

# Five sports featured at Special Olympics

Five sports will be undertaken in mid-February as Melfort hosts the 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Winter Games.

Darren Whitehead, sports co-chairman for these Games, expects to have some 150 Special Olympics athletes plus a host of coaches and chaperones involved in the event.

Rick and Gale Strachan are coordinating arrangements for each of the five sports.

The snowshoeing will take place at the Melfort Golf Course with Rick Strachan in charge of arrangements.

"There's room there for a challenging course and room to make a 1500 metre oval," says Mr. Whitehead.

The golf course also offers safety for the competitors, shelter from the winds, and clubhouse facilities in a central location.

Alpine or downhill skiing will be held at the Wapiti Ski Hill with Brent

Freedman and Gregg Nilson assisting with arrangements.

"Wapiti is a very challenging hill," says Mr. Whitehead, "It's the best ski facility close to Melfort and it, too, has indoor facilities we can use. The ski patrol has also volunteered to help."

Cross country skiing competitions will be at the Melfort Golf Course with Paul Holtkamp looking after arrangements. Again the terrain and location are excellent for a Special Olympics event of this type.

Figure Skating, with co-ordinators Jean Thorpe and Faye Goos, is to be held in the Melfort Main Arena.

Speed Skating under the direction of Dale McHarg is also set for the Main Arena.

Mr. Whitehead expects 28 athletes from across Zone 8 to participate. Fourteen of these are from the Melfort area.

Zone 8 has 17 registered for snowshoeing and 7 for cross country skiing. Rody Jansen will be competing in alpine skiing, Gina Dobrowolski and Maureen Bessey in figure skating and Jerry Anderson of Nipawin in speed skating.

Tricia Walsh of Melfort is the Chef de Mission for Zone 8.

Mr. Whitehead, himself, got his start eight years ago, when he volunteered to help coach Special Olympics floor hockey in North Battleford. He's taken a number of teams to provincial and national competitions and in 1990, was an assistant track and field coach in Vancouver. He was also a Chef de Mission for the Saskatchewan Special Olympics Summer Games in 1988 in Prince Albert.

Since coming to Melfort in February of 1991, Mr. Whitehead has been a floor hockey coach.

He's looking forward to the upcoming provincial Winter Games.