



Bulletin

Winter 2012

'Anything is possible' with Team BC 2012

AS Team BC figure skater Allan Tsang said, looking around at the Closing Ceremony for the **2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games**, "anything is possible here." The National Games overflowed with stories of joy, achievement, and sportsmanship, courtesy of the dedicated Team BC athletes who earned 118 medals and delivered inspiring performances, and the incredible coaches and mission staff members who supported them every step of the way.

The 2012 National Games drew more than 650 athletes from across the country to compete in St. Albert and Jasper National Park, Alberta. Team BC 2012 was comprised of **109 SOBC athletes, 34 volunteer coaches, and 12 mission staff members** from 21 communities around the province. Athletes qualified for Team BC 2012 based on their performances in the 2011 SOBC Winter Sport Championships, which were held in February and March 2011 in Coquitlam, Vancouver and West Kelowna.

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Victoria snowshoeing athlete Victor Manna (second from right) was selected to lead the B.C. delegation into the Opening Ceremony with Team BC 2012 Honorary General Manager Chuck Jeannes of Goldcorp (right) and Honorary Head Coach Travis Lulay of the B.C. Lions (second from left), as well as BC Law Enforcement Torch Run representative Tom Norton.

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Alpine skiing: 19 medals

TEAM BC's alpine skiers rocketed down the Marmot Basin slopes, delivering a terrific team-wide effort.

National Games rookie Teneesha Coulson of SOBC – Penticton led the way with her triple-gold-medal performance, and fellow first-timers Avery Newman of SOBC – Whistler and Jonathan Robins of SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook also picked up three medals apiece. Delta speedster Cory Duhaime, Kristina Ettema of SOBC – Surrey and Ryan Kruger of SOBC – Penticton, competing in their second National Games, each earned three medals of their own, while Erin Thom of SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook tore it up in her fourth National Games en route to a bronze medal and several strong races.

The sportsmanship and spirit shown by SOBC – Vancouver athlete Chris Buckland and



SOBC – Kelowna athlete Bruce Yorke made a powerful impression on coach Tom Advocaat.

"These two guys handled themselves with such grace and poise. They were my heroes. I know they were disappointed [not to win medals], but they kept talking about how they were going to keep training, stick to the program, and try again to make the team," he says. "Those guys were just fantastic, they are my absolute heroes." ○

Cross-country skiing: 34 medals

SOBC – Kelowna athletes Richard Gillis and Jordan Lige exemplified the spirit and determination of Team BC with their stirring performance on a cold, snowy morning. In temperatures around -13 degrees and steadily falling snow, these two claimed gold and bronze medals in the 10-kilometre race with gutsy performances. When they hammered across the finish line, leaving everything on the course, they had snow caked into their eyebrows and exhaustion on their faces.

What were Jordan's words at the finish line, with snow crusted on his face and coaches and volunteers heaping blankets and jackets on him and handing him hot drinks and water? "It was awesome! I love that new snow," he said.

There were remarkable performances throughout the week at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre. There were the two medals apiece earned in one day by the hardworking and determined Kevin Ellis of SOBC – Penticton and Jake "the Swan" Penney, who simply flew to the finish line in the 2.5km, digging so deep while trying to catch SOBC – Kelowna's Tracy Melesko, the team's invaluable "Mama Melesko," who won a bronze medal herself.

There were SOBC – Kelowna's Katarina Gerhardt and Barb Conway of SOBC – Prince



George gutting out gold and bronze medals with their determined skiing in the 2.5km race. There was Maria Schmitke of SOBC – Kelowna putting coach Annabel's wise words into practice to gear up for the 2.5km race: "Annabel told me yesterday to just clear everything from your head and focus on your race. That's what I'm doing." The list goes on and on.

"The effort the athletes put in today makes coaching worthwhile," said Team BC cross-country skiing coach Bob Hazell. ○

Figure skating: 10 medals

WHAT remarkable grace and skill was shown at Servus Place by the talented and focused Team BC athletes, and what a remarkable job their coaches did of supporting them and enabling them to perform at their very best. From the strong showing by the young talents such as Allison Le of SOBC – Delta and Alex Pang and Allan Tsang of SOBC – Vancouver, to the charismatic and skillful skating by the team’s veterans Darlene Jakubowski, Alexandra Magee, Pauline Shaw, and Marc Theriault, the team’s performances showed B.C. is truly a force to be reckoned with on the ice.

Remarkable too was seeing National Games rookie Jennifer Utendale overcome with joy at winning her first-ever national medal, the bronze she earned in Freeskate Level 1. There were a few tears, but there was also an enormous smile on the face of this talented skater as she received her medal from Olympic and world champion skater Jamie Sale. ○



Curling: Bronze for B.C. Ice Hounds, fourth-place finishes for B.C. Hot Shots, Rockers, and Rockettes

AT the St. Albert Curling Club, the B.C. Ice Hounds threw and swept their way to a bronze medal in Division D. The five teammates – Lance Barker, Peter Cossarin, Dale Eckert, and Richard Lang of SOBC – Powell River and Joanne Seefried of SOBC – Kelowna – proudly bore the bronze medals around their necks as they marched into the Closing Ceremony.

The B.C. Hot Shots from Victoria wound up finishing fourth in Division A after a

naïlbiting bronze-medal game. They went down 6-0 against Sudbury and clawed back to tie the game at 7-7. But the final score saw Sudbury ice the bronze medals by a score of 8-7. A well-fought game and great learning throughout the tournament by the Hot Shots, who have been playing together for a relatively short time and had several team members experiencing their first National Games. Skip Danny Pace said he and teammates Nathan Bodie, Drew Denny, Mark Hamblett, and Drew Sabourin learned a great deal, and they know what they will be working on over the next four years.

The B.C. Rockers from Abbotsford and Surrey closed out a strong tournament by finishing fourth in Division B, after New

Brunswick got ahead of them in the bronze-medal game. A well-played tournament by Ashley Bowling, Jeff James, Mike Palitti, Percy Walker, and Dale Wright, who worked hard to get there and made B.C. proud!

The B.C. Rockettes – April Armstrong, Bridget Colvin, Alene Elgaard, Bailey Lytle, and Artisia Wong – from Burnaby and Victoria wrapped up their tournament with skillful shotmaking and great attitudes. When it came toward the end of their last game against New Brunswick, coach Paul Colvin boldly called for two double takeouts in a row. Artisia didn’t think she could throw those shots, and then she did it twice in a row. “They made some really, really good plays,” mission staff member Sue Foisy said. ○



Floor hockey: Gold for B.C. Tigers, silver for B.C. Avalanche

ON the final day of competition, the B.C. Avalanche and Tigers took to the floor for their gold-medal games in their respective divisions, and played high-energy, high-intensity matches that were thrilling to watch.

The Avalanche marched onto the floor with a rousing chant of "B.C.! B.C.!" They kept up that impressive energy from start to finish in their match, which was a nailbiter with tight checking and stifling defensive action throughout.

The Avalanche earned the silver medal in Division C and the respect of everyone who watched their determined play. Their players also showed stirring sportsmanship, such as SOBC – Richmond athlete Kevin Parmenter helping up fallen opponents on the floor. This is a team with players who take care of each other, show good sportsmanship and fight hard to the finish – worthy representatives of B.C.

There were some disappointed faces when they came off the floor, but Nick Johnston's first reaction was to support Team BC: "I hope the Tigers will do well," he said as he headed for the dressing room.



And the Tigers did very well indeed in their Division B gold-medal game against Team Ontario's York South squad. They came flying out of the gate, with Brad Hogan opening the scoring on his first shift. But Ontario fought back hard, and Tigers goalie Jason Mills delivered a command performance in shutting the door on their flurry of chances.

SOBC – Nanaimo's Bill Polz scored a hat trick

while Brad and SOBC – Campbell River's J.L. Hollywood added another goal apiece before the game was done. With that offensive firepower and Jason's monster netminding – including a huge save at the end of a two-man advantage for Ontario – the Tigers went on to down the Ontario opponents 7-1 and capture the Division B gold medal in rousing fashion.

SOBC – Campbell River athlete Darcy Hutter commended their Ontario opponents in explaining how he was "very nervous" before the big gold-medal game. "I've never played a team like this. They were really tough," he said. But the Tigers trained hard for this moment and they made it count. "We've been training for three years, that's a long time," Darcy said. ○

Snowshoeing: 27 medals

WITHIN the first hour of official competition at the National Games on Wednesday, February 29, snowshoeing athletes Hazen Meade of SOBC – Campbell River and Sheryl Jakubowski of SOBC – Fort St. John had earned Team BC's first medals of the Games.

Powering through the clear, cold St. Albert air in the demanding 1600-metre race, Hazen charged out to a lead and held on all the way to capture a gold medal, laying down a time of 08:29.53 to lead his division. Hazen is a veteran

of two previous Special Olympics Canada Games in snowshoeing and has stepped onto the podium multiple times, but he said this was his first National Games gold medal.

"That was the first time I've seen you take the lead in a [1600m] race and hold it the whole way," Team BC and SOBC – Campbell River snowshoeing coach Maureen Brinson proudly told Hazen that evening.

Sheryl stormed to her bronze medal in her division for the 1600m race with a time of 13:03.40, showing the drive and determination that she cultivated in her diligent training

leading up to the National Games. This hardworking athlete helped kick off the Games in fine style for Team BC, and the snowshoers continued to charge hard throughout the Games.

For SOBC – Burnaby snowshoeing athlete Katie Little, the third day of competition at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games started like this: coach Maureen came in to get her moving for the day, and Katie opened her eyes and said, "I won a gold medal!" Then she kissed the gold medal she captured in Thursday's 100m race, the first medal she had ever earned at a National Games.

The rest of that day brought another medal – silver this time – for Katie in the 400m race and a total of 27 overall for the B.C. Snow Jets in the Games.

Overall the calibre of racing and the effort put in by the Snow Jets were phenomenal, with examples ranging from Jennifer Germann of SOBC – Prince George bettering her qualifying time by 24 seconds in the 400m final, to Andrew Wiseman of SOBC – Coquitlam battling with poor health and a painful-sounding cough all week but never letting up in his race efforts in his first National Games. ○



Speed skating: 25 medals

THE B.C. Bullets speed skating crew made everyone proud too with their terrific racing. Sarah Maxwell of SOBC – Victoria earned two medals in one day, including a terrific gold-medal win where she absolutely charged through the race. She said she wasn't thinking anything during the race other than "GO, GO, GO!".

The speed skaters received their first medals in a packed presentation which featured dignitaries such as Team BC Honorary GM Chuck Jeannes and Head Coach Travis Lulay as well as SOBC Board of Directors Chair Pam Keith, Vice-Chair Ted Hirst, and Past Chair Michael Campbell. These amazing supporters cheered on Team BC athletes all day long and made many athletes happy by hanging shining medals around their necks.

As speed skating Head Coach Donna Bilous said, "The B.C. Bullets iced the competition with personal-best performances at Servus Place." This amazing group of nine skaters



earned a total of 25 medals and clocked personal-best performances of which they can be very proud. What's more, they all encouraged each other all along the way, supported each other, inspired each other, and made everyone around them proud.

Let's give the last words on Team BC's experience at the 2012 National Games to cross-country skier Shelly Poland, winner of two gold medals, SOBC – Golden's first athlete to compete at a National Games. She beamed

through the Closing Ceremony, but also had a moment of being overcome with tears.

"I'm just so happy and proud of myself!" she said. ○

Jeannes, Lulay lent star support to Team BC 2012

CHUCK Jeannes, President and CEO of **Goldcorp**, and **B.C. Lions** quarterback **Travis Lulay** served as the Honorary General Manager and Honorary Head Coach, respectively, for Team BC 2012.

"I am honoured to have been chosen as Team BC's Honorary General Manager. Goldcorp has proudly supported Special Olympics for a number of years and I continue to be impressed by the outstanding dedication and hard work put in by the athletes to qualify for these Games. I'm looking forward to supporting them as they seek to do their province proud in this national competition," Jeannes said before the National Games.

"As a professional athlete, I know how much time and effort the Team BC athletes have put in to reach the National Games. I'm excited to see what they will achieve in St. Albert, and I'm so glad I will be there to cheer them on and share some of my own competitive experiences," Lulay said in advance of the Games.

Jeannes has been President and CEO of Goldcorp, the world's fastest growing senior gold mining company, since December 2008. Goldcorp has been an outstanding supporter of athletes with intellectual disabilities throughout the province for more than six years, and recently announced a multi-year \$1 million contribution to SOBC that will grow vital programs for children with intellectual disabilities. Goldcorp also supports SOBC through the annual Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament.

Last May, Lulay joined forces with SOBC as a key fan, advocate, and supporter of athletes. He came to support Team BC after an outstanding CFL season in which he guided his team to capture the Grey Cup on home turf and won the CFL Most Outstanding Player Award. ○

Thanks to the generous donors who helped Team BC get to the Games

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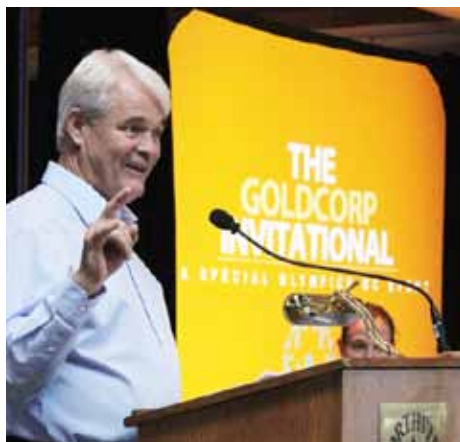
Goldcorp Invitational supports SOBC opportunities to 'shine brightly'

AS Dorothy Gazzola, parent of eight-year-old SOBC athlete Faith, said at the 2012 **Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament**, the generosity of the tournament sponsors and supporters has tremendous value to SOBC athletes and their families. "We are grateful for the opportunity Special Olympics BC has given to our daughter, and all other children with special needs, to help them rise above their daily struggles and to shine brightly because of it," Dorothy said.

The Gazzola family addressed the more than 200 participants in the Goldcorp Invitational at the close of the full day of golf and great

play on both sides of the tournament at Northview Golf and Country Club.

Special Olympics BC is grateful to all of the participating teams and generous sponsors, including our Presenting Sponsor **Goldcorp**, Greens Sponsor **Silver Wheaton**, and Silver Sponsors **BMO Capital Markets**, **Canaccord Financial**, and **Endeavour Mining**.



You'll be absolutely amazed at the real difference they make in the lives of the athletes.

**Chuck Jeannes
Goldcorp President
and CEO**

The ongoing support of these sponsors and all of the tournament supporters allows Special Olympics BC to strengthen and expand its programming for athletes with intellectual disabilities in 55 communities around the province. Special Olympics programs have been incredibly effective in ending the isolation felt by people with intellectual disabilities.

SOBC provides empowering opportunities for athletes to experience the thrill of achievement through high-quality sport programs and competitions, like the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games that Goldcorp President and CEO Chuck Jeannes experienced as the Honorary General Manager for Team BC 2012. He encouraged everyone at the Goldcorp Invitational to check out Special Olympics Provincial and National Games the next time they have the opportunity.

"You'll be absolutely amazed at the real difference they make in the lives of the athletes," he said.

SOBC's youth programs bring these kinds of



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important sport opportunities to children with intellectual disabilities, providing them with the chance to develop vital motor and social skills in a fun and supportive environment. Through SOBC youth programs, Dorothy said Faith has learned important physical and social skills, has had so much fun participating, and has experienced many joyful moments of achievement.

"There were many times we would leave for the day wiping away a tear or two," she said.

Meanwhile, the parents involved in the program enjoy being part of the activities and appreciate the opportunities to connect with and learn from each other, sharing their experience and resources.

As Dorothy put it, "It also gave us, for that one hour a week – and honestly, this is one of the most important – a place of safety, of 100 per cent acceptance, a rarity in many of the lives of such families. Our children were getting joy out of physical activity, becoming more aware of their bodies and how they

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move, they were forming lasting friendships, achieving a sense of accomplishment every time they were able to complete a certain skill, and the most important of them all, they were having so much fun doing it."

Dorothy said there are many indirect ways that funding these programs impacts Faith's life and the lives of many children like her, including the important physical and social skills developed. "You are making a difference for her future, and for all their futures," she said. ○



Tournament Committee

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Michael Coyle, *Replay Resorts Inc.*
Norm Duncan, *Integro (Canada) Ltd.*
Greg Keith, *Dueck Auto Group*
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BC Food & Drug Industry Charity Golf Classic

ON August 8, more than 200 members of the food and drug industry community came together at Hazelmere Golf Club in Surrey for a fun-filled day at the 25th annual **BC 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 had the opportunity to meet SOBC – Vancouver athletes Nellie-Joe Kurta and Sarah Brown, SOBC – Surrey athletes Marc Theriault and Rick Bussey, and SOBC – Delta athlete Cory Duhaime, as well as SOBC volunteers Nel Kurta, Michael Duhaime, Rod McKenzie, and Geoff Uttley.

At the end of the day, the

SOBC was presented with a \$10,000 cheque accepted by SOBC athletes and volunteers.

golfers were treated to a fabulous dinner where SOBC was presented with a \$10,000 cheque accepted by SOBC athletes and volunteers.

SOBC would like to sincerely thank 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 BC Food & Drug Industry Charity Golf Classic, please visit www.vcc.ca/golf. ○



Wolseley's winning spirit

WEDNESDAY, May 23, marked the first-ever **Wolseley Special Olympics Day Barbecue**. It was a joy-filled day with great support from the Wolseley staff, customers, and neighbours as well as special guests from the Special Olympics BC – Richmond floor hockey team, Burnaby RCMP Auxiliary, and Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team.

Despite the liquid sunshine, Wolseley raised \$5,971.50 for SOBC!



Big thanks to Phyllis Gillespie and Lisa Giles of Wolseley for volunteering their time to organize this great event. ○



SOBC – Richmond athlete Vincent Li takes a turn shooting at teammate Robert English at the Wolseley event.

Shout-out to Safeway

CANADA Safeway's annual campaign supporting Special Olympics and Easter Seals was another stirring success in 2012. While the campaign raises significant funds to support Special Olympics across Canada, it also offers an amazing opportunity for raising awareness and celebrating the Special Olympics spirit of inclusion and joy.

Special Olympics BC – Abbotsford volunteer Sharlene Hawksby summed it up with the sentiments she shared after she was in a local Safeway store during the Special Olympics awareness weekend: "A big thank you to Safeway and especially the great people at the store in Abbotsford who were so kind and generous to us today. You all rock!"

Examples of Safeway's inclusive and supportive spirit sprung up throughout the April campaign. Like many stores, the Ocean Park Safeway location staged a fun-filled barbecue during the campaign to raise extra funds. SOBC – Surrey athlete Sean Beddows is a proud employee at this store, and his colleagues rallied to support him and all SOBC athletes.

Delta Police Department Deputy Chief Constable Lyle Beaudoin, a member of the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive, saw his son Mike, a staff member at the store and friend of Sean's, step up and volunteer his Sunday to support the athletes by manning the barbecue.

"To top it off, Sean Beddows did an excellent job making PA announcements encouraging



Burnaby athletes Bridget Colvin (far left) and Mary Armstrong (far right) joined Safeway's Mary D'Astolfo (second from right) and Alana Purnell at the bonnet-decorating challenge that kicked off the 2012 Safeway campaign.

people to support Special Olympics and view his ribbons and medals which were on display. It was a great community event," Deputy Chief Beaudoin wrote.

Each year Safeway stores dedicate the month of April to raising funds and awareness in support of people with disabilities. During the annual campaign, Canada Safeway customers are invited to make a \$2 donation at any Safeway store and in return they receive five AirMiles Reward Miles.

One hundred per cent of the funds raised during the campaign go directly to support Special Olympics and Easter Seals programs



Safeway's Arlette Lafreniere and SOBC – Richmond athlete Michael Ton enjoying the District 4 Bowling for Champions Fundraiser.

SAFeway 

across Canada. This year, Canada Safeway raised an incredible \$134,266.50 for Special Olympics BC.

Helping to cap the fun and successful month, the 2012 Safeway District 4 Bowling for Champions Fundraiser held on April 25 was another great success, raising more than \$17,000 for SOBC. Huge thanks to Safeway's Tom, Kelly, Myra, and Arlette for all of their hard work putting together this spirited, fun-filled event.

Our sincere thanks to Safeway and its staff throughout B.C. for their support and for sharing in the spirit of Special Olympics! ○

2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games coming to Kamloops

THE winter months in Kamloops will be warmed in 2015 by an inspiring display of dedication, skill, and sportsmanship when the **2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games** land in town.

Special Olympics BC is excited to announce that the 2015 SOBC Winter Games will be coming to Kamloops, marking the event's return to the community for the first time in 12 years.

Approximately 600 athletes and 200 volunteer coaches and mission staff from the eight SOBC regions in B.C. and the Yukon will convene on Kamloops in February 2015 for this exciting event.

At stake is the opportunity to advance to national and international levels of competition. Top performers in Kamloops will earn the right to advance to the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, where the participants will compete for the chance to

move on to the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Kamloops has long been a key location in the world of Special Olympics in B.C., as one of the first communities to start Special Olympics programming in the province.

"We know this community can pull off an amazing set of Games. They have hosted SOBC Games here before, and were highly successful," said Lois McNary, SOBC Vice President of Sport. "Provincial Games are an exciting, empowering, and frequently life-changing experience for athletes and volunteers alike, and we're sure the Kamloops community will once again provide an environment where the skill and determination of the athletes will be in the spotlight and the spirit of Special Olympics will shine."

Approximately 1,000 volunteers will be welcomed to be involved to help stage the inspiring event. ○



Congrats Team Canada!

SPECIAL Olympics Canada in May announced the group that will proudly represent Canada at the **2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games**. We're delighted to congratulate the more than 140 athletes, coaches, and mission staff members who have been named to Special Olympics Team Canada 2013, including the 13 athletes, six coaches, and two mission staff members from B.C.! Special Olympics BC members are:



SOBC – Dawson Creek athlete Darlene twirled her way to two gold medals at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

ALPINE SKIING

Athletes:

Teneesha Coulson *SOBC – Penticton*
 Kristina Ettema *SOBC – Surrey*
 Avery Newman *SOBC – Whistler*
 Jonathan Robins *SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook*
 Erin Thom *SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook*

Coaches:

Tom Advocaat *SOBC – Coquitlam*
 Randy Scott *SOBC – North Shore*

Mission Staff:

Leslie Thornley
*SOBC Manager, Community Development, Region 2 /
 Team BC 2012 Chef de Mission*

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Athletes:

Kevin Ellis *SOBC – Penticton*
 Shelly Poland *SOBC – Golden*

FIGURE SKATING

Athletes:

Darlene Jakubowski *SOBC – Dawson Creek*
 Alex Pang *SOBC – Vancouver*
 Marc Theriault *SOBC – Surrey*

Coaches:

Landis Warner *SOBC – Vancouver*

SNOWSHOEING

Athletes:

Sheryl Jakubowski *SOBC – Fort St. John*
 Hazen Meade *SOBC – Campbell River*

Coaches:

Maureen Brinson *SOBC – Campbell River*
 Daniel Mallet *SOBC – Victoria*

SPEED SKATING

Athlete:

Sean Casey *SOBC – Coquitlam*

Head Coach:

Donna Bilous *SOBC – Abbotsford*

TEAM COMMUNICATIONS LIAISON

Megan Grittani-Livingston *SOBC Manager,
 Communications*

SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook athlete Jonathan proudly displays the three alpine skiing medals he earned at the National Games in Alberta.



Billed as the world's largest sporting event of that year, the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games will be held January 29 to February 5, 2013, in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea. PyeongChang is also set to host the 2018 Olympic Winter Games.

2013 SOBC Summer Games heading to Langley

THE 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games will be hosted in the Township of Langley from July 11 to 14, 2013, with the support of the Township, the Langley School District, and Langley City.

The Games will feature more than 1,100 Special Olympics athletes from the eight SOBC regions and the Yukon competing in 11 summer sports: 5- and 10-pin bowling, aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce, golf, rhythmic gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer and softball. Athletes will show their love of sport and their inspiring sportsmanship as they compete for the opportunity to advance to the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, which will be held in Vancouver.

These Games will mark the first time that Special Olympics BC and Yukon athletes participating in basketball, bocce and golf will be able to compete for the chance to advance to the National Games – these three current demonstration sports will be part of the Special Olympics Canada Games for the first time in 2014.

“Special Olympics BC is excited to be hosting our 2013 Provincial Summer Games in Langley Township. We’re grateful for the support and cooperation of the Township and the Langley School District that will help make these Games an amazing experience for the athletes who will come together from all around the province and the Yukon to give their best efforts and go for gold,” said Lois McNary, SOBC Vice President of Sport. “The

opportunity to participate in a SOBC Provincial Games is a memorable and often life-changing experience for athletes and volunteers alike, and we know Langley will be a great and gracious host for this inspiring experience.”

SOBC – Langley athlete and Sargent Shriver Global Messenger Matthew Williams was on hand for the announcements made at Langley Township council and Langley School District board meetings, sharing his excitement.

“I am happy and honoured that Langley will host these Games in 2013.”

Lois McNary, SOBC Vice President of Sport

“I am happy and honoured that Langley will host these Games in 2013,” he told the Langley Township council, as quoted in the Langley Times. “It is truly one of the greatest experiences when you have hundreds of people cheering for you.”

The 2013 Games Organizing Committee, chaired by Langley resident Arne Olson, is a



SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC
SUMMER GAMES 2013
LANGLEY



team of dedicated local volunteers who will be working hard to create an amazing experience for athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators next summer.

Preparing to tackle the challenge of organizing an event of this scale, Olson notes that there are two magic ingredients that have always played a significant role in his work: teamwork and passion. Olson’s dedication to raising awareness and community engagement is evident in his previous work for the Canadian Cancer Society. In 2005, he created and chaired the Organizing Committee for the first ever Relay for Life in Langley, making it one of the top five fundraising relays in Canada in its inaugural year.

“We have a great organizing committee who buy into that [combination of teamwork and passion] and I can’t speak highly enough of the group that has stepped forward to do this,” he says. “We each have our own strengths and passions, and we have all come together toward a common objective: to involve to the greatest degree those who

haven’t been involved with volunteerism before ... and to reach out to a whole new community of athletes and individuals who deserve our respect and admiration.”

Want to get involved in the Games? E-mail games@specialolympics.bc.ca to find out more. ○

Jim Pattison Hyundai and Travis Lulay team up for SOBC

THIS season, **Jim Pattison Hyundai** and B.C. Lions quarterback **Travis Lulay** teamed up in a powerful way to show their support of Special Olympics BC. Jim Pattison Hyundai pledged to make a donation of \$100 to SOBC for each touchdown thrown this season, and wound up making a contribution of \$3,200 thanks to the stellar passing of Travis and backup Lions quarterback Mike Reilly.

The promotion also resulted in great awareness raised through ads aired on TEAM Radio throughout the season starring Travis and SOBC athlete Matthew Williams, spreading the word about Jim Pattison Hyundai’s generous donation and Special Olympics.

We are truly grateful for the support of Jim Pattison Hyundai and Travis Lulay, both great fans of SOBC! ○



Jeff Rae of Jim Pattison Hyundai invited Travis Lulay and Matthew Williams to join the North Surrey Auto Mall Car-B-Que as judges! At the end of the Lions’ season, he presented the cheque for \$3,200 to SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe and SOBC – Coquitlam athlete Kyle McLaughlin.

Great success with inaugural Prospera Valley GranFondo



WHEN nearly 1,200 pairs of wheels rolled through the Fraser Valley for the inaugural **Prospera Valley GranFondo**, it was an incredible sight with amazing implications for Special Olympics.

Staged under near-perfect conditions on July 22, the event drew almost 1,200 participants from four Canadian provinces and four U.S. states, including Alabama.

Special Olympics BC is honoured to be the event's charitable partner, and grateful to the members of our community who offered their support on the exciting day. The SOBC athletes and volunteers who generously gave their time to help out at the event were

much appreciated. The assistance provided by SOBC's valued law enforcement partners also helped make the day a great success, including the direct day-of support by Abbotsford Police Department and the RCMP.

The ride raised \$20,000 for SOBC in its first year, and SOBC – Langley athlete Andrea Zonneveld accepted the cheque at a November 1 launch event for the 2013 Prospera Valley GranFondo.

Andrea, who was one of the SOBC athletes and volunteers who helped out with the 2012 ride, said she thought it was "pretty awesome and very cool."

Andrea has been a Special Olympics athlete for 20 years, and plays basketball, curling, golf, floor hockey, soccer, and softball. She thanked the GranFondo organizers for all the support they have shown for Special Olympics athletes.

"It means a lot to have your support," she said. "We have a lot of passion for our sports."

"We are honoured to be the charity partner of the Prospera Valley GranFondo. This community event aligns

perfectly with the core values of Special Olympics BC, celebrating inclusion, sport and healthy lifestyles," said SOBC President and CEO Dan Howe. "We are also excited that our longtime law enforcement partners provided support for this event."

The event included the 160-kilometre GranFondo, 80-km MedioFondo and three-km Sylvan Family Fondo to offer cycling fun for all in the beautiful Fraser Valley. The local communities, including the Township of Langley, Fort Langley, the City of Abbotsford, the Kwantlen and Sumas First Nations, provided strong support for the sea of cyclists.

"Today's event confirmed what we knew; the Fraser Valley is home to the best cycling in this province," said Jeffrey Hansen-Carlson, General Manager, Canadian Velo Events Management Society. "We are extremely proud to have delivered a world class event that our community can be proud of."

"Prospera Credit Union is committed to making our communities healthier and stronger and we are proud to partner with local organizations to showcase all that the Fraser Valley has to offer," says Bruce Howell, Prospera Credit Union's President and CEO. "We'd like to thank Canadian Velo Event Management Society for the amazing job they have done in putting together this epic event and we are extremely happy to be supporting our charity partner Special Olympics BC and all of the valuable programs they offer in our communities."

The 2013 Prospera Valley GranFondo is set for July 21, 2013, with Prospera Credit Union returning as the title sponsor and SOBC grateful to continue as the charity partner. ○



SOBC – Langley athlete Andrea Zonneveld and SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe joined Prospera Credit Union and Canadian Velo Events Management Society representatives for a cheque presentation.

Making the Cut for Special Olympics BC

ON July 27, members of the Nico Wynd Golf Course community were joined by friends, family and colleagues in a spirited day of fundraising and golf at the first annual **Norma Ann Eaton Making the Cut Charity Golf Tournament for Special Olympics BC**.

SOBC – Delta athlete Chelsea Kaake served as the "professional putter" of the tournament, showing off her impressive skills to the golfers. SOBC – Surrey athlete Michaela Robinson delivered a heartwarming speech during the evening festivities.

Tournament Director Norma Ann Eaton and her team of volunteers created a very successful event, raising close to \$20,000. Special thanks to Norma and key sponsor Karasick and Associates Wealth Management for their generous support of SOBC. ○



Okanagan Spring Brewery supports SOBC

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 seven years. Each year, this great supporter donates funds to SOBC through their annual fall campaign, and we appreciate their generous sponsorship of SOBC fundraising events.

Okanagan Spring Brewery provides their premium craft 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 make a donation to SOBC for every 12-pack of bottles sold. Our heartfelt thanks to Okanagan Spring Brewery for their ongoing support of Special Olympics! ○



2012 BC Games: 'I'll always remember this for the rest of my life'

IT was an event full of record-setting performances, great sportsmanship and even some good-natured rivalries. The **2012 BC Summer Games** were an exciting experience for the Special Olympics BC aquatics and athletics competitors who took the track, field, and pool in Surrey by storm.

Right from the opening day of competition, SOBC – Comox Valley athletes Brad Hogan, Jake Hooper and Mason Keddy were inspiring each other to push harder and achieve great things in the Special Olympics track and field events. Brad was beaming after earning a gold medal in the SO long jump event on the first day.

It's just a fun rivalry between teammates.

**Mason Keddy
SOBC – Comox Valley athlete**

"It was awesome," he told the Comox Valley Record. "It's my first time in the BC Games and I got a medal."

Jake scooped up a silver medal in the long jump event – "I was aiming to beat Brad," he joked to the Record, adding, "It's just a fun rivalry between teammates." Mason captured long jump bronze on that opening day, saying he was delighted to be on the podium and delighted to be competing alongside the other athletes in the BC Summer Games.

"I'll always remember this for the rest of my life," he told the Record.

On the aquatics side, Magnus Batara of SOBC – Richmond led the way with a command performance, claiming eight gold medals in eight events. David Dunn of SOBC – Prince George, Andrew Frenchy of SOBC – Nanaimo, Ryan Kuester of SOBC – Chilliwack, and Cullen Yee of SOBC – Richmond also powered through the pool to reach the podium multiple times.

Among the SOBC women, the medal leaders were Kerri Denninger of SOBC – Comox Valley (eight medals, including six gold), Heather Ma of SOBC – Burnaby (six medals, including three gold), and Clara Kodweiss of SOBC – Cowichan Valley and Jasmyne Morgan of SOBC – Prince George (four medals each).

When Aleila Miller, Head Coach for the SOBC athletics team at the 2012 BC Summer Games, crunched the numbers, she saw there was a lot for everyone to remember. On the track and in the field, the team set new BC Games meet records in nearly every event. Among the achievements:

- Jeneka Greif of SOBC – Kelowna and Jake Hooper set meet records in the women's

and men's shot put events at 6.25m and 9.77m respectively;

- Mason Keddy and SOBC – Surrey's Kayley Ohlund set meet records in their respective 400m and 800m events;
- Laura Strauss of SOBC – Smithers notched new meet records in the 100m and 200m;
- Jake also set a meet record in his 200m race while Brad made his mark in long jump with a new meet record at 4.46m.

Beyond the records, athletes such as Ethan Mountain of SOBC – Surrey experienced

Paige Norton of SOBC – Abbotsford to strike gold in the 4x100m relay.

Ethan has overcome a great deal in his path to becoming an active SOBC track and field athlete. His family was initially told they should not expect him to walk or talk, after he suffered four strokes at six weeks old and developed a life-threatening seizure disorder. But Ethan grew into an active boy and thrived in playing box lacrosse between ages five and 12, all while dealing with his autism, sensory integration disorder, Tourette syndrome, OCD and one to 50 seizures per day.

Another hurdle: In 2009 Ethan had surgery that stopped his seizures but took away the entire left field of his vision, and forced him to relearn how to walk while managing the vision impairment. His lacrosse playing days ended,



Jeneka Greif and Amanda Schleppe of SOBC – Kelowna and April Armstrong of SOBC – Burnaby stand tall on the podium at the 2012 BC Summer Games.



Brad Hogan of SOBC – Comox Valley builds to launch a mighty shot.

Deborah Carter

the inspirational power of lining up beside fellow Special Olympics athletes who exude sportsmanship and pride.

"I know he was inspired by the rest of the amazing athletes to dig deep in his running events and try his best," Ethan's mother Nat wrote after the Games. "Our entire family was inspired by all of the athletes, but particularly the group Ethan was competing with. I have never seen such talent balanced out with sportsmanship and genuine kindness in any other athletes in any other sports/meet (and our family plays all the sports!)."

"Our entire family was inspired by all of the athletes, but particularly the group Ethan was competing with.

Ethan Mountain's mother

Ethan competed in seven events and achieved two personal-best results at the BC Games, including his bronze-medal-winning run in the 800m race. He also teamed up with April Armstrong of SOBC – Burnaby, Brad Hogan and

but that is when his Special Olympics track and field days began.

"His leaving lacrosse was how we discovered Special Olympics and track and field, and we don't know how we ever went without it!" Nat said.

Left with a sore throat after a weekend of cheering enthusiastically for all the athletes, Nat Mountain also commended the volunteer coaches who support the athletes through thick and thin.

Hats off to Heather Young, Nikki Apps, Jacques Lemieux, Joan Mackinnon, and Patty Wheelton on the aquatics team, and Aleila Miller, Deborah Carter, Carissa Lachmuth, and Tom Norton on the athletics team!

The BC Summer Games were held in Surrey from July 19 to 22, involving up to 2,818 athletes from around the province taking part in 20 sporting events in 15 venues. SOBC athletes have been showcasing their skills and determination in BC Games events for a decade, competing in the Special Olympics division. ○

SOBC golfers shine on national stage

MULTIPLE medals, amazing memories, and even an eagle – just some of the amazing products from the participation of Special Olympics BC athletes in the inaugural **National Golf Tournament** hosted by Special Olympics Canada in the fall.

About that eagle – a cool achievement by SOBC – Summerland athlete Carl Richard. On Day 2 of the competition in Mount Hope, Ont., Carl notched the eagle by holing out with his third shot on a par-five hole. “It was a pretty big moment,” said Shawn Fevens, SOBC Manager of Sport, who supported the 12 SOBC athletes and four coaches at this first-ever national golf event of this kind.

After that, of course, Carl did what he had earned the right to do: bust out eagle moves on occasion throughout the rest of the tournament!

Carl finished fourth in the top men’s division, which included four SOBC athletes who delivered very fine performances. SOBC – Kelowna athlete Kyle Grummett earned the gold medal in that top division, shooting 76 over the two days and delivering the consistent and steady play that he had named among his pre-tournament goals.

Aside from his on-course excellence, Kyle impressed many of the tournament officials and coaches with the respectful and composed way he conducted himself throughout the event. “He was a pretty classy guy out there, on top of being a really good player,” Shawn said.

“It’s a thrill, it’s just a great honour,” Kyle said of being selected to compete in the tournament.

The athletes were selected based on

their performances at last season’s Regional Qualifiers, and they were a very strong crew joining the 54 athletes from across Canada to compete in this inaugural event.

The tournament was hosted to provide an important competitive opportunity in this sport, which has grown extremely quickly in the world of Special Olympics in Canada and in B.C. It offered a chance to test rules and structures in advance of the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver, which will be the first time golf is contested in a National Games.

“Erin can really crush a ball off the tee. She probably outdrove half the guys.”

**Shawn Fevens
SOBC Manager of Sport**

Kyle has been golfing for 30 years, and he says he is glad to see the sport’s popularity growing among SOBC athletes. In 2009, when the sport was part of the SOBC Summer Games for the first time, there were 12 registered golfers in three SOBC community programs. Interest exploded over the next three years. In 2012 there were nearly 300 registered golfers in 23 SOBC community programs.

Also among the haul of six medals earned by SOBC athletes at the national tournament were two medals from the women’s side, with SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook athlete Erin Thom claiming bronze in the F1 division and Barb Conway of SOBC – Prince George winning silver in the F2 group.

“Erin can really crush a ball off the tee. She probably outdrove half the guys,” Shawn said, marvelling in particular at Erin’s monster drive to open Day 2, smashing the ball something like 200 yards on the first hole.

Yves Moskaluke, the SOBC – Nanaimo athlete who earned a silver medal in the M2 division, was one of many athletes who initially seemed nervous about the big tee-off moment. But after steadying himself, “he got up there and just smashed it,” Shawn said, precursor to an overall excellent performance by Yves.

After the medals were awarded, Yves commented on how moved he was by the result. He never thought he would have gotten the chance to play in such a tournament, and he couldn’t



Special Olympics Canada

SOBC – Burnaby athlete Conrad Der cranks a shot in the 2012 National Golf Tournament.

believe he had earned a medal.

The strength of SOBC’s team served as a testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of the athletes, the quality coaching, and the valuable relationships developing with golf courses and professionals around the province and with British Columbia Golf. The provincial sport organization has been working with SOBC in efforts to broaden the reach of golf in the province, helping SOBC golf grow with their support in areas such as coach development opportunities, competitions, and program growth.

The collaboration is exciting, said Debbie Pyne, Managing Director of Player Development at British Columbia Golf.

“We are only at the beginning of this relationship between SOBC and British Columbia Golf. So far, our collaboration and commitment to communicate has grown in leaps and bounds. The only way to go with this relationship is to the next level.”

Read more about the collaborations between British Columbia Golf and SOBC online at specialolympics.bc.ca/news.

Congratulations to all the athletes, and to the four fantastic coaches – Chuck Bertrand (SOBC – Sunshine Coast), Parry Dickie (SOBC – Kamloops), Art Peck (SOBC – Nanaimo), and Joanne Thom (SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook) – whose sterling support helped them succeed. ○



Parry Dickie

Members of the SOBC crew on the links in Ontario.

FULL SOBC RESULTS			
Kyle Grummett	SOBC – Kelowna	1st	Division M1
Jason Muldoon	SOBC – Ridge Meadows	1st	Division M7
Barb Conway	SOBC – Prince George	2nd	Division F2
Ryan Courtemanche	SOBC – Kelowna	2nd	Division M3
Yves Moskaluke	SOBC – Nanaimo	2nd	Division M2
Erin Thom	SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook	3rd	Division F1
Carl Richard	SOBC – Summerland	4th	Division M1
Conrad Der	SOBC – Burnaby	5th	Division M5
Brett Tassell	SOBC – 100 Mile House	5th	Division M1
Aiden Fisher-Lang	SOBC – North Shore	6th	Division M3
Chris Harrington	SOBC – Kelowna	6th	Division M1
Lynden Hicks	SOBC – Penticton	7th	Division M5

Booming interest in basketball

ANYONE who attended the Basketball Regional Qualifier hosted by Special Olympics BC – North Shore in March can attest to the fact that enthusiasm about this sport is strong and building in the SOBC sport world. That tournament featured more than 200 athletes on 21 teams who produced fantastic and fast-paced on-court action in front of big crowds, including packed stands in the main gym.

Those teams are among the significant number of athletes participating in blossoming basketball programs all around the province. Interest is building as athletes get hooked on the sport and also get excited about the idea of basketball making its debut at the Special Olympics Canada Games level in 2014 in Vancouver, alongside bocce and golf.

SOBC is glad to have the support of Basketball BC as we work to build our basketball programs around the province. A number of great new opportunities have arisen for SOBC athletes thanks to the backing of Basketball BC, such as the opportunity to play in the 2014 BC Winter Games in basketball for the first time.

Basketball BC is also supporting SOBC by hosting coach development opportunities and inviting athletes to participate in events such as the Basketball BC Steve Nash Youth Challenge.

When the 2012 youth challenge hit the courts at the Langley Events Centre in the

spring, SOBC teams were warmly welcomed into the mix and produced exciting action in their own tournament division.

Basketball BC's Steve Nash Youth Challenge is a high-energy tournament primarily for U13 teams, specifically teams that are part of the Steve Nash Youth Basketball Program around the province. With SOBC and the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society invited to be involved in the festivities, three hard-charging SOBC teams played their own four-game tournament.

SOBC – Langley, SOBC – North Shore and SOBC – Surrey teams supplied amazing on-court action in the weekend of competition. Here's how Basketball BC summarized their play:

"Surrey claimed Bronze in the round robin, leaving Langley and the North Shore to battle it out in the championship game. North Shore put up a good fight but it was Langley who took home the gold medal. This was the first of



what we hope will be many collaborations with Special Olympics BC. A big thanks goes out to SOBC organizer Shawn Fevens! We would also like to recognize SOBC coaches Kurc from Langley, Zak from the North Shore, and Geoff from Surrey; their encouraging yet competitive attitude was a refreshing reminder that having fun and maintaining good sportsmanship is the most important aspect of any game!"

The SOBC teams were excited and honoured to be involved with this great event, and they demonstrated the great skills developing in SOBC basketball programs.

Many thanks to Jay Deo and Basketball BC for the invitation to the tournament and the ongoing support they continue to provide to SOBC. ○

SOBC staff update

THE newest additions in the Special Olympics BC Provincial Office staff are **Farhad Abi** and **Cyra Frisk**. Farhad has joined us as the Manager of Fund Development responsible for supporting the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run, and Cyra is now the Manager of Community Development for Region 1.

Farhad comes to SOBC from a diverse background that includes everything from running a pizza restaurant in Shanghai, China, to playing varsity football for SFU. He is excited to be taking over for Amy Pokoney, who we were sorry to see go but who has headed on to new opportunities closer to her family in Australia.

We were also sorry to lose Karley Ferner to new adventures in her studies and life in

Cranbrook, but we are excited that the very capable Cyra has stepped into the role supporting Region 1. Cyra comes to the position from a terrific background as the former PR Coordinator for SOBC – Trail, and she is dedicated to doing her very best for the Region 1 communities.

The past year has also seen SOBC bid a fond farewell to **Chris Edwards**, who made great strides in the new role of Manager of Health and Sport Science and has moved on to new opportunities, as well as the return of the amazing **Cari Henri** (nee Peters) from her maternity leave. Manager of Fund Development **Courtenay Wood** is on maternity leave until January 2013 and we'll be delighted to welcome her back in the new year. ○

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.

- **The Cedar Club**
- **D + H Limited Partnership**
- **The Hamber Foundation**
- **Macdonald, Dettwiler & Associates**
- **Norco Products Ltd.**
- **Michael Campbell**

In-Kind Gifts

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

- **DZT Whole Body Vibration Fitness Inc.** for fundraising support (Pillow Pals);
- **Garry Robertson Music** for donating their sound equipment for various fundraising events;
- **Park'N Fly** for providing airport parking for SOBC travel and auctions items; and
- **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. ○

Spread the Word to End the Word at UBC

THIS year UBC students brought the **Spread the Word to End the Word** movement to their Vancouver campus, raising awareness and encouraging the signing of more than 600 r-word pledges over their week of campaigning. Their efforts culminated in a celebration on March 7, the fourth annual international Spread the Word to End the Word awareness day, featuring an inspiring presentation by SOBC – Surrey athlete Michaela Robinson.

“There is still a place in our vocabulary where r-words are used by Special Olympics athletes,” Michaela said. “R for respect – as Special Olympics athletes we respect ourselves and others. R for responsible – we are responsible individuals with diversities not disabilities. R for resolve – we are resolved to do our best and be the best that we can be.”

Michaela got a resounding reception and she closed with the Special Olympics athlete’s oath: “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

People in communities around the world came together on March 7 for the fourth annual Spread the Word to End the Word awareness day, aimed at ending the hurtful use of the r-word (“retard(ed)”) directed at people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Spread the Word to End the Word campaign, created by students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities in 2009,



SOBC – Surrey athlete Michaela with Dinara, Irka, Lindsey, and Yoko, four of the five UBC Sauder School of Business students who organized the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

continues to make great strides in the fight to eliminate use of the r-word. The campaign continues because passionate supporters have created communities of respect, and their inspiring stories are being shared on the Facebook page ([facebook.com/endtheword](https://www.facebook.com/endtheword)) and Twitter account [@EndTheWord](https://twitter.com/EndTheWord).

Don’t forget to take the pledge at r-word.org! ○

Strong support from Staples campaign

STAPLES Canada stores and customers across the country produced a big success in the 2012 **Give a Toonie. Share a Dream** campaign, which ran from May 5 to 26. Thanks to their generosity and the efforts of the Special Olympics athletes and volunteers who spent time in stores and shared their stories, the campaign raised a remarkable total of \$508,560 nationwide this year!

When the campaign kicked off in May, Capilano Staples GM Jasen Nyrose and Services Supervisor Claire Gayton received a plaque from Special Olympics BC – North Shore athlete Kristina

Tammark and Fundraising Coordinator Chris Little in recognition of their amazing efforts in the 2011 campaign – their store won the title of Highest Dollars Raised in Canada, \$8,560.20!

Midway through the campaign, Langley Staples Duty Manager TJ and Assistant Store Manager Fern joined Nicole Van de Velde of SOBC – Langley, Athlete’s Council Chair, to receive their own plaque in recognition of their store’s success in the 2011 campaign. The



that was easy.®



Langley location took in the Highest Launch-Day Dollars. Our sincere thanks go out

to all the Staples stores, staff, and supporters and the SOBC volunteers who made the campaign such a success.

Staples employees in the Lower Mainland also continued their annual tradition of coming together with SOBC athletes to enjoy a day of sunshine, softball, and lots of fun in a daylong tournament in July. Now in its 11th year, the tournament continued to serve as a great chance for Staples staff and SOBC athletes to enjoy an inspiring and energizing day on the diamonds together.

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 more than a decade! ○



motionball motivates the next generation



THE *motionball* spirit is going strong in B.C., with a record year for the Marathon of Sport Vancouver, an exciting new twist brought to the annual *motionball* Vancouver Gala, and the addition of a brand-new B.C. *motionball* event in Kelowna.

motionball is a not-for-profit organization that builds awareness and raises funds for Special Olympics in Canada, targeting a “next generation” of supporters – Canada’s professional crowd who are not defined by their age but rather their mindset.

Though bursts of rain, hail, thunder and lightning sporadically spouted over the 2012 **motionball Marathon of Sport Vancouver**, this year was the most successful yet in the six-year history of this event held annually. And the less-than-perfect weather didn’t dampen the joy enthusiasm and inspiring inclusive spirit of the event in the slightest.

This year saw the 2012 Marathon of Sport participants raise an amazing total of \$55,900 for Special Olympics, setting a new record for this event! The incredible effort was led by The Punks, the team that topped the day both in fundraising and sport performance. The Punks raised \$15,060 together, with Dan Sander leading the way by raising a remarkable individual total of \$6,070. Thanks so much to all the teams and their supporters for their generosity toward Special Olympics!

But this event is about more than fundraising, as anyone who sees the happiness on the faces of all the athletes – and the creative, spirited costumes such as the Disco Ninjas and the TELUS snorkelers – can attest. The inclusive energy of this event is a joy to behold.

Staged by *motionball* organizers and EA Sports, the 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 raise funds for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation and SOBC in advance of the event, and then they have a blast together playing six different sports throughout the day.



This year, the SOBC athletes showed their skills in a wide variety of ways, ranging from Shane and Casey of SOBC – Vancouver putting on a clinic in basketball – they powered Kipper’s Fried Chicken to a handy victory on the court that saw their opponents and teammates alike cheering wildly for them – to the great dancing energy of SOBC – Abbotsford athlete Mark, who danced all day long with his Disco Ninja teammates in between his sports. He and fellow Abbotsford athlete Christina even led an impromptu dance party at the end of the day.

In November, the **motionball Vancouver Gala** team brought SYNDICATED to life at the Vancouver Urban Winery, an entertaining and engaging affair with a

1930s Speakeasy underground theme. The event featured entertainment, décor, food, and beverages of the Prohibition era, and attracted celebrities such as Olympic ski cross champion Ashleigh McIvor and Whitecaps FC captain Jay DeMerit.

Upon entrance, guests were greeted with a small period costume piece: feather and sequined hair bands for the ladies, and fedoras for the gentlemen. As they affixed their new accessories, they were transformed into the 1930s, surrounded by costumed partygoers, period-appropriate games and prizes, and entrancing entertainment including performances by the Burlesque Beauties and acrobats spinning and twirling above the main bar. SOBC athletes had a blast mingling with the guests, hosting a number of games, and participating in activities. It was an incredible evening of fun and glamour, raising substantial funds for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation and SOBC.

The objective of the Gala is to introduce a new generation of supporters to the Special Olympics movement while providing an unparalleled night of entertainment and socializing.

And we were excited about the addition of a third *motionball* B.C. event this year: the inaugural **motionball Marathon of Sport Kelowna** on June 23! Eleven teams of young professionals were joined by SOBC athletes from three Locals for an amazing day of sport and fun in Kelowna. Congrats and thanks to all participants and supporters who helped the event raise an impressive \$18,000 in its first year. ○



Michael Blonde

Dispatches from Special Olympics BC Locals

SOBC – 100 Mile House

THE SOBC – 100 Mile House Local has had an awesome 2012! We took 25 athletes and volunteers to Quesnel for the Gold Pan Tournament in March, and held our annual bowlarama/potluck in April. The 100 Mile Fire Department had some of its members attend, and everyone had a super time.

Also in April, one of our volunteers, Diane Gerard, and one of our coaches Bibs Lindhout took five of our athletes – Krista Connell, Paul Janzen, Tricia Beauvais, Christian Sampson, and Andy Bremner – to Prince George for the 5-pin Bowling Regional Qualifier. Even though they did not qualify for the 2012 SOBC Summer Games, they had a great time. As a thank you for representing 100 Mile, Diane took them out for a wonderful dinner.

We hosted a Golf Regional Qualifier in June at the Marmott Ridge Golf Course. From this qualifier, one of our athletes, Brett Tassell, was selected to go to Hamilton, Ontario, for the inaugural National Golf Tournament hosted by Special Olympics Canada (*read more on page 14*). One of our volunteers, Doug Harris, set aside the day to accompany Brett from 100 Mile to Vancouver and then came back the same day! Meanwhile, Brett placed fifth in his division at the tournament!

Our athletes have done a great job in selling tickets for our raffle with the draw set for December 11. On December 22, we will be selling handmade Christmas crafts that our athletes and volunteers work hard at. This is our third year of selling them in the mall, and we have been quite successful.

Three of our athletes will be going to the 2013 Provincial Games in Langley for golf: Brett Tassell, Aaron Goodwill, and Paul Janzen!

Unfortunately we have lost three of our athletes to moves and health issues; however, our remaining 15 athletes and our nine volunteers/coaches are the greatest bunch of people I have ever had the chance to be associated with.

– Thanks to Local Coordinator Denise Barker for this report!

SOBC – Burns Lake

THE SOBC – Burns Lake Local has awoken from a multi-year slumber and has had a year filled with sports, celebrations, and friendships! The local athletes were formally reunited with Special Olympics in January 2012 when weekly curling practices began at the local arena. Armed with gloves and a rock, athletes from the local high school, Lakes District Secondary School, and community athletes challenged each other to competitive and non-competitive games of curling. A large number of community volunteers played an integral part in the overall success of this program and the Local was rocking and rolling!

Once the ice had melted, the committee shifted mindsets from curling to athletics. Despite a relatively cold and wet spring, athletes from around the Lakes District joined Head Coach Debbie Brooks and Assistant Coach Monique Brodie for practices at the Muriel Mould Learning Centre, where they worked up a sweat during the indoor and/

or outdoor practices. Debbie challenged the athletes to set goals for themselves and to put forth their best effort at running, jumping, and other activities.

On June 6, members of the law enforcement community participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run in support of Special Olympics. The Burns Lake RCMP detachment did not disappoint and many members laced up their shoes to take to the streets to run with our athletes. Led

by a RCMP truck, athletes teamed up with Burns Lake RCMP detachment members and their families to race around the community and raise awareness about Special Olympics in Burns Lake. Despite the long lines of spring traffic, spirits were high and many people took to the streets to cheer on our group!

To celebrate the end of the spring season, the Local held a community barbecue at Spirit Square on a sunny long weekend in July. Sitting amidst a grove of birch trees, families and athletes kept RCMP Staff Sergeant Grant MacDonald, the SOBC – Burns Lake Local Coordinator, busy at the grill as he flipped dozens of hamburgers and hot dogs to accommodate the hungry appetites!

In the fall, the Local embraced a number of SOBC opportunities. Some athletes and their families participated in a field trip to Prince George to attend the Healthy Athletes Screening Day (*read more on page 30*), and the local RCMP detachment marked Be a fan Day on October 25 by wearing red laces in their boots and joining local athletes to celebrate (*read more on page 34*).

After the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, the Burns Lake athletes will be gearing up for an exciting winter season! For the first time in the Local's history, the athletes will travel roughly 140 kilometres to the community of Houston in order to participate in 5-pin bowling every Tuesday morning. Due to the fact that Burns Lake no longer has a bowling alley, the volunteers are excited to learn about the sport from one of our Region's longtime bowling coaches, Jeannie Cramer.

In addition to bowling, the Local is considering the option of snowshoeing for their athletes. With the inaugural SOBC Snow Sports Festival coming up in West Kelowna in March, the Local is hoping to send several snowshoeing athletes to compete!

During a particularly difficult time for the community since the mill explosion in January 2012, the Local is grateful to have received support from Kristin Webster, SOBC Manager of Community Development for Regions 7 & 8, and the Provincial Office.

Due to the hard work of our fantastic volunteers in the resurrection of our Special Olympics Local, we have experienced a tremendous year of growth, exploration, and excitement! Thank you to everyone involved directly or indirectly with our Local for making a difference in the lives of the athletes. Our small, rural community needs Special Olympics to continue for many generations!

– Thanks to Wendy Kelemen and all who contributed to this report!



SOBC – 100 Mile House

Denise Barker



SOBC – Burns Lake

SOBC – Delta

THIS year saw the launch of a new SOBC – Delta golf program. Twelve athletes registered for the program, and the season opened with three lessons from the pro at Sunshine Woods, Rob Cardero. The athletes were able to get out on this Par 3 course when weather permitted and did extremely well.

In order to participate in the Golf Regional Qualifier in Sechelt, the athletes got in some games and practice time on the championship-size Delta Golf Course. At the qualifier, the amazing SOBC – Delta athletes earned two first-place ribbons, one second-place finish and two third-place results. Two athletes, Chelsea Kaake and Brad Smith, will be competing in the 2013 SOBC Summer Games in Langley.

Our season finished with a golf competition at Sunshine Woods, a putting contest between athletes and their parents, and a barbecue.

Armed with new red and black shirts and equipment donated by friends and British Columbia Golf, the Delta golfers looked great on the course – check out the photo of the crew at the Golf Regional Qualifier. Missing from the photo are coach Paul Miller and two other coaches, Ian Anderson and Marilyn Elford, who also assisted with the program.

– Thanks to golf Head Coach Ruth Towers for the above report!

Elsewhere in another wonderful year for SOBC – Delta, softball Head Coach Geoff Smith reported that the softball program



SOBC – Delta

has improved by leaps and bounds, and the relationship we have with South Delta Minor Fastball Association has blossomed into more than we could have imagined. Players from the SDMFA volunteer to help coach and our players benefit from getting almost one-to-one attention. Our team has also enjoyed playing fun games with the SDMFA players. And though our team is not going to the 2013 Provincial Games, we did qualify and that was a great achievement.

Geoff, also the acting Head Coach for floor hockey, reported that program has grown from 18 to 20 athletes and we have acquired a new assistant coach who has worked out extremely well. Delta hosted a successful hockey tournament in January and arranged games against other Locals throughout the season.

Mary-Lynn Cassels, Executive Committee member and parent, also remarked on the quality of our floor hockey tournament and the Athletics Regional Qualifier hosted by SOBC – Langley at the superb McLeod Athletic Park

venue. She and the whole SOBC – Delta team congratulate all of our athletes who qualified for the 2013 SOBC Summer Games!

Other highlights included the two public performances by the rhythmic gymnastics team, who starred on the Delta Show Stage during the 25th Rick Hansen Celebration Run, and at a fundraiser in November benefitting ICC and SOBC – Delta. The team (Madeleine Wiczorek, Ashley Sales, Becki Allen, and Lisa Stratton) did an amazing job both times and really impressed the crowds.

Also at the dinner fundraiser, Cory Duhaime spoke about Special Olympics and how it has enriched his life. It was an incredible speech, filled with humour, and he had the crowd in the palm of his hand.

Judith DeGroot, Head Coach of 5-pin bowling, reported that all of the 19 athletes in the program are working very hard on their skills and technique and showing steady improvement in their averages. Two teams played in tournaments in North Vancouver and Aldergrove this fall, and the athletes all did very well, frequently bowling above their averages.

Congrats to Delta 2 – Mark Heywood, Kerry Lam, Tyler Coe, Kathy Green, and Scott Randall – for capturing second place in the tournament hosted by SOBC – North Shore! A shout-out also to Scott Randall and Jody Reid, who have converted to bowling with one hand and are making steady progress.

– Thanks to PR Coordinator Tracey McConnell and all who contributed to this report!

SOBC – Salt Spring Island

SOBC – Salt Spring Island is heading to the 2013 SOBC Summer Games! This will be the very first time that Salt Spring Island has sent athletes to Provincial Games. Our athletes have come a long way since the Local's inception, and this will be a wonderful opportunity for them and their coaches to experience.

We are a small island with a very excited group of athletes who are gearing up to compete in 5-pin bowling and bocce in Langley.

Our community bowling alley has recently closed down. This isn't deterring our enthusiastic athletes and their committed bowling coach and volunteers from travelling off island once a week to practise in a neighbouring community.

The bocce team has been going great guns with fantastic guidance from their coach and volunteers extraordinaire. In the past, the athletes have also hosted invitational bocce tournaments with assistance from the Local Executive Committee members who are "organizers of excellence." The camaraderie at



the games was infectious.

It is always a pleasure to see how much the athletes have grown in their confidence as they improve their skills through sports. This growth is due to the ongoing efforts of the brainstorming executive; the guidance, patience, and hard work of the coaches; and the passion of the athletes in striving to be the best that they can be through their sport – while having fun at the same time.

It has been paying off and the community is so very proud of them all! Provincials: Here come the Salt Spring Island athletes!

– Thanks to Local Coordinator Merv Anderson and all who contributed to this report!

SOBC – Sunshine Coast

2012 has been a year of many accomplishments for Special Olympics here on the Sunshine Coast.

In January, basketball coaches Laurie Miller and Samantha Mills hosted a tourney at Elphinstone Secondary School, while our local curling team went to a bonspiel in Abbotsford with coaches Bill Climie, Brian Hache, and George Proudfoot.

In February, SOBC – Sunshine Coast swimmers travelled to compete in the Aquatics Regional Qualifier at UBC. Micheal Oswald, Wes Harrison, Candice Garret, and Christel Jensen have qualified for the 2013 Provincial Games. Coaches Marilyn Adams and Gary Rogers are happy with their athletes.

Six athletes from the Sunshine Coast also went to a Healthy Athletes Screening Day held at Notre Dame Secondary in Vancouver. We learned many ways to become healthier.

Floor hockey was another big hit this year. The Sunshine Coast Bears coached by Chuck Bertrand are showing lots of improvement.

The Rhythmic Gymnastics team went to their first regional qualifier in Richmond. Maggie Casey was proud of her team and it showed when they performed at the summer banquet at the Gibsons Legion. Theresa Presley and

Tracy Schoular have qualified to compete in the 2013 SOBC Summer Games.

The SOBC – Sunshine Coast summer season was a busy time. Golf was the most popular sport with 15 athletes taking part. The Golf Regional Qualifier held at The Sechelt Golf Club saw several teams coming to compete. Special congrats to Lindsay Pearson who qualified for the 2013 Provincial Games.

Bocce coach Jeannie Barwise and Local Coordinator Pat Stuart travelled to a Vancouver tournament to learn skills to improve bocce on the Coast.

The athletics season capped off at a track meet in Langley with coach Carol Neilson pushing our athletes to the utmost.

Soccer was played rain or shine in both Sechelt and Gibsons. Coaches Laurie Miller, Barry Krangle, and Jeff Schupp along with their respective teams had a true kickstart and lots of fun.

Randy Younghusband and Chuck Bertrand helped make softball a big hit. The Sunshine Coast Red Socks hosted an invitational and also travelled to Port Coquitlam for a tournament.

We also have games and fun for younger athletes with the FUNDamentals and Active Start programs. Coach Marie Telder sees a bright future for these up and comers and welcomes them as “part of the Special Olympics family.”

At the Volunteer Banquet in June, Bill Climie, Samantha Mills, and George Proudfoot were given five year coaching pins. Coach Laurie

Miller and 2011 Special Olympics World Games medal-winner Stephanie Rogers also received pins to celebrate their nomination for SOBC provincial awards (the Grassroots Coach Award and Athletic Achievement Award, respectively).

When we are not on the field or the court, athletes and coaches participate in various fundraising and community activities. Fundraising helps with travel and equipment expenses here in our fair land. Almost \$2,000 was raised for SOBC – Sunshine Coast with the raffle of a Canucks hockey stick signed by Daniel Sedin. The winner was Arthur Geike who in turn donated the stick to athlete Bruce Stuart. Such generosity!

A number of coaches and athletes volunteered at the Gibsons Legion Community Days event by serving pancake breakfasts and staffing an information booth about Special O.

Athletes stay in shape at the Gibsons Rec Centre where every Monday and Friday we gather to work our muscles and joints with trainers Verna and Tanya.

I also want to send a HUGE thank you to Sport BC and BC Ferries for all their support this year during our qualifying season.

In all, 2012 has been a great experience for athletes, families, coaches, and volunteers. Seventy athletes have registered for the 2012/2013 seasons.

– Thanks to athlete Micheal Oswald for this report!

SOBC – Vanderhoof

A warm welcome to the newest SOBC Local! SOBC – Vanderhoof got its start in 2012, powered by an enthusiastic and energized Executive Committee.

Vanderhoof is a small town with an active population that is committed to providing a



variety of sport options. The launch of Special Olympics in Vanderhoof has been a long time coming, and SOBC is expected to be a great addition to the community, bringing great opportunities for fun, recreation, competition and travel for individuals with intellectual disabilities living in this small town.

"Special Olympics is going to be a great way for all persons with special needs to be able to have a way to compete in sports with others and not be degraded because they are different," SOBC – Vanderhoof Local Coordinator Elsie Kells said. "I work with persons that are of special needs, and they all love to socialize and don't get much chance at it. Also they (will) get to see other areas of the province, which is like a big holiday for them."

The new Local started out with a great Executive Committee including volunteers such as Program Coordinator Theresa Simose, Secretary Lacey Borno, Treasurer Kristen Boon, and PR Coordinator Travis Emel.

SOBC – Vernon

THE sports programs offered by SOBC – Vernon are growing and so is the enthusiasm of their participants.

"I love this new sport," said Jesse Dewing, after finishing a bocce game in Polson Park on a rainy Saturday afternoon. "This is so awesome and look at all my friends who come out to play with me."

Twenty athletes are out there rain or shine trying to roll the bocce balls as close as possible to the pallina. This is as much a social event as it is fierce competition.

"All of our athletes love to win, but they are also proud of their accomplishments and skills," said Judy Button, the Head Coach for bocce. "When they see themselves improving it builds their self esteem, which reflects into their social life with family and friends. This is worth more than any gold medal and puts the true meaning of sport into perspective for all of us."

SOBC – Vernon was established in the early 1980s and is a vibrant part of the community, participating in Charity Christmas Shopping Events, Festival of Christmas Traditions. The annual Golf Spectacular is a well-established fundraising event where over 600 locals get involved.

The floor hockey team plays every fall against a local minor hockey team called the Vernon Sun Valley Source for Sports Renegades. "This gives our athletes the chance to play against a team that would usually be out of reach," said Program Coordinator Heidi Borgeaud. "It is amazing to see how our athletes excel when they are challenged.

"It reflects into their daily life, from work opportunities to assisting in other

programs. The empowerment is amazing, and we see and foster the ability they have. The healthier the body, the better the mind."

Alpine skiing is another sport that goes beyond the usual borders. "We train with the local ski club and our athletes race at Nancy Greene competitions. The integration is a challenge for some athletes, but the ability is there, and it is amazing to see the change in attitude and confidence."

SOBC – Vernon has a great selection of sports for children, youth, and adults of all ages. From a fitness class, to powerlifting, skiing, soccer, and golf, just to mention a few, all programs are very well-established and cater to all levels of abilities from novice to national champions. Most athletes participate in more than one sport. Bowling is by far the most popular program, combining sports with a social outing.

For more information visit www.sobcvernon.ca, e-mail info@sobcvernon.ca, or call 250-306-8954.

– Thanks to PR Coordinator Britta Gretzmacher for this report!

SOBC – Victoria

2012 was a year of new beginnings and competitions for Special Olympics in Victoria. Ten athletes and three coaches from Victoria participated on Team BC during the 2012 Special Olympics Winter National Games in St. Albert, Alberta. Victoria's athletes showed valiant effort and team spirit during their training leading up to the Games and during the event. Victoria snowshoer Victor Manna led Team BC into the Opening Ceremony for the Games!

In April, SOBC – Victoria Local Coordinator Chantal Brodeur received the Volunteer of the Year award during the Pacific Institute of Sport Excellence (PISE) Women in Sport award ceremonies. Chantal volunteers countless hours with Special Olympics and always goes above and beyond to support the organization and everyone involved.

Chantal is a mentor and great leader and SOBC – Victoria benefits tremendously from her tireless work. We are very privileged to have her as part of the team!



In March, Victoria hosted the Rhythmic Gymnastics Regional Qualifier for Region 6. Forty-nine gymnasts from Victoria, Campbell River, Comox, Nanaimo, Richmond, and Surrey competed in the event at the Pacific Institute of Sport Excellence. Congratulations to the 10 athletes from Victoria who qualified for the Special Olympics BC Summer Games in 2013!

This spring, due to popular demand, Victoria introduced its first basketball program. After a successful spring trial session, a winter session got underway. The team has 20 athletes and eight coaches. They're having fun learning the rules and skills of the game. Head Coach Lisa Green says of the team, "Everyone works hard and their skills are definitely building."

In May, Victoria hosted the Softball Regional Qualifier for Region 6 at Hyacinth Park. Teams from Nanaimo, Port Alberni, and Comox attended this event played for the opportunity to advance to the 2013 Provincial Games. Congratulations to the Victoria softball team and softball skills athletes who qualified for the Provincial Games!

In June, two coaches and eight athletes from our rhythmic gymnastics program attended the Gymnestrada competition in Whistler. We were one of two Special Olympics teams involved with the event. The girls helped choreograph a dance routine to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and received a standing ovation for their performance. They were referred to in the ending ceremony as "the team that brought down the house."

This fall, Victoria hosted its first fundraising carwash. Thanks to the hard work of our athletes and volunteers, we raised almost \$600 to support Special Olympics programs in Victoria. Thanks also to Craigflower Petro-Canada for allowing us to host the event at their station and thanks everyone who brought their car to be washed.

Thank you to all the athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters who helped make 2012 such a success. We're looking forward to many more great accomplishments in 2013!

– Thanks to PR Coordinator Kim Perkins for this report! ○



SPORTS CELEBRITIES FESTIVAL

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Saluting the power of the human spirit at the Sports Celebrities Festival

WHEN Katie and Michele Durkin took the stage at the 2012 **Sports Celebrities Festival presented by Silver Wheaton**, they shared a moving story about what Special Olympics, and the help of all the gala supporters, mean to them and their family.

For Katie, who has been an SOBC – Burnaby athlete for five years, Special Olympics is all about friendship, sports, and opportunities.

“To me, Special Olympics is about meeting new people that I’d never met before. I’ve made so many new friends in Special Olympics, people my own age who like to do the same things as I do,” Katie told the SCF audience.

“Special Olympics is a place where people who have intellectual needs can pick what sports they want to be in and have a good time – there are so many sports in Special Olympics!”

And for her mom Michele, Special Olympics is all about support, inclusion, and happiness.

“When your child is born, you want her to be healthy and happy. You want her to

“To me, Special Olympics is about meeting new people that I’d never met before.”

**Katie
SOBC – Burnaby athlete**

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have friends and feel included. We wanted for Katie all those same friendships and support that everyone wants for their children," Michele said.

"It was hard watching Katie not fit in when she was younger. But when she got into Special Olympics, her life took off. Through Special Olympics Katie has developed lifelong friendships, and for that we will always be grateful.

"To be part of such a welcoming, supportive community has lessened our concern for Katie's future because she has found a place where she belongs. Many times Katie has said to me 'Mom, I love Special O.'"

Katie and Michele Durkin were a powerful part of the inspiring program at the 14th Sports Celebrities Festival in support of Special Olympics BC and the Canucks for Kids Fund. The evening included remarkable support shown by big-hearted local sports heroes and

legends, artful performances by the likes of Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter Jann Arden and comedian Brent Butt, entertaining emceeing by Tamara Taggart and John Shorthouse, and incredible generosity on the part of the gala's sponsors and more than 550 attendees.

The event was honoured to have Vancouver Canucks coaches, executive members, and alumni Orland Kurtenbach, Darcy Rota, and Stan Smyl in attendance. It was a thrill to have the participation of celebrities such as BC Lions QB Travis Lulay and teammates Marco Iannuzzi, Dante Marsh, Angus Reid, Geroy Simon, and Keron Williams; BC Lions coach Mike Benevides and icons Giulio Caravatta, Brent Johnson, Jamie Taras, and Jim Young. Ashleigh McIvor, Olympic and world ski cross champion, and Vancouver Whitecaps captain Jay DeMerit honoured us with their presence, as did his Whitecaps teammates Jun Marques Davidson



continued on next page



continued from previous page

and Matt Watson and Whitecaps legend Carl Valentine.

The star-studded lineup was rounded out by jockey Mario Gutierrez, broadcaster Jim Hughson, Olympic and World Cup ski racer Mike Janyk, and Emily Zurrer, 2012 Olympic bronze medal winner with the Canadian women's soccer team.

We were honoured to have the support of Presenting Sponsor **Silver Wheaton**, whose vital support coupled with that of the Major Sponsors **BCLC** and **Canaccord Genuity** to bring you this inspiring event. Media Sponsors CTV, TEAM Radio, The Province and The Vancouver Sun play a vital role in raising awareness about the event and the two worthy charities it supports.

"Seeing the joy on Katie's face when she competes, and the encouragement she receives from her peers, fills me with so much happiness. Special Olympics has helped make Katie stronger, healthier, and a competitive athlete."

Michele Durkin
Katie's mom

Sincere thanks also go out to the valued Event Partners:

- Capilano Suspension Bridge Park
- Mission Hill Family Estate
- Nintendo
- Okanagan Spring Brewery
- Palladio Jewellers
- TD Bank Group

We are also grateful for the support of the SCF National Sponsors Canada Life, Home Hardware, Staples, and Wolseley.

Finally, this event absolutely could not happen without the dedicated efforts of the SCF Organizing Committee members, and the SOBC athletes and volunteers who gave their time and energy to support the remarkable evening.

"I really appreciate everybody who has supported Special Olympics. You give athletes like me the chance to have friends, try new sports, and do cool things like going to Games," Katie told the crowd.

"It means a lot to me. I feel really proud that I could go to the National Games and do well



for my team."

Michele also expressed her family's gratitude for "the wonderful world of Special Olympics that has not only changed [Katie's] life but ours as well," and for the supporters who make it all possible.

"Seeing the joy on Katie's face when she competes, and the encouragement she receives from her peers, fills me with so much happiness. Special Olympics has helped make Katie stronger, healthier, and a competitive athlete," Michele said.

"I would like to say thank you so much from our family for supporting our daughter through such a wonderful organization, because you really do make a difference." ○

Be a Champion with JYSK

THE generosity shown by **JYSK Canada** during their annual campaign in support of Special Olympics not only produces valuable funding for athletes and programs across the country, but also provides athletes and volunteers with great opportunities to raise

awareness at the JYSK stores in their communities and enjoy spending time with their fans at JYSK.

During JYSK's 2012 **Special Olympics Be a Champion campaign**, the Prince George store shared their appreciation of the SOBC – Prince George athletes and volunteers who support the campaign in their location, one of nine JYSK stores in B.C.

"We have so much fun with the great group of volunteers and athletes alike," Manager Sheelagh Fields said. "[Local Coordinator] Thom is always available for anything we might need and always willing to help. I have to give [athlete Barbie Conway] so much credit, as she is the one that organized all the athletes to come in to the store on weekends. At both of our bake sales, she was here for both Saturday



and Sunday for four to five hours and she is a sweetheart.

"We love having everyone here, and it helps so much with

donations when we have the athletes here sporting their medals. I always ask them to wear them and so many customers then ask questions about what they compete in and when they are going to compete again."

With that great spirit and support, the JYSK Prince George store raised the second-highest amount of all the JYSK stores in Canada during the Be a Champion campaign from August 30 to September 30!

In total, with donations and support from JYSK, the campaign generated \$75,000 for Special Olympics programs across Canada.

The 50 JYSK stores across the country showed their support of Special Olympics athletes by collecting donations at tills, and online shoppers at jysk.ca were also invited to donate. SOBC athletes and volunteers were a great presence visiting the JYSK locations in Coquitlam, Delta, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Pitt Meadows, Prince George, Richmond, and Surrey.

Thank you JYSK for being a fan of Special Olympics! ○



Government of Canada helping athletes get to Games

IN the spring 2011 budget, the **Government of Canada** included a much-appreciated contribution of \$800,000 per year to Special Olympics Canada to support the athlete-centred travel costs of provincial/territorial teams to National Games.

In addition, in non-National Games years, the funding will be allocated to support Provincial Games travel for athletes, coaches, and mission staff.

This generous support will have remarkable value in helping athletes reach the life-changing experience of participating in Special Olympics National and Provincial Games, and in helping provide the best Games possible for all athletes. At Games, athletes experience achievement, new friendships, and the empowerment that comes from crowds cheering you on as you perform at your best. Having the



Government of Canada's backing for travel costs is a significant contribution for Special Olympics across the country.

"Special Olympics is fortunate to have the support of provincial and federal governments, and this funding from the

Government of Canada will play a significant role in ensuring high-quality and positive Games experiences for all athletes," said SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe.

SOBC will be working with Special Olympics Canada to put this funding to good use around Provincial and National Games, and we know that it will go a long way to help athletes reach and thrive at Games. ○

Advice and awareness with 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 10 and 11, and Special Olympics BC was fortunate to have the opportunity to be involved. SOBC was grateful to have a presence



at the conference, accepting generous donations from participants and raising awareness about Special Olympics through SOBC videos aired at the event.

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

The 2013 conference will be held on February 1 and 2 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel, featuring the return of Ryan Irvine as keynote speaker. Irvine is one of Canada's most respected small-cap analysts identifying market trends and companies that thrive and profit in any market. ○

SOBC Board of Directors update

SPECIAL Olympics BC benefits greatly from the leadership and support of our Board of Directors, and we are sincerely appreciative of their significant contributions and help to ensure the ongoing quality and value of this organization.

We are grateful to the board's continuing executive members. **Pam Keith** of the Dueck Auto Group continues to be a remarkable champion of Special Olympics as our Chair, and **Ted Hirst** of Canaccord Genuity retains the role of Vice Chair and continues his generous support of SOBC. **Michael Campbell** remains our sincerely appreciated Past Chair, and the invaluable **James Kerr** and **John Sims** graciously continue as the Board's Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

This year has seen the addition of two valued new directors in **Chuck Jeannes**, Goldcorp President & CEO, and Silver Wheaton President & CEO **Randy Smallwood**. Chuck joined the board in January, shortly before travelling to the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games as the Honorary GM of Team BC. We were also pleased to welcome Randy onto the board this fall. He is also generously giving his time to the Sports Celebrities Festival Organizing Committee in addition to his work with the board, and his contributions in both areas are much appreciated. Goldcorp and Silver Wheaton have both been strong supporters of SOBC for a number of years, in particular taking on leading roles with events such as the Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament and the Sports Celebrities Festival presented by Silver Wheaton.

We bid farewell this year to **Peter Barnes**, who stepped down after three years of service with the SOBC board. Peter generously supported SOBC by working with the SCF Organizing Committee as well as the Board of Directors, and his perspective and contributions were sincerely appreciated.

Our sincere thanks to all of the members of the Board of Directors who so generously give their time to strengthen SOBC. ○

2012 Special Olympics BC Award Winners

Athletic Achievement Award

WHEN **Hazen Meade** got the call saying he had earned a berth on Team Canada for the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, his response reflected his 13-year journey to that achievement.

"I guess dreams do come true," he told his coach.

An exceptionally dedicated and hardworking **Special Olympics BC – Campbell River** athlete, Hazen has made giant strides in his 15 years with the

Local's snowshoeing team. He started out as an athlete who weighed 220 pounds and in 1999 found himself unable to qualify for Team BC like three of his teammates. In one race at the 1999 SOBC Winter Games, he fell just short of the finish line and, unprompted by comments from anyone else, critiqued himself for his weight.

That was a big moment of change for Hazen, launching him into 13 years of dedicated training and impressive personal development. He has made significant improvements to his strength and physical conditioning, showed attentive adherence to training programs, and racked up impressive achievements in his racing, as well as losing more than 60 pounds.

Hazen's hard work paid off when he qualified for Team BC in 2004 and 2008, and he brought home many medals and lessons that spurred him to fresh efforts.

In the two years leading up to the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, Hazen worked toward making his dream of his first National Games gold medal a reality. His first race in St. Albert, Alberta, was the 1600-metre event, and this time he earned another excellent personal best – as well as that elusive gold medal!

Hazen sprung into the lead in the opening seconds of that 1600m race and never looked back, running his heart out. After he crossed the finish line, he shook hands with his competitors, and then asked his coach, "How did I do? Did I get a personal-best time?" He had a PB, and the gold to boot.

That night, he slept with the hard-earned gold medal under his pillow. He went on to win a silver medal



and two bronze medals in the 2012 National Games, giving him what he called "a trifecta" – one medal of each colour.

Hazen's berth on the 2013 Special Olympics Team Canada training squad has truly been earned through his dedication, his positive and persistent attitude, and his remarkable commitment to his training and development. Caring, polite, enthusiastic, extremely dedicated and responsible, upbeat, positive, and persistent: those are the words chosen to capture Hazen's personality.

"He truly and sincerely cares for his fellow athletes. At weekly practices and at all competitions Hazen is always encouraging and supportive to his fellow athletes.

Hazen exemplifies what a Special Olympics athlete is and should be," his nominators wrote.

Congratulates to Hazen and to nominees Kristina Ettema (SOBC – Surrey), Stephanie Rogers (SOBC – Sunshine Coast), Drew Sabourin (SOBC – Victoria), and Beau Wryghte (SOBC – Campbell River).

Grassroots Coach Award

RICK Prosk is a true "difference maker," according to those who watch him in action with **SOBC – Quesnel** and who described him as a most deserving recipient of the 2012 Grassroots Coach Award.

Respected and dedicated, selfless and inclusive, adaptable and approachable: those are just a few of the many fine qualities embodied by this stellar coach. Rick is the Head Coach of soccer and Assistant Coach of curling for SOBC – Quesnel, and he is lauded

for his coaching excellence, his strengths as a leader and mentor, and his abundant support of athletes both on and beyond the fields of play.

"Rick adapts his coaching techniques to strengthen relationships with each athlete – he promotes fair play and is a positive role model providing



consistent leadership qualities upon which athletes have come to rely," his nominators wrote.

"He is continuously bringing forward ideas to provide maximum opportunities in our Local for athletes to enhance every aspect of their lives daily, weekly, monthly, and year after year."

In the eight years that Rick has been with SOBC – Quesnel, he has demonstrated time and again his generous spirit and willingness to go above and beyond for the benefit of athletes. Wherever there might be holes that could impact the experiences of SOBC – Quesnel's athletes, Rick never fails to rise to the occasion with his ideas, his time, his leadership, and his amazing support.

He has championed everything from fundraising initiatives to implementation of Healthy Athletes programming that bring about significant benefits for athletes. He also serves as Athlete Coordinator, a position he took the initiative to create, using it to meet regularly with the athlete rep committee and provide support and assistance to them.

"Rick is a well-respected and valued member of our Local and our community. He exhibits positive behaviour and always practices responsible coaching, achieves and maintains excellence on the field, communicates effectively with all athletes, coaches, and parents, and values teamwork as an integral component in achieving the best opportunity for athletes/teams to improve in sport and in life," his nominators wrote.

Congratulations to Rick and to nominees Ed Gerhardt (SOBC – Victoria), Ann Jorgensen (SOBC – Campbell River), and Laurie Miller (SOBC – Sunshine Coast).

Howard Carter Award

WALDE Libera leads the largest SOBC speed skating program in the province with great diligence, thoroughness, attentiveness, and techniques ideal for helping his athletes develop. Underlying that sound skill set is his caring and compassionate nature, which creates a powerful environment for growth in the **SOBC – Coquitlam** speed skating program and makes him a deserving winner of the 2012 SOBC Howard Carter Award.

"He deeply cares for each and every athlete, and makes decisions based on this. He has won the respect and admiration of his fellow coaches, parents, caregivers, and athletes," Walde's nominators wrote.

"Walde has encouraged the overall development of the athletes in many, many ways, from encouraging and arranging speed



President's Award

FOR more than 20 years, **Barb Tull** has made a difference for SOBC athletes, and for the SOBC organization at large, through her generous and dedicated spirit and her intelligent leadership. As the winner of the 2012 President's Award, Barb is being recognized for the many and varied leadership roles she has held in her 23 years with SOBC, the mentorship and technical knowledge she has shown in her leadership positions, and the dedication to athletes that she has demonstrated time and again.

Barb has been the valued **Region 4 Coordinator** and member of the SOBC Leadership Council for the last 12 years. Prior to taking on that role, she served on the SOBC – Richmond Executive Committee for more than eight years, giving her time in a variety of positions including Local Coordinator.

Examples of the many areas where she has made a difference range from her mentorship of rhythmic gymnastics coaches in the Lower Mainland, supporting their navigation of this highly technical sport and ensuring SOBC athletes have the best possible support and preparation for competitions, to her development of the Chef de Mission package that has strengthened regional teams going to Provincial Games.

"Barb is a well-respected member of the Leadership Council. She is able to look at issues from a number of perspectives and always keeps the athletes at the forefront of the conversation," her nominators wrote. "When she Chews a regional team, both the



athletes and the volunteers respect her as a leader and look at her as a positive motivator and a great cheerleader."

For Barb, it's the "aha" or "lightbulb"

moment that keeps her hooked on Special Olympics. It's a moment that many coaches and volunteers know and love, the moment where (as Barb describes it) "you can see that what the athlete has been working and struggling to achieve just 'clicks.'

"The spark that our athletes get when they have achieved that skill, pass, throw, jump, or drill – whatever it is, it is magical!" Barb wrote after receiving the President's Award.

Congratulations to Barb and nominees Marilyn Boxwell (SOBC – Nakusp), Christine Kyles (SOBC – Victoria), Terry McLeod (SOBC – Nakusp), Julia Minnie (SOBC – North

skates for everyone, to encouraging and modelling good nutrition, to giving positive and encouraging comments to the athletes at practice and emphasizing the positive to show the athletes 'they can.' Once the athlete realizes this ... they are unstoppable. They know they can and they do. This is the greatest gift to give to others, and Walde does this so naturally at each and every practice."

Walde joined SOBC – Coquitlam 12 years ago as a program volunteer for speed skating, and right away showed his value, jumping in with invaluable on-ice knowledge and starting to work directly with athletes and attend coaching courses.

Now the Head Coach for the busy SOBC – Coquitlam speed skating program, Walde's attention to detail shines through in examples such as his crafting of quality drills and progressions to help the athletes build their abilities to pass competitors mid-race. It's obvious in his willingness to go above and beyond the time on ice, from his implementation of a dryland training program on another night of the week to his work to secure extra ice time with a generic club.

Walde also stepped up to continue dryland training with some of the athletes outside of the speed skating season, which is particularly helpful for SOBC – Coquitlam skater Sean Casey, who is gearing up to compete with Special Olympics Team Canada in the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Walde served as a Team BC coach at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, and seven of the nine speed skaters on Team BC 2012 were from the SOBC – Coquitlam program – including Walde's son Nicholas, winner of two silver medals at the National Games! Of the seven SOBC – Coquitlam athletes who qualified to race in the National Games, each of them achieved personal bests (as well as many medals).

SOBC is pleased to congratulate Walde and nominee Rob O'Shea of SOBC – Campbell River.

Shore), and Jo-Ann Morrison (SOBC – Campbell River).

Spirit of Sport Award

WATCHING SOBC – North Shore athlete Billy Peterson work

his magic on the basketball court, it's hard to believe that six years ago doctors suggested he might spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

This tenacious and determined Special Olympics BC – North Shore athlete has proven their predictions wrong by devoting himself to basketball ever since SOBC – North Shore introduced their basketball program in 2006. Billy works hard on and off the court, staying in shape by practicing frequently and running on the treadmill.

In nominating Billy for the 2012 SOBC Spirit of Sport Award, his coaches noted the stellar support he offers other athletes, and the amazing environment he creates around him.

"Billy is the first to encourage, assist or congratulate his fellow athletes, always keeping the mood upbeat and positive. Even in the most discouraging times, Billy promotes a spirit of camaraderie and team play, always finding the silver lining no matter how grey the cloud," they wrote.

"Billy, a true sport lover, has an innate understanding of the sports he plays and uses his excellent communication skills to make sure that all athletes are incorporated into the game, fostering self-esteem and appreciation for everyone involved."

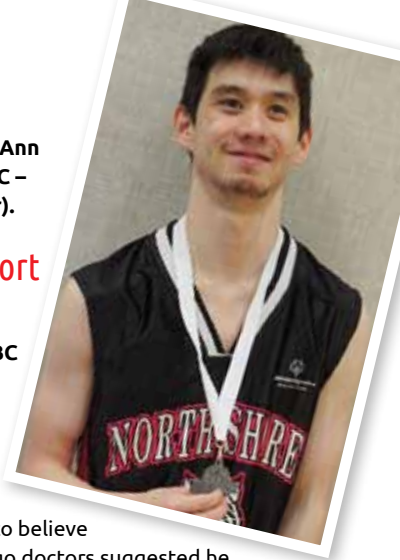
Billy has been an SOBC athlete for six years, and participates in softball and basketball. He also gives his time as a spare scorekeeper for SOBC – North Shore's 5-pin bowling program.

His coaches celebrated his natural leadership skills in their nomination, noting that he has received much positive feedback from SOBC – North Shore community partners and is often looked to as a role model.

"Billy proves inspirational to all who encounter him," they wrote. "Despite the fact that he is only 20 years old, he possesses a maturity that garners the respect of fellow athletes of all ages, coaches and program volunteers.

"What he lacks in size, he more than makes up for in spirit."

SOBC congratulates Billy and nominees Lauren Hogan, (SOBC – Coquitlam), Brad LaForce (SOBC – Coquitlam), Pauline Shaw (SOBC – Victoria), and Lori Urban (SOBC – Coquitlam). ○



Quality achievements in Regional Qualifiers

AT the Bocce Regional Qualifier hosted by Special Olympics BC – Castlegar, athlete Mike Cook said the experience was “just awesome. I just enjoyed myself the whole entire day. It was just awesome.”

Taking part in his first-ever qualifier for bocce, Mike earned a first-place finish playing alongside his brother in doubles. But that strong result wasn’t the only reason for his deep enjoyment of the day.

“It feels wonderful, but on another type of note, I’m the kind of person who doesn’t really care about getting first place, second place, third place. It’s nice to have them, but it’s more or less having the entertainment of what you’re doing, and enjoying the time you’re doing it,” Mike said.

That sincere sportsmanlike spirit was evident throughout this season of Regional Qualifiers, which wrapped up in July.

Athletes all over the province gave their all in 41 events in 11 sports, seeking to earn the right to compete in the 2013 Special Olympics BC



Mike Donoghue



Robert McDonald

Summer Games set to be held in Langley. For the first time, basketball, bocce, and golf players will be able to advance to the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games – and the next Special Olympics Canada Summer Games are set to be hosted right here in B.C., taking Vancouver by storm in the summer of 2014.

So it’s an exciting time in the Special Olympics sports cycle, and it was exciting to hear about athletes rising to the occasion and

competing with determination. Stories of spirit, sportsmanship, and fun events came from all corners of the province.

As swimming coach Karen Mason-Bennett told the Alaska Highway News at the Aquatics Regional Qualifier hosted by SOBC – Fort St. John in May, for some the atmosphere of competition was a bit more intense than the usual fun of program practices, but the athletes all rose to the challenge. The qualifier in Fort St.



Suni Dunn



Jessica Stirling



Mike Donoghue



Ben Postmus





John included athletes from Prince George and Quesnel as well as the hometown heroes in Fort St. John.

"I had a hoot," Mason-Bennett said. "This is one of the best times of the week. It's nice to work with people who aren't focused on winning; they're focused on being there and having a good time and doing the best they possibly can and that's really what it's all about."

"It's a good example I think for everybody. It just doesn't matter if you win or lose."

When the *Vernon Morning Star* reported the strong efforts of the 25 athletes who played in the Golf Regional Qualifier hosted by SOBC – Vernon in June, coach Karen Truesdale did a lovely job of summarizing the power of the athletes' spirit.

"Our Special Olympic athletes are proud competitors, brave in trying to be the best they can be while spreading their enthusiasm and smiles across to everyone," she said. "It is amazing how they get involved and involve everybody around them."

"They set the score for all of us very high."

In Langley, where the community is looking forward to welcoming athletes back for the 2013 SOBC Games, the *Langley Advance* newspaper captured the energy of the Athletics Regional Qualifier that included more than 200 athletes from the Lower Mainland and as far away as Smithers and Kelowna. "Effort and enthusiasm were the buzzwords at McLeod Athletic Park," they wrote.

Take it from Castlegar's Mike, a great role model who tries to encourage other athletes with his positive attitude, projecting a great atmosphere and celebrating all that they have in their lives.

"Special Olympics is a great attitude – empowerment, courage, fun kind of thing for all the people that are in special needs," he says.

The regional team selection meetings for the 2013 SOBC Summer Games were held in the fall, and athletes who qualified to compete were notified as soon as possible thereafter. ○

Inclusive celebrations mark EKS Day

ON September 22, the third annual **EKS Day**, Special Olympics programs around the world hosted inclusive, engaging days of sport and play to honour the legacy of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics movement and inspiring agent of change.

From Syria to the Bahamas, from Mexico to Russia, from Libya and Lebanon to right here in Langley, Special Olympics athletes, volunteers, and supporters came together to celebrate Mrs. Shriver's vision for a more inclusive, respectful world.

Special Olympics BC hosted a sports day in Langley and welcomed the whole community to come out and experience SOBC sports and youth programs plus the Special Olympics spirit of joy, inclusion, and empowerment through sport.

We were thrilled to see about 30 current SOBC – Langley athletes joined by approximately 10 new individuals looking to try out Special Olympics, as well as family members and the enthusiastic, good-hearted members of the Trinity Western University men's hockey team. Everyone jumped in to play bocce, golf, and soccer, making those stations tons of fun, and the Active Start/FUNdamentals equipment on hand was thoroughly enjoyed by the kids who came out and gave them a try.

It was an inspirational sight to see 20 TWU hockey players come out for EKS Day and team up so supportively with Special Olympics athletes. Forward Brody Hemrich, the team representative, said the players really enjoyed connecting with the SOBC athletes. There was some affectionate heckling as the Special Olympics athletes tried to get the Spartans players up to speed in bocce skills, but all teammates supported each other wholeheartedly.



"They're unreal. They teach you as much as you try to teach them," Brody said of the SOBC athletes. "They taught me how to play bocce today!"

Showing the value of Mrs. Shriver's legacy, SOBC – Langley athlete Brent Ponak, one of the original athletes in his Local, took time out from his display of bocce skills to express what Special Olympics has meant to his life.

Brent said he was "lonely" before Special Olympics – but now his life is full of friends, and he has many hilarious stories to share of fun times with fellow athletes and coaches at practices and competitions. Brent encouraged everyone to try out the world of Special Olympics.

His EKS Day message: "Treat [athletes] kind, be helpful, and be friends."

Wonderful volunteers from SOBC – Langley and the Langley school district played a significant part in making the day such a hit. Finally, big thanks go out to Hawkey, the Abbotsford Heat mascot, for coming out to support the day and trying out bocce and soccer himself!

The EKS Day spirit shown in Langley was movingly echoed around the globe. Despite the tragic strife in Syria, they too held EKS Day celebrations, and a report was shared by Mohammed Najdat Omar, the SD and General Secretary of SO Syria.

"In spite of the drastic situation in Syria, the program organized a sport event to celebrate the EKS legacy, proving once more its unconditional commitment to the cause. A group of athletes met at 'Techreen' indoor swimming pool to enjoy a sporting day. A brief on Mrs. Shriver's achievements was said to the audience and a gift souvenir was offered to athletes happy as always to meet and compete under the banner of Special Olympics."

The SOBC family is a proud part of this inspiring global community. ○



'Heart-expanding experiences' with Healthy Athletes

SPECIAL Olympics BC's goal is to provide athletes with intellectual disabilities with opportunities to be the healthiest they can be.

The Special Olympics **Healthy Athletes** program addresses the issue that many people with intellectual disabilities have unique issues around health care and communicating their needs. The issue is twofold: first, many individuals with intellectual disabilities have trouble realizing or expressing their health concerns; second, many health professionals have not had the opportunity to receive specific training, or are not familiar enough with this population, to know the best questions to ask to draw out the issues.

International 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.

The professionals who lead Healthy Athletes screenings have received specific training to help them ask the right questions, and

their interactions with Special Olympics athletes lead to referrals back into the health care system that ensure the individuals will get the treatment they need.

In past years, SOBC athletes have been able to access Healthy Athletes screenings at Provincial and National Games. SOBC is now holding more standalone screening events to open the opportunities to a wider range of athletes, not just those who have qualified to compete in Games. This year, SOBC hosted Healthy Athletes events in Vancouver, Kelowna, Parksville, and Prince George.

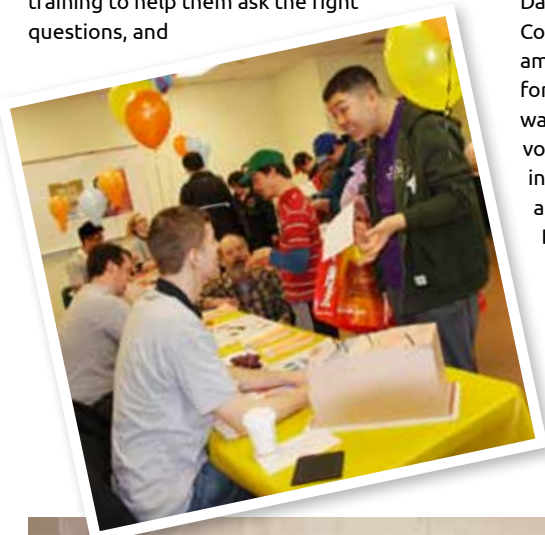
After going through eye, dental, and foot screenings at the Healthy Athletes Screening Day in Vancouver on February 11, SOBC – Coquitlam athlete Conrad Tyrkin said he was amazed by the scope of the event and grateful for all that he received. Most of all, Conrad was moved by all the contributions by the 141 volunteers who helped make the day happen, including medical professionals, UBC medical and audiology students, and Vancouver Police Department members.

"Everyone's been dedicating their time, and that's what stood out for me the most. I can't believe this is happening, all these people putting in their time and effort doing this, this is a lot of work," he said fervently.

Conrad said he was impressed by the thoroughness of the check-up of

his mouth health in the Special Smiles screening, and he was glad to be getting flexible glasses that he can use when he's playing floor hockey.

The efforts of the volunteers ensured that an amazing total of 170 individuals with intellectual disabilities, including roughly 150 SOBC athletes, were able to participate in the valuable and fun day in Vancouver, and 101



"I've seen people who've come in today that are nearly legally blind [defined at 2200 or worse in the U.S.], and I've seen those come through today, and corrected back down to 2050, 2060. It'll be a good thing for them after they get their glasses."

**Dr. Erick Hartman
Regional Clinical Advisor
for Opening Eyes**

family members, friends, and caregivers gained important information alongside them. Healthy Athletes screenings were offered in five disciplines: Fit Feet, Health Promotion, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes and Special Smiles.

Dr. Erick Hartman, the Regional Clinical Advisor for Opening Eyes who led the Opening Eyes screenings, said he saw some "dramatic changes" in the day.

"I've seen people who've come in today that are nearly legally blind [defined at 2200 or worse in the U.S.], and I've seen those come through today, and corrected back down to 2050, 2060. It'll be a good thing for them after they get their glasses," he said. Following the SOBC Healthy Athletes event in Vancouver, 80 pairs of new glasses were sent to screening participants.

Dr. Hartman describes volunteering with Healthy Athletes screenings as "a heart-expanding experience," borrowing the words of a leading Washington optometrist who commented after attending her first such event. He values the service that the Healthy Athletes screenings provide, as well as the

experience and training provided to medical students regarding working with individuals with intellectual disabilities. He has heard praise from several parents, such as those who said that after the attention their daughter received through Healthy Athletes, "she's opened up, her attitude is better about life, her posture has improved."

Fit Feet and Health Promotions screenings were the featured attractions in the

screening events in Kelowna, Parksville, and Prince George, helping more than 130 athletes and community members with intellectual disabilities gain valuable health and nutrition information as well as plenty of free giveaways. The events had outstanding support from volunteers such as students from UBC Okanagan and the University of Northern British Columbia, and of course the SOBC Clinical Directors.

"I believe the athletes that participated really enjoyed the event. They were greeted by such amazing volunteers who offered great information and lots of cool giveaways in a warm and inclusive manner," Sue Foisy, Region 2 Coordinator, said after the Kelowna event. "Lots of smiles and laughter is always a good sign."

To read more about SOBC's Healthy Athletes programming and watch our video, visit specialolympics.bc.ca/healthy-athletes. ○

Vital funding, guidance, support from Province of B.C.

THE **Province of B.C.** has long been a supporter of Special Olympics BC. Financially, between the Province's funding of sport and funds received through Community Gaming Grants provided by the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch, SOBC received more than \$425,000 this year. On top of this, SOBC Locals received approximately \$85,000 in gaming grants to support their year-round community programs.

This significant level of funding is much appreciated and much needed. Funds received are used to help reduce costs of programs and competitions, host sport camps and events, transport athletes and coaches, and create new opportunities for Special Olympics athletes and coaches.

In addition to the financial support, the Province generously provides other forms of assistance to support Special Olympics. The Province's Sport Branch has been a tremendous source of assistance and resources to help SOBC. Understanding and supporting SOBC's direction and goals, Sport Branch staff have been working hard to open doors, guide us, and inform us of other resources, contacts, and opportunities that exist. This is proving to be invaluable as we try to grow programs, reach out to more athletes, increase the number and quality of competitions, build on our successes, overcome challenges, and create opportunities.

Simply put, we could not offer the unique experiences, programs, and opportunities that we do without the support of the Province of B.C. They are a great partner whose support has been of immense value. ○



Special Olympics logo refresh

YOU may have noticed the new look of the Special

Special Olympics
British Columbia



Olympics logo! We've bid a fond farewell to teal and red and a warm hello to Special Olympics Grey and Red, along with a minor font change (hello, Ubuntu!).

Over the last two years, Special Olympics International has been working on revisiting the Special Olympics brand, gathering feedback from multiple levels and groups around the world and working with a noted creative consultant. The goal was to look at how we can most effectively capture the essence of Special Olympics so that the story of how we unleash the power of the human spirit can be told in a powerful and compelling way.

In the summer of 2012, SOI announced the initial results of the brand refresh and the guidelines for the new look of the logo and materials. More tools are being rolled out to support our storytelling and the amazing work of SOBC Locals. We hope you enjoy the new look and how it helps us share the spirit of Special Olympics – our inspirational, joyful, inclusive, determined, courageous, and authentic personality. ○

Quit Now with SOBC

WE know smoking keeps athletes and coaches from giving their best efforts out on the fields, courts, gyms, rinks, tracks, and pools.

Spit tobacco and chew don't help either – many people don't realize these substances are also harmful to their bodies and can impact performance. We also know it can be wrenching to quit cold turkey, and stop-smoking aids (such as nicotine gum and patches) can be costly.

But the Province of B.C. created an initiative to make sure more help is at hand, which began September 30, 2011, and Special Olympics BC wants to support any of the members of the SOBC family looking to get the assistance they need.

British Columbians now have the choice of either nicotine gum or patches to help quit tobacco with a free supply for up to 12 weeks, or obtaining coverage of prescribed smoking-cessation drugs through PharmaCare.

We are encouraging members of the SOBC community to take advantage of these affordable quitting tools and wide range of other resources available. We want to support SOBC athletes, coaches and volunteers who have been looking for ways to quit. There's no reason not to Quit Now!

SOBC – Sunshine Coast athlete Mike Oswald has had an inspirational journey in kicking smoking out of his life. He has worked hard to eliminate the habit, and has felt the benefits throughout his sports and his life. And he's been cheered on by all of his friends in SOBC – Sunshine Coast!

"His coaches note that Mike feels better at practice and has not only more stamina, but also more confidence in his ability. We are all so proud of him!" says Marilyn Adams, head coach of the SOBC – Sunshine Coast swimming program.

Be inspired by Mike's story by reading the installments at specialolympics.bc.ca/quit-now. ○



SOBC – Sunshine Coast athlete Mike kicked his smoking habit with the support of girlfriend Christel and his SOBC friends and fans.

Running to raise funds for SOBC

ON June 24, a hardy crew of Special Olympics BC supporters joined thousands of runners at the Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon and 5K, raising funds for the charity of their choice while completing the scenic course from UBC Thunderbird Stadium through to Stanley Park. Spirits were high as seven runners raised an impressive \$2,730 for SOBC!

We'll be taking part in this great event once again next year, so please mark your calendars and join us on June 23, 2013. ○

BC Law Enforcement Torch Run

2012 Torch Run ignites pride, inspiration



AFTER running through the streets of Surrey alongside local RCMP members in the 2012 Torch Run, SOBC – Surrey athlete Kayley was filled with a sense of pride.

“Had a blast running in the Law Enforcement Torch Run,” she wrote on Twitter. “So proud to have the support being a Special Olympics athlete.”

The great run in Surrey was one of the amazing events in 29 communities around B.C. that were part of the Torch Run this year. A grand total of 766 members of departments and detachments around the province came together in rain, shine and even a bit of hail to show their strong support for Special Olympics athletes on and around June 8, inspiring everyone who saw them run proudly past and

raising significant awareness for the Special Olympics movement.

The runners were also joined this year by great contingents of students in Burnaby, Coquitlam, Cranbrook, Nanaimo and Richmond, playing an important part in expanding awareness of Special Olympics and the significant community contributions of B.C. law enforcement personnel.

The generosity and dedication of law enforcement members was evident in so many inspiring moments. Cst. Jenn Ohashi of the Port Moody Police Department worked all night before the Lower Mainland Torch Run hit Port Moody and Coquitlam, but she was still right there ready to lead the way and carry the torch when the run began in the pouring rain

on the morning of June 7.

In White Rock, RCMP Cst. Gregg Holland raised extra funds for Special Olympics BC by pledging to run in his full uniform (minus boots), adding an extra 40 pounds to the experience. He brought in \$360 all on his own for his pains.

In Port Alberni, RCMP members and SOBC – Port Alberni athletes epitomized the spirit of inclusion as they played an LETR softball game – both teams took pleasure in tricking each other with grapefruits to pitch and water pistols to squirt at surprised baserunners!

In Vancouver, the addition of the Granville Kilometre brought teams of corporate runners



Delta



Vancouver



White Rock



New Westminster



Surrey



Langley



Trail

out to join the Vancouver Police Department members and the dedicated law enforcement personnel doing all or many parts of the Lower Mainland Torch Run. The runners were an inspiring sight as they bore the torch for Special Olympics through the heart of downtown Vancouver, and they were cheered along the way by athletes and volunteers from SOBC – Vancouver.

As VPD Superintendent Andy Hobbs said, “One only has to spend some time with the athletes, their trainers, assistants, and

continued on next page



Vernon

International Conference and Provincial Workshop

IN November, the LETR International Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, allowed volunteers from all corners of the globe to mingle, share inspirational stories, and learn from one another as they collaborated to improve their local Torch Run programs.

Representing B.C. at the international conference this year were Supt. Dean Robinson of the Vancouver Police Department, civilian member Kelly Pater of the Abbotsford Police Department, Cst. Peter MacDonald from Ridge Meadows RCMP, Cst. Mark McKinnell of the Delta Police Department, and Cst. Lisa Schlatter from Cranbrook RCMP.

Supt. Robinson was selected as one of the Guardians of the Flame Miner’s Lamp escort, participating in the distinct privilege of escorting the Miner’s Lamp in the opening ceremonies of the conference.

Next year’s LETR International Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida from November 7 to 9.

At the Provincial Workshop subsequently staged in Burnaby, BC LETR members came together from all over the province – from Quesnel to the Lower Mainland, from



Nanaimo to Cranbrook and Kamloops – to talk about the power of partnerships and energize each other with the spirit of Special Olympics and the LETR.

The productive sessions saw many valuable ideas shared and connections strengthened, and members inspired with their commitment to Special Olympics and the LETR. They shared that they support this movement because they feel it is inspirational and inclusive, compelling and fulfilling, wholesome and rewarding. They value the love of sport, the spirit and heart shown by the athletes, and the empowerment and pride. And they inspire their communities with their support.

The workshop participants also had the opportunity to hear from two wonderful speakers, Colin and Grace Featherstonhaugh, the father and sister

(respectively) of Sam, a seven-year-old athlete-in-training with the SOBC – Coquitlam Active Start program. Colin and Grace generously took the time to share what Special Olympics has meant to Sam and to their family. They explained what active young Sam has learned and experienced so far in his time with SOBC, the enthusiasm, skills, and friendships they have observed in older athletes as well.

“Special Olympics is a remarkable organization, and I see my son being an active participant for many years to come,” Colin said. “Thank you all for helping make Special Olympics possible.”

Thank you to all the LETR members who took the time to participate, and to the SOBC athletes who came out to demonstrate bocce, Club Fit, and rhythmic gymnastics. ○

continued from previous page



North/ West Vancouver



Kamloops

supporters to see that they are some of the most committed, passionate, and dedicated people. We are extremely proud to contribute to such a worthwhile cause.”



In Richmond, RCMP Cpl. Bill Lumsdon told the large group of runners from the RCMP and the Canada Border Services Agency that it was his pleasure to be taking part in the run with them while he was nine days away from retirement.

SOBC – Mission athlete Bryce Schaufelberger came out to join the run on his birthday. He said the rain didn’t dampen the fun of the Torch Run in the slightest. “Way to go, thanks police for supporting Special Olympics,” he added.

The 2012 Torch Run wrapped up with the great run by Burns Lake RCMP on June 22, bearing the flame with pride.

The 2013 Torch Run will be held on June 7. We can’t wait to see the law enforcement personnel in action once again! ○



Burns Lake

Be a fan Day

ON October 25, Special Olympics programs across Canada joined their valued law enforcement partners to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Law Enforcement Torch Run movement in Canada. Special Olympics BC dedicated this day as Be a fan Day to thank the law enforcement community across the province for their unwavering support.

The BC LETR has raised approximately \$3.4 million for SOBC since 1990, helping us expand to provide opportunities for more than 4,000 SOBC athletes in 55 communities.



Victoria Police Department

“For 25 years, the Canadian law enforcement personnel involved in the LETR have helped create opportunities

for Special Olympics athletes to have life-changing experiences of empowerment, friendship, and skill development through year-round sport programs and competitions,” said Pam Keith, Chair of Special Olympics BC.

“Be a fan Day was an opportunity for Special Olympics BC to express our sincere appreciation for the inspiring law enforcement members throughout the province who regularly go above and beyond to help SOBC athletes and lead the way in demonstrating a spirit of inclusion and respect that strengthens the communities where they live and serve.”

In support of Be a fan Day, law enforcement personnel from a variety of agencies – including RCMP detachments around the province, the Abbotsford, Delta, New Westminster, Port Moody, Vancouver, Victoria, and West Vancouver police departments, CN

Police, and Transit Police – sported red Special Olympics laces in their boots to show their support.

“LETR members make their communities more inclusive and inspiring places as they generously give their time to support Special Olympics,” said Rick Lucy, BC Law Enforcement Torch Run Provincial Director and Deputy Chief of the Abbotsford Police Department. “We’re honoured to continue to support Special Olympics BC and contribute to the high-quality sports programs and competitions where these inspiring athletes experience acceptance, achievement, and joy.”

Thank you to everyone who joined in photos and festivities with law enforcement personnel to mark Be a fan Day around the province! We appreciate your time and help. ○



Kelowna RCMP



Nanaimo RCMP



Celebrating in Vancouver



Delta Police Department



Coquitlam RCMP

Abbotsford Police Challenge Run 2012

APPROXIMATELY 575 participants took part in the 21st annual Abbotsford Police Challenge Run on June 9. The event featured two routes – a 10 km challenge and a 5 km fun run – and took place at Civic Plaza, adjacent to the Abbotsford Police Department.

A special thanks to everyone who worked to make the 2012 Abbotsford Police Challenge Run a success, especially committee chairperson Kelly Pater of the Abbotsford Police Department.

The event raised \$16,000 for the BC LETR. ○



SOBC – Abbotsford athlete Mike Palitti and APD Chief Bob Rich.

Draft an Athlete – 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games

THE Draft an Athlete campaign was a huge success for the LETR this year. Fifteen law enforcement agencies across B.C. raised funds by donating overtime hours, hosting barbecues, and selling raffle tickets to support SOBC athletes competing at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in St. Albert, Alberta.

The LETR's contribution to Draft an Athlete 2012 helped cover accommodation, travel, training camps, uniforms, and other costs



Team BC athletes Bill Gauld, Cecilia Rodriguez, and Andrew Wiseman joined VPD Supt. Dean Robinson to thank the VPD for donating \$36,675 through overtime hours.

associated with the Games for 68 athletes from Team BC. Athletes that were drafted sent postcards to their partner departments about their experience, and some recorded fun video thank-you messages.

Our sincere thanks to the law enforcement contributors and corporate LETR Draft sponsors! Please see the full list of generous Draft an Athlete supporters on page 5.

We are proud to announce that the BC LETR raised \$68,000 for Draft an Athlete 2012. ○

Delta Police Department Vancouver Giants 50/50 Draw 2012

DELTA Police Department had another successful year with the ticket sales to the Vancouver Giants game in March and the 50-50 draw.

Many thanks to Deputy Chief Lyle Beaudoin, Staff Sgt. Debbie McLeod and Cst. Erin Gray of the Delta Police Department – without their efforts this event would not have been possible. Thanks must also go to the many volunteers from the Delta Bulls Hockey team, civilian staff, SOBC volunteers, SOBC athletes, and Scotiabank employees.

In total the event raised \$6,000 for the BC LETR. ○

Kelowna RCMP Polar Plunge

ON June 16, Kelowna RCMP set up shop with a big plunge pool and fun festivities in the Walmart parking lot to host the second Kelowna Polar Plunge on June 15 and 16.

Police officers and locals donated to plunge into the icy pool of water as part of their “freezin’ for a reason” pledge to support SOBC. Official plungers raised or donated a minimum of \$50 and received a T-shirt for their entertaining polar-plunging efforts.

Supporters such as NHL stars Vernon Fiddler, Josh Gorges, and Shea Weber took the time to come out and enjoy the fun day!

Thanks to Cst. Kris Clark of the Kelowna RCMP for leading this year’s event and, of course, to the SOBC – Kelowna athletes for happily accepting donations and assisting the police during the weekend.

This event raised \$7,539 for the BC LETR. ○



Brave plunger Cst. Steve Holmes of Kelowna RCMP.

Comox Valley Free the Fuzz

COMOX Valley RCMP teamed up with Canadian Forces Base Comox and their local Canadian Tire to host a Free the Fuzz event on August 17 and 18 to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics BC.

It was a fun-filled two days that included police officers raising funds through their roof-sitting, fun entertainment such as a dunk tank and bouncy castle, and delicious food sales.

Special thanks to Cst. Nicole Hall, Aux. Const. Linda Thomas, and civilian member Marlene Hawkes and her daughter Brianna from Comox Valley RCMP for hosting this event.

Big thanks also to the many volunteers including Cpl. Jenn Thomas, Cpl. Tori Koabel, Cpl. David Winship, and Cpl. Adam Taylor of the CFB Comox military police, and SOBC – Comox Valley volunteers and athletes.

This event raised \$4,820 for the BC LETR. ○



Revealing the champions with new high-performance strategy

INSPIRED by the success of Canada's Own the Podium program, and with the opportunity on the horizon to build toward and beyond the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, Special Olympics BC has developed a 10-year plan designed to give athletes and coaches a richer experience in a high-performance sport environment, growing together with more tools and techniques to help them be at their best.

Working with world-class sport experts Cathy Priestner Allinger and the Allinger Consulting International team, SOBC has created a vision in which athletes and coaches will have access to a high-performance program that provides sport science and sport medicine expertise in a way never before thought possible within the world of Special Olympics in Canada.

"We want you to be the best athletes you can be, and we can help you with that."

**Cathy Priestner Allinger
Allinger Consulting International**

To date, SOBC has made significant progress in ensuring all SOBC athletes can participate and develop through sport. The next step is furthering the development of an enriched high-performance sport environment for athletes who show a sincere desire to compete and a passion to achieve all they can. Importantly, it's also very much about providing coaches access to the same environment and tools and supporting them in bringing the lessons home to their local athletes and programs for the betterment of all.

Now is the ideal time to implement this vision because of the opportunities we have with the Special Olympics Canada Games set to be hosted in our province for the first time in 20 years, and the remarkable support that Cathy Priestner Allinger and her team are willing to provide.

Cathy is a member of the SOBC Board of Directors and Chair of the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games Organizing Committee. She is also a noted figure in the Olympic and international sport consultancy scene, having worked in key roles with the Organizing Committees for the 2010, 2006, and 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and gained renown for co-authoring (with husband Todd) the Own the Podium program that bore such fruitful results for Canadian athletes at the 2010 Games, including 26 Olympic medals. Currently, Cathy, Todd and their Allinger Consulting team are working with the Russian Olympic Committee

to step up their programs and prepare their athletes for the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi.

Meanwhile, they are also choosing to make time to support SOBC athletes and coaches through this exciting new high-performance program.

The program and the vision will be embodied through a number of new initiatives and opportunities for athletes and coaches alike, building their capacity and ours so high-performance techniques and resources can eventually be available around the province.

The debut initiative was a high-performance aquatics camp held December 1 and 2 at the UBC Aquatics Centre. Twenty-three swimmers from SOBC programs around the province, selected based on their times in Regional Qualifiers, were invited to join 13 SOBC coaches from throughout B.C. and the Allinger Consulting experts for an intensive camp focused on swimming skill development, nutrition, and key fitness and stretching techniques.

"We want you to be the best athletes you can be, and we can help you with that and your coaches can help you with that," Cathy told the athletes in their Sunday nutrition session, adding, "It's super important that you're all really committed to getting better."

SOBC – Kamloops athlete Dallas Gilchrist demonstrated that spirit as he returned home saying he was so excited to get back into the pool to employ and share the new techniques he learned. Like all of the athletes, he was tired after the long hours in the pool and dryland training throughout the camp – but he was

still very keen. Dallas said afterward that he couldn't wait to work on the new dive and turn techniques he had learned, and wanted to share them with his fellow athletes.

Other high-performance initiatives that have launched recently or start soon include:

- SOBC plans to stage a similar athletics camp in January as well as a repeat aquatics camp in spring in order to revisit the December instruction and measure the improvements;
- The SOBC – Langley basketball team has begun training with the Trinity Western University basketball team once a week to further their skills and expand the resources available to them, and the plan is to expand this to both Surrey and Vancouver A-level teams in January;
- SOBC plans to have high-performance training sessions at the SOBC – Campbell River snowshoeing event and at the new Snow Sports Festival in West Kelowna for both coaches and athletes; and
- SOBC will work with speed skating coaches and athletes this winter.

Through this high-performance project, SOBC is aiming not just to train the athletes, but more so to train the coaches who will be equipped to carry these teachings back into their programs to assist hundreds of athletes, beyond those who directly participate in the high-performance events.

With this high-performance project, SOBC athletes will come to see themselves as high-performance athletes do: as elite athletes dedicated to and capable of achieving greatness through their diligent training and top-quality techniques. And everyone will cheer them on! ○



SOBC – Victoria athlete Aly White

SOBC – Victoria coach Sarah Ozog and athlete Ben Vanlierop (foreground) and SOBC – Richmond athlete Magnus Batara work on diving skills at the first aquatics high-performance camp.

World-class sport consultant and Olympic medallist Cathy Priestner Allinger (left) at work with SOBC athletes.



Stellar support from B.C.'s New Car Dealers

THE annual New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C. / Special Olympics Auction was a stirring success once again this year, raising more than \$165,000 for Special Olympics BC and the New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C.

The online auction, which ran from May 2 to May 11, featured more than 226 items, including five vehicles that were generously donated by Ford BC Dealers and Ford Canada, Toyota BC Dealers and Toyota Canada, BC Honda Dealers Association, Chevrolet and Buick GMC Dealers of BC, and BC Volkswagen Dealers. 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 also enables the New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C. 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 SOBC for more than 28 years and has raised more than \$3.7 million in support of athletes and programs around the province. And their support extends far beyond the Auction – many dealers across the province get involved to help in a variety of ways.

The generous support of B.C.'s New Car Dealers means a great deal to athletes like Ryan Courtemanche, the SOBC – Kelowna athlete whom New Car Dealers met this year at their annual conference. Through Special Olympics, Ryan came out of his shell and he has become a confident, outgoing, positive person.

Special thanks to the Auction Committee:

Manse Binkley, *Harmony Honda & Harmony Acura*
 Doug Bower, *Vancouver Sun & The Province*
 Marnie Carter, *Carter Auto Group*
 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. ○

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THANKS TO THOSE DEALERS WHO SUPPORTED THE AUCTION WITH A CASH PLEDGE OR BY DONATING AUCTION ITEMS

      	       	       
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Fun and friendships abound in SOBC youth programs



THE stories that continue to roll in from the Special Olympics BC youth programs blooming around the province never fail to make us smile.

Through the FUNdamentals program in Kamloops, one young athlete forged his first-ever friendship. This athlete's caregiver had never before observed him connecting with other little people as friends. When he first came to participate in FUNdamentals, he was known for always trying to escape – heading out the door, onto a stage, into the hall.

But in his third week with the program, he struck up a friendship with a fellow athlete-in-training. He was using words and they forged a connection for the evening, playing in the fun activities together.

"Apparently that was the first time in his life he's had that kind of friendship with someone else."

**Lorna Clarkson
Kamloops FUNdamentals program**

"Apparently that was the first time in his life he's had that kind of friendship with someone else," said Lorna Clarkson, who heads the Kamloops FUNdamentals program with her husband Rob. "It was really, really special. It felt like a huge stride for him."

The athletes took to the activities with aplomb, showing enthusiasm, interest and great physical, mental and social developments. Meanwhile, the magic moments with the young athletes mean a lot to the program leaders.

"It's becoming a pretty special part of my week," Lorna said. "I find it really rewarding when those little things happen."

In Locals around the province, it's so exciting to see the youth initiatives are continuing to blossom, with new programs added frequently and existing ones growing steadily in numbers of participants. By the end of 2012, there were 20 Active Start programs being offered by SOBC Locals around the province, and 24 FUNdamentals programs.

Booming are programs such as SOBC – Surrey's Active Start, which saw 12 new young



athletes-in-training come out in 2012, bringing their total to 19 in the second year of the program. Another example that elicits big smiles is the SOBC – Mission FUNdamentals program, led by Murray Butt, which is a great draw in the community.

The high number of young athletes participating in this year's Regional Qualifiers was another demonstration of the popularity of these programs, such as the significant contingent of FUNdamentals athletes who lined

up to race in the Athletics Regional Qualifier hosted by SOBC – Port Alberni. And the many smiling faces seen in SOBC – Victoria's programs, as in the photo here, are a joy to behold!

In addition to the growth in Active Start and FUNdamentals programs, the strong and growing Sport Start programs are great fun and of great benefit to long-term athlete development, as they cater to athletes ages 12 to 18 and help them transition into traditional SOBC programs as well as a lifelong love of sport. The swim meet hosted by SOBC – North Shore in the fall was able to include a separate Sport Start division due to the popularity.

We're looking forward to seeing what will happen with other programs expected to blossom in weeks and months to come, and we applaud all the volunteers who have generously give their time, energy and skills to make these opportunities available to more children and youths with intellectual disabilities around the province.

We're also grateful to Goldcorp for their significant support of athlete development throughout B.C., as well as the Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada.

These initiatives truly make a difference – the little victories in Kamloops are a few of many powerful examples. ○



Kim Perkins

Award-winning ways of SOBC athletes and volunteers

WE are continually amazed and humbled by the calibre of people involved with the Special Olympics BC community. They never cease to inspire us.

A few of many examples are the following individuals who earned notice with external awards this year. Congratulations to these deserving winners:

- SOBC – Abbotsford athlete **Paige Norton**, the accomplished speed skater who medalled in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games and won the 2011 SOBC Athletic Achievement Award, was one of 21 students with disabilities to receive an international Yes I Can! Award from the Council of Exceptional Children in

Colorado in April.

- SOBC – North Shore Local Coordinator **Kelly Klein** was celebrated among the best of B.C.'s community supporters when she was named one of the 2012 recipients of the B.C. Community Achievement Awards. Recipients are chosen by an independent advisory council, and were recognized in a ceremony at Government House in Victoria on April 25.
- SOBC – Victoria Local Coordinator **Chantal Brodeur** was named the winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Fourth Celebration of Women in Sport awards, presented at a gala brunch at the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence.
- SOBC – Trail coach and volunteer **Niki Lord** was recognized with a Sport BC Community

Sport Hero Award in Trail at the end of February.

- Two deserving SOBC recipients of awards from the Coquitlam Sports Hall of Fame: **Lois McNary**, SOBC's Vice President of Sport, was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a Builder, recognizing her nearly three decades of dedicated efforts to grow and lead Special Olympics in Coquitlam and throughout B.C., and SOBC – Coquitlam athlete **Sean Casey** received recognition as one of the Hall's 2011 Wall of Fame Honourees, celebrating his outstanding results in speed skating at the 2011 SOBC Winter Sport Championships and 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.
- **Ivy Whitfield** and **Thom and Jackie Ross** were presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for their many years of volunteer work for SOBC – Prince George. The award was given to them by the Honourable Dick Harris, Member of Parliament at an appreciation night held for the many sponsors of the SOBC – Prince George Charity Golf Classic hosted by Dick Harris.
- SOBC Leadership Council member and parent **James Sutherland** earned a Community Service Award from the Canadian Bar Association's British Columbia Branch for the leadership, guidance and commitment he has shown to SOBC.
- SOBC – Campbell River volunteer and parent **George MacLagan** was named one of the British Columbia Sheriff Service's recipients of the Diamond Jubilee honour.



SOBC – North Shore Local Coordinator Kelly Klein receiving the B.C. Community Achievement Award surrounded by members of the SOBC – North Shore family.

Congratulations to these deserving winners, and to all of the members of the SOBC family who have been recognized in their own communities this year! We love to hear about and celebrate your achievements – please forward stories to megan@specialolympics.bc.ca.

People-friendly Pacific Coastal Airlines gives SOBC a lift

BRITISH Columbia is a large province, and it can be very expensive to transport people between communities. Understanding this, **Pacific Coastal Airlines** generously provides flights for Special Olympics BC staff, volunteers, and athletes to fly between centres that they do business in. This has greatly reduced costs to SOBC and has provided efficient travel so members of our community can take part in opportunities.

In a recent example among many, SOBC athletes and coaches flew Pacific Coastal to take part in the high-performance aquatics camp staged in Vancouver, a valuable new

development opportunity. On their flights they received great service and enjoyed the super-friendly atmosphere characteristic of this B.C. airline.

When larger numbers of Special Olympics athletes or volunteers need to fly, Pacific Coastal gives the best rate they can to ensure that everyone gets to where they need to be. Additionally, they support many of the provincial fundraising initiatives by donating auction items such as flights anywhere in their network, flights and rounds of golf, or trips to fishing lodges. Pacific Coastal President Quentin Smith and his team are great friends



of Special Olympics and are always there when we need support.

Pacific Coastal Airlines flies to 15 communities in B.C., eight of which are home to SOBC programs. With a fleet of 21 aircraft, and over 275 employees, this airline has operated in B.C. for over 30 years now. Don't forget to check them out next time you are looking to book a flight to a community serviced by Pacific Coastal Airlines. ○

Special Olympics BC Sponsor Appreciation: Events

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