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Police begin annual torch run

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Police officers from across southwestern Saskatchewan will be hitting the highway between Moose Jaw and Regina Friday morning, carrying a torch of hope.

The Sixth Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run actually began Wednesday in Lloydminster and Waskesiu. Runners from those starting points hooked up with runners from Saskatoon today to finish the journey to Regina by Friday. Runners from Yorkton also began their trek today while runners from Watrous ran into Saskatoon to hook up there today.

On Friday, the relay begins in Moose Jaw and Estevan with all runners from across the province expected to converge in Regina on time to take part in the 6:45 p.m. opening ceremonies for the Saskatchewan Special Olympics Summer Games.

Const. Scott Williamson of the city police said 18 runners from 15 Wing, six local RCMP officers and 12 city police officers will carry the torch for this area. They

will be joined by 24 RCMP officers from the Swift Current area who will be bused here to join our runners for the final leg into Regina.

Runners will leave the McDonald's parking lot between 9:30 and 10 a.m.

Williamson said runners will go in shifts along the route but will have one of the east bound lanes along the Trans Canada blocked for the run.

Besides the show of moral support, officers are participating to collect money to help finance the games for handicapped athletes. But Williamson said the local police have not received a lot of money in pledges. The approximately \$1,000 they raised so far has been through the sale of souvenir shirts and pins — all of their stock has been sold.

However, he said anyone wishing to add to the funds can bring their donation to McDonalds before the runners leave or give it to them along the highway that morning. All of the money pledged will be turned over to Special Olympics.