

Runners carried the torch for Special O

B 6317

Clark McClelland, one of the local organizers for the 1993 Special Olympics Torch Run, which is sponsored by law enforcement agencies throughout the province, said this past week that this year's run has netted the Special Olympics program about \$70,500. This represents a \$2,500 increase from 1992.

Local fund-raising efforts for the program will realize about

\$2,500 in the form of pledges and sales of T-shirts that are sold to promote the Special Olympics' cause.

Pledges were gained by several law enforcement and related agency members who took the torch from Estevan in the southeast corner through to Weyburn and on to

Regina where they participated in the official opening ceremonies for the provincial Special Olympics.

The local amount in pledges in the immediate district was down from last year's \$4,600 total, McClelland said, but he was happy to report that the provincial total

was higher.

"It's three long days of running to get the torch to Regina, but it is worth it," said McClelland, who was co-organizer for the event in Estevan and area with Constable Dave Boyce of the RCMP.

Seven runners took the torch to Halbrite on the first day and they, along with a few more running recruits worked the torch to Yellow Grass by the second day, and then on into Regina on day three in time for the opening ceremonies.

The Estevan officers and runners also participated in a brief ceremony as they passed through Weyburn on the second day.

The runners carried the torch in one kilometre shifts.

They were sent on their way in Estevan by Mayor John Empey and Cpl. Dave Hoeft of the RCMP's public affairs department, as well as several other members.

Those carrying the first day included Constables Dave Boyce and Stephane Beaune of the RCMP, Constables John Chester, Greg Catley and McClelland from the Estevan Police Service, and Murray Cowan and Elmer Russell of the S.E. Associated Ambulance Service. They were joined at other points in the run by Dave Silver-sides of the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources, and

Gene Stephany of the S.E. Associated Ambulance Service. Brock McClelland, who drove a support vehicle, also carried the torch for a kilometre or two as well as supplying the back-up vehicle to retrieve and deliver runners.

"There were about 250 police and law enforcement people bringing their torches into the opening

ceremonies," Clark McClelland said.

He said that several businesses, organizations and individuals sacrificed time and gave their talents and financial donations to the cause ... something that is greatly appreciated by the organizers and the runners since it makes their effort somewhat easier.