

# Locals check out Special Olympics

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by Dan Macpherson

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Two Meadow Lake residents with their eyes set on becoming Special Olympics athletes had a taste of the competition when they went to the event in Weyburn last weekend.

Dale Schneider and Alena

Ouellette were very excited about attending the games, although they went as spectators and not participants.

Schneider helped carry the Zone 7 banner into the arena, and he said he was very proud to be selected for the honor.

He said he would like to compete in swimming at the next Special Olympics, and he is cur-

rently taking swimming lessons at the Meadow Lake Aquatic Centre.

Ouellette, who would like to compete in shot put and long jump, also enjoyed the experience.

"I met lots of people and made new friends," Ouellette said, adding she was also excited about being a part of the opening ceremonies.

Margaret Schneider who accompanied her son and Ouellette to Weyburn said the main reason for going was to see how the event operates and what has changed over the years.

While some sports have changed and others have been added to the games, Schneider, one of the founding members of Special Olympics, said one of the biggest changes is that the province is now divided into eight zones.

"The Special Olympics have grown immensely," Schneider noted.

She said the job now is for local athletes to learn more about the sports and begin training for the next Special Olympics.

As a result of last week's games, Saskatchewan will be sending three athletes to the 1995 World Games in Connecticut from July 1 to 9. A total of 84 Canadian athletes will join 7,106 athletes from 143 different countries.

Events featured in Weyburn included: long jump, shot put, swimming, weight lifting, running, and high jump Ouellette noted.