

Special Olympics Games very successful



Winter Fun

The sheer fun of the Special Olympics Winter Games is written on the face of Joanne Magnus of Melfort as she completes a section of the snowshoeing event.

Snow conditions at the Melfort Golf Course were excellent for the

snowshoeing and cross country ski events scheduled for Saturday, February 13th.

With the co-operation of many local, Zone, and provincial volunteers, the Games went very smoothly.



A proud moment

Cindy Saranchuck of Melfort, who competes in the Special Olympics snowshoeing events, and Tom Sefton of the Melfort Legion, shared a special moment on Saturday.

Cindy was one of over a hundred athletes competing in the 1993 Winter Games hosted by Melfort. Mr. Sefton one of many volunteers helping make the Games a success.

Zone 8, the host Zone for the 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Winter Games, took two of the five sports trophies February 13th.

When the statistics were tallied, Zone 8 - Prince Albert Melfort had accumulated the most points with 5 in Figure Skating and 136 in Snowshoeing.

In Figure Skating, there were only seven competitors in total. Zone 5 - Humboldt/Watrous was second overall with 4 points; Zone 2 - Regina was 3rd with 3; and Zone 4 - Yorkton/Melville was 4th with 1. In the Snowshoeing, Zone 6 - Saskatoon came 2nd with 53 points; Zone 5 was 3rd with 29; and Zone 4 was 4th with 23.

Helping to put Zone 8 in first place in these two events were a number of Melfort and area Special Olympic athletes.

Maureen Bessey of Melfort won gold in Figure Skating and Gina Dobrowolsky of Gronlid won silver.

Snowshoers winning medals included: Joanne Magnus of Melfort, 2 silver; Neil Sullivan, Melfort, 1 gold, 1 silver; Rodney Mitchell, Melfort, 2 gold; Gordie Moss, Pleasantdale, 1 silver, 2 bronze; Cindy Saranchuck, Melfort, 2 gold; Lorna Latimer, Kinistino, 1 bronze; Selmer Closter, Kinistino, 1 silver, 2 bronze; Eugene Wallace, Melfort, 1 gold, 1 silver; Walter Heine, Melfort, 1 silver.

Zone 2 received the trophies for most points in Cross Country Skiing with 72 and in Speed Skating with 36.

In Cross Country Skiing Zone 4 was in 2nd place with 60 points. Zone 7 - North Battleford/Rosetown was 3rd with 52; and Zone 8 in 4th with 40.

Zone 8 athletes from this area win-

ning medals in Cross Country Skiing included Allen Gilbertson of Naicam, 1 gold, and Jennifer Dorward of Melfort, 1 silver and 1 bronze.

In Speed Skating Zone 6 was 2nd with 27 points, Zone 8 in 3rd with 11; and Zone 4 in 4th with 7.

In Alpine Skiing, Zone 6 took first place with 56 points, Zone 7 was 2nd with 39, Zone 2 in 3rd with 22; and Zone 8 in 4th with 15.

Rody Jansen of Gronlid earned 1 gold and 2 silvers in the Alpine Skiing events.

The Official Opening Ceremonies Friday night at the North East Leisure Centre set the pace for a fun-filled weekend for the 104 Special Olympians, their coaches and managers, the many volunteers, and visitors. The Master of Ceremonies was Ross Lynd.

Michael Doherty, President of Saskatchewan Special Olympics, told the athletes the Games are a time to renew friendships and to make new ones. He encouraged each and every one to enjoy being part of the 1993 Games.

The Honourable Carol Carson, Minister of Community Services and Melfort MLA, remarked, "This is a very special group of athletes.... This city is going to enjoy having you here."

Mrs. Carson, who holds the Department of Sports, Recreation and Culture portfolio, indicated in her remarks to the Official Opening audience that she will continue to support funding for sports, recreation and culture.

Mayor Arnold Orr added his own sincere and warm words of welcome to the City of Melfort. He commended the Special Olympics organization and the many volunteers involved with the athletes and the Games for their work.

To the athletes, Mayor Orr said, "You're winners just because you're here, because you are willing to compete, because you're willing to train."

Games Co-chairman Roger Vogelsang told the visitors, "Our hope is that when you leave Melfort that you will have a little place in your hearts to remember us because we are going to remember you!"

A musical program featuring talent from the Melfort area was ably hosted by Joe Rybinski for the enjoyment of the Games participants and visitors following the Official Opening.

The sports venues were beehives of activity Saturday morning and into the early afternoon as the 104 athletes compete in the five sporting events. Snow conditions for skiing and snowshoeing were excellent both at the Melfort Golf Course and at Wapiti Ski Hill and the Main Arena was well used by the figure and speed skaters.

There was plenty of time for the athletes and coaches to do some socializing with two catered breakfasts at the Leisure Centre, a chance to swim at the Palace or to take in a movie at City Twin Cinema, and the Saturday evening banquet and dance.

At the banquet Saturday evening, President Doherty congratulated the athletes for their effort and their performances throughout the Games. "You did your best and it showed up in the results today," said Mr. Doherty.

He commended the coaches for their part in the success of the 1993 Winter Games.

Mr. Doherty also extended special thanks to Co-chairmen Roger Vogelsang and Darren Whitehead and their Planning Committee. He commended the whole community of Melfort for supporting Special Olympics. Special thanks also went to the 56 Melfort Collegiate students, who volunteered to be buddies to the athletes throughout the weekend.

"Without you, we couldn't have done it," the president told the many volunteers. "This has been one of the best Games we've had."

With words of thanks and appreciation, Mr. Vogelsang and Mr. Whitehead introduced their Planning

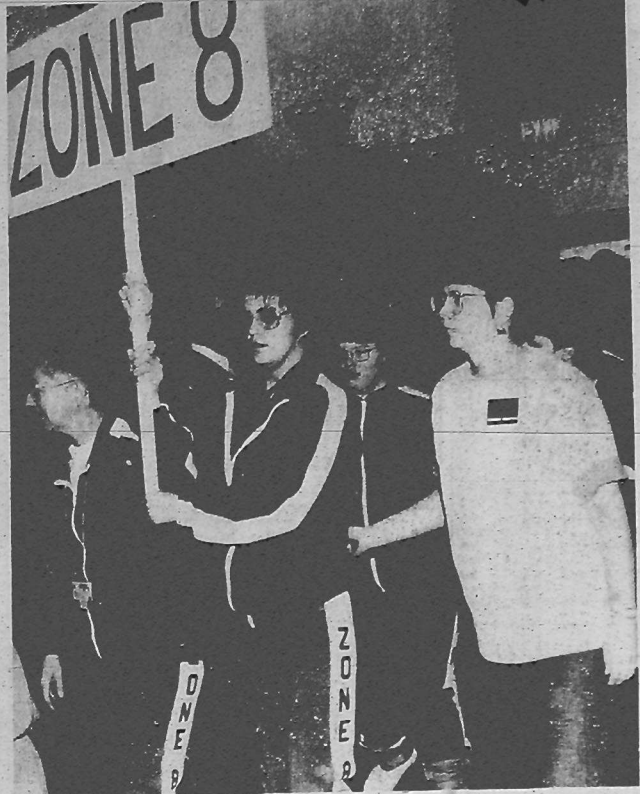
Committee and they, too, thanked all the volunteers, Friends of the Games, businesses, and supporters, who helped to make the weekend a success.

Bringing greetings to the Saturday evening banquet were Mrs. Carson, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Government, and Alderman Darryl Collins, on behalf of the City of Melfort. Glenda Francis, Special Olympics Executive Director, and Vern Blanche, Vice-president, were headable guests, as was Melfort's own Imogene Watts, Zone 8 Program Director and a longtime coach of Special Olympics athletes. Bill Wood,

of the Melfort Jaycees Club, was Master of Ceremonies.

Following a short church service and breakfast Sunday morning, the athletes left for their homes across Saskatchewan. For some this provincial competition was the highlight of their winter; for several others, it was a chance to brush up their skills before embarking on a trip to the International Special Olympics Games to be held in March in Austria.

Saskatchewan has ten athletes including Rody Jansen of Gronlid (alpine skiing) and Jerry Anderson of Nipawin (speed skating) heading to Austria next month to compete.



The host team

Zone 8, which includes the Prince Albert and Melfort region, was the host team for the 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Winter Games. Melfort was a hubbub of activity

throughout the February 12th to 14th weekend as the 104 athletes competed in the Games and enjoyed renewing acquaintances and making new friends.

Here the Zone 8 team enters the Leisure Centre Auditorium during the Official Opening parade of athletes Friday evening.



The Athlete's Oath

Joanne Magnus, a competitor in the snowshoeing events, recited the Special Olympic Athlete's Oath at the Official Opening of the 1993 Special "O" Winter Games on February 12th.

"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt," quoted Joanne as she took her place at the podium. The 104 Special Olympics athletes

took the oath to heart and had a marvellous time Saturday competing in the five sports of snowshoeing, cross country and alpine skiing, and figure and speed skating.



The Games Torch

Eugene Wallace of Melfort had the honour of carrying the Special Olympics Winter Games Torch for the 1993 event.

Here Games Co-chairman Roger Vogelsang lights the torch while Joanne Magnus of Melfort, who recited the Athlete's Oath, and

Saskatchewan Special Olympics President, Mike Doherty, look on. The torch lighting and Athlete's Oath were part of the Official Opening Ceremonies on Friday night at the Leisure Centre.

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