

# Special Olympics ready to go, Fri.

Several months of planning will culminate this weekend with the 1979 Saskatchewan Special Olympics.

A local committee of volunteers was formed late last year to begin making arrangements for Moose Jaw to host the games; the first time this city has ever done so. Games chairman Norm Campbell contacted various people in the city seeking their assistance on the management committee.

Those people on the management committee went to other people in the city to head up various sub-committees and in turn, these people located volunteers to assist with the games.

In all, about 200 Moose Jaw people will become involved with the games in one form or another.

Businesses, clubs, organizations and individuals from all over the province were contacted to assist in any way they could.

Many people, through their business, organization or on a personal level, have donated funds to help defray the costs of allowing close to 240 mentally handicapped athletes have an enjoyable and competitive weekend in Moose Jaw. Other people gave in the form of goods and services, their contributions playing an essential role as well.

All of the organizing and footwork will become obvious to the people of Moose Jaw Friday and Saturday. On Friday, the

athletes begin to arrive and receive their accreditation. After a supper at Zion United Church, those competing in the bowling events will go to the Bowling Centre for their mini opening ceremonies and begin the event. Swimmers will proceed to the Natatorium for another mini opening and their event.

Saturday will be their big day. The athletes will be bussed from the hotels they are staying at to Gutheridge Field for a 9 a.m. opening ceremony. It is at this opening that the games will be officially declared open by games chairman Norm Campbell. The Special Olympics torch will be lit and the flag raised. The Scott Trio will perform the Special Olympics theme song and "You Light Up My Life". The Canadian Forces Base Moose Jaw will dispatch four tutor jets for two fly pasts during the opening ceremonies.

Once the games are declared open, the competition will begin with 17 stations running the seven events. The athletes will take part in four events before breaking for lunch at the field and completing the remaining three after lunch.

They will also be honored at a banquet at the Heritage Inn that evening with the award winners receiving their trophies. Those attending will be entertained by the Lions Stage Band which precedes a dance.

The athletes will return to their homes Sunday morning.