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Province deepens its support of Special Olympics athletes

The 2014 National Games will be hosted in B.C. and the Province has stepped up as first sponsor

The Province is building on its commitment to sport by providing \$1 million to Special Olympics BC to support B.C.'s Special Olympics athletes and to host the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver, Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, announced in August.

The funding will be provided over the course of three years. Of this significant contribution, \$700,000 will help Special Olympics BC build programs and competitions for British Columbians with intellectual disabilities to improve their health and fitness, strengthen programs for Special Olympics athletes such as Healthy Athletes, and support the development of a stronger network of families and supporters to further empower athletes. The further \$300,000 will support B.C.'s hosting of the 2014 National Games.

"I am proud of our continuing support of Special Olympics BC, and of athletes who dedicate themselves to personal excellence. Organizations like Special Olympics BC help everyone be more open, inclusive and accepting. This is the true power of sport in action," Minister Chong said.

She announced the Province's funding at an event in August held at Scotiabank Field at Nat Bailey Stadium, where she was joined by MLAs Margaret MacDiarmid and Harry Bloy as well as SOBC softball and bocce athletes.

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Minister Ida Chong and MLAs Margaret MacDiarmid and Harry Bloy joined SOBC Board Chair Mike Campbell, 2014 Games Chair Cathy Priestner Allinger and SOBC athletes and volunteers to make the August announcement at Scotiabank Field at Nat Bailey Stadium, home of the Vancouver Canadians.



Wowing the world in Athens

The 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games was the year's largest international multi-sport event on the planet, with more than 7,000 athletes coming together from all over the globe to compete in 21 sports in Athens, Greece. Team Canada delivered a remarkable week of athletic achievements, winning 124 medals (64 gold, 35 silver and 25 bronze), up from 113 captured at the last Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China.

SOBC athletes and coaches played a huge part in the team's success, and we are so proud of them!

SOBC athletes brought home a haul of 13 medals (won by individuals and teams) as well as an amazing range of personal-best performances and incredible experiences. Congratulations to all of the 47 athletes, coaches and mission staff members who gave their best and delivered such a strong showing!

SWIMMING

Ryan Kuester of SOBC – Chilliwack added to his golden performance in the 25-metre backstroke event by winning another gold medal in the 25-metre freestyle! Ryan commendably clocked personal-best times in both his preliminary round and final race, and he won his second gold with his time of 14.53 seconds.

"He is excited to know that all of you are behind him and can hardly wait to get home now," Ryan's family reported in an e-mail home on Saturday (July 2).

Salutations to SOBC – Victoria's **Drew Sabourin** and **Stephanie Rogers** of SOBC – Sunshine Coast, winners of two medals apiece in their own events! Amazing swimming by both athletes. Congratulations also to the coaching staff, including SOBC – Langley's **Heather Young!**

BOWLING

Hats off to **Belinda Lyle** of SOBC – North Shore, winner of two silver medals with her four-person team and in her doubles event! Belinda's four-person team logged 407 points and her doubles pair had 382 points. Belinda also finished fifth in her singles event.

Congratulations to **Crystal Thompson** of SOBC – Nanaimo, winner of a bronze medal in her four-person team event with 336 points! Crystal also finished sixth in her doubles event and seventh in her singles category.

Well done **Lorraine McLatchie** of SOBC – North Shore, who placed sixth in her team and doubles events and seventh in her singles competition. Congratulations also to the coaching staff, including **Mags Roberts** of SOBC – Vancouver!

SOCCER

Three cheers for the Surrey Vipers soccer team, bronze medallists at the 2011 World Games! After persevering through challenging early matches, this hard-charging team beat Austria 4-1 to capture bronze in their division.

The final match was a tightly fought affair – at least until the last four minutes, when Steven Dew burst out to score two goals!

Congratulations to **Rick Bussey, Steven Dew, Anne Gibson, Raj Heer, Jay Laiter, Jim Laiter, Bryce Schaufelberger, Darcy Stebanuk, Marc Theriault, and Derek Tomm** for your excellent efforts; hats off to coaches **Jerzy Kusmierok, Donna Bilous, and Rick Lucy** for your fine work!

SOFTBALL

It was a sparkling silver-medal finish for the Grizzlies softball squad! Playing as Team Canada's Canada West unit, the Grizzlies are proud athletes from Kelowna, Burnaby, Comox Valley, Delta, and Vernon.

"The team played AWESOME. We are so VERY proud of them. They represented our Locals, our Province and Canada very well," Head Coach Lorena Mead wrote in an e-mail.

Here is her recap of the games: "We played the Dominican Republic in our first two games. The Dominican won one game 8-4,



SOBC – Surrey soccer player Steven Dew struck for two goals in his team's final match of the World Games, where they won a bronze medal!

SOBC – Sunshine Coast swimmer Stephanie Rogers brought home two medals from the World Games and starred in a local parade with her coach Marilyn Adams.



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Earlier in August, Special Olympics Canada announced that Vancouver will host the largest-ever Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in 2014, and world-class sport leader and former VANOC official Cathy Priestner Allinger has been selected to lead the Games.

The 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games will bring up to 1,800 athletes, coaches and officials from across the country to Vancouver to compete at the University of British Columbia. The athletes will go for gold in 11 sports, including five- and ten-pin bowling, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, softball, swimming and track and field, in addition to three new sports: basketball, bocce, and golf.

Priestner Allinger brings a wealth of experience and sport expertise to her role as chair of the 2014 Games Organizing Committee. An Olympic medallist in speed skating, Priestner Allinger played a key role in the staging of the hugely successful 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in B.C. as Executive Vice-President, Sport, Paralympics and Games Operations.

She also brings significant experience with Special Olympics to the table, having served as a member of the board of directors of Special Olympics BC since 2007.

"The 2014 Games will be the largest Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Canadian history. The support of the B.C. Government will help us make sure they are a huge success," she said.



and we beat them 10-8. We beat Australia in the next two games. According to the International Softball Federation rules, if there is a tie, the winner is chosen by who scored the most runs in the games that they played together. The Dominican scored 16 runs and we scored 14 runs so they won the gold."

We salute the Grizzlies, world silver medallists: **James Blacke, Marcus Carberry, Ryan Courtemanche, Richard Gillis, Kyle Grummett, Chris Harrington, Jonathan MacDonald, Robert Penning, Kevin Polehoykie, Walter Reddecliff, Chris Roberge, David Scott, Danny Sperling and David Wong** as well as coaches **Lorena Mead, Ian Olive and Dennis Richardson!**

TRACK AND FIELD

B.C.'s track and field athletes delivered some stellar performances on the track and out in the field events:

Avodele Caesar: 4th, 200m Run, 32.58s; 4th, 400m Run, 1min 25.92s; 4th, 4x100 Relay, 1min 4.45s

Stacey Kohler: BRONZE, 3000m Run, 15min 18.74s; 6th, 1500m Run, 7min 30.30s

Ray Lappalainen: SILVER, 200m Run, 24.31s; 4th, 4x400 Relay, 4min 12.90s; 5th, 400m Run, 55.29s

Mary Wells: 4th, 4x100 Relay (with Avodele), 1min 4.45s; 5th, Long Jump, 2m 56cm; 5th, 100m Run, 17.71s

Congratulations also to the coaching staff, including B.C.'s **Angela Behn** and **Tom Norton!**

Hat tips also to B.C.'s **Shawn Fevens** and **Patty Wheeldon**, members of the dedicated Team Canada Mission Staff that supported the athletes throughout this life-changing journey.

SOBC also wants to salute powerlifter **Chrystal Bradley** for her triple gold medal tour de force! Chrystal now calls New Brunswick home but qualified for the 2011 World Games through B.C. She captured an incredible three gold medals in the 67.5kg weight class, and we congratulate her sincerely.

Fan reactions (posted online at specialolympics.bc.ca):

WAY TO GO TEAM CANADA ON YOUR SILVER FOR BASEBALL -David Ferrier

Congratulations everyone from Team Canada on your accomplishments in winning gold, silver and bronze medals. It must have been a good holiday and sports adventure in Greece. Last of all, congratulations Stephanie Rogers in your winning in swimming of SILVER, 25m Freestyle, 55.27s and BRONZE, 25m Backstroke, 53.89s. Hopefully one day I will make it to a World Summer or World Winter SO Games. -Lyle Lexier, Special Olympics athlete, Vancouver, Canada

Congratulations Team Canada on your accomplishments in Greece.... we have been following it online.... you made us so proud to be Canadian and to support you.

-Cheryl, proud mom of SOBC -Victoria speed skater Chris

Congratulations to all of Team Canada and especially to the BC athletes!! Reading about everyone's successes makes me so proud to be from BC. -Denise Yuen



SOBC – Delta athlete Stacey Kohler beams with the bronze medal she captured on the track in Athens, Greece.



Heather Young and Patty Wheeldon were two of the amazing B.C. coaches and mission staff members who supported Team Canada throughout their World Games journey.

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GOLDCORP **MAKES 'GAME-CHANGING'** **\$1-MILLION COMMITMENT TO** **SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC**

At the 2011 Special Olympics BC Ice Sport Championships in February, Goldcorp announced a \$1-million multi-year commitment to SOBC, which will see SOBC's youth programs significantly expanded across British Columbia. These programs provide unique opportunities for children to develop essential motor, sport and social skills in supportive, fun environments.

Goldcorp's interest in SOBC caused the organization to enhance its strategic plan for the next five years, allowing support for children and youth with intellectual disabilities in ways never before thought possible.

SOBC is now aiming to more than double the number of youth programs being offered in B.C. SOBC has been using the Goldcorp funding, in part, to hire new staff members based in regions around the province to provide on-the-ground support for the significant expansion in the 55 communities throughout B.C. where more than 2,900 dedicated volunteers operate SOBC programs.

Many of the families involved in SOBC's growing youth programs have faced a lack of opportunities for their children. The SOBC programs are now helping to fill that void, giving children with intellectual disabilities opportunities to develop essential motor skills, confidence and social skills in a supportive and fun environment. More B.C. children will now be able to experience the joy of activities such as jumping for the first time, while developing vital skills like walking up stairs and holding a pencil.

"Goldcorp's game-changing commitment allows SOBC to make significant strides to help children with intellectual disabilities, some of whom have never been able to participate in standard sports programs that leave them behind. Thanks to Goldcorp, we are able to substantially increase the number of opportunities for children and youth with intellectual disabilities to make important gains

of physical and social skills through Special Olympics BC programs," said Dan Howe, President and CEO of Special Olympics BC.

"Goldcorp's partnership with SOBC embodies a number of elements that support our company's vision of sustainable prosperity – ensuring that our business activities create long-term social progress and economic growth



James Sutherland (left) and son Oliver (centre) of SOBC – North Shore joined Goldcorp's Lindsay Hall and Christine Marks along with Michael Campbell, chair of the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors, for the exciting announcement in February.

for communities," said Lindsay Hall, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Goldcorp. "It is our hope that this contribution to youth programs furthers the great work being done by SOBC, and that we can continue to partner in providing opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports training and competition."

Goldcorp has been a supporter of SOBC through the annual Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament for the past six years. The company's new investment involves a commitment of \$250,000 per year over four years to power the expansion of SOBC's Active Start, FUNdamentals and Sport Start programs, as well as continued support of the Goldcorp Invitational.

The Goldcorp Invitational, which was formerly known as the Final Fore Golf Tournament, is a key source of funding for Special Olympics BC athletes and programs around the province and has become one of the most successful SOBC fundraising events.

STELLAR SUPPORT FROM B.C.'S NEW CAR DEALERS



The annual New Car Dealers Foundation of BC / Special Olympics Auction was a stirring success once again this year, raising more than \$148,000 for Special Olympics BC (SOBC) and the New Car Dealers Foundation of BC.

The online auction, which ran from May 30 to June 9, featured more than 239 items, including four vehicles that were generously donated by: Chevrolet and Buick GMC Dealers of BC; Toyota Canada and Your Toyota BC Dealers; Ford Dealers and Ford Canada; and the BC Honda Dealers Association. Auction items were solicited or donated by New Car Dealers from communities throughout British Columbia – from Northern BC to Greater Vancouver; from Vancouver Island to the Kootenay-Rockies.

The auction enables the New Car Dealers Foundation of BC to support a wide range of community initiatives, including local charities, sports teams, community events, and scholarships for young people entering the automotive industry.

The New Car Dealers Association has been supporting Special Olympics BC for more than 26 years and has raised more than \$3.4 million in support of athletes and programs around the province. And their support extends far beyond the Auction – many dealers across the province offer their support in a variety of ways, and Special Olympics BC has been the recipient of a vehicle through the 2011 Dream Car Lottery.

The generous support of B.C.'s New Car Dealers means a great deal to athletes like Matthew Williams, the SOBC – Langley athlete and Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, whom New Car Dealers met this year at their annual conference. Through Special Olympics, Matthew has developed his confidence and honed his fantastic public speaking skills, and he now speaks to audiences and significant figures worldwide – such as Warren Buffett and Jim Pattison – to share the spirit and the importance of Special Olympics. He's an eloquent advocate for a more inclusive world. He's also a committed athlete who is training hard to represent B.C. as a speed skater in the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

Special thanks to the Auction Committee:

- Marnie Carter – New Car Dealers Association of BC Foundation Chair, Carter Auto Group
- Doug Bower – Vancouver Sun & The Province
- Manse Binkley – Harmony Honda & Harmony Acura
- John Chesman – MCL Motor Cars
- Christina Hadley – Special Olympics BC
- Tom Harris – Harris Auto Group
- Dan Howe – Special Olympics BC
- Pam Keith – Dueck Auto Group
- Joe Mitchell – Carter Auto Group
- Blair Qualey – New Car Dealers Association of BC
- John Wynia – Harbourview Volkswagen

and to all the other dealers who made cash pledges, solicited auction items and bid on items.

THANKS TO OUR VEHICLE DONORS

 CHEVROLET AVEO  DONATED BY Chevrolet and Buick GMC Dealers of BC	 2011 YARIS HATCHBACK CE  DONATED BY Toyota Canada and Your Toyota BC Dealers	 2011 FORD FIESTA S SEDAN  DONATED BY Ford Dealers and Ford Canada	 2012 HONDA CIVIC SEDAN  DONATED BY BC Honda Dealers Association
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THANKS TO THOSE DEALERS WHO SUPPORTED THE AUCTION WITH A CASH PLEDGE OR BY DONATING AUCTION ITEMS

 Auto West Group  CAM CLARK FORD LINCOLN  BARNES WHEATON  Brian Jessel  CARTER AUTO FAMILY  Capilano Volkswagen Clarkdale Volkswagen Your Vancouver Volkswagen Dealer	  CHRYSLER PIONEER CHRYSLER Eagle Ridge Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd.  CHEVROLET - CHEVROLET TRUCK LTD.   LANGLEY PORTIAC-BUICK-GMC  Harbourview Volkswagen Harris auto group Dave Wheaton	  JACOBSEN EXCELLENCE   The Jim Pattison autogroup Pacific Honda MetroLexus Toyota victoria  Volkswagen Canada Laird Wheaton WHEATON CHEVROLET Buick Cadillac BUICK GMC 
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New Car Dealers Dream Car Lottery

To support SOBC athletes in achieving their sporting dreams and goals, the New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C. gave SOBC the keys to a brand-new Dodge Caravan, which was purchased through proceeds from the Vancouver International Auto Show's 2011 Dream Car Lottery.

In its second year, the fundraiser generated overwhelming support from citizens in a number of communities throughout B.C. As SOBC vehicle supplier, the Trotman Auto Group provided this year's automobile through its Langley Chrysler dealership.

2011 Special Olympics BC Winter Sport Championships



The 2011 Special Olympics BC Winter Sport Championships took place over three amazing weekends of sport and spirit in February and March. The action kicked off with the 2011 SOBC Ice Sport Championships in Coquitlam, featuring fantastic curlers, figure skaters and speed skaters; next up was the hotly contested 2011 Floor Hockey Championship in Vancouver, which brought together teams from around the province for great games at UBC. The 2011 SOBC Snow Sport Championships brought the whole show to an exciting close in West Kelowna, where the alpine skiers sped down the slopes and the cross-country skiers and snowshoers worked hard making tracks.

Enjoy these recaps and check out the SOBC website for more comments and photos! www.specialolympics.bc.ca

2011 SOBC Ice Sport Championships, February 11-12, Coquitlam

After the dust settled from the intense curling finals on Day 2 of the 2011 SOBC Ice Sport Championships, Victoria's IA team was victorious in Division 1, but SOBC – Kelowna's Jake Penney, one of the members of SOBC – Pentiction's silver-medallist squad, couldn't have been happier with his team's result.

Beaming from ear to ear, he declared, "We did it!" at the last medal ceremony of the Ice Sport Championships, as he and his teammates received their silver medals. Sixteen-year-old Jake was one of the two new members on the Pentiction squad that also included two-time National Games gold medallists Lynden Hicks and Chad Conlon and fellow rookie Jake Huff. He declared that the silver medal was what he'd wanted most, and he couldn't keep the smile off his face.

"It was awesome!" Jake said of his SOBC provincial championships experience. "I want to come back again, I'll be older then and I'll be even better!"

SOBC – Victoria's IA team members were just as delighted with their gold-medal performance. The group went undefeated in their two days of play, and skip Danny Pace said they had a steady strategy: "shot by shot and game by

game." In their exciting gold-medal game against Pentiction, they strove to stick to playing their game – and taking it shot by shot took them to a gold medal!

Nanaimo went home with the bronze in Division 1. Medals also went to Abbotsford, the Burnaby Ice Rockettes and Surrey 2 in Division 2, and Powell River, Kelowna and Port Alberni in Division 3. Hats off to you all! And congratulations to all the curling athletes and coaches who made the games of the 2011 SOBC Ice Sport Championships so exciting!

Cheers to the curlers from SOBC – Nakusp, who were the first-ever athletes from Nakusp to participate in an SOBC provincial championships, and to the curling team from SOBC – Princeton who were Princeton's first competitors in an SOBC provincial winter championships!

There couldn't have been a better way to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the opening of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games than by watching talented and determined Special Olympics BC athletes compete in the 2011 SOBC Ice Sport Championships! And as SOBC – Coquitlam speed skating coach Walde Libera said, "What better way to celebrate our birthday?"

A chorus of "Happy Birthday" rang out from the stands for Walde and wife/fellow coach Rosella Infanti, who were marking their shared birthday on the second day of the championships by supporting the exciting speed skating races. Their speedy son Nicholas got them a great birthday gift: He won one gold and three silver medals in his events, and he finished his races with a huge smile on his face.

The speed skating races were lightning quick and full of excitement, culminating in the relay races where the athletes teamed up to blitz the rink. The athletes tirelessly gave their all and bounced back from spills, like SOBC – Langley's Matt Williams, who rebounded from a fall earlier in the morning to win his 1000-metre and 500-metre races in flying form.

And there were many beautiful, moving and charming performances as the figure skating competitors closed out their events in the afternoon. The crowd threw flowers, toys and several of the special-edition bears created by JYSK to show their appreciation for the excellent skates, and the athletes all showed impressive polish and abilities to put on a wonderful show with their routines.

SOBC – Victoria's Pauline Shaw and Darlene Jakubowski of SOBC – Dawson Creek both went home with two gold medals each. Pauline said she hadn't come to the championships with any expectations for medals – she purely wanted to skate her best. An admirable goal!

2011 SOBC Floor Hockey Championship, February 18-19, Vancouver

Before the SOBC – Richmond team's final game in the 2011 Special Olympics BC Floor Hockey Championship – Nick Johnston had a feeling

to maintain focus and have fun. Andrew, who was described as one of his team's most improved players, was competing in his first SOBC provincial championships. "I was pretty nervous for this," he admitted. But he had lots of fun with his team. "They're fun to play with. I enjoy being on the team."

The action in Division Moose was equally as exciting, as the SOBC – Campbell River, SOBC – Coquitlam, SOBC – Mission and SOBC – Vancouver teams gave everything they had in their games. After the well-played round-robin action, Campbell River and Vancouver earned berths in the gold-medal game, and Campbell River prevailed after a great effort by both teams. Coquitlam and Mission battled hard



they might be winning a medal in their Giants division. But he didn't care what colour:

"I just want a Special Olympics medal I can call my own, something I helped earn," Nick said. He was participating in his first SOBC provincial championships and appreciating the experience. "It's been amazing!"

Richmond went on to win their final game against SOBC – Kamloops, which was the last game in what was a wonderful two days of intense and exciting floor hockey action, and they claimed the gold medal in Division Giants. SOBC – Surrey's squad won the silver medal, followed by the Kamloops Silvertips winning bronze, with valiant performances also by the SOBC – Langley and SOBC – North Shore squads.

Richmond's goalie, Vincent Li, had a great time watching the championships as well as playing. He said he was impressed by how well all of the teams were playing, including the Burnaby Hawks, who gave their all in the Canucks division.

The action in the closely contested Canucks division was extremely exciting, as the SOBC – Abbotsford, SOBC – Burnaby, Island Composite, SOBC – Kelowna and SOBC – Nanaimo teams played intense and skilful games with plenty of thrilling moments. Saturday's play culminated in an epic Island battle as Nanaimo and the Island Composite squad squared off in the last Division Canucks game of the championship. With end-to-end action, heart-stopping chances and clutch defensive and goaltending play, the match was a fitting cap to the games in this division, and Nanaimo took the 3-2 win even though their Island opponents pulled their goalie in the dying moments.

Nanaimo earned the gold medal in Division Canucks, while the Kelowna Cougars captured silver and the Island Composite crew took the bronze. Abbotsford and Burnaby should also be commended for their great play and exciting games!

Nanaimo's Andrew Frenchy said his team hadn't come into the tournament with any expectations. "We came here just to have fun and see how it turns out," he said, just before the team's final game. His goals for that game were

for the bronze medal, pulling to a 2-2 tie until Coquitlam netted two goals in quick succession to end the game at 4-2 and win bronze.

Mission's coach Kim was pleased with her team, especially after their last game in the round robin, where they played Campbell River. "The last game was phenomenal. They really came together and they're having fun," she said.

There were plenty of smiles too in the finals of the Floor Hockey Skills events, where the athletes moved through fun stations and tested key skills with the help of great volunteers and members of the Vancouver Police Department. Great skills were shown and great fun was had by all!

Congratulations and many thanks to all the athletes, coaches and volunteers who made the 2011 SOBC Floor Hockey Championship so much fun and so exciting! Two of the key people in organizing this fantastic tournament, Pam and Mike Sywulych, were saluted on the final day of the championship with a post-medals presentation for all their amazing efforts – huge thanks to them both!

2011 SOBC Snow Sport Championships, March 4-5, West Kelowna

When asked about his approach for the snowshoe races he would undertake in the 2011 Special Olympics BC Snow Sport Championships, SOBC – Vancouver athlete Bill Gauld had an answer right on the tip of his tongue: the Special Olympics Athlete's Oath. "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," he said immediately.

Then he offered another dimension to his strategy: "Pace yourself, do your best, and we'll see what happens." For Bill, what happened was that he won four gold medals with his determined, focused racing in the exciting snowshoeing events! One example of the many great athletes and impressive achievements marked at the 2011 SOBC Snow Sport Championships in West Kelowna.

Up on Crystal Mountain, the alpine skiers gave amazing performances in the sunshine on Friday and Saturday. The alpine races were rife with

smiling faces and happy energy. The racers cheered for each other and gave great whoops of joy when they finished their fast runs. Their coaches were thorough and dedicated as they walked the athletes through the courses and urged them on in their runs. "There's no such thing as too much speed," said one smiling coach who was cheering racers at the start gate.

lot of fun and she met many new people. Barb and Rita said these Championships were well worth the 10-hour trip to West Kelowna! Barb said they had fun "seeing our friends from Kelowna ... and having fun with the team." The pair earned three medals between themselves.

Garth Vickers, the SOBC – Kelowna coach and Provincial Coach for cross-country skiing, summed up the two days of cross-country



SOBC – Victoria alpine skiers Richard Weyler, Ian Statham and Philip Dickson were also professing their readiness to race as soon as they arrived in West Kelowna. According to Richard, here's the key to going fast: "go for it!" Well, these three went for it and delivered great performances – Ian won gold in the Novice Super G and silver in the Novice Giant Slalom, while Richard and Philip each won a silver medal in the Intermediate Super G.

The action on the cross-country and snowshoeing courses at Telemark was just as exciting as the alpine events. The thundering feet of the hard-charging snowshoe racers took everyone's breath away, and the cross-country skiers gave everything they had, as evidenced by the tired and happy faces at the finish line.

Shelley Poland was excited to compete in her first provincial championships! She was also the lone SOBC – Golden athlete competing at the 2011 SOBC Winter Sport Championships. By the end of the two action-packed days of racing, Shelley had two medals placed around her neck and a big smile on her face. She won gold in the 500m race, and silver in the 1km race. What a showing at her first provincials!

SOBC – Prince George cross-country skiers Barb Conway and Rita Cavenaile were very happy to be at the Championships too. They met through Special Olympics when they got started about 12 years ago, and they've been friends ever since, doing SOBC sports together and attending plays and hockey games.

Rita has been to one National Games and Barb has competed at two; Barb also moved on to the World Games in Alaska, which was a

thrilling experience. The snowshoeing races were exciting, intense and hard-fought. There were so many unforgettable efforts and tight finishes. There were also the impressive recoveries from hard falls by athletes who were giving their all, like SOBC – Burnaby athlete Katie Little and SOBC – Victoria's Boyd Farrell who bounced back from tumbles.

Boyd said he kept going because his love knows no bounds! He is also a track and field athlete who recently won two medals tearing up the track in the 2010 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, and he said he loves snowshoeing because it reminds him of track. Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches and volunteers who made the 2011 SOBC Snow Sport Championships such a joy to watch! And thank you to everyone who worked so hard in their sports, and so hard as event volunteers, to make the 2011 SOBC Winter Sport Championships such an amazing experience! Hats off to one and all.

Full results from the 2011 SOBC Winter Sport Championships are available online:

<http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/what-we-do/upcoming-games-competitions/2011-sobc-winter-sport-championships>

Sincere thanks to the Draft an Athlete donors and Championships sponsors!

Championships Sponsors

Pacific Coastal Airlines
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Vancouver Courier
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Drafted 49 athletes (\$24,500)

Vancouver Police Department

Drafted 10 athletes (\$5,000)

Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund
Peter Barnes
Ted Hirst
Marnie Carter
Torah Kachur
Gunnar and Cathy Eggertson
Greg Keith
Grant Longhurst

Drafted 8 athletes (\$4,000)

Victoria Police Department
Lions Clubs of BC

Drafted 5 athletes (\$2,500)

Jim and Cindy Anderson
Dan and Sue Higgins
Ward and Christa Saito
Brad Elliott
Knights of Columbus Councils of BC

Drafted 4 athletes (\$2,000)

Sonny Marshall

Drafted 3 athletes (\$1,500)

Grace Battiston
John and Karen van Dongen
Delta Police Department

Drafted 2 athletes (\$1,000)

John and Barbara Sims
Michael and Cherald Tutt
Langley RCMP

Drafted 1 athlete (\$500)

Ann Neumann
Dale Flexman
Canadian Securities Registration Systems
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Royal Canadian Legion # 008
Burnaby RCMP
Nanaimo RCMP



the future is friendly®

Telus working together with Special Olympics

Turn to Telus for your wireless device needs to support Special Olympics! In a campaign running until April 2012, TELUS will be contributing \$50 to Special Olympics Canada on behalf of any Special Olympics supporter who activates or renews a TELUS wireless device.

To participate, customers need to purchase their product at any TELUS location and then register the transaction online at telusmobility.com/specialolympics. In-store staff can help with the registration. We are grateful for the generous support shown by TELUS to the Special Olympics movement!

Thank You!

Grants and Foundations Update

Special Olympics BC thanks the following foundations, service clubs, corporations and individuals for their generous grants to assist us in supporting BC's Special Olympics athletes.

Canadian Progress Club
Jim Kerr
Michael Campbell
Norco Products Ltd.

RBC Foundation
Ted Hirst & Family
The Hamber Foundation
The Highbury Foundation

In-Kind Gifts

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

- **Garry Robertson Music** for donating their sound equipment for various fundraising events.
- **The New Car Dealers Association of BC** for their donation of a new corporate vehicle.
- **Staples Canada** for supplying us with our stationery needs.

If you would like to donate to Special Olympics BC, please contact the Provincial Office at 604-737-3078 or by email at info@specialolympics.bc.ca.

WORLD OUTLOOK FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

Since 1990, the World Outlook Financial Conference has been bringing together top-quality financial analysts together with sophisticated and active Canadian investors to share unbiased, world-class information and analysis.

The conference was founded by Michael Campbell, British Columbia's most respected business analyst, nationwide host of Money Talks radio, Senior Business Analyst for BCTV News on Global TV and past chair of the SOBC Board of Directors.

This year's WOFC was held in Vancouver on February 11 and 12, and

Special Olympics BC was fortunate to be involved. SOBC had a presence at the conference, accepting generous donations from participants and raising awareness about Special Olympics through speakers such as SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe and videos aired at the event.

Our thanks to Michael Campbell and the WOFC for providing this great opportunity!

The 2012 conference will take place on February 10 and 11. To find out more, please visit www.worldoutlookconference.com.



JYSK Be a Fan: Donate, Coach, Compete Campaign

From July 1 to 31, 2011, JYSK stores across the country took part in the annual Be a Fan: Donate, Coach, Compete campaign and raised \$72,995 in support of Special Olympics in Canada. Here in B.C., JYSK did an incredible job of showing their support raising \$12,891 in only nine stores.

They also welcomed athletes and volunteers into their stores throughout the month with special emphasis on Saturday, July 23. On this day, Special Olympics BC had representation in all nine stores across the province! Athletes and volunteers had the opportunity to share their stories while connecting with JYSK employees and the community.

JYSK has been a national partner of Special Olympics Canada since 2006, continuing the tradition of sponsoring Special Olympics chapters worldwide when the company was founded in Denmark in 1979. Thank you JYSK for being a fan of Special Olympics!

GOLDCORP INVITATIONAL A G



Soaking up the brilliant sunshine that bathed Northview Golf & Country Club on the first day of summer, the participants in the 2011 Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament had a grand time out on the links while supporting a great cause.

The Goldcorp Invitational is an elegant and enjoyable experience for golfers veteran and occasional alike, with two sides of play – the Tournament and Scramble divisions – running simultaneously on the day. The busy day of golf was capped with evening entertainment led by Michael Campbell, then Chairman of the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors, and featured a delicious dinner, silent and live auctions and many prize giveaways. As the dinner opened, with the sun setting magnificently to illuminate Northview's vistas, a magician circulated to entertain the participants, while the sounds of a live trio drifted overhead.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation from Kurc Buzdegan and his son Carson, an SOBC – Langley athlete. Kurc shared Carson's story of the vital help that SOBC's Healthy Athletes program brought to his life. Eye examinations from medical professionals at the Healthy Athletes screening day in March led Carson and his family to seek more tests that showed the 22-year-old was at a critical risk from cataracts. Thanks to these interventions,

Carson, an aspiring photographer, was scheduled for surgeries that will save his sight. Though his family diligently cares for him and all his medical needs, Carson still benefitted from the Healthy Athletes program, which was initiated by Special Olympics internationally to address the issue that many people with intellectual disabilities have limited access to health care, and the quality of care they do receive is often poor.

SOBC would like to extend our most sincere thanks to all of the participants in the Goldcorp Invitational who played and who gave generously to support Healthy Athletes and all the other SOBC programs that have a vital impact on the lives of the 3,900 SOBC athletes around the province. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Many thanks to our Presenting Sponsor Goldcorp and our Supporting Sponsors BMO Capital Markets, Canaccord Financial, Endeavour Mining Corporation and Silver Wheaton for their generous support.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



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RAND SUCCESS



Participating Teams

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- BCAA
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Tournament Committee

- Michael Campbell, Chair
- Michael Coyle, Replay Resorts Inc.
- Norm Duncan, Integro (Canada) Ltd.
- Jim Kerr, James D. Kerr Enterprises Ltd.
- Colin MacKinnon, BCAA
- Christine Marks, Goldcorp
- Dan Howe, Special Olympics BC
- Christina Hadley, Special Olympics BC
- Amy Pokoney, Special Olympics BC

Special Thanks

- Abbotsford Police Department
- BC Lions Football Club
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- Intrawest Resort Club Group Leaderboard
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- Shoppers Drug Mart
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- Terminal City Club
- Tron GolfWorld Headquarters
- West Vancouver Fire & Rescue
- Whistler Blackcomb



Safeway shares the spirit of Special Olympics

Safeway's annual Families Living with Disabilities campaign is a strong fundraiser for Special Olympics across Canada, and this year's campaign from March 31 to May 1 was a major success around B.C. and across the country. We are very grateful for the generosity of Safeway customers and the efforts of Safeway employees.

But the campaign also does much more than raise money. Thanks to the help of Safeway employees and SOBC athletes and volunteers, it also plays a significant role in raising awareness about the life-changing impact of Special Olympics, and the inspiration and courage of Special Olympics athletes.



And when Special Olympics BC athletes and volunteers gave their time and energy in Safeway stores on and around the awareness day on April 16, they helped open many eyes to the power of Special Olympics.

Take the example of the awesome SOBC – Castlegar athletes and volunteers. They were warmly welcomed in their local Safeway store, and the athletes pitched in to help bag groceries. Everyone ended up commenting on what a great job they were doing. One athlete, Fred, was really enjoying the bagging, and wound up getting so good at it that the Safeway store manager approached him to strongly encourage him to apply for a job!

Then there's the example of the SOBC – Prince Rupert athletes who also thrilled the employees and customers at their community's Safeway store. Despite the rainy day, the Prince Rupert store hosted an active barbecue and raffle on the SOBC awareness day. And the athletes who spent time there all day giving out cake and chatting with customers inspired enthusiastic reactions throughout the day.

All around the province, Safeway stores helped spread the word and gave Special Olympics BC athletes the opportunity to share their stories. Thank you so much to Safeway and to everyone who participated and donated in the campaign!

Special thanks go out to Canada Safeway's District 4 stores for their amazing efforts in support of Special Olympics BC. On April 27, they hosted their second annual "Bowling for Champions" fundraiser at The Zone Bowling Centre in Richmond.

The event brought together nearly 200 Safeway employees – four of which were also SOBC athletes – and eight of the members of the SOBC – Richmond floor hockey team for a fun-filled afternoon of bowling. Amazing prizes were raffled off, the 50/50 draw hit a jackpot of \$425, and awards were given out to the top scoring teams, as well as the team with the most spirit. Each Special Olympics athlete was also recognized with a special gift package from Safeway.

The event raised an incredible \$18,577 in support of Team BC and their journey to the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. Special Olympics BC would like to extend our very sincere thanks to the District 4 employees whose hard work and dedication has made them the most successful fundraising district across both Canada and the US during the Families Living with Disabilities campaign.

Good luck, Team BC 2012!



When SOBC – Vancouver athlete Chris Buckland found out he had qualified for the Team BC 2012 training

squad, he was thrilled. “This is awesome!” he exclaimed. “Look at this, it’s awesome!” Chris has been a Special Olympics athlete for 13 years, and the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games will be his first-ever National Games experience.

Chris qualified for the Team BC training squad after winning one gold and two silver medals in his alpine skiing races at the 2011 Special Olympics BC Snow Sport Championships, which was his most memorable moment in Special Olympics to date. He’ll surely make some amazing new memories when he travels with the Team BC contingent – 109 athletes, 34 coaches and 11 mission staff members – to Alberta to race in the 2012 National Games from February 28 to March 3.

This speedy alpine racer is thrilled and working hard, his family reports. He’s also fully committed to healthy eating to improve his athletic performance. Chris has stopped eating all candy, even though he was a big fan of licorice – and he makes sure his family knows what he’s supposed to be having.

“He’s really, really keen,” his foster mother says. “He’s excited to be a part of this, and he works really hard.”

Join us in wishing Chris and his 108 teammates all the best in their training and competitive efforts!

Recently, we were pleased to welcome SOBC – Victoria athlete Bailey Lytle and SOBC – Kelowna athlete Danica Seaman as additions to the Team BC training squad as well as Mission Staff member Karen Newman! We know everyone is working hard as the days tick down toward Games, and we know you will do B.C. proud.

Alpine Skiing

Chris Buckland, Vancouver
Teneesha Coulson, Penticton
Cory Duhaime, Delta
Kristina Ettema, Surrey
Ryan Kruger, Penticton
Avery Newman, Whistler
Jonathan Robins, Cranbrook
Erin Thom, Cranbrook
Bruce Yorke, Kelowna
Head Coach: Randy Scott, North Shore
Coach: Tom Advocaat, Coquitlam
Coach: Fiona Waite, Kelowna

Curling - BC Rockettes

April Armstrong, Burnaby
Bridget Colvin, Burnaby
Alene Elgaard, Burnaby
Bailey Lytle, Victoria
Artisia Wong, Delta
Coach: Deb Colvin, Burnaby
Coach: Paul Colvin, Burnaby

Curling - BC Rockers

Ashley Bowling, Abbotsford
Jeff James, Abbotsford
Miike Palitti, Abbotsford
Percy Walker, Abbotsford
Dale Wright, Surrey
Coach: Ruth Benjamin, Abbotsford
Coach: Mike Curtin, Abbotsford

Curling - BC Ice Hounds

Lance Barker, Powell River
Peter Cossarin, Powell River
Dale Eckert, Powell River
Richard Lang, Powell River
Joanne Seefried, Kelowna
Coach: Cameron Reid, Powell River
Coach: Susan Storry, Powell River

Curling - BC Hot Shots

Nathan Bodie, Victoria
Drew Denny, Victoria
Mark Hamblett, Victoria
Danny Pace, Victoria
Drew Sabourin, Victoria
Coach: Ed Gerhardt, Victoria
Coach: Barry Loney, Victoria

Cross-Country Skiing

Sean Beddows, Surrey
Barb Conway, Prince George
Kevin Ellis, Penticton
Kim Erickson, Prince George
Katarina Gerhardt, Kelowna
Richard Gillis, Kelowna
Danny Lafreniere, Prince George
Jordan Lige, Kelowna
Dennis Lynch, Nanaimo
Glen McIntyre, Kelowna
Neil Melesko, Kelowna
Tracey Melesko, Kelowna

Jake Penney, Kelowna
Shelly Poland, Golden
Cecilia Rodriguez, Vancouver
Maria Schmitke, Kelowna
Danica Seaman, Kelowna
Stephanie Tremblay, Prince George
Cole Weber, Kelowna
Avital Yarosky, Kelowna
Head Coach: Garth Vickers, Kelowna
Coach: Calvin Dyck, Prince George
Coach: Ron Fazackerley, Kelowna
Coach: Bob Hazell, Penticton
Coach: Ray Huson, Penticton
Coach: Annabel Stanley, Kelowna
Coach: Karen Zawortny, Vancouver

Floor Hockey - BC Avalanche

Magnus Batara, Richmond
Garrett Baydala, Delta
Kris Cohen, Richmond
Aaquil Dattoo, Richmond
Ian De Vries, Richmond
Scott Ellison, Delta
Robert English, Richmond
Nick Johnston, Richmond
Erik Kneblak, Richmond
Vincent Li, Richmond
Salaudin Manji, Richmond
Keith Miller, Richmond
Kevin Parmenter, Delta
Brayden Pauer, Richmond
David Swann, Richmond
David Ton, Richmond
Head Coach: Ruth Towers, Delta
Coach: Glen Ellison, Delta
Coach: Tom Moore, Abbotsford

Floor Hockey - BC Tigers

Ryan Anderson, Nanaimo
Kevin Baldwin, Nanaimo
Nicholas Benner, Campbell River
Brandon Charmley, Nanaimo
Nickolas Charmley, Nanaimo
Andrew Frenchy, Nanaimo
Brad Hogan, Nanaimo
JL Hollywood, Campbell River
Darcy Hutter, Campbell River
Jason Kemp, Nanaimo
Jason Mills, Nanaimo
Kelly Nelson, Nanaimo
Bill Polz, Nanaimo
Abraham Stellaard, Nanaimo
Beau Wryghte, Campbell River
Head Coach: Dave Forrester, Nanaimo
Coach: Rod Dahl, Abbotsford
Coach: Marvin Holmgren, Campbell River

Figure Skating

Darlene Jakubowski, Fort St. John
Allison Le, Delta

Alexandra Magee, Delta
Alex Pang, Vancouver
Pauline Shaw, Victoria
Marc Theriault, Delta
Allan Tsang, Vancouver
Jennifer Utendale, Surrey
Head Coach: Landis Warner, Vancouver
Coach: Jess Chapelski, Vancouver
Coach: Jenn Harcourt, Dawson Creek

Snowshoeing

Terri Carelius, Victoria
Jonathon Dorosh, Kelowna
Bill Gauld, Vancouver
Jennifer Germann, Prince George
Nolan Grey, Kelowna
Sheryl Jakubowski, Fort St. John
Ryan Jeklin, Richmond
Katie Little, Coquitlam
Victor Manna, Victoria
Hazen Meade, Campbell River
Dara Watson, Dawson Creek
Andrew Wiseman, Coquitlam
Head Coach: Nanci Martin, Vancouver
Coach: Ron Aarstad, Coquitlam
Coach: Maureen Brinson, Campbell River
Coach: Daniel Mallet, Victoria
One-to-one: Danny Kong, Coquitlam

Speed Skating - BC Bullets

Karl Anderson, Mission
Eric Bruneau, Coquitlam
Sean Casey, Coquitlam
Rene Girard, Coquitlam
Nicholas Libera, Coquitlam
Sarah Maxwell, Victoria
Paige Norton, Abbotsford
Jay Prentice, Port Moody
Matthew Williams, Langley
Head Coach: Donna Bilous, Abbotsford
Coach: Walde Libera, Coquitlam
Coach: Larissa Pikor, Vancouver

Mission Staff

Leslie Thornley, Chef de Mission
Shawn Fevens, Team Manager
Karley Ferner (Figure Skating, Speed Skating)
Sue Foisy (Curling)
Rick Lucy (Snowshoeing)
Sharla Mauger (Cross-Country)
Patty Wheeldon (Alpine)
Glen Wyse (Floor Hockey)
Laura Farres (Mental Training)
Megan Grittani-Livingston (Communications)
Karen Newman (Medical)



GETTING TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS SHOULDN'T BE THE HARDEST PART

DRAFT AN ATHLETE



BC athlete like Paige the opportunity to travel to Alberta and experience the joy of competing in the Games from February 28 to March 3, 2012. Each of the 109 athletes on Team BC has committed to training hard under the guidance of volunteer coaches, and we need your support to get them the rest of the way. Your donation of \$1,000 will help fund an athlete's travel, accommodation, uniform and meals for the Games. It will also support vital training camps and personalized coaching and monitoring for the athlete before competition even gets started.

Special Olympics BC is about so much more than competition to athletes who participate in our sport programs. To some, it means first-ever friendships; to others, it brings increased confidence. To Team BC athlete Paige Norton, it means making the transition from sideline spectator to a world-class athlete and World Games gold medalist.

Paige is a 17-year-old Special Olympics BC – Abbotsford athlete who participates in speed skating and track and field. What began as a conscious effort to get Paige fit and active seven years ago soon turned into a journey that her entire family would experience together. Her parents, Tom and Donna, are dedicated Special Olympics BC coaches and volunteers, and have witnessed the benefits that both the training and the competition opportunities have provided their daughter.

As a decorated athlete who has won more than 40 medals at Provincial, National and

World Games, Paige is keen to travel to St. Albert in February to represent Team BC in the hope of recording a personal-best time and possibly qualifying to represent Canada at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea.

If you would like to help an athlete like Paige compete in the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, Draft an Athlete and make a difference today. Simply complete the form below and return it to Special Olympics BC.



DRAFT AN ATHLETE

The athlete you draft will be excited to learn that someone in their community wants to give them the opportunity to train hard and do their best in a national-level competition where they'll be cheered on by their B.C. teammates and meet athletes from all across the country.

On behalf of Special Olympics BC and Team BC athletes just like Paige, thank you!

Seven years ago, Paige Norton was a spectator whose family worried about her health and fitness. Today, she's excitedly preparing to represent B.C. as a speed skater at the 2012 Special Olympics National Winter Games, where she'll compete alongside friends from around the province and meet athletes from all across Canada.

If you are a fan of courage, if you admire determination, and if you can't help but share in the joy of victory, then you are already a fan of Special Olympics. Why not make it official? With the 2012 Special Olympics National Winter Games coming up early next year in St. Albert, Alberta, fans like you can change lives by Drafting an Athlete.

Your sponsorship will give a Special Olympics

Draft an Athlete Registration Form

Contact Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Your \$1000.00 donation will support an athlete from your area in their journey to compete at their best at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in St. Albert Alberta! Thank you for getting an athlete to the games.

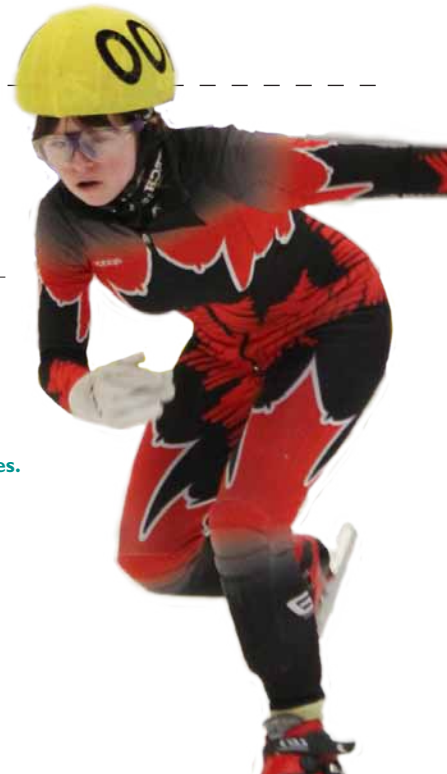
Payment Method

- Please find a cheque enclosed made payable to Special Olympics BC
- Please invoice me at the above noted address

Or, donate securely on line by visiting draftanathlete.kintera.org

Please return the completed form to:

**Draft an Athlete
Special Olympics BC
210-3701 East Hastings Street
Burnaby, BC V5C 2H6**



2011 SPORT BC AWARDS

The more than 2,900 volunteers who power Special Olympics BC programs around the province are a truly amazing group, and we were pleased to celebrate several award-winning local stars in 2011.

Barb Tull earned the 2011 Sport BC Presidents' Award for Special Olympics BC, honouring her amazing contributions in her more than 21 years of service as an SOBC volunteer. Barb, who currently serves as the Region 4 Coordinator on the SOBC Leadership Council, has been, and remains, essential to the development of sport in SOBC. She has been a vital force for the growth of SOBC rhythmic gymnastics, beginning with her work as a coach in Richmond and expanding through her efforts to help establish other programs in the Lower Mainland. Barb has also been selected to numerous provincial teams, has twice served as a sport technical advisor on the national level, and has served as a coach for Team Canada at the 1999 Special Olympics World Games.

Sport BC also offers the Community Sport Hero Awards presented by Encana to recognize outstanding sport volunteers in communities across British Columbia. According to Sport BC, "the awards celebrate coaches, officials, mentors and administrators who have dedicated themselves to work and develop amateur sport at the community level." This year, six outstanding SOBC volunteers/coaches were honoured in their respective communities.

The true spirit of Special Olympics shone through when SOBC – Victoria's **Chantal Brodeur** accepted her well-deserved Community Sport Hero Award at a ceremony on January 18, with the help of athlete Lee.

Chantal is SOBC – Victoria's dedicated Local Coordinator; a multi-sport coach who has led softball teams at local, regional, provincial and national competitions, and an exemplary volunteer who is constantly looking for opportunities for athletes and endlessly supportive of everyone involved with the Victoria Local.

During the meal that preceded the Sport Hero award ceremony, one of the five SOBC volunteers who came out to support Chantal alongside five athletes asked her why she wasn't eating. "I'm nervous," she replied. Lee, a kind SOBC – Victoria athlete, told her not to worry. "I will hold your hand and we can go get the trophy together," he said.

Chantal and Lee took the stage together to accept Chantal's award, hand in hand. When Chantal had finished her remarks, this dynamic duo closed with a recitation of the oath that shows the stirring spirit of Special Olympics athletes all over the world: *Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.*

Jim LaCroix of SOBC – Coquitlam was celebrated for his commitment and many contributions to SOBC athletes when he received a Sport BC Community Sport Hero Award in Coquitlam on March 15.

Jim has been an SOBC volunteer for 20 years, and he is known for always going the extra mile to provide opportunities for athletes. He has done everything from coaching snowshoeing, swimming and soccer to serving on the executive committee as the Program Coordinator. His strong work ethic and wealth of knowledge are much valued, and he has shown time and again his reliability as a coach and his constant willingness to go above and beyond in his service for many regional and provincial SOBC teams.

Randy Scott of SOBC – North Shore, who is currently SOBC's provincial coach for alpine skiing, has been giving his time and amazing energy in support of SOBC athletes and programs for 22 years, and he received a well-deserved Community Sport Hero Award in North Vancouver on April 5. He has served national, provincial and regional Special Olympics teams as the alpine skiing head coach,



abundant proof of the dedication, commitment and passion he shows to athlete both on the slopes and in everyday life.

"Randy Scott is really a good coach. He's out of this world and he helps out a lot with my skiing, and [is good at] being there for me both in and out of practice. He helps me gain control of my skiing and cheers me on."

Karen Myers has been a vital figure for SOBC – Prince Rupert through the last 11 years, having stepped up to serve the Local and its athletes in a wide variety of ways since she started volunteering her time with SOBC in 2000. Karen is known for her dedicated support of Prince Rupert's programs, which has been critical for helping them continue and thrive, and she served as the Local Coordinator.

Karen, who received her Community Sport Hero award in Prince Rupert in the summer, has also been a knowledgeable and highly qualified curling head coach. In that role, she amply demonstrated both her passion for curling, her dedication to strengthening the program and her commitment to supporting athletes and fellow volunteers alike.

At the alpine skiing events in the 2011 Special Olympics BC Snow Sport Championships, **Joanne Thom** was a happy, encouraging presence on and off the hill. A longtime alpine skiing coach who recently underwent knee surgery, Joanne could still be seen up out there cheering on every one of the athletes, and even handing out candy to celebrate their achievements.

Joanne, who currently serves as the Local Coordinator for SOBC – Kimberley / Cranbrook, has long offered that kind of warm-hearted support both to her Local and to the many other athletes from all around the province who gladly come over to greet her when they see her at events. Joanne's daughter Erin, an accomplished alpine skier who has raced in three Special Olympics World Games, has been participating in Special Olympics for nearly 20 years, and Joanne has been involved right alongside her.

Joanne was celebrated for her long-standing dedication to SOBC and her unstinting support for the athletes when she received a Sport BC Community Sport Hero Award on May 3 in Cranbrook.

Dee Neukomm is one of the founding members of SOBC – Prince George, and serves as the Local's amazing rhythmic gymnastics head coach. In February, she was recognized for her 25 years of dedication and service to SOBC when she received a Sport BC Community Sport Hero Award, surrounded by 18 supporters.

At her award ceremony, Dee said "I am accepting this award in memory of our daughter Lara who was a very dedicated SO athlete. She was the reason I became a founding member of SO in PG in 1986. I had no idea at that time what amazing experiences I would have, or the wonderful people I would meet, or that I would still be involved 25 years later!"

Congratulations to all, and many thanks for your amazing support of SOBC!

motionball™

motionball is a charitable organization that 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 more than \$2.2 million for Special Olympics Canada through more than 44 events in six cities. Their series of annual events in B.C. includes the Six Degrees of Separation Gala and Marathon of Sport.

Six Degrees of Separation

On February 12, 2011, the Commodore Ballroom was transformed into a lavish, red-draped hideaway in the heart of downtown Vancouver for motionball's Six Degrees of Separation Gala. After moving to an Olympic-centric format in 2010, the annual event returned to a Valentine's Day theme and did not disappoint.

Attendees were treated to live music by local artist Dino Dinicola, as well as performances by the sassy Burlesque Beauties and a pair of aerial ribbon dancers from Vancouver Circus School. The evening also featured a silent auction that was packed with exclusive and unique items and a live date auction that included local celebrities and former NHL star Theoren Fleury.

Yet the highlight of the night was when Special Olympics BC athlete Sarah Brown got up to thank the crowd and recite the Special Olympics Athlete's Oath. "After Sarah spoke on stage, I had people come up to me with tears in their eyes saying, 'That is why we came,'" said Six Degrees Director David Rae.

The evening was a red hot success, raising more than \$24,000 for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation.

Marathon of Sport

Full of minds and hearts open wide, showing the kind of inclusive and inspiring spirit that is the hallmark of Special Olympics, motionball's Marathon of Sport on June 3 was a truly incredible event. Radiant sunshine, smiling faces, superlative sportsmanship and successful fundraising efforts to the tune of \$42,000 – what an amazing day at the EA Sports Complex in Burnaby!

Staged by motionball organizers and EA Sports, Marathon of Sport brings together teams of young professionals to participate in a fun-filled day of multi-

sport action with Special Olympics BC athletes joining in as their teammates. Teams have a blast together playing six different sports throughout the day, and most importantly, they enjoy the experience with the SOBC athletes who join the teams and share their sport skills, Special O stories and sense of fun.

During the lunch break, SOBC – North Shore athlete Erol Gunenc spoke to the crowd to thank the Marathon of Sport participants and share his own Special Olympics experiences. Erol's mother Diane watched him with a warm heart, and was moved to write in afterward with her thoughts.

"I just wanted to say a big thank you for the wonderful sport day at EA. Erol had the best time ever and is still talking about it. His teammates were amazing," she said. "I was so impressed at his confidence during his talk; he would not have been able to do this in the past.

"Special Olympics has given him the confidence, the ability to set goals for himself, has made friends, and even travelled with the teams on his own. It has opened up a new world for Erol.

"I want to send out, also, a big thank you to all the volunteers who made [Marathon of Sport] such a success."

Thank you to motionball, EA Sports and all the participants who shared their energy and enthusiasm and made the 2011 Marathon of Sport such an amazing day!



Rocking out at Marathon of Sport!

B.C. FOOD & DRUG INDUSTRY CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

On August 10, more than 200 members of the B.C. food and drug industry community came together at Hazelmere Golf Club in Surrey for a fun-filled day at the 24th Annual B.C. Food & Drug Industry Charity Golf Classic benefitting Special Olympics BC and the Vancouver Community College Foundation. As golfers made their way around the links at this scramble tournament, they were treated to exclusive on-course snacks and samples, and the opportunity to win fabulous prizes at the hole-in-one prize holes.

Alas, no one scored a hole in one, but at each of these holes golfers were given the uplifting experience of meeting the Special Olympics BC athletes and volunteers who were on hand as spotters. Golfers met an all-star lineup of SOBC athletes including Jay Laitar and Rick Bussey, SOBC – Surrey soccer athletes who won a bronze medal with their soccer team at the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games; Cory Duhaime, an SOBC – Delta alpine skier who will be travelling to St. Albert, Alberta, in early 2012 to race for Team BC in the next Special Olympics Canada Winter Games; and Nellie-Joe Kurta, a longtime and well-decorated SOBC – Vancouver athlete.

At the end of the day, the tournament was rounded out with a fabulous dinner reception where Special Olympics BC was presented with a cheque in the amount of \$10,000. Special Olympics BC would like to sincerely thank Lucy Komori and Nancy Nesbitt of Vancouver Community College along with the tournament's organizing committee for their ongoing support and the opportunity to participate! For more information on the B.C. Food & Drug Industry Charity Golf Classic, please visit www.vcc.ca/golf.

2011 SOBC Award Winners

Special Olympics BC is delighted to congratulate the winners of this year's awards. The worthy recipients epitomize the spirit and values of Special Olympics, demonstrating great determination, inspiration, unity, generosity and joy. Please join us in saluting them for all that they do and all that they have achieved!

Athletic Achievement Award

An accomplished multi-sport athlete, a medallist at Special Olympics World, National and Provincial Games, and a consistent and dynamic competitor, **Paige Norton of SOBC – Abbotsford** has been selected as the winner of the 2011 Athletic Achievement Award.

At just 18 years old, Paige has already racked up an impressive string of accomplishments in her active athletic career; and particularly showed her strength in the 2010-11 season. In February, she raced her way to four gold medals in her speed skating events at the 2011 SOBC Ice Sport Championships, despite having been seriously ill just days before. Paige was there to race with a smile on her face, and delivered remarkable performances. She was then selected to Team BC 2012 training squad and is working toward the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Alberta.

In July 2010, Paige blazed her way onto the podium three times in her track events at the 2010 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games. Paige medalled in all three of her events and achieved multiple personal-best times despite the draining heat wave that hit London.

In 2009, Paige reached the podium as a proud member of Team Canada in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho. Paige won two gold medals and one bronze in Idaho, going three for three in her speed skating events while achieving personal-best times.

In addition to her speed skating and athletics prowess, Paige also competes in swimming, soccer, basketball, baseball and golf. She is described as a brave, tenacious, confident, energetic and skilful person who is also involved in leadership and development initiatives off the field of play, such as her completion of the first level of SOBC Speakers Bureau training in 2010.

SOBC is also pleased to congratulate nominees Stuart Hawton (SOBC – Trail), Laura Strauss (SOBC – Smithers), Erin Thom (SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook), Allan Tsang (SOBC – Vancouver), Benjamin Walker (SOBC – Smithers) and Kara Williams (SOBC – North Shore).



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA BILOUS

Award-winning mother-daughter duo of Donna and Paige with their well-deserved prizes.

Howard Carter Award

The recipient of the 2011 Howard Carter Award, **Donna Bilous of SOBC - Abbotsford**, embodies the true spirit of the prize, as an exceptional leader who motivates, supports and fully equips athletes so that they are totally prepared to set personal bests and deliver quality competitive efforts.

In her eight years with SOBC, Donna, who serves as SOBC – Abbotsford's vibrant and respected Local Coordinator, has coached athletes in both winter and summer sports at National and World Games. She has helped foster a Local worthy of receiving recognition for contributions to their community, which came after SOBC – Abbotsford was nominated for the city's Business Excellence Awards in 2010. She has served Special Olympics sport at a national level, and goes out of her way to attract young-adult athletes as new coaches and help mature Special Olympics athletes to become coaches themselves.

Now the Head Coach for speed skating for Team BC 2012, Donna is a strong asset with a record of inspiration and achievement. Donna

served as Head Coach of Canada's speed-skating team for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, and each of the eight athletes won at least one medal. Five athletes earned two medals each, and two captured three medals apiece.

After taking a youth soccer team to the 2009 SOBC Provincial Games, Donna was also snapped up to serve as a coach for the Surrey soccer team that won gold at the 2010 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games and advanced to the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, where they captured a bronze medal.

Back home in Abbotsford, Donna's energy and superior organizational skills drive a thriving Local that offers programs in 14 sports and has delved into new initiatives such as the Active Start and FUNdamentals programs. She encourages and believes in SOBC – Abbotsford athletes to the point that they are able to realize their full potential and stand as excellent community members and ambassadors for Special Olympics.

Congratulations to nominees Calvin Dyck (SOBC – Prince George), Celia Grant (SOBC – North Vancouver) and Jerzy Kusmirek (SOBC – Surrey).



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY KLEIN

Zak (right) receives his award from SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe.



Congratulations, Sheila!

Grassroots Coach Award

A multi-sport coach known for his boundless dedication to athletes, **SOBC – North Shore’s Zak Klein** is a deserving recipient of the 2011 SOBC Grassroots Coach Award.

Heartfelt comments prove the significant impact that Zak has had in his six years as a coach and volunteer with SOBC – North Shore. “It was Zak who first initiated my daughter’s daily exercise program,” one parent said. “This caused a complete transformation, including a weight loss of 89 pounds, improved self-esteem and, once lethargic, she is now an athlete who runs the 1500m, 3000m and 5000m with ease.” Another explains that Zak “has aided my son and other athletes in improving their limited mobility and overcoming phobias and insecurities.”

Zak, 21, is the passionate Head Coach for SOBC – North Shore’s thriving basketball program. He also serves as the softball C Head Coach, Assistant Coach for Active Start and FUNDamentals, and Scorekeeper for the 5-pin bowling.

Zak is known for his adaptable coaching style, in which he hones his approaches to suit each athlete’s needs, and his commitment to collaboratively creating goals and plans for individual athletes and teams that truly help them grow. He was involved in 10 different programs this year, and he was still known for his thorough communications with everyone involved, and his enduring willingness to step up and help absolutely anywhere there is a need.

Zak is also well known as the kind of coach who took note of a particular athlete’s behavioural difficulties and put a plan in place to help her succeed, to the point where she became the team’s “Most Improved Player.”

Congratulations to nominees Coleen Cole (SOBC – Dawson Creek), Jeannie Cramer (SOBC – Smithers), Mary Erb (SOBC – Vancouver), Joan MacKinnon (SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook), Pat Oldershaw (SOBC – 100 Mile House), Katherine Smith (SOBC – Vancouver) and Karen Truesdale (SOBC – Vernon).

President’s Award

Having stepped into the **SOBC – Coquitlam** Local Coordinator role when there was an acute need, **Sheila Hogan** has become known for her tireless efforts to help her Local thrive in every regard, and she is a worthy winner of the 2011 SOBC President’s Award.

In every area of the Local’s operations, Sheila has made sure SOBC – Coquitlam is functioning at the highest level and doing everything possible for the athletes. When there was a need for a track and field meet to ensure the Region’s athletes would have a competition that year, Sheila was there. When Region 3 hosted the first-ever Regional Conference, and every single coach – not just the longtime volunteers – needed to be made aware of the opportunities, Sheila was there. When new coaches and volunteers come on board, Sheila is there offering extensive and thoughtful support. When the Local stages fundraising events and supports provincial fundraising campaigns, Sheila is there in an absolutely critical way.

An SOBC volunteer of nine years, Sheila stepped into the Local Coordinator position for SOBC – Coquitlam at a time when no one else could. She has been a vital force leading the Local ever since. Whether she’s trying to provide even more opportunities for the Local’s athletes or championing events, whether she’s resolving disputes or recruiting volunteers, Sheila is a much-respected voice and a much-valued tower of power in her busy Local.

Congratulations to nominees Sharon Lee Chic (SOBC – South Okanagan), William Farley (SOBC – Kelowna), Sami Fields (SOBC – Vancouver), Carol Harris (SOBC – 100 Mile House), Sheila Hawton (SOBC – Trail), Kelly Klein (SOBC – North Shore) and Jennifer Stasiuk (SOBC – Dawson Creek).

Spirit of Sport Award

In 16 years as an SOBC athlete, **Ron Greenhorn** has demonstrated time and again the qualities that make him the deserving recipient of the 2011 SOBC Spirit of Sport Award: Ron is known for his kindness, his dedication, his warm supportiveness, and his inspirational determination.

This 25-year-old **SOBC – Nanaimo** athlete is marking a quarter-century of beating the odds. Ron was diagnosed with autism and was unable to walk as a child. Now he has become a committed multi-sport athlete, a tireless community volunteer, a model of sportsmanship, and an exemplary teammate.

He has grown into a man who has proven

he can live independently and thrive, a man who sets and is committed to achieving goals. Ron was determined to achieve success in downhill skiing, and he tirelessly puts in the work necessary to realize that dream, committing to getting himself to the mountains for practices, maintaining a coachable attitude, and striving hard. And his dedicated efforts paid off: he succeeded in moving into a higher level of competition, where he placed near the top though he didn’t medal. Ron also won a bronze medal at the Disabled Ski Games in Mount Washington.

Alongside his downhill skiing success, Ron currently participates in 5-pin bowling, soccer, and track and field. Ron is also a noted community volunteer, generously giving his time to support a number of causes in addition to his dedicated efforts for SOBC events and fundraisers.

John Campbell, Head Coach of alpine skiing for SOBC – Nanaimo, has coached Ron for 13 years. “In that time I have seen Ron go from a shy, low-skilled individual to an outgoing leader and mentor to all the new skiers that have joined our program. No matter what level of skier you are, Ron is always there to cheer them on and to offer his assistance. ... He is by far the hardest-working athlete and the person that is always there for the other athletes,” John says.



Ron (right) receives his award from Nanaimo MLA Leonard Krog.

Congratulations to nominees Gordon Balderstone (SOBC – Vancouver), Andrew Bremner (SOBC – 100 Mile House), Jeremiah Cody (SOBC – Smithers), George Doykov (SOBC – North Shore), Matthew Lai (SOBC – Richmond), Cathy Mortensen (SOBC – Smithers), Darcie Muzychka (SOBC – Prince George) and Paula Prough (SOBC – Trail).



SILVER | WHEATON



SPORTS CELEBRITIES
FESTIVAL

Full of Magical Moments



PHOTOS BY JEFF VINNICK/VANCOUVER CANUCKS



Artisia Wong's absolute favourite Vancouver Canucks players are Alex Burrows and Ryan Kesler; so she was amazed and delighted to find herself rubbing elbows with the generous superstars during the 2011 Sports Celebrities Festival.

Artisia, an SOBC – Burnaby curler who has qualified to compete in the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, was paired up with the gracious Mr. Burrows as the Canucks and SOBC athletes made their grand entrance into the glittering Vancouver Convention Centre ballroom at this gala fundraiser, which supports the Canucks for Kids Fund and Special Olympics BC.

She still sounded awestruck the next day as she recounted how her evening went. Throughout dinner, she chatted with Alex Burrows and the guests at their table about everything from their respective sports and his career to the new baby that he and his wife welcomed during the NHL playoffs and his Christmas plans. And she was thrilled that Ryan Kesler talked to her while they were lining up for the big parade entrance, just before they went on stage.

"It was an amazing experience," Artisia marvelled. "It was really fun. I've heard about this before from other people, but I've never actually experienced it myself – it was just amazing."

The participation and support of the Vancouver Canucks players means the world to the Special Olympics BC athletes who have the opportunity to attend the SCF.

SOBC athlete Kyle was blown away to be paired up with his favourite player Maxim Lapierre (right), and anyone who took one look at his face could see the joy. And SOBC athlete Brayden commented that within the first five minutes of the event, all of his dreams came true.

To Artisia, the SCF also shared an important message about how much Special Olympics means to her and fellow athletes. She agreed with Ben Walker, the SOBC – Smithers athlete who teamed up with fellow Smithers native Dan Hamhuis to serve as the face of the 2011 SCF, when he spoke about how he has made amazing friendships and felt great pride through his participation in Special Olympics.

"Special Olympics means you can be respected, and people with every type of disability can do the sports," Artisia said.

For Canucks forward Chris Higgins, the Sports Celebrities Festival experience struck close to home.

"I have a sister who is handicapped and what I see in her I saw in the other kids," he told the Vancouver Sun. "They play sport because they love it and it reminds me why I play hockey and how fortunate I am to play the game I love for a living."

We are truly grateful to the Vancouver Canucks players, coaches, alumni, management and staff who contribute so much to make the evening so magical for Special Olympics BC athletes, and so memorable for everyone involved.

We also appreciate the support of the other local sports celebrities who generously gave their time and support for the evening, including Travis Lulay, Jarious Jackson, Paris Jackson, Brent Johnson and Jamie Taras of the BC Lions, Jay DeMerit, Alain Rochat and Jay Nolly of the Vancouver Whitecaps, and Olympic ski cross champion Ashleigh McIvor. They and the event's outstanding Masters of Ceremonies – Tamara Taggart, John Shorthouse and Brent Butt – truly made the evening sparkle.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our fantastic Presenting Sponsors: Silver Wheaton, Canaccord Genuity, BCLC and Rogers. We are also grateful for the valued media partners of the SCF: CTV, TEAM Radio, The Province and the Vancouver Sun.

Many thanks to the more than 600 people who attended the event and gave so generously in support of the Canucks for Kids Fund and Special Olympics BC. Your support is critical. We look forward to welcoming you again next year!



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Youth Movement Continues to Grow



SOBC – Coquitlam Active Start participant Sam charms Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, at the announcement of the Province of B.C.'s funding for SOBC.

Special Olympics BC has now been offering the Active Start and FUNdamentals programs for three years, and the success stories continue to be heard from one end of the province to the other. In the first year, Special Olympics BC offered the programs in North Vancouver and Coquitlam only as pilot projects; now the positive effects of Active Start or FUNdamentals are now being felt in 27 communities around the province, with new programs continually popping up.

We have witnessed Oliver Sutherland, one of the original SOBC – North Shore Active Start participants, jump for the first time. We have seen the Nanaimo FUNdamentals program grow from just a few athletes to more than 20, becoming the largest youth program in BC. Programs have been started as far north as Prince George and from the Okanagan to across the waters on Vancouver Island.

The results have been truly remarkable and it is very exciting to watch more and more athletes join the Special Olympics family, where we hope they remain for years to come. We are sure this will be only the beginning of their lifelong relationship with sport and active living.



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS *for athlete health*

In March, Special Olympics BC teamed up with students from the UBC Faculty of Medicine to host a **Healthy Athletes Wellness Day** that offered four kinds of medical screenings, healthy living advice and many great giveaways of free goods to registered SOBC athletes.

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program addresses the issue that many people with intellectual disabilities have trouble accessing the complete health care experience and resources available to them. Special Olympics research has found that people with intellectual disabilities have a 40 per cent higher risk for health issues, and that only one in 50 primary care physicians have received clinical training that qualifies them to treat people with intellectual disabilities.

Since the launch of Healthy Athletes in 1997, more than 1 million screenings have been offered free of charge to Special Olympics athletes around the world, and more than 90,000 health care professionals have been trained about the health issues faced by people with intellectual disabilities. The program has grown from offering two types of screenings (dental and vision) to offering seven kinds of screenings: Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), Health Promotion (better health and well-being), Healthy Hearing (audiology), MedFest (sports physical exam), Special Olympics-Lions Club International Opening Eyes (vision) and Special Smiles (dentistry).

In past years, Special Olympics BC athletes have been able to access Healthy Athletes screenings at Provincial and National Games. This year, SOBC planned a day dedicated solely to these events – no sport required!

Athletes who attended the March 12 wellness day in Vancouver had access to Fit Feet, Opening Eyes, Special Smiles and Health Promotions screenings conducted by trained professionals and medical students who generously volunteered their time. In total, 182 screenings were conducted throughout the day in all four disciplines!

From the Opening Eyes screenings, 19 athletes received prescription lenses, 13 received sports frames prescription lenses, two received prescription sunglasses, 22 received basic sunglasses and five were referred for further treatment. In the Fit Feet screenings, 11 people were referred for further treatment.

All the screenings were conducted in a fun, friendly environment where athletes said they felt welcome, and

many of the screenings were conducted using quality equipment and fun tools to make the experience both valuable and enjoyable.

"It helped me understand what I need to work on and what I was doing right. And with the screening for my eyes, I found out that it was really beneficial, because if I didn't do it, I would have a hard time reading in school still. And with the foot and teeth [screenings], they taught me how to floss, so that was good!" one athlete said.

Medical professionals who have been trained as Healthy Athletes Clinical Directors led the screenings, supported by UBC medical student volunteers. Many volunteers from the Lions Club – an organization that is an amazing supporter of the Healthy Athletes program – also supported the smooth running of the screenings.

The students said they truly enjoyed being part of the day and interacting with the SOBC athletes.

"Volunteering at Special Smiles was a real eye-opener for me," one of the dental hygiene students said. "This event was a great opportunity to gain experience in providing oral health screenings and dental hygiene instruction to a population who have a higher risk to oral health problems."

SOBC – Burnaby Local Coordinator Sara Foss brought a group of athletes to the event, and said they all had fun going through all the different stations. "It was a great day... The nutritional games were simple yet informative for the athletes. One of the best parts

was the healthy eyes station as a lot of our athletes were fitted for new eyeglasses and/or sport goggles. And I know one athlete that really benefitted from the healthy foot station and getting an important referral to a specialist," Sara said afterward.

As SOBC's new Manager of Health and Sport Science, Christopher Edwards will be concentrating on Healthy Athletes initiatives and supporting athletes in their quest to live healthy, active lives. In addition to the Healthy Athletes events and programs, SOBC offers a variety of tools to support and encourage athletes to

maintain healthy lifestyles, such as Club Fit training programs and the Quit Now campaign aimed at helping members of the SOBC family to quit smoking.

We are continually looking for more health professionals to get involved with SOBC and Healthy Athletes so we can provide these events more frequently and expand to offer them in different regions in the future. SOBC is planning to host another Healthy Athletes Wellness Day in February 2012 – watch the website for details!



AROUND THE PROVINCE WITH SOBC LOCALS

Awesome action in SOBC ABBOTSFORD

Special Olympics Abbotsford wrapped up the 2010/2011 season with a bang. With more than 30 athletes, coaches and volunteers taking part in the Abbotsford Police Challenge Run in June, more than \$10,000 was raised with all of the proceeds going to SOBC. We were very proud to have our rhythmic gymnastics team perform, as well as SOBC – Abbotsford swimmer Kimberly Bloom who showcased her beautiful voice as part of the entertainment for this year's run.

As a Local we continue to work very hard to raise the profile of Special Olympics in our community. A shoutout to the Police Run organizing committee and Deputy Chief Rick Lucy of the Abbotsford Police Department. As an SOBC board member Deputy Lucy should be commended for his continued support of SOBC – Abbotsford in our community.

Since 2012 is a Regional Qualifying year for summer sports we are happy to be hosting the qualifier for Region 3 in Rhythmic Gymnastics. We are gearing up for basketball, bocce and golf to be contested for the first time in the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, and we are thrilled to have SOBC – Abbotsford athletes competing in these sports.



SOBC – Abbotsford athlete Todd Moore in only his second season attended the 2011 World Deadlift Championship in Reno, Nevada, with coach Jon Wolbers. Todd won gold medals in the bench press and deadlift, setting two unofficial Canadian records and took the overall title for his weight class (95lbs).

Jon is a champion in his own right, having been awarded the title of Best Master Lifter (60-69 years) at the Northwest Raw Powerlifting Championships this summer in Sacramento, California, setting a new American Powerlifting Association record for his age category. We are very happy to have Jon on board with us on our coaching staff.

The AHL Abbotsford Heat players and mascot Hawkeye joined the SOBC – Abbotsford floor hockey practice on November 2. The Heat came out to offer some pointers, sign autographs and get to know our athletes.

SOBC – Abbotsford has partnered with the Abbotsford Heat in a fundraising initiative providing us the opportunity to showcase SOBC – Abbotsford at their community booth as well as share in the proceeds of ticket and concession sales. Watch the SOBC website for SOBC – Abbotsford Hockey nights. Tickets are \$20. Join us for a great time and support Special Olympics. For info regarding SO game nights, please contact donna. specialabby@hotmail.com or 604-897-4015.

Thank you to Rachel Borer from SOBC who attended our Coaches/Volunteer Meeting in October and to the 25+ coaches and volunteers who attended. We can't say enough about our coaches and volunteers who are committed to our Local and our athletes. All the best to all of the Locals for the 2011/2012 season, and we'll see you on the "field of play!"

Article and photos courtesy of Donna Bilous. Please see the SOBC Awards and Team BC 2012 articles for more about SOBC – Abbotsford athletes and coaches in action!



The 2011/2012 season is well underway and our fall programs are in full swing. We have registered more than 110 athletes taking part in 13 programs. We look to expand our youth swimming program and this year have offered golf as an official sport. We have had an overwhelming response from athletes interested in golf so we will also be hosting a golf camp to accommodate as many athletes as we are able.

EVENT SNAPSHOTS

These reports offer a few snapshots to demonstrate the spirit of the many amazing events held by Locals around the province throughout the year. Stay tuned to the SOBC website for updates year-round – and Locals can always feel free to submit their stories to megan@specialolympics.bc.ca!

The **SOBC – Sunshine Coast Basketball Tournament** on Jan. 15 was a big success for the six teams that hit the court in Elphinstone Secondary School. The tournament featured a mix of B and C teams from SOBC – Sunshine Coast, Burnaby, Coquitlam and North Vancouver, and there were a number of close games on the day.

In the end, Burnaby B finished on top, followed by North Vancouver in second and Coquitlam in third, while the gracious hosts from the Sunshine Coast said they enjoyed welcoming and playing the other teams in their community. The day included great community support, with a lot of volunteers pitching in to help the tournament, and there was a special treat for entertainment at the break: a performance by the SOBC – Sunshine Coast rhythmic gymnasts!

Basketball has been a big hit throughout the province, and you can read more about the booming popularity of this sport elsewhere in this newsletter. SOBC – Coquitlam and SOBC – North Shore hosted terrific tournaments later in the winter, and basketball teams from Prince George and Quesnel travelled to each other's towns to play some great games in February and March.

The **SOBC – Victoria Curling Bonspiel** in January featured very fine play between 10 classic curling teams and four teams of stick curlers.

The athletes came from Victoria, Nanaimo, Parksville and Powell River to compete and share a fun social experience – most of the teams know each other well, and the Powell River team joined them for the first time and enjoyed the experience. Event organizer Ed Gerhardt said there was an “electric” atmosphere during the day, with constant motion and a ton of fun. The Victoria bonspiel has been running for about eight years, and the participants are “all happy when they show up and they’re all happy when they leave,” Ed said.

Victoria played Nanaimo in the exciting final game, and Victoria staged a rally to score four in the last end and notch a come-from-behind victory. Parksville pulled into third place. Ed thanked all the coaches and volunteers involved in the day, including two great volunteers from the University of Victoria who ran the

stick curling event, which Ed said was a great opportunity for athletes who can't get down to the ice for the classic curling positions.

The **Ton Greenfield Memorial Swim Meet** was a big draw in February, bringing about 135 athletes from 13 Locals together in Vancouver to enjoy a competition full of cheering and excitement. The event featured athletes from Vancouver, Surrey, the Sunshine Coast, Richmond, the North Shore, Nanaimo, Maple Ridge, Langley, Delta, Coquitlam, Chilliwack, Burnaby and Abbotsford, hitting the pool and filling the air in the UBC Aquatic Centre with sounds of positive encouragement for fellow athletes and teammates.

SOBC – Vancouver swimming head coach Marc Sze said the meet was full of cheering from all the clubs, and the electronic scoreboard with instant time display offered a new and exciting experience for many of the swimmers. Marc also thanked the more than 50 volunteers and coaches who gave their time and energy to make the day a success!

Even though the day of the **Richmond Track Meet** was doused with rain, that didn't slow down the athletes from 14 Locals who ran, jumped and threw to the best of their abilities, and it didn't hamper the excellent volunteers who staged the exciting day!



This large meet hosted by SOBC - Richmond featured more than 200 SOBC athletes from 14 communities, ranging from the Lower Mainland to Kelowna, Campbell River, Sunshine Coast and Smithers. The competitors churned up the track and flew and threw far in the field events, showing everyone present the wide range of their skills

with events in multiple distances and field event categories.

SOBC staff were so impressed by the volunteers who made the day such a success, including lead organizer Davina Chan and those who stayed and helped for the entire day, such as Vince Astoria.

Six skilled teams from Regions 1 & 2 brought out their best bocce talents at the **SOBC – South Okanagan Bocce Tournament** hosted in Oliver in June.

The five teams from Region 2 and one hardy



Athletes enjoy the 2011 SOBC – Burnaby Hallowe'en bowling tournament.

Region 1 team ignored the brooding skies and arrived full of cheer at the Oliver Parks and Recreation bocce fields. SOBC – South OK Local Coordinator Lee Chic and her merry band of volunteers provided a warm welcome to Kelowna, Summerland and Trail. Athletes were ready to put their skills to the test and view the fields which will host next year's regional qualifiers.

The level of competition has certainly advanced from the first year of qualifiers, which was evident in the scores and the time it took to complete a game. Close matches, thrilling ball tactics, and competent deliveries made for a great day of play.

In early April, the **Prince George Rhythmic Gymnastics Invitational Meet** drew a great group of participants and an enthusiastic crowd. The competition included 21 athletes from Prince George and three from Quesnel, plus a wheelchair athlete who came up from Quesnel. All of the performances were cheered on by a great crowd in a well-attended event!

“The stands were full of cheering parents and fans. It was really great,” said Kristin Webster, SOBC Manager, Community Development, Regions 7 & 8, commented after seeing the event in action.

The athletes put on an excellent show with their performances, and the event proved to be a great launching pad, as several of the athletes were experiencing their first-ever competitions. “They were raving, and very excited to go on to Regionals this coming year,” Kristin said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL BUESCHKENS



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC IN PRINCE GEORGE

A message from Local Coordinator Thom Ross

Twenty-five years, a quarter of a century, how things have changed. Twenty five years ago the movie Top

Gun was in theatres for the first time, Rick Hansen began his Man in Motion Tour and BC Place Stadium was built. The Montreal Canadiens won the Stanley Cup; the movie Out of Africa won an Academy Award for Best Picture; Steve Jobs introduced the first Mac computer. Both Bill Bennett and Bill Vander Zalm held the office of Premier of B.C., Expo 86 opened in Vancouver and Special Olympics in Prince George was officially born.

We never made the news that year; but we were in the process of establishing an enduring Special Olympics presence in Prince George. I have been involved with the growth of Special Olympics in Prince George for almost 24 years. I salute the founding members – Ivy Whitfield, Dee Neukomm, Mabel Cotts and Sheilagh Blacklock – for having the vision to imagine how this organization would change the lives of so many.

I have seen the Local grow from its modest beginnings to become a way of life for athletes, families of athletes and the volunteers who make it all happen. I have been a member of the Local's Executive in one capacity or another for almost my entire involvement with SOBC. I have had the privilege of coaching athletes in Regional, Provincial and National Games. I have watched our athletes progress from participating in local programs to standing on the podium at World Games.

During my involvement with Special Olympics I have watched athletes develop from shy, inhibited individuals to bright, shiny personalities who have purpose and aspiration. I know I am one of many volunteers who have had the same revelation. For many, Special Olympics is not just a sport organization, but a way of life that offers so much and asks for so little in return.

The success stories that originate from Prince George are too numerous to mention. We have coaches in the local Sports Hall of Fame. Our coaches and athletes have been the recipients of numerous SOBC Awards. Two of our coaches were named Coach of the Year by Special Olympics Canada. Our athletes have enjoyed success in every level of Special Olympics competition. We have hosted both a Winter and Summer Provincial Games and know the feeling of a successful endeavour.

I am proud of the accomplishments of this Local and the many athletes, coaches and volunteers who make it happen. Much of the credit should go to the founding members who shared a vision, and that vision is alive today and still growing strong.

Twenty-five years from now, someone will be writing a heartfelt message about 50 years of Special Olympics in Prince George. I know that whoever is doing the writing will share the vision and the hope, and realize the satisfaction of dreams fulfilled.

Warm congratulations also to the SOBC Locals in Abbotsford, Courtenay, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kimberley, Nanaimo, Salmon Arm, Smithers and Prince Rupert, which also marked 25 years this year!

Travis Lulay is a fan of Special Olympics

BC Lions quarterback **Travis Lulay** shows a lot of heart both on and off the football field, and he's intimately acquainted with the power of sport to change lives. That's why he's a fan of Special Olympics, and why he has joined forces with **Special Olympics BC** to support athletes with intellectual disabilities around the province.

SOBC is thrilled that Travis Lulay is a fan of Special Olympics and is lending his off-field energy to support the athletes and the movement. Travis has offered SOBC athletes by giving his time at sporting events where he's sharing his athletic experiences and lessons, and by supporting SOBC campaigns and events that raise funds and awareness about the life-changing impact of Special Olympics.



Lions quarterback Travis Lulay (centre) meets SOBC – Quesnel soccer players.

Travis, a former Montana State University quarterback, has a history with Special Olympics through his involvement with the movement in Montana. He credits Julie Bertelsen with sparking his interest in Special Olympics: Julie worked as a janitor in his college athletic facility, and she is also an accomplished athlete who won gold and silver medals in equestrian events in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in China and has served on state and local Special Olympics advisory committees. Travis was hands-on in his involvement in Montana – he pitched in as a volunteer to help with setup for State Games in Montana in 2010, and he helped raise funds as a participant in the annual President's Plunge in Bozeman, MT.

"Special Olympics athletes show incredible sportsmanship, dedication and determination. I'm looking forward to meeting more of the SOBC athletes and helping them and the Special Olympics movement however I can. I hope athletes might be able to learn something from me, and I know I will learn from them," Travis says.

Travis kicked off his involvement with SOBC by meeting athletes and presenting awards at the **SOBC – Surrey Soccer Tournament on May 22** at **Newton Athletic Park**.

Big steps with SOBC – Surrey website

We think it's pretty awesome that Surrey finally has a website, so we thought we would share that with you! www.sobcsurrey.org

As a local we struggled with this task for the past several years. We knew we were missing an opportunity to get our message out but not being successful in finding a volunteer with the expertise and time to accomplish the task it kept getting moved down the To-Do list. We did have some generous help from an SOBC volunteer in Langley who got us started but without the expertise ourselves to see it through it fell by the wayside.

Just like every other Local we think carefully about spending money on items that are not directly program-related. However we felt that our own website could attract potential athletes, potential volunteers and also possibly potential donors and therefore it made sense to spend some of our hard-earned dollars on the task.

Now that our site is up and running we are finding that it is making a great difference. With new and returning athletes and volunteers able to download registration forms online, find information about program times and locations and find out about current news it has reduced the time executive members spent on these tasks, therefore freeing up time to work on other important goals for our athletes. Of course the athletes love the picture gallery too!

We look forward to continually finding ways to better use our site to share information about our local to further enhance the Special Olympics experience for everyone in Surrey.

-Jennifer Benjamin, Registration Coordinator, SOBC – Surrey



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Supported by:



It was an inspiring, joyful sight in more than 20 communities around the province on June 10 with law enforcement personnel lacing up and hitting the streets in droves to show their support of Special Olympics.



The 2011 Law Enforcement Torch Run involved nearly 600 members around the province from a range of law enforcement agencies. On June 10, and in the Lower Mainland from June 7 to 10, officers gathered to run through the streets of their communities to show their support for B.C.'s inspirational Special Olympics athletes and raise awareness and funds to help SOBC programs continue changing lives.

It was a year of significant growth for the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), with communities such as Cranbrook, Golden, Vernon, Nanaimo and Trail hosting their first-ever runs on June 10. They joined the striking four-day presence that the Torch Run annually displays in the Lower Mainland. The series of 15 runs in the Lower Mainland began on June 7 in Abbotsford and wrapped up with the final leg and festivities galore in Delta on June 10.

Law enforcement personnel in each participating community completed a run of three to five kilometres and then joined SOBC athletes and volunteers and community supporters in fun festivities afterward.

Another impressive advancement for the 2011 Torch Run was the involvement of schools and SOBC athletes from the Active Start and FUNdamentals programs. School students made up over 20% of the runners in the Torch Run and it was great to see so many younger athletes attend the celebrations at the conclusion of the runs to cheer on the officers and supporters.

The 2011 Torch Run was powered by law enforcement personnel from a variety of agencies, including RCMP detachments throughout the province and the police departments in Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster and Vancouver as well as the Canada Border Services Agency, Justice Institute of BC, Transit Police BC and Canadian Forces. It was inspiring to see members from so many agencies generously giving their time to stage and participate in the Torch Runs and festivities all around the province.





PERSONNEL CHANGES

The LETR continues to change and evolve in B.C., and in the past year we bid farewell to two members of our Executive Council and welcomed two new members into the fold.

Chief Superintendent Rick Taylor of the Burnaby RCMP left the province earlier this year for an exciting opportunity in Alberta. Chief Superintendent Taylor was instrumental in providing insight and guidance on policies, strategic direction and promoting growth and expansion of the BC LETR within his detachment, the RCMP and across the province.

Joining the LETR Executive Council as the new RCMP representative is Deputy Commissioner Norm Lipinski. Deputy Commissioner Lipinski moved to B.C. from Alberta and is ready to engage and mobilize new and existing RCMP members to support the LETR. Deputy Commissioner Lipinski ran in his first BC LETR in June this year and is looking forward to many more to come!

Superintendent Eric Petit of the Vancouver Police Department was a staunch supporter of the BC LETR and was well known for promoting the cause throughout the department. He recently retired from law enforcement, though his legacy of support and enthusiasm for the LETR will continue with Superintendent Dean

Robinson of the VPD joining the LETR Executive Council in his place and ensuring Superintendent Petit's great work endures. Superintendent Robinson recently attended the LETR International Conference in Calgary and is ready to share many fantastic ideas and strategies to strengthen our local program.



Deputy Constable Rick Lucy, Abbotsford Police Department, BC LETR Provincial Director



Assistant Commissioner Norm Lipinski, RCMP, BC LETR Executive Council member.



Deputy Constable Lyle Beaudoin, Delta Police Department, BC LETR Executive Council member.



Superintendent Dean Robinson, Vancouver Police Department, BC LETR Executive Council member.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & PROVINCIAL WORKSHOP

It's been a big year for the Law Enforcement Torch Run worldwide, as the inspiring international movement marked its 30th anniversary, achieved a record mark of raising \$42.6 million for Special Olympics worldwide, and saw the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference held in Canada for the first time.

From November 2 to 6, nearly 1,000 law enforcement personnel, LETR volunteers and Special Olympics program leaders involved with the LETR converged in Calgary for the International Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference. Several dedicated B.C. LETR volunteers were among those who attended the conference, joined by SOBC – Langley athlete Matthew Williams, who was one of several Canadian Special Olympics athletes to address the conference.

The conference participants shared ideas, discussed the direction of the movement and commemorated achievements and milestones



by LETR supporters worldwide.

Among the amazing achievements marked by the LETR supporters in the Calgary conference, it was announced that the LETR raised more than \$42.6 million for Special Olympics in 2011 – a record amount that brings the total funds raised by the LETR in support of Special Olympics to more than \$410 million since the inception of the movement.

In B.C., we are grateful that law enforcement personnel throughout the province continue to champion the cause in their communities, doing valuable fundraising work and sharing the spirit of unity and inspiration. Several BC LETR members represented the provincial movement at the International Conference in Calgary, sharing the achievements and endeavours of the BC LETR and joining in activities such as a Torch Run through the heart of Calgary.

Matthew Williams, a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger, wowed the crowds with his stirring speech and thoughtful comments. Thank you Matt for representing SOBC athletes so well!

The annual BC LETR Provincial Workshop also took place recently on November 28, where participants from law enforcement agencies around the province strategized for the year ahead and shared new ideas, including those gleaned from the International Conference.

Putting the FUN in Fundraising!

Throughout 2011 plenty of fun and fundraising took place all over the province. While we cannot feature every event that took place, below are a few examples of the great efforts by the LETR members around the province.

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT, OVERTIME HOURS DRAFT AN ATHLETE

Thank you to the many members of the Vancouver Police Department who opened their hearts and their overtime banks to give Special Olympics athletes the chance to compete in the 2011 Special Olympics BC (SOBC) Winter Sport Championships. Nearly 300 VPD officers turned their overtime hours into donations in order to help 25 SOBC – Vancouver athletes reach the SOBC provincial championships. Their generous contribution also supported another 25 athletes from around the province to compete at the 2011 SOBC Winter Sport Championships.

VPD members also took the time to volunteer at



VPD Sergeant Joanne Wild presenting medals to the SOBC – Surrey floor hockey teams.

the Floor Hockey Skills sessions that were part of the 2011 SOBC Floor Hockey Championship in Vancouver on Feb. 18 and 19. The Floor Hockey Skills sessions were sponsored by the VPD. "The men and women of the VPD have been longtime supporters of Special Olympics through the Law Enforcement Torch Run. This year they truly went beyond the call and personally contributed money for 50 athletes to realize their dreams of competing in the winter sport championships. I am so proud of our members," said Superintendent Eric Petit, VPD North Command. **This event raised \$25,000 for the BC LETR.**

Delta Police Department, Vancouver Giants 50/50

Led by Staff Sergeant Debbie McLeod and Constable Erin Gray of the Delta Police, police members, civilian staff and volunteers sold

50/50 tickets at a Vancouver Giants playoff game. Sincere thanks to the Delta police and also to the SOBC athletes and volunteers



who worked hard to make it happen. We also thank the Vancouver Giants for their support. Plans are already underway for the next fundraiser with the Giants! **The evening raised \$4,100 for the BC LETR.**

Guildford Walmart & CN Police, April 8-9

CN Police hosted a fundraising event at the Guildford Town Centre Walmart with lots of bucket shaking and plenty of fun to be had. North Surrey Lions Club conducted a BBQ and the Guildford Lions Club was also on hand lending their support. Of course, SOBC – Surrey athletes were also happily accepting donations and assisting the police during the weekend. **This event raised approximately \$4,000 for the BC LETR.**

Abbotsford Police Challenge Run

We thank and congratulate everyone who worked to make the 2011 Abbotsford Police Challenge Run such a success, especially Committee Chairperson Kelly Pater of the Abbotsford Police Department. The Abbotsford Police Challenge Run has been a longtime supporter of the BC LETR and this year almost tripled their contribution to the cause. The committee is already busy locking in sponsors for next year's event and are looking forward to another successful event in 2012.

The event raised \$17,000 for the BC LETR.



Chief R.J. Canuel Memorial Golf Tournament, September

This long-standing golf tournament marked its 12th year of celebrating the memory of Chief Raymond J. Canuel and supporting valuable causes such as the BC LETR with another successful event at Newlands Golf & Country Club in Surrey. This year's tournament welcomed 146 golfers for a day full of fun in a fully stocked experience, with special additions greeting the participants at 14 of the 18 holes. The day is also about honouring the memory of Chief Canuel, former leader of the Vancouver Police Department.

The event raised \$4,500 for the BC LETR.

Kelowna Walmart and Kelowna RCMP, May 27-29

Kelowna RCMP again took to the parking lot of the Kelowna Walmart to raise funds for Special Olympics BC. With years of experience hosting this event, Constable Steve Holmes and Constable Cheryl McKinnon of the Kelowna RCMP organized loads of entertainment, activities and food for the whole family. NHL players Shea Weber of the Nashville Predators and Blake Comeau of the New York Islanders and Canadian Winter Olympian Kelsey Serwa were on hand signing autographs.



This year also saw the addition of a Plunge Pool to help raise extra funds for the BC LETR. For \$50 visitors to Walmart could take the plunge into the freezing water in a courageous display of support for our cause. The event also included a silent auction and a live auction of several items donated by local businesses. A huge thanks to Walmart for their \$5,000 donation and to the many performers, volunteers, cooks, athletes, local restaurants and staff who selflessly gave their time and services over the weekend for our cause. **The event raised over \$17,500 for the BC LETR.**

Staples supports the dreams of Special Olympics athletes

From November 5 to 26, Staples stores and customers across Canada shared the spirit of Special Olympics through the Give a Toonie. Share a Dream. campaign. Since 2001, the program has raised more than \$4.2 million to support athletes across Canada as they travel nationally and internationally to compete with their peers. Last year, the campaign raised \$402,000 with the generous support of Staples customers and associates throughout the country.

"We are so proud to be a national sponsor of Special Olympics Canada. Our Give a Toonie. Share a Dream. campaign is just one way we give back to the community. In addition to coordinating this fundraiser, Staples Canada is proud of our 11-year partnership contributing millions of dollars corporately," said Steve Matyas, president of Staples Canada.

During the campaign, Special Olympics BC athletes, coaches and volunteers visited stores around the province to show Staples staff and customers how much their support means, and how amazing the Special Olympics movement is. Our thanks to all of the SOBC community members who participated in the campaign!

In the campaign's nationwide creative materials, SOBC – North Shore FUNDamentals athlete Oliver was the star of the show this year!

Staples employees in the Lower Mainland also continued their annual tradition of coming together with Special Olympics BC athletes to enjoy a fun day of softball and socializing in a daylong tournament in June. Now in its 10th year, the tournament offers a great chance for Staples staff and SOBC athletes to enjoy an inspiring and energizing day together at the Riverway Sports Complex.

Our thanks go out to the Burnaby Lougheed Lions Club for providing delicious food on the day, and to Staples and all of its employees who have supported this fun event for a decade!



STAPLES

that was easy.®



Our thanks to Okanagan Spring Brewery

Okanagan Spring Brewery has been a leading B.C. craft brewing company for more than 25 years, and has been a strong supporter of Special Olympics BC for six years. We are grateful that Okanagan Spring Brewery continues to donate funds for SOBC programs through their annual fall campaign, and we appreciate their ongoing support of the organization's fundraising events.

Okanagan Spring Brewery generously provides beer for the majority of our fundraising events, including the high-profile Sports Celebrities Festival and Goldcorp Invitational. The company also contributes through their annual month-long campaign, where they donate a portion of sales to SOBC for every 12-pack of bottles sold. Our heartfelt thanks to Okanagan Spring Brewery for their support!

Basketball booming in B.C.

In 2009, Special Olympics BC offered the sport of basketball for the first time at a Provincial Games. Four very excited teams from Surrey, Vancouver, Campbell River and North Shore took part, and the SOBC – Vancouver eventually took home the gold medal. SOBC staff members were pleased with the four-team turnout then, but had no idea how quickly things would change over the next few years.

Fast-forward to 2011, when the organizers of the Coquitlam Basketball Tournament were found shaking their heads as they tried to figure out how to schedule a 16-team event. The tournament drew teams

from around the province and demonstrated that the fast-paced sport of basketball is now one of the most popular sports in B.C.

A further example came only weeks later when SOBC – North Shore hosted a second large competition that drew 12 teams and had some of the most exciting games ever witnessed since the addition of Special Olympics basketball. The astounding growth of basketball can be attributed to a number of factors, but the athletes will tell you it is the speed and energy of the game that keeps them motivated.

In 2012 Special Olympics BC will host all summer sport Regional Qualifiers in order to select the competitors who will compete at the 2013 SOBC Summer Games. Given basketball's participation explosion, those games look to be the place to be for athletes and spectators!



Intense action at the 2011 Coquitlam Basketball Tournament!

MY YEAR AS A GLOBAL MESSENGER

I have been a Sargent Shriver Global Messenger for more than a year now, and I have gotten to travel to places around the world. My first trip was to Morocco in June 2010 for the Global Athlete Congress, which brought Special Olympics athletes from around the world to discuss Special Olympics issues such as sandbagging, inclusion, divisioning and officiating. Fellow BC athlete Marc Theriault from SOBC – Surrey was also there to represent Canada. When I was in Morocco, I was nominated by fellow athletes to be the Global Congress Chair and represent the athletes around the world for the next five years.

In September 2010, I travelled with my mentor Jim LaCroix to Washington D.C. for the Global Messenger training, where we met with 11 other Global Messengers from around the world. We learned what our role would be for the next four years, and practiced speeches and interviews. Jim and I also got to tour Washington and go to the Canadian Embassy.

In June 2011 I got to have a lunch meeting with Warren Buffett in Omaha, Nebraska, along with former Global Congress Chair and Special Olympics athlete Loretta Claiborne. I got to tell Mr. Buffett about my involvement in Special Olympics and why Special Olympics is so important to athletes around the world.

A month later I went to Athens, Greece, for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games. I got to speak at the Opening Ceremony, which was an amazing experience. I also got to speak at the Greek Parliament and tell them about how much of an impact Special Olympics has had on my life.

I also participated in my first board meeting in Greece. Some of the things that were discussed were how to increase inclusion and also how we can use social networking to get more people to know about Special Olympics. Another highlight in Greece was meeting with Team Canada, which included a good number of Special Olympics BC athletes, at a reception at the Canadian ambassador's house.

In September of this year I returned to Washington D.C. to participate in a meeting about the "brand" of Special Olympics and what it means to

athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters. Each of these groups looks at what Special Olympics is to them differently, and it was great to give an athlete's perspective on behalf of athletes.

In early November I went to Calgary to speak in the Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference, where I met and addressed law enforcement officers from all over the world. They are a very big supporter of SO and I was excited to talk with them.

After the Calgary meeting I headed to Cincinnati with Dan Howe, CEO of Special Olympics BC, to participate in the Special Olympics International board meeting.

These experiences have really given me an exciting look at how hard people are working to make Special Olympics grow and make it the best it can be for athletes. We are very fortunate here in Canada, as I hear stories from other countries where people with intellectual disabilities are still struggling to be accepted.

On a positive note, Special Olympics is growing worldwide and new programs are starting with numbers of athletes increasing greatly. Numbers of new younger athletes are also increasing.

Getting these opportunities to talk about Special Olympics has been very special. The more I can promote Special Olympics and let people know how much Special O makes a difference, I will know that I have been doing my job and helping people with disabilities achieve their goals and dreams.

All of my Special Olympics roles are very exciting, but my favourite part is still getting out to practice and compete with my fellow Special Olympics athletes in Langley and BC.



By Matthew Williams

Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon helps SOBC



In the first week of June, SOBC – Vancouver athlete Pat Johnson spent four straight days running throughout the Lower Mainland with the Law Enforcement Torch Run, covering more than 100 kilometres while sharing the spirit of Special Olympics alongside dedicated law enforcement personnel.

Three weeks later, Pat could be seen crossing the finish line of the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon in fine form, clocking in at just over two hours and once again representing Special Olympics BC with his great athleticism and dedication. We're grateful to Pat and all of the awesome runners who raised funds for SOBC through their participation in the 2011 Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon and 5K!

Special Olympics BC is fortunate to be one of the local charities supported through the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon and 5K, where runners can choose to fundraise for their charity of choice when they register.

If you're thinking of tackling this great run in 2012, you'll be able to support Special Olympics at the same time! Stay tuned to SOBC's website, Facebook page and e-newsletter for details about SOBC's involvement with this awesome event.



EKS Day



In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver stood in front of approximately 1,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities ready to compete in the first-ever Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, and spoke the words that became the core Athlete's Oath for the movement she founded:

"Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Mrs. Shriver went on to stand in front of many such events, each bigger and better than the last, as the movement that she began grew to include millions of athletes and volunteers across the globe, and has changed the way the world responds to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver's actions helped open the minds of all people to the gifts and talents of individuals with intellectual disabilities. She demonstrated an indomitable spirit in action that one person could make a difference and change the world. Her lasting legacy must be our continued commitment to improve and transform the lives of the 200 million people worldwide with intellectual disabilities who still live with diminished opportunities and social disrespect, and are often neglected and hidden away.

On September 24, people around the world celebrated Eunice Kennedy Shriver's inspirational spirit and her vision for a more inclusive, respectful world in the second annual EKS Day. Special Olympics programs and communities worldwide hosted events full of inclusive sport and play to honour Mrs. Shriver's legacy.

Special Olympics BC joined in by hosting a **fun, family-friendly event featuring a floor hockey skills contest in Nanaimo (pictured)**. Members of the community were welcomed to join the Team BC floor hockey squads to participate in the fun activities and experience the spirit of Special Olympics.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA JOINS FORCES WITH CPGA

Anyone who plays the sport of golf will tell you that it is a very technical athletic endeavour and having instruction from a professional would be extremely beneficial. Special Olympics Canada also understands this concept and in cooperation with the Canadian Professional Golfers Association has developed a workshop to assist our coaches in teaching this amazing sport to Special Olympics athletes. The workshop examines coaching philosophy, long-term athlete development, understanding the basic rules, teaching basic technical skills of golf and a number of other items that coaches can use as tools to improve their coaching skills.

The first BC workshop was hosted by the Fraserview Golf Course in Vancouver on July 23, and 12 coaches soaked up the instruction in the eight-hour session facilitated by Canadian Golf Professional Glenn Cundari. Special Olympics BC looks forward to hosting more of the Golf Coach Workshops over the next year as the sport continues to grow.

The workshop could not have come at a more opportune time as athletes and coaches for the first time will move on from the 2013 Provincial Games to the 2014 National Games, which will be hosted here in British Columbia.

GLOBAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMITS HELD IN B.C.



British Columbia welcomed a gathering of great people from throughout the Special Olympics movement in March, as members of Special Olympics programs from around the globe came together in Vancouver for discussions of family programming and athlete leadership in the 2011 World Summit.

In Vancouver, Special Olympics hosted the Family Strategy Summit from March 5 to 7, and the Athlete Leadership Programs (ALPs) Strategy and Curriculum Revision Summit from March 7 to 9.

The Family Strategy Summit allowed representatives from around the world to work together on creating regional plans and goals for families and young athletes, while sharing success stories and experiences in engaging families with Special Olympics. The ALPs summit drew together athlete leaders and staff from Special Olympics programs around the globe to share their experiences with ALPs and forge plans to continue advancing athlete leadership and strengthening the programs.

Participants from a diverse range of areas – including Pakistan, Thailand, New Zealand and the U.S. – came together in B.C. to share their ALPs achievements and expansion efforts, showing how Special Olympics truly transcends borders.

Lee Anne Bettenhausen (pictured), a Special Olympics Indiana athlete, said the ALPs summit offered a "shot in the arm," helping her get excited about what she'll go on to try with her group. "We've been talking about how to make our ALPs council better, how to get more athletes involved in your country and region," and how to attract more government support for the programs, she said.

SOBC figure skaters soar at 2011 Canada Winter Games

PHOTO COURTESY OF LANDIS WARNER



The amazing response to Matthew and his medal by his fellow Canada Games athletes!

Hats off to the Special Olympics BC athletes who skated their hearts out in the 2011 Canada Winter Games! Figure skaters Johanna Hamblin (SOBC – Port Alberni), Matthew Lai (SOBC – Richmond), Krista Milne (SOBC – Surrey) and Allan Tsang (SOBC – Vancouver) competed in Halifax from February 21 to 24 as members of Team BC in the Canada Games.

Matthew captured a silver medal in the Special Olympics Singles Level II Male division, Allan skated to a silver medal in the Special

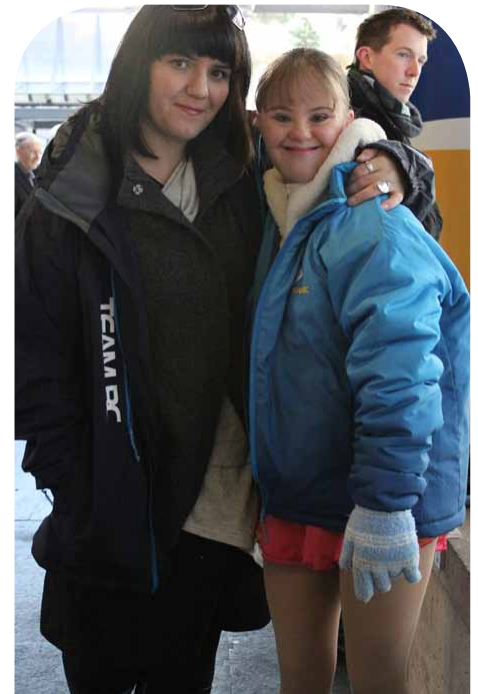
Olympics Singles Level III Male event, and Johanna and Krista glided and spun their way through the Special Olympics Level III Female division to finish eighth and ninth. Congratulations to all four skaters and SOBC – Vancouver/Team BC coach Landis Warner!

Landis shared this inspiring story after Matthew and Allan won their medals on Wednesday:

“[Matthew has] spent the week smiling... He’s a complete celebrity at the rink and the village. Everyone knows who he is and smiles when he enters a room...”

“Last night after the medal ceremonies, something happened that I will never ever forget. When we arrived back at the village, he walked into the cafeteria, walked up to the first table and smiled and showed off his medal. I have no idea who they were. Another sport from another province. Total strangers. They obviously smiled and cheered. How could you not?”

“So he moved on to the next table and the next and the next. It was like a wave moving through the cafeteria. 200+ people. All provinces. All sports. None of them Special Olympics. Cheering Matthew’s medal. High-fiving him. He high-fived



Landis and Krista took part in a special Team BC launch event in Robson Square.

everyone in the room at least once. People stopped to watch. I started crying, of course.

Some people called him back to their table again to share in his joy. Later a table of young pretty girls called him over and had their pictures taken with him. It was truly remarkable.”

Congratulations to all the athletes!

SOBC swimmers speed through Western Canada Games



B.C. can be very proud of the four Special Olympics BC swimmers who raced in Kamloops for the 2011 Western Canada Summer Games. Led by SOBC – Kelowna’s Kelsey Wyse, who captured a remarkable five gold medals, the SOBC swimmers – including Kerri Denninger, Andrew Frenchy and Ryan Kuester – showed their impressive skills and represented B.C. extremely well.

When the dust settled on Sunday (August 14), B.C. swimmers had earned a whopping 73 medals, according to Team BC reports, and the SOBC athletes were responsible for 10 of those!

Shawn Fevens, SOBC Manager of Sport & Youth Development, was impressed by all four athletes, and by their terrific coach. “Overall it was a great competition with some impressive swims by our athletes. Our coach, Joan Mackinnon, was also amazing and kept the athletes focused and prepared to compete at their best.

Kelsey Wyse (SOBC – Kelowna): 100-Metre Freestyle: 1st Place (1:11.83) / 50-Metre Backstroke: 1st Place (43.96) / 50-Metre Freestyle: 1st Place (33.86) / 100-Metre Backstroke: 1st Place (1:34.57) / 50-Metre Breaststroke: 1st Place (48.92)

Kerri Denninger (SOBC – Comox Valley): 100-Metre Freestyle: 2nd Place (1:27.89) / 50-Metre Backstroke: 3rd Place (47.76) / 50-Metre Freestyle: 2nd Place (41.24) / 100-Metre Backstroke: 3rd Place (1:47.26) / 50-Metre Breaststroke: 6th Place (57.86)

Ryan Kuester (SOBC – Chilliwack): 100-Metre Freestyle: 4th Place (1:13.62) / 50-Metre Backstroke: 5th Place (47.60) / 50-Metre Freestyle: 3rd Place (32.22) / 100-Metre Backstroke: 5th Place (1:50.49) / 50-Metre Breaststroke: DQ

Andrew Frenchy (SOBC – Nanaimo): 100-Metre Freestyle: 5th Place (1:27.28) / 50-Metre Backstroke: 4th Place (46.71) / 50-Metre Freestyle: 5th Place (34.66) / 100-Metre Backstroke: 4th Place (1:45.61) / 50-Metre Breaststroke: 4th Place (51.42)

“As an additional note,” Shawn added, “Team BC won the Western Canada Games Cup that is awarded to the provincial team that earned the most points based on athlete results.”

Team BC wrapped up the Games with 261 total medals, with B.C. athletes having medalled in every sport and captured 52 per cent of the total gold medals awarded. Wow!



SOBC STAFF CHANGES

Jasmine Allen has joined Special Olympics BC as a Fundraising Coordinator. Jasmine previously worked in event planning, volunteer coordination and project management for UNICEF Canada and the Health and Home Care Society of British Columbia. Jasmine is thrilled and honoured to be a member of the SOBC family, and is looking forward to working with you all!

Rachel Borer has joined SOBC as Manager of Community Development for Regions 3, 4 and 5. She is originally from Ottawa, Ontario, and moved to B.C. this year to work with Special Olympics BC. Rachel obtained a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Management from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, and completed Master's degrees in Business Administration and Sport and Recreation Administration from the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. She is really excited to be a part of the Special Olympics BC family!

Jennifer Cowell is pleased to have joined SOBC as the Office Administrator. Jenny has earned degrees in teaching and linguistics from UBC, and she most recently served as the Office Manager for Village Physiotherapy in North Vancouver. She loves soccer, outdoor activities and ABBA. She is looking forward to meeting and supporting amazing SOBC volunteers and athletes all around the province.

Bobby Debrone has joined SOBC as Manager of Community Development for Region 6. Bobby is a resident of Nanaimo and a graduate of the Sport Management program at Brock University and Sales and Marketing Diploma at Niagara College. Previously Bobby served as a Head Coach with the St. Catharines Minor Field Lacrosse Association and as a support worker for a behaviour management Program. Currently, he plays for the Sr. A Nanaimo Timbermen of the Western Lacrosse Association. He's excited to join the SOBC team!

SOBC has also hired **Christopher Edwards** as Manager of Health and Sport Science. He is a lifelong resident of B.C. and recently completed his Master's of Science degree specializing in Kinesiology at UBC. Christopher is an avid athlete and sports fan, and is always willing to play or watch any sport. He is excited to help bring the benefits of recent scientific research and of healthier lifestyles to the SOBC community.

Nicole Ong has been doing a wonderful job pinch hitting for Cari Peters in the Manager of Sport and Youth Development position during Cari's maternity leave. We are grateful to Nicole and delighted to have her for the year, and we're looking forward to welcoming Cari back in the spring.

Courtenay Wood will be away from SOBC for a year as she and her husband welcomed a new bundle of joy to their family in November. We wish them all joy and health!

SOBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE



Pam Keith

We are pleased to announce that **Pam Keith** of the Dueck Auto Group was elected chair of the SOBC Board of Directors at the 2011 AGM. Pam has been a great champion for the organization as a director since 2005, and we are very excited that she is taking on this role.

We are truly grateful to **Michael Campbell** for the significant accomplishments he attained and the great leadership he showed during his time as chair. We are exceedingly pleased that he will be staying on as past chair. Michael has served on the SOBC board since 2003.

We are also excited to announce that **Ted Hirst** of Canaccord Genuity was elected as vice chair. Ted has been an SOBC director since 2009. We truly appreciate his contributions, and those of all the directors who continue to share their time and their strong leadership and experience to help Special Olympics BC.

After 15 years of service as an SOBC director, **Doug Holtby** has stepped down from the board. Doug is also the co-chair of the Sports Celebrities Festival, and we are sincerely grateful for the exceptional commitment and leadership that he has shown. **Mark Schiefner**, an SOBC director since 2006, has also stepped down from the board, and we sincerely thank him for his service.

Fundraising success with Sport Chek

From November 4 to 13, 2011, Sport Chek stores across Canada invited their customers to make a donation at the till to help enrich the lives of Special Olympics athletes. Now in its second year, the campaign was once again a fantastic success raising \$114,216.27 in support of Special Olympics! As usual, B.C.'s Special Olympics supporters were out in full, donating over \$19,000 throughout the campaign. Special Olympics BC would like to extend a sincere thank you to Sport Chek and their customers for their amazing support of Special Olympics athletes across the country!



REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Healthy Athletes initiatives, volunteer growth and recruitment, fitness and fundraising were among the major topics under discussion as keen Special Olympics BC volunteers around the province came together for great conversations and inspiring idea-sharing in the Regional Conferences held this fall. Athletes also had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through the fun and engaging Athletes as Program Mentors course staged in Richmond.

The 2011 Region 7 & 8 Conference was hosted in Prince George over the weekend of October 1 and 2. Participants from 100 Mile House, Quesnel, Prince George, Smithers and Kitimat took part in presentations and discussed ideas and initiatives in roundtable sessions throughout the productive and interesting weekend.

Amy Pokoney, Special Olympics BC Manager of Fund Development, led a session about fundraising ideas that all of the Locals are keen on starting in their communities. And SOBC volunteer Pam Kiselbach, who received training in health promotion initiatives through the Special Olympics International Healthy Athletes program during the 2011 World Games in Greece, led two presentations about the importance of nutrition for our athletes. Pam is a registered fitness professional, and she also shared some fantastic tips on how to plan and execute great practices with fun new warm-up and cool-down games!

With lots of focus on growth and recruitment of new volunteers, we hope that all of the participants went back to their communities with fun new ideas to share in their regions. Many thanks to everyone who came out and shared their ideas!

The Region 1 Conference was cause for celebration for multiple reasons. It offered a great chance for volunteers from six Locals to come together and share information and ideas; it was wonderful to see 15 people take part in those sessions, coming together from six communities around Region 1.

Much of the talk centred around Healthy Athletes ideas and initiatives, with excellent discussions ensuing. And Local Coordinators experienced and new gathered to share very valuable transfers of information, with longtime Local Coordinators doing a wonderful job of providing integral information to their newer counterparts that will help them greatly on their way. The conference also offered an opportunity for several coaches to gather for a coaches meeting.

All of those endeavours were great fun and greatly valuable. But the date of the conference was significant cause for celebration for a wonderful reason beyond the meeting of minds: It was held on the 34th anniversary of Leo and Emily Mittermayr, dedicated SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook volunteers! The Mittermayrs' anniversary was celebrated happily at the conference dinner.

Nearly 30 amazing people came out to participate in the Region 6 Conference on November 5 and 6 in Parksville. Attendees enjoyed a weekend full of information sessions, guest speakers and networking opportunities. Registrants ranged from coaches, members of Executive Committees, Leadership Council members, professionals in the community and SOBC staff.

During the conference, those in attendance were able to learn from

professionals from Vancouver Island and abroad. Guest speakers included Michelle Albrecht from Community Living presenting about aging athletes and dementia, behavioural consultant Janice Joseph speaking about autism, owner of Over the Hurdle fitness instructor Curtis Vizza, and Pam Kiselbach once again presenting about nutrition, Club Fit and Healthy Athlete initiatives.

SOBC would like thank all those in attendance for their tireless effort and commitment. The participants not only helped the Regional Conference become a success but are also strengthening the unification of Region 6 as a whole.

Regional gatherings often offer SOBC athletes opportunities to develop their leadership and public speaking skills. A fun and practical Athletes as Program Mentors course was held in Richmond in October alongside Region 3, 4 and 5 volunteers who gathered for NCCP and youth program coaching courses.

Nine athletes participated in this Program Mentor class, each supported by a great coach from his/her respective Local. Led by Jim LaCroix, they learned about and discussed a variety of topics vital to prepare them to support coaches in their Locals in leading sport programs.

The course participants discussed concepts such as leadership qualities, what they look for in their role models, and the qualities they have that they think would make them good Program Mentors; they also covered practical essentials such as the definition of their role as a Program Mentor; tips for effective communications and ideas of how and where they can support their coaches to ensure smooth running of a program.

The athletes definitely impressed Sharla Mauger, the Region 3 Coordinator who sat in on the Saturday session. She noticed

how each athlete truly came prepared to discuss the topics at hand, and each was ready to jump in with great ideas to share.

When talking about the qualities and skills they want to work on to make them better mentors, and the qualities they observe in others that they would want to have, they covered a whole board with their ideas!

"They were coming up with these all on their own. I was really impressed by the level of commitment the athletes came with," Sharla said.

Sharla said the athletes who were involved told her they were excited by the sharing of ideas and looking forward to getting back to their Locals and starting to help their coaches.

"They were very excited, very committed and very eager to participate," Sharla said.

Coaches in all SOBC Locals can be on the lookout for athletes who would be great to enroll in this course, and can take advantage of this opportunity by putting forward athletes who would benefit from the experience.

Reminder: Any SOBC athlete who wants to help coach or volunteer with a sport program must first take this course.

For more information about Athlete Leadership Programs, please contact Lois McNary or your local Manager of Community Development.



Participants in the Athletes as Program Mentors course recognizing Safeway's support of the courses held in Richmond – the great Special Olympics sponsor supported the provision of lunches!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC

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