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TEAM CANADA TRAINING SQUAD CHOSEN FOR 2009 WORLD WINTER GAMES

The 2009 World Winter Games for Special Olympics will be held February 6 to 13, 2009 in Boise, Idaho and Canada will be represented by 111 members. Of those Team Canada training squad members, twelve athletes, four coaches, and two mission staff will be from British Columbia!

Over the next year, athletes of the Team Canada training squad will prepare for this unique sport experience with many dedicated training coaches and team coaches in the hope of reaching their international dreams. They will work tirelessly for the opportunity to show the world the level of training, dedication, and sportsmanship for which Canada is famous.

Special Olympics British Columbia is pleased to announce the following individuals as members of Team Canada training squad.



Mission Staff

Cari Gilbert
Patty Wheeldon

Coaching Staff

Randy Scott Head Coach, Alpine Skiing
Garth Vickers Head Coach, Cross-country Skiing
Donna Bilous Head Coach, Speed Skating
Nanci Martin Assistant Coach, Snowshoeing

Athletes

David Boudreau Alpine Skiing

Justin Fong	Alpine Skiing
Mitchell Grandberg	Alpine Skiing
Kelsey Wyse	Alpine Skiing
Katarina Gerhardt	Cross-Country Skiing
Avital Yarosky	Cross-Country Skiing
Darlene Jakubowski	Figure Skating
Marc Theriault	Figure Skating
Bridget Colvin	Snowshoeing
Marinka Van Hage	Snowshoeing
Michelle Lord	Speed Skating
Paige Norton	Speed Skating

RBC Provided \$25,000 Grant for Provincial Team

At last year's Sport Celebrities Festival RBC Foundation donated \$25,000 to Special Olympics BC in support of the Team BC Preparation Program for athletes who competed at the 2008 National Winter Games in Quebec.

RBC is a leading corporate donor in North

America. The foundation's purpose is to support charitable causes that affect the lives of Canadians in a positive and outstanding way. RBC is committed to supporting endeavours that empower organizations to make a difference and inspire others.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF VINNICK

Special Olympics BC President and CEO Dan Howe along with Vancouver athlete Derek Lith received the cheque from Kristi Richards, RBC Olympian and 2007 World Champion, Freestyle Skiing, and Brent Musico, Senior Manager and Deputy, Commercial Financial Services, RBC Royal Bank.

Special Olympics BC

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of Special Olympics Canada

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LET'S GET READY TO RALLY!

H MCL Motor Cars



MCL Motor Cars has teamed up with Special Olympics BC to challenge driving enthusiasts to rev up their engines in support of a wonderful cause. On the morning of June 21, vehicles will take off on a daylong adventure in the third annual Rally for Champions.

The race will take place throughout the Lower Mainland and involve fun challenges driving along a pre-determined route. The driving component of this event is a TDS (time/distance/speed) rally. As such, participants are judged on accuracy, with points deducted for arriving early or late to checkpoints. Along the way, participants will test their funny bone as well as their math skills to win prizes. Whether

you're an experienced rally driver, or a rally rookie, the event promises to be a fun-filled day for all involved!

All proceeds from this event will be donated to Special Olympics BC to further the advancement of athletes and sport programs. To participate in this exclusive event, each team must raise a minimum of \$1,000 either via pledges or single payment. Space is limited to 40 cars so act now to ensure your place on our winning team!

For more information or to register your team, please visit the SOBC website or contact Christina Larson at clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca / (604) 737-3073.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FORMULAPHOTO.COM

Volunteers to Spend a Weekend in August in the Beautiful Okanagan

As a volunteer with Special Olympics BC you have the opportunity to attend the ultimate professional development and networking event this year at the **Provincial Workshop on August 8, 9, and 10 in Kelowna**. This annual workshop brings volunteers and coaches together to share information, learn from skilled facilitators, and, most importantly, be recognized for their amazing commitment and dedication to the organization.

The fun begins on Friday evening with a Volunteer Appreciation Gala. This event will feature the presentation of the Howard Carter, President's, and Grassroots Coach Awards. There will also be a silent and chance auction and plenty of time to socialize with volunteers and coaches from across the province.

Saturday morning sessions begin with a keynote speaker and then a full day of enlightening sessions tailored to your volunteer role. Check out a few examples of sessions offered below.

Taping for Coaches: No Scotch tape! This session will provide curious and caring coaches with the practical skills to tape injuries and will allow participants to practice on a buddy.

How to Educate Athletes on Nutrition: In 2001, 60 percent of athletes travelling to National Games were evaluated as obese



or morbidly obese. With junk food readily available, sometimes athletes need support from their coaches to make healthy choices and avoid the lure of fatty french fries and calorie-loaded cookies.

How to Get the Most from Assistant Coaches and Program Volunteers: Do you sometimes feel like you spend more time managing your assistant coaches than

your athletes? This session will teach you the delicate art of delegation and how to avoid the minefield of micro-management.

How to Write Successful Grant Applications:

Did you know that most grant applications are denied because they are not completed correctly? Pick the brain of the grant writing gurus and learn the gimmicks of the game when it comes to securing your Direct Access or service club grant.

Turning Difficult Situations into Dialogue:

Have you ever encountered a crabby coach, pushy parent, or aggressive athlete? Learn the basics of working with challenging personalities and turn your discord and disharmony into delight.

How to Organize a Successful Event:

Take a page from the organization oracle and learn how to create realistic timelines and job descriptions to ensure that your event is streamlined, successful, and not at all stressful.

Saturday evening concludes with a madcap night of entertainment guaranteed to make the workshop an event to remember. It's also an opportunity to embarrass the staff from Provincial Office with a hideous costume or two. Although the game for this year's Provincial Workshop is classified as "top secret", last year's entertainment included a revival of classic game shows like *Family Feud* and *10,000 Dollar Pyramid*.

If you would like to attend this unforgettable event, please contact Lois McNary at lmcnary@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3117 and she will work with you and your Local to ensure that you have the opportunity to get involved.

World Outlook Financial Conference

Since its inception in 1990, the World Outlook Financial Conference has established itself as the first choice for Canada's sophisticated and active investors. The Conference has provided individual investors access to the world's top-rated financial analysts.

The Conference has become a place for sophisticated investors to gather each year to discover new opportunities and strategies, exchange ideas, plan for the coming year, and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded individuals. It is also a great place to support Special

Olympics BC. Michael Campbell founded the conference

eighteen years ago and still plays a major role in it today. He works alongside Nina Parente and Grant Longhurst to ensure that investors receive unbiased information and analysis on the markets, along with very biased information on Special Olympics BC. At every opportunity throughout the conference, Special Olympics



BC was featured. The new Special Olympics BC Gift Catalogue was given to everyone in attendance. Special Olympics videos were shown and Michael and others continually plugged SOBC and asked all to drop by our booth to make a donation.

Conference attendees heard time and time again that even in volatile financial times, Special Olympics is still a great investment that produces outstanding returns. Our thanks are extended to Michael, Nina, Grant, and the World Outlook Financial Conference for their continued support.

2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games



MICHAEL HUNTER

The 2008 National Winter Games were held in Quebec City February 26–March 2 and were extremely successful! Ninety-eight athletes, 32 coaches, and ten mission staff from British Columbia viewed the beautiful sights of Quebec while enjoying a week of competition and developing lifelong friendships.

The 2008 National Winter Games were held in Quebec City February 26–March 2 and were extremely successful! Ninety-eight athletes, 32 coaches, and ten mission staff from British Columbia viewed the beautiful sights of Quebec while enjoying a week of competition and developing lifelong friendships.

The opening ceremony was held outdoors on the *Plaines d'Abraham* with a snowy back drop. It was cold, but local musical entertainment was showcased and kept the athletes and coaches dancing on the spot!

The medals were rolling in all week at the alpine venue while the BC cross-country skiers were ripping up the course, passing everyone in their way. British Columbian curlers rocked the house, with the three teams coming home with two gold medals and a bronze medal. The figure skating performances were outstanding, leaving our coaches in tears, as well as many spectators. The nuns tried to keep the teams in line at lunch at the floor hockey venue but the two BC teams were forces to reckon with on the court. Our snowshoe teams had many personal bests with athlete 'A' showing up for races. Team BC snowshoers also had a



FONA WAITE



MICHAEL HUNTER



BENJAMIN ATTFIELD



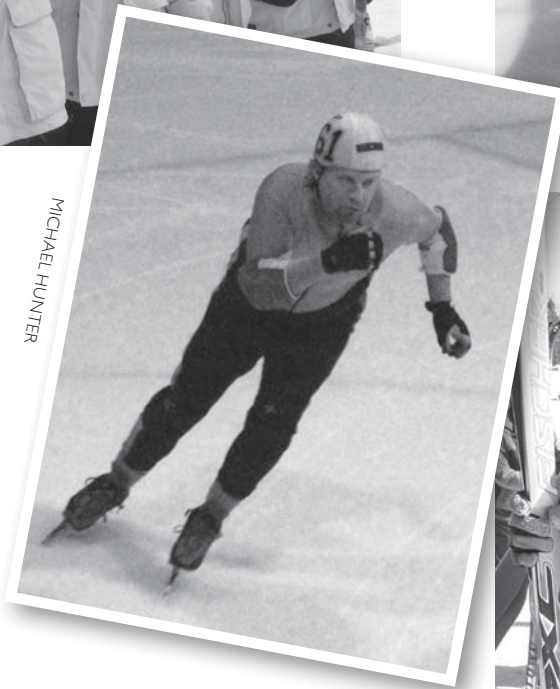
NANCI MARTIN



PATTY WHEELDON

clean sweep of medals in the women's 800-metre race—way to show the other provinces how it's done! At speed skating, the athletes never gave up, showing that proper technique and perseverance will take you straight to the podium.

Team BC performed exceptionally well at these Games and the team's success is directly related to the training and preparation in the months leading up to the Games. Special Olympics BC is very proud of all of the athletes, coaches, mission staff, and training coaches who were a part of Team BC and sends our sincerest thanks and congratulations to all of them for a job well done.



MICHAEL HUNTER



KAREN CHAMPION



BENJAMIN ATTFIELD

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN 2008

Since 1990, the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run's dedicated volunteers have been committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics British Columbia. Thanks to their amazing support, the Torch Run has evolved into one of the largest fundraisers for Special Olympics BC. This year is shaping up to be another fantastic year, with events happening throughout the province. Whether it's camping on a roof, or running through your neighborhood, the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run members are sure to be in a community near you!



Vancouver Canucks Alumni vs. Abbotsford Police Thunderbirds

On Saturday March 29, the Abbotsford Police Thunderbirds hockey team took on Vancouver Canucks Alumni in a charity hockey match to benefit Special Olympics BC!

This brand new event kicked off with an autograph session with Canucks Alumni including Kirk McLean and Garth Butcher. After close to 100 photos were signed, the teams headed to their dressing rooms and got ready for the puck drop. In the meantime, fans enjoyed the opportunity to bid on silent auction items, test their luck in two raffles, and sample a tasty BBQ cooked by members of the Abbotsford Lions Club.

The game was a lively affair, with some on-ice antics that you wouldn't find in an NHL game. Pies were thrown, costumes were worn, and at one point, a police cruiser came onto the ice to treat the players to some coffee and donuts! In the end, the Canucks Alumni edged out the Thunderbirds 16-14, despite a last ditch effort

by the police where they cleared their bench and had every player on the ice in an attempt to steal a victory!

Special thanks to an amazing Law Enforcement Torch Run volunteer team made up of members from the Abbotsford Police, Vancouver Police, RCMP, and Canada Border Service Agency.



Free the Fuzz Guildford

It's that time of year again: the first Free the Fuzz event of 2008 was held from April 2-5 at the Wal-Mart at Guildford Town Centre in Surrey.

With the help of the Surrey Fire Service, CN Police Inspector Dan Ritchie and volunteer Joan Ritchie took to the roof of the Wal-Mart where they camped for four days and three nights, all in support of Special Olympics!

Police officers and SOBC - Surrey athletes teamed up on the ground to shake buckets collecting donations from shoppers on their way in and out of Wal-Mart. There were also reports of several drive-by donations!

Special thanks to Wal-Mart, the Lions Club, and Red Robin for their continued support of this annual Torch Run fundraiser.

Free the Fuzz Kelowna

From May 23-24, members of the Kelowna RCMP will take to the roof of their local Wal-Mart in their annual Free the Fuzz for Special Olympics BC. Last year's event raised over \$32,000. This outstanding success broke the all-time record for a Free the Fuzz event in BC... that is until the Kamloops RCMP raised \$33,000 a few months later! What's that old saying? A little friendly competition never hurt anyone.

Last year's Free the Fuzz Kelowna featured activities such as a live radio broadcast, a "Buzz for the Fuzz" hair cutting booth, a visit by the RCMP helicopter, and 2008 is shaping up to be even more fun!

CN Police Inspector Dan Ritchie and volunteer Joan Ritchie leave solid ground to begin the Free the Fuzz event



With the police in blue and the Canucks alumni in white, the teams pose together for a snapshot of a great event

North Shore Athletes and Coach Win Awards

By Kelly Klein

At a recent community awards ceremony, Special Olympics BC – North Shore made a splash. Three awards were won by members of that Local. DJ Gilbert and Kristina Tammark won North Shore Sports Awards in the category of Athlete with a Disability. The criteria of the award asks for a significant contribution to sport on the North Shore.

A dedicated local coach, Nancy Antonio also won an award as a Community Sport Volunteer. Open to generic volunteers alike, this honour is awarded to a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to a sport organization on the North Shore.

DJ Gilbert is only 18 years old and already has an impressive sports resume. He always demonstrates good sportsmanship, team camaraderie, and an overall love of sport—he is the epitome of what an athlete should be.

This year he qualified to swim, representing Special Olympics, at the BC Games in Cranbrook where we won gold, silver, and bronze medals. His swimming coach is one of his fans: “DJ is enthusiastic, listens well, follows instructions, and is a pleasure to coach.”

DJ also shines as an SOBC basketball player. His height (6'5) and arm span (even longer) are a definite bonus as is his natural ability to score from any point on the court. He is enthusiastic, loves to shoot, and is a real team player creating opportunities for his teammates to score as well. He is very encouraging and often serves as a mentor to his teammates. And there's more. DJ's floor hockey team won a silver medal in the 2007 Special Olympics BC Winter Games in Kelowna. He also enjoys Special Olympics soccer, softball, and track and field along with a host of other generic activities including wake boarding and shooting pool.

Needless to say, DJ is a promising athlete and has earned the respect of other athletes and coaches. He is dedicated to his training, demonstrates exceptional sportsmanship, and always gives 110 percent. DJ is a role model to his fellow Special Olympics athletes and to everyone he meets.

Twenty-four-year-old **Kristina Tammark** was once uninvolved, overweight, and lonely, but she is now enrolled in seven different SOBC sports and is 85 pounds lighter. She has made a remarkable transformation both physically and mentally and now enjoys an active and healthy lifestyle filled with recreation and friends. She has maintained her weight loss for a year and is in excellent health. She did all this by



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KELLY KLEIN

eating well and exercising daily.

Her accomplishments shone in 2007 when she won first place in the 100-metre, 1500-metre and 3000-metre races at a track meet. This was quite a feat for someone who once had trouble walking. The work Kristina has done, along with the growth she has made emotionally is an inspirational story for everyone. Her life has completely changed for the better. Kristina once suffered from low self-esteem and self-confidence but now she tells others about the importance of healthy choices, exercise, and positive self-esteem. Her decisions have already proven to have a rippling effect as she has inspired others to follow in her footsteps. Kristina has matured greatly, has overcome many personal obstacles, and is an example to all. Congratulations, Kristina!

Nancy Antonio has been involved in the North Shore Local for many years. She has helped with 10-pin bowling, aquatics, and soccer. Nancy is admired for her dedication and continued support of SOBC athletes.

Nancy has given a great deal of her time and energy to the 10-pin bowling program. In fact, Nancy and her husband, David, continue to run the North Shore 10-pin bowling program by travelling to Burnaby each Saturday. The local bowling alley was torn down to accommodate a mall expansion. Without Nancy and David the North Shore bowlers would not have a 10-pin program. Nancy has also assisted with the aquatics and soccer programs. Congratulations on the award, Nancy, and thank you for nearly 20 years of volunteer service to SOBC – North Shore.

If there is a good news story in your area, please email it to Heather Young at hyoung@specialolympics.bc.ca.

Coaching Certification

Over the past few years the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) has been going through a transition into a new competency-based education process. All provincial sport organizations were required to develop new interactive coaching courses and Special Olympics produced the Competition Sport Workshop.

This has been a very confusing process for many of us, with coaches wondering what they require to keep their certification as well as what courses they need for selection to higher levels of competition. All new coaches are required to take the Competition Sport Workshop within their first year of coaching. Please read on to see a listing of all practice/competition requirements.

Coaching Requirements

Practices

Head and Assistant Coaches: SOC Level I certified (SOC technical level I, theory level I, SOC practical level I), plus Making Ethical Decisions (MED) module evaluation or SOC-trained (SOC Competition Sport Workshop, NCCP Introduction to Competition Part A, plus online MED module evaluation).

Program Volunteers: SOC Technical Level I or SOC Competition Sport Workshop is an asset.

Local, Regional, and Provincial Competitions and Games

All coaches: SOC Level I certified (SOC technical level I, theory level I, SOC practical level I), plus Making Ethical Decisions (MED) module evaluated or SOC-trained (SOC Competition Sport Workshop, NCCP Introduction to Competition Part A, plus online MED module evaluation).

All coaches that attend competitions must meet the coaching qualifications listed.

National and World Games

All coaches: all certifications required for local, regional, and provincial competitions plus sport-specific technical level I or CBET equivalent.

If you have any questions regarding your coaching transcript or what courses you are required to take, please contact Cari Peters at cpeters@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3082.

motionball Bounces into Action in 2008

A charitable organization, *motionball* is mandated to introduce a new generation of supporters, sponsors, and volunteers to the Special Olympics movement through integrated sporting and social events. Since its first event in 2002, *motionball* has raised over one million dollars for Special Olympics Canada through their series of annual events.

Marathon of Sport

The crew is at it again! On Saturday May 31, Marathon of Sport will be held at Electronic Young in Burnaby. Special Olympics BC athletes will join with teams of young professionals in exactly what the name implies—a sports marathon!

Teams will compete in basketball, bocce, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball. Prizes will be awarded for the team with the most points, the team that collected the most pledges, along with other categories.

Last year's event raised over \$12,000 for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation, and 2008 is shaping up to be even better!



Six Degrees of Separation

The name Six Degrees of Separation was inspired by the simple idea that everyone will know everyone at the engagement through six relationships. The purpose for this event is to connect friends of all ages in an amazing venue for a great cause.

Six Degrees of Separation 2008 took place on Saturday, February 9, at the Rocky Mountaineer Train Station in Vancouver. Guests were treated to a fantastic night which included a silent auction, live date auction, illusionist performance, DJ show, and much more!

This fabulous event raised over \$27,000 for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation. Congratulations to the organizing committee for putting on an outstanding event!



Special Olympics athletes Ken McLean, Annabelle Davis, Bill Gauld, and Derek Lith pose with members of the event's organizing committee

PHOTO COURTESY OF VINCENT CHAN

MARILYNN GOETJEN ROCKS THE HOUSE IN PRINCE GEORGE

By Janice Raczki

Marilynn has been the head coach for the Special Olympics BC – Prince George curling team for the last five years. Her dedicated assistant coaches are Susan Swanson, Gwen Rempel, and Bruce Spencer. Marilynn has credit for the Special Olympics Level I Technical course, Special Olympics Level I Practical, and Curling Level I Technical.

At the 2007 Provincial Winter Games in Kelowna two PG curlers participated with curlers from Quesnel and Marilynn was thrilled to be chosen as the assistant coach for the squad.

For Marilynn, curling is an exciting sport—she enjoys participating with others, having fun, and competing as a team effort. It gives her great pleasure to belong to Special Olympics.

Marilynn has been a dedicated volunteer with SOBC—Prince George since 1989. She has helped with snowshoeing, softball, and T-ball. Additionally, she has participated in fundraising and wherever help is needed. Currently, Marilynn is on the Local executive team as a member-at-large.



Marilynn (third from left) poses with the Prince George curling team

Government of BC, SportsFunder, and 2010 Legacies Now

The Government of British Columbia has been a significant partner of SOBC's for over 20 years. Through core grants, project-specific grants, and gaming revenue, the Government has provided over a million dollars to Special Olympics BC. The Government's contributions make up approximately fifteen percent of the annual provincial budget. Additionally, many SOBC Locals receive gaming revenue to fund programs. In recognition of this tremendous support, SOBC inducted the Government of British Columbia into its Hall of Fame in 2006.

For the past two years, Special Olympics BC has received funds from the SportsFunder Lottery to support coach and leadership development and to assist with athlete travel to training and competition. SportsFunder supports amateur sports across BC and has made



Representing the Government of British Columbia, Minister Hogg "drafted" Marc Theriault and Alexandra McGee for the 2008 National Games

it possible for many SOBC coaches to attend NCCP workshops helping them to become more effective coaches and have a more meaningful impact on each athlete's experience.

A not-for-profit organization, 2010 Legacies Now works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations, all levels of government, and the private sector to develop sustainable legacies in sport and recreation, the arts, volunteerism, and literacy. Recently, a provincial and federal government bilateral funding program was coordinated by 2010 Legacies Now. Through this funding SOBC has initiated the Active Start, FUNdamentals, and youth programs in BC.

For the past, present, and future, thank you to the Government of

BC, SportsFunder, and 2010 Legacies Now for their outstanding support!

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT PATERSON



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT PATERSON

TEAM BC DRAFTED BY GENEROUS SPONSORS

On Sunday February 24, 140 Team BC athletes and coaches joined sponsors at the Draft an Athlete Send-Off for Team BC before they headed off to the 2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

Guests arrived at the Vancouver International Airport and were welcomed by SOBC and SOC board member, Colin MacKinnon. The evening functioned similar to an NHL draft where members of Team BC were brought up to the stage and introduced to their sponsors where they posed for a photo opportunity.

Highlights of the event included a speech from Ken McLean of SOBC – Vancouver with some advice for his fellow Team members, as well as some inspirational words from the Minister of State for ActNow BC, Gordon Hogg.

To finish off the evening, guests had an opportunity to visit with Team BC and share in their excitement before the team headed off to catch their flight to Quebec City.

Thank you to all Team BC supporters and to

everyone who made it possible for Team BC to have this chance of a lifetime.

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who participated in the 2008 Draft an Athlete

- BC Lions
- Canucks for Kids Fund
- CKNW Orphans' Fund
- Gryphon Graphics Inc.
- METRO Waste Paper Recovery Inc.
- Michael Campbell
- Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management Ltd.
- Razi Network for Disabled Children
- Rotary Club of Coquitlam

Thank you to the following supporters of Team BC

- Air Canada
- BC Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Canadian Progress Club
- Delta Hotels

- F. K. Morrow Foundation
- Frank & Yvonne McCracken Foundation Goldcorp
- Government of BC and Minister Gordon Hogg
- Grey Vancouver
- Home Hardware
- John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation
- Kaatza Foundation
- Kelowna International Airport
- Loyal Protestant Association
- MCL Motor Cars
- Morris & Helen Belkin Foundation
- New Car Dealers Association of BC
- Pacific Coastal Airlines
- RBC Foundation
- STAPLES Business Depot
- SUBWAY Restaurants
- The Province
- The Vancouver Sun
- Wolseley Canada
- YVR

Giving Through the SOBC Gift Catalogue

Special Olympics BC has unveiled a gift catalogue that offers a variety of gift choices to support athletes and programs across the province. This is an easy and significant way to get involved with Special Olympics BC and allows you to see your donation at work.

We would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations through the Gift Catalogue.

Provide a Memory that Will Last a Lifetime (Medals, Ribbons, and Awards)

Leslie Ste. Marie
David Noble
Kary Taylor
Heather Young

Sponsor an Athlete

Michael Campbell
Marnie Carter
Glen Wyse

Inspire Greatness by Training a Coach

Marnie Carter
Patricia Cleave

The Gift Catalogue is a meaningful way for companies, families, clubs, schools, organizations, or any other group to work towards a common goal. Get your group together and find a creative way to purchase one or many of the gifts.

To find out more or to make a donation through the Gift Catalogue, please call 604-737-3078 or visit www.specialolympics.bc.ca where you can download a PDF version.



Give the Gift of Proper and Safe Equipment

Marnie Carter
Golder Associates Ltd

Draft a Provincial Team Athlete

Michael Campbell

The Gift for Generations to Come (Endowment Fund)

Helen Argue

Uniform a Team and Foster Team Spirit

Sandra Millar
Michael Price

THANK YOU!

Grants and Foundations Update

Special Olympics BC thanks the following organizations for their generous grants to assist us in supporting Special Olympics athletes.

- The **F. K. Morrow Foundation** for their donation in support of Team BC going to the 2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.
- The **John Hardie Mitchell Family Foundation** for their donation towards Team BC going to the 2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.
- The **Morris & Helen Belkin Foundation** for their donation towards the Team BC Preparation Program for the 2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

Special Olympics BC would also like to thank the following organizations for their support of ongoing programs.

- 2010 Legacies Now
- Andrew Mahon Foundation
- British Columbia Lottery Corporation & SportsFunder
- Chris Spencer Foundation
- Knights of Columbus
- Philanthropy Preceptorship Fund

In-Kind Gifts

Special Olympics BC would like to thank the following companies for their in-kind gifts.

- Freelance Mac Stuff Graphics + Production, Sue Sullivan, and Charlene Beckman for designing our Pre-Games Newsletters.
- Garry Robertson Music Services for supplying sound equipment for Free the Fuzz and other events.
- Hemlock Printers, Dick Kouwenhoven, Dirk Ottevangers, and Christian Beveridge for printing our newsletter.
- STAPLES Business Depot for supplying us with our stationery needs.

If you have new, or like-new, office machines, furniture, or supplies you would like to donate, please contact Josh Pasnak at jpasnak@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3180.

LA WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORTS SOBC

During the first two weeks of January, Lower Mainland LA Weight Loss centres held a fundraiser in support of Special Olympics BC. LA Weight Loss is one of the fastest growing centre-based weight-loss companies in the world which combines a healthy, well-balanced menu plan with one-on-one counselling. LA Weight Loss donated \$10 for everyone who came in for a free weight analysis and \$20 for every person who joined. The fundraiser kicked-off just in time for all those New Year's resolutions! Altogether, LA Weight Loss raised \$3310 for Special Olympics BC. Thank you, LA Weight Loss!

NEW CAR DEALERS OF BC in Support of Special Olympics BC



Since Special Olympics BC's early years, the New Car Dealers Foundation of BC has been instrumental in enabling us to fulfill our mandate of transforming the lives of children, adults, and seniors with intellectual disabilities. For 21 years, the outstanding fundraising efforts of the New Car Dealers Foundation has raised over \$2.99 million for Special Olympics BC athletes and programs, with over \$180,000 raised in the 2006 New Car Dealers Foundation/Special Olympics Auction alone. The Auction is the single largest fundraising event in support of Special Olympics.



The scope of the New Car Dealers of BC support has extended beyond their stellar provincial fundraising efforts. In communities across BC, New Car Dealers have supported Special Olympics BC at the grassroots level. They have served as volunteers on local Special Olympics BC executive committees, supported community fundraisers for local programs, and donated additional services and funds when Provincial Games have been hosted in their community.

As we get ready to launch the 2008 Auction, Special Olympics BC would like to thank all the New Car Dealers of BC who support the auction by donating auction items, soliciting cash pledges, and bidding on items. We are also grateful for the support and would like to acknowledge the substantial contribution of the manufacturers and dealers who donate vehicles to the Auction.

Check out the next newsletter for a complete listing of Auction sponsors and donors.



www.bchonda.com



FIRST CANADIAN
INSURANCE CORPORATION



AUCTION



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Barb Coates



Local: Mission
Years involved: Eighteen
Sports: Treasurer and more

Barb has been involved with Special Olympics BC – Mission for eighteen years. Throughout her tenure she has successfully tried her hand at a number of volunteer roles and she currently holds the position of Treasurer.

In addition to her diligent attention to the finances of the Local, Barb often takes on other volunteer roles in order to keep the Local operating. On occasion Barb is the substitute Program Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, or Fundraising Coordinator and sometimes all three.

In her free time (don't laugh), Barb plans and executes the many annual events in Mission. She is the driving force for the annual barbeque and registration event and even works with Community Living to put a float in the annual Christmas parade. By organizing local fundraisers Barb helps to ensure that athletes in Mission have high-quality equipment and the opportunity to travel to out-of-town competitions.

Barb recognizes the importance of building partnerships in the community to allow the athletes an opportunity to volunteer and to ensure that Special Olympics is known as a dynamic and engaging organization. Barb secured a contract for the athletes and volunteers to act as parking attendants for Mission's Music in the Park event. This allows the athletes to act as ambassadors for Special Olympics and to provide service to the greater community.

Barb's fellow volunteers describe her as a warm and charming individual. They note that she is forever encouraging athletes to achieve their personal best and that she always has a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone.

Thank you, Barb, for being the glue that holds SOBC Mission together. Your dedication to the organization is bar none and we are lucky to have you.

JYSK Campaigns for SO this Summer

For the month of July, JYSK will launch a nation-wide campaign encouraging customers to 'Be a fan' of Special Olympics.

Every customer donation will support Special Olympics athletes. In addition to a charitable tax receipt, customers who donate \$10 or more are also eligible to receive a few Special Olympics Canada Beanie Bear while supplies last.

In Canada, the first JYSK store was opened in 1996 in Coquitlam. Today there are 36 stores in Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. JYSK has been a national partner of Special Olympics Canada since 2006.

ATHLETE PROFILE

Mitchell Grandberg

Local: Cranbrook
Years involved: Four
Sports: 5-Pin Bowling, Alpine Skiing, Aquatics, and Softball

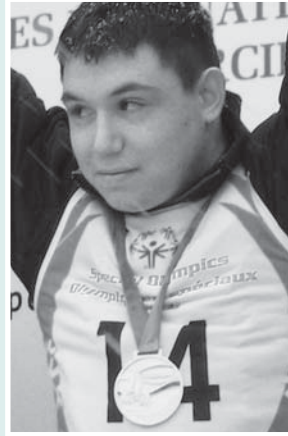


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BOUTREAU

At 15 years of age, Mitchell Grandberg is the new generation of Special Olympics athletes. Involved for the past four years, Mitchell has not only reached the goals that he set for himself, but he has surpassed them!

Mitchell's first Provincial Games experience was the 2007 Provincial Winter Games in Kelowna where he competed and medaled in alpine skiing. Mitchell loved travelling with the team, meeting other athletes from around BC, and experiencing what Kelowna had to offer. Like most athletes, he hoped to make Team BC but either way, was happy with his performance at Provincials.

When he was named to Team BC going to the 2008 National Winter Games he and his family were thrilled. Mitchell knew he would have to really work hard the year leading up to the games if he was to achieve his goal of a gold medal in national competition.

Mitchell did better than one gold medal. He received two gold medals, one silver and one bronze. He met lots of athletes from across Canada, took in the sights of Quebec City, and arrived home happy and ready for whatever the next experience would be. So when Mitchell received the call that he had been named to the Team Canada squad for the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho he could not believe it. With the news sinking in, Mitchell is now ready to take on this new challenge and looks forward to meeting athletes from around the world.

Mitchell is a grade ten student at Mount Baker Secondary in Cranbrook and enjoys mentoring other students, meeting his friends for dinner, and generally enjoying life in his community! Congratulations on your accomplishments, Mitchell!

Special Olympics BC Announces Host City for 2009 Provincial Summer Games

Special Olympics BC is pleased to announce that the City of Abbotsford has been selected as host community for the 2009 Provincial Summer Games! The games will run July 9–12, 2009.

Lois McNary, Vice-President of Sport said, "These Games will be the largest ever hosted in BC for Special Olympics. With approximately 1500 athletes and coaches expected to compete in Abbotsford, we know it will be very exciting."

Competition will be offered for eight official summer sports and three demonstration sports. The official sports are 5-pin bowling, 10-pin bowling, aquatics, athletics, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, and softball. Basketball, bocce, and golf will be demonstration sports at these games.

School District #34 and the City of Abbotsford are excited to be behind the Games and will work with to ensure that they are a first-class event. Over the next year, other sponsors will be invited to participate in what will be the most inspiring event of the year. If you would like more information on how to become involved as a sponsor, please contact Christina Larson at clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3073.

Happy Birthday Special Olympics International!

This year marks the 40th anniversary of SOI. The global Special Olympics movement got its start in July 1968, when the First International Special Olympics Games were held at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois, USA. On July 20, 1968, Shriver opened the Chicago Special Olympics (the First International Special Olympics Games), which were held in Chicago's Soldier Field, with 1,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 26 US states and Canada competing in athletics, aquatics, and floor hockey.

Toady Special Olympics is a global movement with 2.5 million athletes in more than 180 countries around the world.

Taken from www.specialolympics.org

Swimco Supports SOBC

Swimco has been selling reusable bags in its retail stores in British Columbia since December 2007.

The campaign will continue into June 2008. Fifty cents from each \$2 bag sale will be donated to Special Olympics BC. Additionally, \$0.50 will also be donated by Swimco when customers purchase over \$150 and receive a bag for free.

Swimco's reusable shopping bags began as an environmental initiative and an opportunity to join other retailers in a positive environmental movement to reduce landfills. The project evolved into something greater when they decided to donate a portion of the sale to support SO athletes in BC.

The bag features one-of-a-kind artwork by Fernie artist, Angela Morgan (www.angelamorgan.net). Visit Swimco locations in Burnaby, Kelowna, Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria to get your bag before they run out.



MONTHLY NEWS TO YOUR INBOX

Every month Special Olympics BC sends out an e-bulletin full of timely and interesting news and reminders. Be sure that you are getting all the info you need. If you would like to be on the list, please email newsletter@specialolympics.bc.ca and let us know which edition(s) you would like. We have one for athletes, another for coaches, one for volunteers, and another for sponsors.

Special Olympics Athletes Join Generic Athletes at BC Winter Games

This year's BC Winter Games was held in Cranbrook on February 21–24. Nestled in the breathtaking Rockies, the small town of Cranbrook and neighbouring Kimberly were bustling with athletes, coaches, and an aura of excitement about the intense competitions that were taking place.



Summerland, Nicole Lowry of Kelowna, and Avery Newton of Penticton.

The women from the Okanagan were not the only athletes to distinguish themselves. In light of his six gold medals, Dominik Folchi of Prince George

was asked to join the Region 8 generic team for the exhibition relay.

All of the athletes were extremely successful and excellent ambassadors for Special Olympics BC. A special thank you goes out to the hard working coaches: Shannon Ball, Chris Doyle, Gaston DuPaul, Marilyn Farquhar, Marlene Taylor, and Enrique Yep.

SOBC entered a team of 22 swimmers in this generic competition with representation from almost all regions. The athletes were recognized for their podium victories and the corresponding points that their home region was awarded. Region 2 took the title of Most Medals Overall thanks to the grand efforts of Sarah Francis of

COACH PROFILE

Jackie Ross

Local: Prince George
Years involved: Nineteen
Roles: Assistant Coach, Head Coach, and Program Coordinator



After nineteen years of continuous service, Jackie Ross has a strong presence in SOBC – Prince George. Since joining Special Olympics, Jackie

has shared her time in many capacities. Currently she is the Program Coordinator, head coach for 5-pin bowling, head coach for 10-pin bowling, and an assistant coach for curling. Jackie has also held the positions of Social Coordinator, head coach for T-ball, and assistant coach for track and field. She is also instrumental on the golf tournament committee which is the Local's main fundraiser.

Over the years, Jackie has understood the importance of being a certified coach and providing her athletes with as much knowledge as possible. She is fully certified in Special Olympics (Level 1), 5-pin bowling (level 1) and track and field (level 1) and attends the SOBC Provincial Workshop every year in August to network and expand her qualifications.

Prepared, confident, and composed are a few words that describe Jackie. She has a quiet demeanor and is a positive role model for both coaches and athletes. She always takes time to explain clearly what she expects of everyone at practices and when unforeseeable circumstances arise, she handles them calmly and professionally. A smile and encouraging words are two things you will always get from Jackie.

Thank you, Jackie, for all that you have done for Special Olympics. Your time and dedication over the years is greatly appreciated!



STAPLES Will be Swinging for the Fences

On June 14 STAPLES Business Depot will hold the seventh annual SOBC–STAPLES Softball tournament. Teams comprised of STAPLES employees and Special Olympics athletes will compete in a friendly daylong tournament at the Riverway Sports Complex in Burnaby.

SOBC is currently looking for athletes who are interested in participating in this fun-filled event. All skill levels are welcome. If anyone is interested in being a part of the team, please contact Karen Hamilton at khamilton@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3131.



Sports Celebrities Festival is Coming Soon

One of the hottest events of the year, the Sports Celebrities Festival, is in the planning stages and it's sure to be a "must-attend" fundraiser. Presently, Special Olympics BC is seeking donations for the silent and live auctions.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF WINNICK

BC Sports Celebrity Festival 2006 - Prize/Auction Donation

Please submit one form per item

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Special Olympics BC cannot provide tax receipts for donations of gift certificates or donations in kind. Tax receipts will only be issued when requested. Please note that all item donations are recorded at the retail or fair market value of the item donated. For further information please call Danielle Rana at 604-737-3056.

YOUR DONATION Current Market/Retail value: \$ _____

Note: An appraisal form by a qualified local appraiser must accompany original works of art and antiques valued over \$1000. Special Olympics BC reserves the right to have the valuation subject to an independent appraisal or verification of professional standards for fees and services.

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Please send this form to: Danielle Rana, c/o Special Olympics BC

#210-3701 East Hastings, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5C 2H6 Tel: 604-737-3056 Fax: 604-737-3080 Email: drana@specialolympics.bc.ca

Rocking the House at the Western Canada Curling Championships

The Western Canada Curling Championships (WCCC) originated in 2000 in an effort



to promote the sport of curling. The western provinces realized the need for additional competitive opportunities so they worked together to host the first Championships.

Special Olympics BC was the host of the 2008 WCCC from March 14-16 in Abbotsford. In attendance were six teams from Alberta, one team from Manitoba, and nine teams from around BC. Divisioning began Friday afternoon and was followed by a hearty dinner, giving athletes and coaches the energy to start play-offs on Saturday. After a full day of competition on Saturday, the teams had some social time with opportunities to develop long-lasting friendships. Teams were back Sunday morning to show off their amazing talent and to finish off competition.

SOBC would like to send a special thanks to all the volunteers and supporters that helped make the weekend a success, namely the Abbotsford Curling Club, 98.3 Star FM, Country 107.1, and St. John Ambulance. We would also like to thank all the athletes and coaches that attended the competition.

Results

Apple Division	Banana Division	Carrot Division
1st Penticton	1st Kelowna	1st Westlock (AB)
2nd Vernon	2nd Manitoba	2nd Vernon
3rd Victoria	3rd Wetaskiwin (AB)	3rd Calgary (AB)
4th Surrey	4th Langley	4th Victoria
5th Red Deer (AB)	5th Calgary (AB)	5th Lethbridge (AB)
6th Richmond		

Final Fore Set for September 3



Special Olympics BC is excited to announce the 2008 Final Fore Golf Tournament, presented by Goldcorp, will be held on Wednesday, September 3. Mark your calendar now.

In keeping with last year's format, for those who like their golf a little more social, the *Final Fore Fun* tournament will offer teams of five a day of fun in a scramble, best-ball format. And for those looking for a more competitive experience, the *Final Fore Elite* will provide a PGA-like tournament, complete with forecaddies, leaderboards, and tee times.

On the Elite side, teams consist of four players, who will play their own ball in a four-person, two-better-ball format. Golfers on the Elite side should have a handicap index of 18.0 or under. In addition to competing for a skins pot, a prize table, and of course, the first place trophy, golfers will finish their game to a waiting gallery and be announced as they come down the last fairway. We will be hosting this side of the tournament on The Links, Swan-e-set's members' course.

If you are interested in the opportunity of sponsoring a hole, donating prizes, or registering a team, please contact Christina Larson at clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3073.

Sport BC and ProMotion Plus Recognize Special Olympics BC Volunteers



Dee and Patty show off their awards.

Congratulations to Patty Wheeldon and Dee Neukomm! These ladies were selected by Sport BC and ProMotion Plus to receive prestigious awards at this year's Sport BC Awards Annual Reception.

Patty Wheeldon is this year's winner of the President's Award. This award is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to their organization. Patty, in addition to her duty as Regional Coordinator for Region Three, is a coach in Langley, has just finished her duties as team manager for Team BC at the National Games in Quebec City, and has been selected as mission staff to Team Canada at next year's World Games in Boise, Idaho. Thank you and congratulations, Patty!

Dee Neukomm is this year's winner of the Bobbie Steen Career Achievement Award. This award is given by ProMotion Plus to a woman who has made significant contributions to women in sport over her coaching career. Dee was the founding coach of the rhythmic gymnastics program in Prince George and the head coach for Team Canada this past September at the World Games in Shanghai, China. Thank you and congratulations, Dee!

Both ladies were honoured on March 5 at Sport BC's Annual Reception. Vice-President of Sport, Lois McNary was on hand to present Patty with her award and to celebrate with Dee. Appreciation and congratulations goes out to these two exceptional volunteers.

Special Olympics BC Pilots Active Start and FUNdamentals Programs

Special Olympics BC is excited to announce the creation of two new program initiatives, Active Start and FUNdamentals, which promote the development of basic motor and sport skills for young children with intellectual disabilities in a fun and positive environment. Active Start is for the 2-6 year olds and is a family-based program that focuses on basic motor skill development with attention given to positive movement experiences. The FUNdamentals program takes participant development to the next level with an aim of introducing sport skills for athletes between the ages of 7-10 years preparing participants for future sport endeavours.

Both the Active Start and FUNdamentals programs are also designed to promote proper nutrition, education, social network building, and an introduction to the amazing opportunities



provided through Special Olympics BC. SOBC piloted the Active Start program on the North Shore in February and Coquitlam in March and received enthusiastic feedback from both participants and caregivers/parents alike.

Special Olympics BC would like to thank 2010 Legacies Now for their generous support of this program.

If you would like more information or would like to bring either of these dynamic new programs to your area please contact Shawn Fevens at sfevens@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3055.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BENJAMIN LUK

New SOBC athletes learn and play at the Active Start program in North Vancouver.



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And Then There Were Two...in Lower Similkameen!

Only a few months ago SOBC introduced a new Local called "Lower Similkameen" which included both Princeton and Keremeos. When this new executive committee put the call out for athletes, coaches, and volunteers, the response was overwhelming! They quickly assessed the numbers and territory and realized that these two communities could run independently.

It is with great excitement that SOBC announces Princeton and Keremeos as their own Locals. Region 2 is now comprised of eleven Locals and it's still growing. Move over Lower Mainland...here comes the Okanagan!

Sights are now set on Merritt. If you know of any potential volunteers in the "country music capital of Canada", please contact Leslie Thomley at lthomley@specialolympics.bc.ca / 250-765-6231.

2008 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Event Type	Location	Contact	Phone / Email
May 23–24	Kelowna Free the Fuzz	Fundraiser	Kelowna	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 or drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
May 25	Golf Region 2 Qualifier*	Open	Penticton	Paul Richard	250-809-0540 / medman1_98@yahoo.com
May 24	5-pin Region 2 Qualifier	Open	Kamloops	Marilyn Hogg	250-573-1206 / mhogg@shaw.ca
May 24–25	Softball Region 6 Tournament	Open	Campbell River	Maureen Brinson	250-286-6453 / mabrinson@connected.bc.ca
May 31	motionball's Marathon of Sport		Burnaby	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
May 31	Track Region 2 Qualifier, Kelowna Track Meet	Open	Kelowna	Linda McIntosh	250-765-3774 / coach5@telus.net
May 31	Soccer Region 6 Qualifier	Open	Port Alberni	Anne Evans	250-724-2327 / super49@shaw.ca
May 31–June 1	Softball Region 3 Qualifier	Open	Coquitlam	Vera Anderson	604-936-8501 / vera_anderson2003@yahoo.ca
June 2–13	Auto Dealers Auction	Fundraiser	BC	Christina Larson	604-737-3073 / clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 6	Kelowna Golf Tournament	Fundraiser	Kelowna	Joan Gerhardt	250-860-7905 / jwgerhardt79@shawbiz.ca
June 7	Progress Club's Plywood Cup	Fundraiser	Vancouver	Karen Hamilton	604-737-3131 / khamilton@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 14	Track Region 3, 4, and 5 Qualifier*	Open	Richmond	Susan Wieczorek	604-943-9353 / wizo@dccnet.com
June 14	STAPLES Softball Tournament	Fundraiser	Burnaby	Karen Hamilton	604-737-3131 / khamilton@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 21–22	LETR Free the Fuzz Trail	Fundraiser	Trail	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 21	Bocce Region 2 Qualifier	Open	Oliver	Deb Varner	250-498-4985 / deb@oliverrecreation.ca
June 21	Rally for Champions	Fundraiser	Vancouver	Christina Larson	604-737-3073 / clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 24–27	LETR Lower Mainland Final Leg	Fundraiser	Fraser Valley	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 27–29	LETR Free the Fuzz Courtenay	Fundraiser	Courtenay	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
June 28	Oceanside Golf Tournament	Fundraiser	Qualicum Beach	John Larner	250-752-0429 / john.ang@telus.net
July 19	Bocce Qualifier Regions 3, 4, and 5*	Open	Vancouver	Pam Sywulich	604-263-6579 / p.sywulich@shaw.ca
July 19–20	Progress Club's Softball Tournament	Fundraiser	Vancouver	Karen Hamilton	604-737-3131 / khamilton@specialolympics.bc.ca
August 8–1	Provincial Workshop	Open	Kelowna	Leanne Mack	604-737-3125 / lmack@specialolympics.bc.ca
August 15–16	Howie Meeker Golf Tournament	Open	Campbell River	Maureen Brinson	250-286-3732 / mabrinson@connected.bc.ca
August 23–24	LETR Free the Fuzz Merritt	Fundraiser	Merritt	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 3	Final Fore Golf Tournament	Fundraiser	Pitt Meadows	Christina Larson	604-737-3073 / clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 5–6	LETR Free the Fuzz Kamloops	Fundraiser	Kamloops	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 11	Canuel Golf Tournament	Fundraiser	Vancouver	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 12	Hart to Heart Croquet Tournament	Fundraiser	Burnaby	Christina Larson	604-737-3073 / clarson@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 18	Gould Golf Tournament	Fundraiser	Vancouver	Karen Hamilton	604-737-3131 / khamilton@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 20	LETR Abbotsford Police Challenge Run	Fundraiser	Abbotsford	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
September 21	LETR Truck Convoy	Fundraiser	Abbotsford and Chilliwack	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca
November 23	LETR Polar Plunge	Fundraiser	Maple Ridge	Danielle Rana	604-737-3056 / drana@specialolympics.bc.ca

* This is not a sanctioned event. All Locals hosting regional qualifiers must complete the sanctioning documents.

Yes! I want to help Special Olympics BC

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Leanne Bids Farewell!

Leanne Mack, Manager, Volunteer Development for Special Olympics BC will be leaving her position to pursue other opportunities in Toronto. Although Leanne has only been with Special Olympics BC for the past year, she has been involved with numerous events and conferences and has thoroughly enjoyed working with her Locals in Region 3, 4, and 7 and thanks all of the athletes, volunteers, and staff at Special Olympics BC for all the wonderful memories.

With a heavy heart, Leanne will be departing on a cross-Canada journey on June 30. Special Olympics BC wishes her a safe journey and all the best as she braves the Toronto traffic!

Welcome Shawn!

Special Olympics BC is pleased to announce the appointment of Shawn Fevens as Manager, Youth Initiatives. While a major part of Shawn's job will be the development and implementation of the Active Start, FUNdamentals, and youth programs, he will also work on sport, competition, and local development.

Shawn has a bachelor degree in Kinesiology with a concentration on sport management from the University of New Brunswick. Prior to coming to BC, Shawn was the Program Director for five years with Special Olympics New Brunswick and a mission staff member on Team Canada in Shanghai at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games. Needless to say, he brings a wealth of knowledge to this new position.

Shawn made the move to BC with his wife Joanne, who has coached at the Provincial and National levels while in New Brunswick and is now coaching in the Active Start program with SOBC – North Shore. Please join us in welcoming Shawn and Joanne to British Columbia!



Congratulations!



Jeff Penny shows off the ribbons he won at the Region 2 Qualifier, the Kelowna Swim Meet March 29 to Leslie Thornley

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC

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Administrative Volunteers Enjoyed ProD at February Conference

Administrative volunteers are some of the unsung heroes of Special Olympics BC. These positions offer no glory, tons of paperwork, and often very little training... until now. This year, Special Olympics BC committed to hosting a two-day seminar for Volunteer Coordinators and Program Coordinators.

Forty-four volunteers from all eight regions convened in Richmond for two intense days of training. These volunteers learned the ins and outs of their respective positions and are prepared to return to the Locals to bring the new skills into action. Aside from all the hard work, volunteers took time out to listen to gifted athlete speakers, Michaela Robinson

Congratulations to the Winners:
Larisa Buckley,
Trudy Goodman, Ross
Harvey, Pat Stuart,
Karen Theriault, and
Russell Turnbull.

and Adam Advocaat. These athletes were inspirational and one of the volunteers described their speeches as "the best recognition gift I ever received".

Volunteers also participated in a wacky scavenger hunt on Saturday evening that had them harassing airline pilots and taking bus rides to the Richmond Centre Mall. The winners of this scavenger hunt were awarded a non-transferable registration (excluding travel expenses) to this year's Provincial Workshop in Kelowna on August 8, 9, and 10.

If you would like to see a two-day seminar for your volunteer position, please make your suggestion to Lois McNary at lmcnary@specialolympics.bc.ca / 604-737-3117.



SOBC – Vancouver Athletes Entertain Thousands at Chinese New Year Parade



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT PATERSON

In an effort to spread the message of Special Olympics BC to the Chinese community, a group of dedicated athletes and volunteers from Vancouver marched in the Chinese New Year Parade. SOBC athletes and volunteers were honoured to be included with the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Classical Garden's parade entry.

Our friends at the Garden invited us to learn a traditional lion dance and drums for this occasion requiring the athletes to train hard for three weeks. They hosted a reception in the morning prior to the parade to perform a ceremony to "wake up" the Chinese lion by painting on his eyes and preparing him to ward off the evil spirits and ensure a prosperous new year.

SOBC athletes wowed the crowd with their dancing and drumming abilities including a number of VIPs including Premier Campbell and Mayor Sullivan. Special Olympics BC would like to thank Jamie Edwards from the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Classical Garden for the magnificent opportunity.

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