 90 km. Wozniak estimates they'll be in Maidstone at about 5:30 p.m., at which time a barbeque will be held for participants before they return home.

Once again, local businesses are helping to ensure the run will be a success. For example, the Battlefords and District Co-op is providing fruit for the runners and Steacy Ford is supplying a support vehicle.



Nipawin RCMP Cst. Tim Popp, left, and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce manager Kevin McCarron flank poster promoting a June 5 fundraiser in support of Saskatchewan Special Olympics.

Torch Run funds get boost

Nipawin RCMP and the local branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have joined forces in a fundraiser to raise money for the 1993 Saskatchewan Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The event will support the Saskatchewan Special Olympics financially.

The staff at CIBC will be selling hot dogs and drinks for \$1 at the bank's parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

Saturday, June 5.

Cst. Tim Popp of Nipawin RCMP is pledging for the fundraiser.

Tax receipts for donations are also available.