



Bulletin

Winter 2013

SOBC's largest Provincial Games a hit in Langley

AFTER walking into the Opening Ceremonies of the **2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games** with her Region 6 team, at 375 members the largest-ever team to attend an SOBC Games, Special Olympics BC – Cowichan Valley athlete Kara Summer sat in her seat listening to the cheers and smiling with tears in her eyes.

The 10-pin bowling athlete was moved to be a part of her first-ever Provincial Games.

"It means a whole lot," she said. "I've been practicing really, really hard." Kara started to feel choked up even before she got to the Games, and in the Opening Ceremonies she said she felt "emotional and excited" to be there with her team.

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Region 1 team members walk proudly into the Opening Ceremonies with Teya Aasen, Silver Wheaton Director of Communications, and Vancouver Whitecaps Captain Jay DeMerit.



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By the end of the Games, nearly 600 medals were awarded to deserving and proud recipients who went home thrilled about their achievements. One of many great examples was seeing medal-winning 10-pin bowling athlete James Newman of SOBC – Coquitlam at the Closing Ceremonies. Asked how the Games went, he pulled out the score sheet that showed that in one game he bowled eight straight strikes, an incredible achievement that electrified everyone watching.

While Special Olympics Games are about sport, achievement, and pride, they are also about friendship, connections, acceptance, and sportsmanship.

In between taking team members through Healthy Athletes stations, SOBC – Vernon powerlifting coach Glen Schwebbach summed up what so many of us were thinking.

“It’s been the most incredible experience I’ve ever had,” Glen said.

The largest SOBC Games yet, the 2013 Provincial Games received vital support from 1,200 enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom shared how moved and inspired they were by the athletes they met.

Accommodations volunteer Lisa Gibbs took to SOBC’s Facebook page to share how much the athletes inspired her.

“The infectious mood of the athletes, their enthusiasm and dedication to their sport, the camaraderie and their sheer joy at competing—win OR lose—has been inspiring and completely heartwarming,” she wrote. “I have had THE most wonderful experience



The infectious mood of the athletes, their enthusiasm and dedication to their sport, the camaraderie and their sheer joy at competing—win OR lose—has been inspiring and completely heartwarming.

Lisa Gibbs
Accommodations volunteer

during these Games! Thank you to everyone who let me serve them these past three days—it was an experience I will NEVER forget!”

The 2013 Games Organizing Committee wanted the Games to leave a legacy, including increased involvement and interest in Special Olympics especially in Langley. That was in evidence already, judging by the number of people who approached SOBC Chair Pam Keith throughout the Games to ask how they can stay involved.

“I think the 2013 SOBC Summer Games was a great success. The athletes and volunteer coaches were so inspiring both on and off the playing fields, and we so appreciated the 1,200 volunteers who worked so hard to deliver such a rewarding and memorable experience for everyone,” Pam said.

“I was also really pleased to see how many Games volunteers came up to me afterward to ask how they can continue being involved with Special Olympics. In addition to being an amazing experience in itself, I think this Games will leave a great legacy of appreciation and awareness for Special Olympics.”

Our sincere thanks to each and every athlete, coach, volunteer, sponsor, family member, friend, and supporter who made this experience possible and memorable. We won’t soon forget the four days in Langley. ○



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2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games



Provincial Games Regional Team Celebrity Supporters

Our thanks to the sports stars and sponsor representatives who joined the Regional teams for the exciting walk into the 2013 SOBC Summer Games Opening Ceremonies!

Region 1:

Jay DeMerit, Vancouver Whitecaps captain, and **Teya Aasen**, Silver Wheaton Director of Communications

Region 2:

Ashleigh McIvor, Olympic and world ski cross champion, and **Jasen Nyrose**, Staples Canada District Manager

Region 3:

Travis Lulay, BC Lions quarterback, and **Suzanne Hoffman**, School District 35 Superintendent

Region 4:

Allison McNeill, Olympic basketball coach, **Darcy Rota**, Vancouver Canucks alum, and **Mary D'Astolfo**, Safeway Public Affairs Manager

Region 5:

Wally Buono, BC Lions General Manager and VP Football Operations, and **Charlene Ripley**, Goldcorp Executive Vice President, General Counsel

Region 6:

Trevor Linden, Vancouver Canucks alumnus, and **Darren Graham**, New Car Dealers Association of B.C. Board member

Region 7:

Carl Valentine, Vancouver Whitecaps great, and **Gayle Martin**, City of Langley Deputy Mayor

Region 8:

Marco Iannuzzi, BC Lions receiver, and **Mark Warawa**, Member of Parliament – Langley

Yukon:

Cathy Priestner Allinger, Olympic speed skating medallist and executive, and **Ron Lloyd** of the Canadian Progress Club

Around the world with Matthew Williams

As a Special Olympics Sargent Shriver Global Messenger, Chair of the Global Athlete Congress, and member of the Special Olympics International Board of Directors, SOBC – Langley athlete Matthew Williams has had another busy year making a difference for Special Olympics athletes through his advocacy and participation in events worldwide.

In January 2013, kicking off the third year of his four-year term as a Global Messenger, Matt headed to the Republic of Korea to take part in the first-ever Special Olympics Global Development Summit, staged alongside the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games. There, he also took part in World Games ceremonies and the SOI board meeting.

The historic summit brought together some of the best minds from around the world to explore ways to “End the Cycle of Poverty and Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities.” Participants included government officials, human rights activists, sports and business leaders, and Special Olympics athletes.

For Matthew, it was a thrill “being in a room with so many prominent world leaders,” including Burma’s Dr. Aung San Suu Kyi, iconic democracy advocate, and President Joyce Banda of Malawi, who are passionate about equal rights for everyone, including people with intellectual disabilities.

“They are people who want action, not just to talk about it,” Matt said.

At the summit Matthew received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for which he was nominated by SOBC—read more on page 37 of this newsletter.

Matt’s spring included rigorous training for the 2013 SOBC Summer Games in his hometown of Langley. Matt and the hardworking and talented Langley Warriors basketball team captured gold, and qualified for the Team BC 2014 Training Squad. The Provincial Games experience was “fantastic,” Matt said, and the Langley team will be ready to play with pride in basketball’s National Games debut at the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver.

This year Matthew also took part in the 2013 Athlete Leadership Programs Summit in Philadelphia. It was good, Matt said, “to know that athlete leadership is now more of a priority going forward, and to have people in the room who can make that happen.”

Matt’s fall also included the 2013 Special Olympics North America Conference in North Carolina, where he introduced speakers, represented athlete perspectives, and met with the SOI board and SOBC Leadership Council. Matt also took time to serve as a speaker for a key Special Olympics Washington fundraising gala, and to attend Hill Day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa (Read more about Hill Day on page 11.)

Matthew told MPs, Senators, Ministers, and media how Special Olympics has opened up opportunities that he never would have thought possible.

As he told CTV Morning Live, “When you support someone with an intellectual disability and give us an opportunity to get involved in Special Olympics, the change in our life is for the better.” ○

When you support someone with an intellectual disability and give us an opportunity to get involved in Special Olympics, the change in our life is for the better.

Matthew Williams
SOBC - Langley



Unveiling the John Sims Fund

EVER since joining the Special Olympics BC Board of Directors in 2003, **John Sims** has been a true champion of Special Olympics, and a generous supporter of the goals of this organization. In recognition of John's dedicated service over the past decade, his friends and associates have chosen to honour his efforts by creating an endowment fund in his name to benefit SOBC.

In his career, John has served as a distinguished Chartered Accountant, partner at Manning Elliott Chartered Accountants, and Executive Director at Ernst & Young LLP. He is also a compassionate and intelligent leader who always has the best interests of our athletes at heart. An avid sports enthusiast, John is an advocate for our newly launched high-performance training project.

The **John Sims Fund** was initiated by Milton Carrasco and Greg Forrester, longtime clients and friends of John's. It has raised over \$60,000 to date.

"The creation of this fund will absolutely help athletes for years and years to come," said Dan Howe, SOBC President & CEO.

The fund will continue to grow thanks to the efforts of John's loving family and friends. Donations are being welcomed in a variety of ways:

By phone: 604-737-3180

By mail: The John Sims Fund
c/o Special Olympics BC
#210 – 3701 Hastings Street
Burnaby, BC V5C 2H6

Online: www.specialolympics.bc.ca/johnsimsfund.



SOBC Treasurer John Sims (centre) and Friends and clients Greg Forrester and Milton Carrasco, initiators of the John Sims Fund.

Record-breaking success for Staples Canada campaign

THE 2013 **Staples Give a Toonie. Share a Dream.** campaign was yet again a huge success, raising a record-breaking \$586,000 across the country.

From May 4 to 26, Special Olympics athletes joined Staples staff to ask customers to donate a toonie (or more!) to support Special Olympics athletes in Canada. Big thanks to all of the Staples stores, staff, and supporters and the SOBC volunteers who made the campaign such a great success.

The Staples Langley store raised the highest dollars on the last day of the campaign, collecting over \$2,000. They raised \$7,412.64 during the entire campaign, the third-highest total in Canada.

"Everyone from the store was involved in the campaign for Special

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Delta



Michael Maveety

Kamloops

Olympics, with a number of athletes in store during peak hours," said Kuljinder Karwal, General Manager in Langley. "We'd like to thank all our customers and local businesses for their generosity to reach our yearly goal."

Following the success of the campaign, Staples employees from across the Lower Mainland came together on June 1 for a day of fun and (mostly) sunshine at the 13th annual Staples Special Olympics Softball Tournament. The Burnaby Lougheed Lions held a hot-dog barbecue and there were great prizes available at the raffle. The team-building event raised nearly \$1,000 for SOBC programs. ○



Langley

Merritt keen on Special Olympics

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Will is excited that Merritt is looking to start Special Olympics programs. Will is training in long-distance running and is thrilled Special Olympics might be coming to town. The keen young athlete helped spread the word about SOBC this fall, encouraging people to attend a volunteer information meeting in October.

The successful information and recruitment night saw 25 residents showing up to learn how they could become involved. The first step to accomplish before the end of the year is to establish a working Executive Committee. In the New Year this group will look at facilities and coaches who have stepped forward. The target is to be up and running by spring of 2014.

Located in Region 2, Merritt would become the 56th SOBC Local. We're pulling for you, Merritt! ○



Canada Safeway campaign raises funds and awareness

CANADA Safeway's annual **Families Living with Disabilities Campaign** in partnership with Easter Seals Canada and Special Olympics Canada was another resounding success.

Safeway customers who donated \$2 to support Special Olympics and Easter Seals received five bonus AIR MILES Reward Miles. The campaign raised an incredible \$419,595 to support Special Olympics athletes and programs across Canada.

"Helping our neighbours living with a diverse range of abilities has long been a Safeway priority," said Canada Safeway President and Chief Operating Officer Chuck Mulvenna. "As a company that proudly employs hundreds of people living with disabilities, Canada Safeway directly

benefits from the incredible work of [Special Olympics Canada and Easter Seals Canada]."

The funds and awareness that were raised support rewarding and confidence-building

experiences for people like Katarina Gerhardt, longtime SOBC – Kelowna athlete, Easter Seals Camp grad, and proud Safeway employee!

Since 2008, more than \$6 million has been raised for Easter Seals and Special Olympics through this powerful partnership. Canada Safeway has raised more than \$119 million across North America in support of organizations that assist people with disabilities, and they currently employ 300 people with disabilities. ○



Victoria



Umbrella challenge judges Brian Bradley of Safeway and SOBC – North Shore athlete Tyrone Liebenberg, also a Safeway employee.



Vernon



Penticton



North Shore

B.C. Government's vital support of SOBC

THE **Province of B.C.** has been a longtime supporter of Special Olympics BC, allowing us to offer more life-changing experiences and programs to our athletes. Financially, between the Province's funding of sport and funds received through Community Gaming Grants from the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch, SOBC received more than \$425,000 this year. SOBC Locals also received 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.

The Province's financial support contributed to the 2013 SOBC Summer Games in Langley, and is helping Team BC prepare for the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver, for which the Province of B.C. is a major sponsor. SOBC has also been able to expand its Healthy Athletes screenings



with financial support from the Province.

The Province's Sport Branch has also been a tremendous source of assistance and resources to SOBC. Understanding and supporting SOBC's goals, Sport Branch staff have been working hard to

open doors, and inform us of other resources, contacts, and opportunities. This is invaluable as we grow programs, reach out to more athletes, increase the number and quality of competitions, and create opportunities. ○

Goldcorp Invitational is 'incredibly meaningful'

THE 2013 **Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament** was the most successful yet, helping Special Olympics BC athletes enjoy sport, friendship, and acceptance through year-round sport programs and competitive opportunities.

"The support that you give to this organization is incredibly meaningful," said **Goldcorp** President & CEO Chuck Jeannes. "I can tell you, having been on the board for a couple of years and having participated in Special Olympics activities, you just go there once and that will be all it takes for you to understand the true change you make in people's lives."

The Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament attracts significant support from Vancouver's corporations and business elite. This year, Chuck Jeannes said he was thrilled to see the enthusiasm of the business community not only from Vancouver but also from Toronto and around Canada, with generous sponsors, donors, and golfers from across the country attending and supporting the tournament.

Paddi Robinson, mother of SOBC – Surrey athlete Michaela, volunteered for the tournament and spoke about the impact Special Olympics has had on Michaela's life and those of her family members. Michaela has made strong friendships through Special Olympics, has tried and succeeded in a range of sports, and has travelled to competitions and won medals. She has demonstrated the joy, pride, determination, and strength she feels backed by the encouragement galore from her Special Olympics community.

"Special Olympics has given her that confidence, that ability and determination, to go out and try her best and give her all," Paddi said.

She thanked the tournament supporters and everyone involved in Special Olympics for helping to create opportunities for her daughter.

The Goldcorp Invitational golf experience includes two simultaneous tournaments followed by an evening of inspiration where participants enjoy a full dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and powerful messages from SOBC athletes and supporters.

Goldcorp has been the presenting sponsor of the tournament for



the past seven years, and takes pride in helping athletes of all abilities achieve their dreams. Goldcorp is also a significant supporter of SOBC's youth programs, and stepped up as a Gold Sponsor of the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games as well as becoming a sponsor of the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver.

Jeannes served as Honorary General Manager for Team BC 2012, and has seen firsthand all that is made possible by Special Olympics sponsors. He encouraged everyone at the tournament to attend an SOBC sport event whenever they have the opportunity.

"It's very worthwhile," Jeannes said. "It's one of the most fun things I've ever had the opportunity to do."

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our generous sponsors. ○

Thank you to the supporters of the 2013 Goldcorp Invitational

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- TravelMasters
- Whistler Water

2014 DATES

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events, and stay tuned to www.specialolympics.bc.ca/calendar for additions and updates!

Athlete Leadership Program University

January 24 and 25 UBC, Vancouver

Snow Sports Festival

February 7 to 9 West Kelowna

Healthy Athletes screening events

February 15 Vancouver

April 12 Kelowna

May (date TBA) Northern B.C.

BC Winter Games

February 20 to 23 Mission

Goldcorp Invitational Golf Tournament

June 17 Northview Golf & Country Club

Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games

July 8 to 12 Vancouver

Regional Qualifiers

Curling Regional Qualifier (Region 6)

February 1 Port Alberni

Curling Regional Qualifier (Region 3)

February 2 Langley

Speed Skating Regional Qualifier (all regions)

February 2 Coquitlam

Snow Sports Festival

Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing qualifier

February 7 to 9 West Kelowna

Figure Skating Regional Qualifier (Regions 3, 4, and 5)

February 7 to 9 Chilliwack

Figure Skating Regional Qualifier (Region 6)

February 7 to 9 Mill Bay

Curling Regional Qualifier (Region 2)

February 15 to 16 Kelowna

Curling Regional Qualifier (Regions 4 and 5)

February 15 to 16 Burnaby

Figure Skating Regional Qualifier (Region 8)

February 28 to March 2 Fort St. John

Floor Hockey Regional Qualifier (Region 6)

March 8 to 9 Comox Valley

Curling Regional Qualifier (Regions 7 and 8)

March 14 to 16 Terrace

Grateful for fabulous GranFondo support



IN beautiful Fort Langley on July 21, nearly 1,200 riders in the second **Prospera Valley GranFondo** sailed across the finish line as Special Olympics BC athletes and volunteers handed out medals and cheered for the cyclists.

In between giving out medals, SOBC – Langley athlete Kathy Foss said she thinks it's "fabulous" what the riders and the event do to support Special Olympics, since the Prospera Valley GranFondo and Special Olympics have the same values at heart: participation, exercise, and thinking of others.

Kathy was part of a great group of SOBC athletes and volunteers from Langley, Abbotsford, and Surrey who came out to help at the GranFondo. Several of the SOBC athletes commented on how much they enjoyed their roles at the finish line, and how

fun it was to play such a big part in the event.

Kathy said she values that the Prospera Valley GranFondo organizers and participants are thinking about "helping one another because we are all part of the family. That's how I look at it." And the experience made Kathy think about doing a ride like this herself someday.

Prospera Credit Union President & CEO Bruce Howell commented on how proud Prospera Credit Union is to partner with local organizations to showcase the Fraser Valley and support Special Olympics programs through this event, and commended the Canadian Velo Event Management Society team for doing "an amazing job putting together this signature event with the spectacular Fraser Valley as the backdrop."

The addition of the 50-km PrestoFondo this year made it possible for novice riders to participate in a mass road-cycling event alongside more experienced cyclists who chose the 88-km MedioFondo or the 160-km GranFondo route.

The 2013 ride raised \$20,000 for Special Olympics. We honoured to be the event's charitable partner, and grateful to the members of our community who offered their support at the event itself, including our longtime law enforcement partners, the Langley RCMP detachment and the Abbotsford Police Department. The GranFondo benefited from their support as well as that of the Township of Langley, Fort Langley, the cities of Abbotsford and Chilliwack, the Kwantlen and Sumas First Nations, sponsors, volunteers, and the many cycling enthusiasts who came out to cheer everyone on.

Congratulations to all the riders and organizers, and we too can't wait for the 2014 ride on July 20! ○



Stirring PSA shares SOBC story

"I feel strong. I feel like I am part of a team. I am a Special Olympics athlete. I feel like myself."

Meet Special Olympics BC – Campbell River athlete Bryan Jorgensen, star of SOBC's popular new feature video.

The video, created by writer/director/director of photography Naim Sutherland, captures the story of Bryan, who grew up in a small town and found his way to Special Olympics for the first time in Campbell River, where he developed feelings of acceptance and confidence through his involvement in sports.

Naim brought together a hardworking, enthusiastic, and generous team of film professionals, including producer Patrick Henry, who were very supportive of the athletes and volunteers involved in the shoot. Many of them volunteered their time to take part, and gave a great deal to create an exceptional piece of work.

Check out the video at <http://youtu.be/pB1hb6eQiaw>. ○



Special Olympics hits the Hill

ON November 26, more than 70 Special Olympics athletes, family members, volunteers, and staff came together in Ottawa from across the country for **Hill Day**, an opportunity to meet one-on-one with Senators and Members of Parliament and participate in a friendly sport competition on the front lawn of Parliament Hill, hosted by Olympic gold medallist and Special Olympics Canada board member Mark Tewksbury.

The daylong initiative served as an opportunity to thank the federal government for its sustained support over the years and to request, in person, additional support through increased federal funding. Special Olympics Canada delegates met with more than 100 MPs and Senators on Hill Day, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau, Thomas Mulcair, Jim Flaherty, Bal Gosal, and Nancy Greene Raine.

Special Olympics BC was ably represented by SOBC – Langley athletes Carson Buzdegan and Matthew Williams, coach and parent Kurc Buzdegan, SOBC President & CEO Dan Howe, and SOBC Vice President, Sport, Lois McNary.

In 2012, Special Olympics Canada launched a five-year strategic plan that aims to broaden the delivery of high-impact, cost-effective, community-based programs for athletes with an intellectual disability. Currently, approximately five per cent of Canadians with an intellectual disability are registered with Special Olympics in Canada. Special Olympics Canada and the 12 provincial and territorial Chapters are committed to significantly increasing this number.



Cariboo-Prince George MP Dick Harris meeting with Carson and Kurc Buzdegan.

The additional funding requested of the federal government will go a long way in helping Special Olympics Canada achieve its targets. Special Olympics Canada looks forward to the 2014 federal budget announcement to see if the federal government has decided to continue to support the Special Olympics movement in Canada, and invest in communities across Canada, by including its request for additional funding. ○



Senators Nancy Greene Raine and Richard Neufeld with Lois McNary and Matthew Williams.

SOBC Board of Directors update

SPECIAL Olympics BC is very grateful for the leadership and support we receive from our Board of Directors, who



Special Olympics
British Columbia

are sincerely dedicated to the mission and values of Special Olympics and are so generous with their time and support to ensure the ongoing quality of this organization.

Our 2013 AGM saw the continuation of the terms of the Board's executive members. After her dual duties this summer as SOBC Chair and tireless rhythmic gymnastics announcer at the 2013 SOBC Summer Games, **Pam Keith** of the Dueck Auto Group will continue as our Chair. **Ted Hirst** of Canaccord Genuity retains the role of Vice Chair, and noted financial analyst **Michael Campbell** retains the role of our Past Chair in addition to his outstanding leadership of the Goldcorp Invitational.

It was an honour to salute the contributions of our retiring Treasurer, **John Sims** of Manning Elliott. John has made significant contributions to SOBC, and we're grateful for the endowment fund his family and friends have launched to honour him. **James Kerr** has graciously added the Treasurer portfolio to his ongoing position as the Board's Secretary.

We are very pleased to welcome **Victor de Bonis**, Chief Operating Officer of Canucks Sports and Entertainment, as a new Board member. The Vancouver Canucks organization is generous in its ongoing support of Special Olympics, and partners with SOBC to raise significant funds and awareness for us and the Canucks for Kids Fund through the Sports Celebrities Festival.

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

National Golf Tournament success for SOBC athletes

"WE'VE got some of the top golfers in Canada," Special Olympics BC – Sunshine Coast golf coach Chuck Bertrand said of the B.C. team just before tee-off in the second **Special Olympics Canada National Golf Tournament**. And when the three rounds of competition concluded at the beautiful University Golf Club in Vancouver, the SOBC athletes had lived up to his words with their determined and skillful play.

Leading the way was SOBC – Delta athlete Chelsea Kaake, who captured the top spot in the F2 division. There were other success stories, including the 16th hole where SOBC – Nanaimo athlete Yves came within millimetres of scoring an eagle.

"I'll never forget this shot as I saw it hit the back of the pin and plunk down kind of in the hole," Chuck said. "Congratulations Yves!"

The University Golf Club will also be the golf venue for the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, when the sport makes its National Games debut. The nine SOBC athletes



from the National Golf Tournament, and Jim Richter of SOBC – North Shore, have qualified for the Team BC 2014 Training Squad and will be working hard to be in top form next summer.

Thanks to Special Olympics Canada for hosting an excellent event, and to British Columbia Golf, the University Golf Club, and the PGA of Canada for their amazing support! ○



FULL SOBC RESULTS			
Joe Clouse	SOBC – Kamloops	3rd	Division M4
Ryan Courtemanche	SOBC – Kelowna	2nd	Division M2
Al Cummings	SOBC – Castlegar	^{1st} tied for 7th	Division M3
Kyle Grummett	SOBC – Kelowna	2nd	Division M1
Chris Harrington	SOBC – Kelowna	4th	Division M3
Chelsea Kaake	SOBC – Delta	1st	Division F2
Nellie-Joe Kurta	SOBC – Vancouver	4th	Division F2
Yves Moskaluke	SOBC – Nanaimo	7th	Division M1
Brett Tassel	SOBC – 100 Mile House	^{1st} tied for 4th	Division M1

Winter-sport action with 2014 Regional Qualifiers

WE'RE excited about this season of winter-sport **Regional Qualifiers**, where Special Olympics BC athletes from around the province will give their all competing to qualify for the **2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games** in Kamloops. There will be qualifiers hosted all over B.C., and we look forward to sharing dates and coverage of the exciting action.



At stake in the 2015 Provincial Games will be the opportunity to advance to national and international levels of competition. Top performers in Kamloops will go on to the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Participants at the national games will compete for the chance to move on to the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. ○

Jim Pattison Hyundai, Lulay and BC Lions back SOBC

A big thanks to **Jeff Rae** and **Jim Pattison Hyundai** as well as **Travis Lulay** and the **BC Lions** for providing amazing Lions game experiences for our athletes and coaches this season!

Jeff and Jim Pattison Hyundai generously donated six tickets to every Lions home game for SOBC athletes and volunteers, and the groups have had an amazing time cheering on Travis and the Lions in person.

Jim Pattison Hyundai also teamed up with Travis again this season by making a donation to Special Olympics for every touchdown scored by Travis and the Lions, totalling \$3,200. Thanks to Jeff Rae, Jim Pattison Hyundai, Travis Lulay, and the BC Lions for their ongoing support of Special Olympics athletes! ○



Athlete Leadership Program University comes to Vancouver

AN exciting opportunity for athletes seeking to develop their leadership and communication abilities is coming to B.C., as Special Olympics BC will host an **Athlete Leadership Program (ALPs) University** at UBC in Vancouver on January 24 and 25, 2014. Athletes from all over Western Canada will be in attendance.

The goal of the ALPs University is to provide leadership training for Special Olympics athletes who want to serve in meaningful leadership roles other than, or in addition to, that of “competitor.” Education will consist of both classroom training and experiential opportunities for athletes in areas such as governance, communication, and sport management.

The ALPs University is dedicated to helping athletes become a fully integrated and meaningful part of the organization at each level—local, provincial/territorial, national, and international. We are extremely excited for this opportunity and look forward to welcoming both B.C. athletes and those from neighboring provinces/territories. ○

SOBC staff update

THE SOBC provincial office is pleased to announce new members of our team.

Joanna Verweel joined us in February as Manager of Health and Sport Science. She previously worked with Special Olympics Ontario and Special Olympics Barbados, and she’s an avid skier, cyclist and hiker.

Eliot James is excited to be our new Communications Coordinator. She has worked as a writer for Douglas College and Out On Screen, and enjoys biking to work and playing soccer.

We welcome **Mackenzie Drescher** as she fills in as Fundraising Coordinator for **Jasmine Allen**, who is on maternity leave. Mackenzie recently graduated from Education and Kinesiology at SFU, and has coached SOBC athletes in soccer.

We’d like to congratulate Jasmine on the birth of her beautiful baby girl. And we’ll soon miss **Courtenay Wood**, Manager of Fund Development, when she goes on maternity leave for the duration of 2014. ○

Basketball is big in B.C.

FROM the fast and furious on-court action at the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games, to the wildly popular launch of the SOBC – Prince Rupert basketball program in January, it’s safe to say basketball is booming for SOBC.

At the 2009 SOBC Summer Games in Abbotsford, the first Provincial Games to include basketball, bocce, and golf, there were four talented basketball teams taking part. The great growth to nine teams hitting the court in Langley is indicative of the amazing increase in interest in basketball observed all over the province over the last four years. Last year’s Regional Qualifiers showed that, with events such as the March Madness Basketball Regional Qualifier hosted by SOBC – North Shore involving 21 teams with more than 200 athletes.

Around the province, new basketball programs are opening up and interest is booming. One of the great examples from last season was the thriving SOBC – Prince Rupert basketball program, which attracted both keen player enthusiasm and strong support from the community.

“Everyone in town seems to know about it...The awareness is quite big,” coach Erin Stevenson said.

This year marked the first time SOBC – Prince Rupert offered basketball, but it’s a sport that’s been a big deal in their community for a long time. The SOBC athletes have watched their friends, brothers, sisters, and cousins play over the years, and now it’s their turn.

“They’re so enthusiastic, even from day one. They’re so happy to be there and play,” Erin said.

As programs grow and thrive, SOBC basketball players have new opportunities



Bair Shier

coming to them thanks to amazing support from **Basketball BC**. The provincial sport organization has generously offered support for SOBC programs and competitions, including the 2013 SOBC Summer Games, and they have welcomed SOBC teams to participate in events such as the Steve Nash Youth Basketball Challenge.

Another exciting new opportunity is coming to SOBC basketball players with the 2014 BC Winter Games in Mission. The 2014 BC Games from February 20 to 23 will see basketball for SOBC athletes included for the first time. The event will feature athletes ages 14 to 35 who will go for gold representing their home zones, and will qualify through their performances in previous competitions.

The biggest source of basketball excitement will be the sport’s debut at the Special Olympics National Games level at the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver. Can’t wait to see our athletes take to the courts at UBC alongside the ball players from across the nation! ○



Erin Stevenson

SOBC – Prince Rupert and Terrace teams at one of their fun mini-tournaments.

Healthy Athletes screenings have huge impact

AMID the action at the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games, the **Healthy Athletes** zone buzzed with free health information and screenings for nearly 300 athletes from around the province.

Dr. Brad McDougall, B.C. Clinical Director of Opening Eyes, was on hand to volunteer his time and wisdom at the Special Olympics event.

"One of the things that's rewarding about a program like this is seeing people who are really underserved in terms of care," Dr. McDougall said. "It's pretty common in a day of seeing one or two hundred athletes to find about 20 per cent of them will be really seriously impacted by receiving new glasses."

The Healthy Athletes screenings at the Provincial Games illuminated outstanding issues affecting athletes, including diseases of the gum in 69 per cent of the participating athletes, gait abnormalities in 65 per cent, eye disease in 39 per cent, and blocked or partially blocked ear canals in 38 per cent. International Special Olympics research has found that people with intellectual disabilities have a 40 per cent higher risk for health problems.

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program addresses the unique issues that many people with intellectual disabilities have with health care. They may have trouble realizing or expressing their health concerns. As well, many health professionals haven't received specific



training, or aren't familiar enough with this population, to know what to ask.

In past years, SOBC athletes have been able to access Healthy Athletes screenings at Provincial and National Games. In recent years SOBC has started also holding standalone screening events to open the opportunities to a wider range of athletes.

The third standalone Healthy Athletes Screening Day in Vancouver was hosted in February 2013, welcoming more than 150 athletes for free screenings in five disciplines and tons of free giveaways. In October, the



first Healthy Athletes event in Cranbrook was a big hit hosted in conjunction with the Pat Mark Memorial Bowling Tournament, and the screening day in Victoria in November attracted more than 60 athletes.

In 2014, Healthy Athletes events are set to be held in Vancouver on February 15, in Kelowna on April 12, in northern B.C. on a date to be announced, and at the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in July.

To find out more about SOBC's Healthy Athletes program, visit: specialolympics.bc.ca/healthy-athletes. ○

Athlete wins big with Quit Now

SPECIAL Olympics BC – Campbell River athlete David Marsters changed up his game by quitting smoking with the **Quit Now** program. Now he excels at the multiple sports that he plays, and won a bronze medal with his basketball team at the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games (pictured).

His advice for people who are thinking about quitting? "Just tell them to go to the doctors," he says. "It will change will your life. You can run faster and you will save a lot of money."

If you decide it's time to butt out, we can connect you to the Quit Now program, an initiative of the Province of B.C. supported by SOBC for the members of our community. You'll have access to free smoking-cessation aids. We can also connect you to more resources, and we'll be here to cheer you on!

Please contact Joanna Verweel for more Quit Now information and assistance: 604-737-3081 or jverweel@specialolympics.bc.ca.



Find out more about SOBC's Quit Now support at specialolympics.bc.ca/quit-now

Further support is available by registering with quitnow.ca. QuitNow Services currently offers a confidential helpline (1-877-455-2233) with information in 130 languages, and an online quit community with 24/7 support from professionals and peers. ○

New opportunities with Snow Sports Festival

SPECIAL Olympics BC staged the first-ever SOBC **Snow Sports Festival** in West Kelowna in March 2013, offering amazing winter fun and competition. The event brought together Special Olympics athletes from across B.C. to race in alpine skiing events at Crystal Mountain Resort and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Telemark Nordic Club. The festival drew roughly 145 enthusiastic SOBC athletes.

Mark your 2014 calendars for the festival's return on February 7 to 9 in West Kelowna! Next year, the Snow Sports Festival will also serve as the Regional Qualifier for all alpine skiing and cross-country skiing athletes, and for snowshoeing as well (for everyone other than Vancouver Island athletes). The event will be critical for athletes seeking to qualify for the 2015 SOBC Winter Games in Kamloops. ○

EKS Day spirit shared in Nanaimo, Vernon, North Vancouver

WITH three B.C. communities joining in the worldwide festivities, there was plenty of fun and activity around the fourth annual **Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day** on September 28.

Special Olympics BC athletes, volunteers, and staff came together in three communities to celebrate Mrs. Shriver's legacy and the Special Olympics spirit of inclusion, inspiration, respect, and empowerment. The events were also intended to raise awareness about Special Olympics and welcome new people to give our great community and sports a try.

EKS Day in Nanaimo included fun with floor hockey, FUNdamentals, and soccer at Woodlands Secondary School. Players from the Nanaimo Clippers Junior Hockey Club

were a big hit with SOBC – Nanaimo athletes when they joined in the floor hockey action. The game ended with an epic shootout—all agreed the goalies won.

SOBC – Vernon coaches and volunteers set up shop in Polson Park, raising awareness along with the event profile in the Vernon Morning Star. With athletics, bocce, Club Fit, soccer, and FUNdamentals coaches

involved, there were lots of new opportunities for SOBC – Vernon athletes, two of whom decided to give Club Fit a try this season.

SOBC – North Shore athletes and coaches graciously supported the North Vancouver festivities and made the basketball, floor hockey, rhythmic gymnastics, and youth program stations so much fun.

After a performance

demonstration by the talented rhythmic gymnasts, SOBC – North Shore basketball coach Zak Klein took a turn with the ribbon, improving under coach Celia Grant's tutelage and then handing off to graceful expert athlete Danielle Juilfs to complete the routine!

Sincere thanks to all the SOBC athletes, coaches, and volunteers as well as community members who made this EKS Day such a great part of the day's global celebrations. ○



Aaron Hinks, Nanaimo Daily News

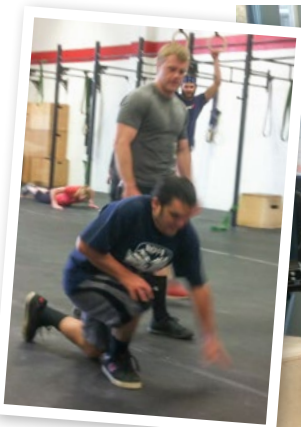


Britta Grezmadner

Extreme fundraising with CrossFit

ON October 26, **CrossFit** gyms across the country participated in the third annual **CF24** event in support of Special Olympics in Canada. This extreme fundraiser sees teams of three performing a 10-minute high-intensity workout every hour on the hour for 24 consecutive hours. Nine CrossFit gyms, including CrossFit Burnaby and CrossFit 187 in Fort St. John, raised an astounding \$100,000 for Special Olympics in Canada—absolutely smashing their \$50,000 goal!

SOBC athletes were on hand to speak about Special Olympics, cheer on the participants, and even challenged themselves to take part in the third workout of the day. "It was so great to have the athletes come out," said one Fort St. John participant. "We were all talking about Russell through the night and how hard he pushed himself on those lunges!" ○



Debbie Roblin



The CF24 crew at CrossFit Burnaby with SOBC – Burnaby athletes April and Mary Armstrong.

More Performance Project opportunities for athletes and coaches

INSPIRED by the success of Canada's Own the Podium program, and building toward the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, Special Olympics BC is bringing to fruition a 10-year plan—the **Performance Project**—designed to give athletes and coaches a richer experience in a high-performance sport environment.

The project has already shown impressive results. Between their times in 2011 and measurements at the first Performance Project aquatics camp in December 2012, the participating athletes showed improvements of 2.9 per cent. During the eight months leading up to the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games, they worked in the Performance Project camps and used the new techniques. In the Provincial Games, their times were 5.7 per cent faster, nearly doubling their performance gains.

Other SOBC athletes who work with coaches who are taking part in the Performance Project reaped benefits too, even though they didn't attend the specific camps. They were 4.1 per cent faster at the Provincial Games than their performances at Regional Qualifiers. This is exactly how the project is intended to work—giving ripple effects through the whole province.

Working with world-class sport experts Cathy Priestner Allinger and the Allinger Consulting International team, SOBC has created several successful programs that provide sport science and medicine expertise to athletes and coaches in a way never before thought possible for Special Olympics in Canada. Cathy is the Chair of the Special

Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games, and with her husband Todd Allinger authored the Own the Podium strategy that powered the Canadian Olympic team to achieve a world-leading number of gold medals at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games on home soil.

Cathy, Todd, and their Allinger Consulting team are currently working with the Russian Olympic team to build toward the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, and at the same time they are also generously giving their time to the Performance Project and Team BC 2014. They are working with SOBC athletes and coaches in exactly the same ways they do with their elite generic athletes.

"We're not doing anything different than what we do with the Russian Olympic team or the Canadian Olympic team," Cathy told the Team BC 2014 coaches.

She has seen the SOBC Performance Project athletes and coaches embracing this "really new way of thinking," and the results to date show how much SOBC athletes can thrive with these ideas and techniques.

The aquatics development camp, held last year at UBC, was the debut initiative of the project. SOBC swimmers and coaches were invited to train with experts on skill development, sport video technology, nutrition, and fitness and stretching techniques. This year, SOBC also launched Performance Project camps for speed skating and athletics, and held high-performance training sessions at the inaugural Snow Sports Festival in West Kelowna.

Over a dozen SOBC coaches and 20 athletes from around the province came together at



Julia Dorofeeva of Allinger Consulting International



Julia Dorofeeva of Allinger Consulting International

UBC for the first Performance Project athletics camp in May. They had the opportunity to learn from world-class experts with the Allinger team, UBC coaches, and SFU training staff.

"It was phenomenal," said SOBC—Burnaby coach Shirley Sywak. "It was so exciting to see our Special Olympics athletes getting focused on really being the best they can be. [For the coaches], this gives us a whole new dimension to unleash our capability and spill that over to the athletes."

The camp included targeted work on sprint and start techniques, introductions to valuable technology such as video analysis, dryland training work, and functional testing to establish baselines against which to measure future growth.

Performance Project experts are also giving their time to help Team BC 2014, so that the programs' methods can help athletes perform to their full potential at the 2014 SOC Summer Games.

RBC Foundation has donated \$25,000 to the performance initiative, providing great support for future opportunities and growth. ○

motionball hosts summer of celebration for Special Olympics



THE summer of 2013 was one to remember with three engaging, entertaining *motionball* events taking place in B.C.

Kicking things off in June, the **Vancouver Marathon of Sport** organizers once again teamed up with EA Sports for an inspiring day of fun and inclusive sport at the amazing EA complex in Burnaby. The event exceeded its

fundraising goal for Special Olympics BC and the Special Olympics Canada Foundation, with 20 teams raising more than \$51,000.

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.

"You're actually seeing where the money you're raising is going and it's having an incredibly positive impact," said Jay, of team Punks. "The other incredible thing I see about Special Olympics is it instills really great values in the athletes—like teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-confidence."

The **Kelowna Marathon**



of Sport was also a huge hit in its second year, with 16 teams coming together for a fantastic day of sport and fun with Special Olympics BC athletes and raising more than \$40,000.

Closing out the summer's events on a high note, the *motionball* Vancouver Gala team put a fresh and nautical spin on the annual gala by transforming it into Vancouver's swankiest daytime fundraiser, the **Port & Starboard Brunch**. Hosted by a special celebrity guest, TSN's Cabral "Cabbie" Richards, the upscale Hampton's-style Sunday brunch drew young professionals to the Yaletown Keg to enjoy a memorable afternoon.

SOBC athletes had a blast mingling with guests and offering their selling savvy to the event's highly sought-after balloon raffle. It was an incredible afternoon of upscale fun, raising substantial funds for the Special Olympics Canada Foundation and SOBC.

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 mind-set. ○



Knights of Columbus run sweet campaign for Special Olympics



MEMBERS of the **Knights of Columbus** do a great deal to assist people with intellectual disabilities, and one of their major initiatives in B.C. in 2013-14 is the **Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities** in support of Special Olympics BC.

Throughout this campaign, the Knights are distributing specially marked Tootsie Rolls in exchange for donations to support SOBC programs and help improve the quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities.

The Knights of Columbus provide financial and volunteer support to SOBC to make a direct impact on the quality of life of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and a meaningful contribution within our communities. Members know that SOBC athletes are a constant source of inspiration and joy for everyone who interacts with them, and they are committed to helping individuals with intellectual disabilities to develop and

succeed in sport and in life.

The Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Disabilities has been in existence since 1970, with many states and provinces participating, both in the U.S. and in Canada. In 2013-14, the Tootsie Roll fundraising campaign is being established as a B.C./Yukon-wide initiative, providing valuable support to SOBC programs around the province.

The Knights' commitment to Special Olympics and to hundreds of grassroots programs for people with intellectual disabilities is an expression of their belief in the intrinsic worth of every human being, and we are grateful for their support. ○

2013 Special Olympics BC award winners

Athletic Achievement Award

IN her 22 years as a Special Olympics athlete, **Erin Thom** of **SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook** has marked many fine accomplishments, and 2012-13 was truly a banner season.

In addition to racing to two Special Olympics World Winter Games silver medals and a fourth-place finish in the alpine skiing events in the Republic of Korea, Erin was also selected to be part of the B.C. team in the inaugural National Golf Tournament in Ontario, where she captured bronze. She also helped her team to a bronze on the ball diamonds of the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games. And Erin did it all with her customary cheer, dignity, and commitment.

Erin has raced and medaled in alpine skiing in four Special Olympics World Winter Games and National Winter Games. She captured her first World Games gold in 1997, one of her most memorable Special Olympics experiences.

This outstanding athlete has also participated in soccer, skiing, 5-pin bowling, softball, swimming, golf, and Club Fit, and is a dedicated SOBC volunteer. In 2010 she was selected as Cranbrook's representative to run the final leg of the Olympic Torch Relay into the city's Western Financial Place RecPlex to light the cauldron.

Congratulations to Erin and nominees J.L. Hollywood (SOBC – Campbell River), and Shelly Poland (SOBC – Golden).



Erin Thom



Ruth Towers

Grassroots Coach Award

THE deserving winner of the Special Olympics BC Grassroots Coach Award, **Ruth Towers**, has been a respected, dedicated, thoughtful, and giving coach of Special Olympics athletes for 25 years.

Ruth started **SOBC – Delta's** golf program and continues to lead this popular program as the dedicated Head Coach. She also put in extra time to help a couple of local athletes who were gearing up to compete in the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games in Langley.

Ruth has also served as Head Coach of softball and floor hockey for **SOBC – Richmond**, and coached teams to Provincial and National Games as well as numerous local and regional competitions.

SOBC – Delta's Executive Committee heartily endorsed her nomination, saying she wholly exemplifies the award's criteria as a coach who has worked tirelessly to give opportunities to athletes, who emphasizes fair play and sportsmanship, who ensures all athletes feel included and valued, who recognizes the gifts of each athlete and forges bonds with those who require unique approaches from their coaches.

Congratulations to Ruth and nominees Marilyn Adams (SOBC – Sunshine Coast), Edith Cobb (SOBC – Kamloops), Jeannie Cramer (SOBC – Smithers), Willem and Gee deRuyter (SOBC – Invermere), Roland Handley (SOBC – Castlegar), Ned Johnson (SOBC – Golden), Kelly Megyesi (SOBC – Vernon), Shelagh Schmidt (SOBC – Creston), and Wilma Van Hage (SOBC – Prince George).

Howard Carter Award

SHEILA Snell has an ability to develop potential in athletes and fellow volunteers alike with a friendly and knowledgeable manner that has made her invaluable to Special Olympics throughout the 10 years she has been involved.

As the **SOBC – Surrey** rhythmic gymnastics Head Coach, Sheila has helped her athletes develop skills and confidence with her caring approach. Sheila extended the SOBC – Surrey rhythmic gymnastics program to allow more focus on athlete development, motivating athletes to reach new heights. As Provincial Coach, she has helped build the sport around the province, participating in many regional events and Provincial and National Games.

Sheila has also given generously of her time to play critical parts with the SOBC – Surrey Executive Committee, holding many positions including Local Coordinator and Program Volunteer as well as her current role as Registration Coordinator.

Congratulations to Sheila and nominees Dona Cade, (SOBC – Penticton), and Calvin Dyck, (SOBC – Prince George).



Sheila Snell

President's Award

OVER her 17 years of outstanding volunteer efforts with **SOBC – Surrey**, **Karen Theriault** has enriched her Local and the lives of athletes and fellow volunteers. Currently serving as the SOBC – Surrey Local Coordinator for her second time, Karen has helped lead the Local in numerous other Executive Committee positions, as well as chairing the valuable annual SOBC – Surrey soccer tournament and assisting with scores of subcommittees and special projects.

A well-respected, hardworking leader, Karen has strengthened SOBC – Surrey through

Karen Theriault



partnerships she has built in the community, such as the valued relationship developed with the North Surrey Figure Skating Club.

Karen has encouraged and led initiatives such as a targeted growth plan involving multicultural communities and the introduction of new programs in areas currently lacking easy access to Special Olympics. Karen has also generously given of her time as a supporter and Team Manager for many provincial, national, and international competitions.

Congratulations to Karen and nominees

Mona Hazell (SOBC – Penticton), Bev Inglis (SOBC – Elk Valley), Julie McIntyre (SOBC – Kelowna), Terri McLeod (SOBC – Nakusp), Larissa Stanton (SOBC – Trail), Greg Veale (SOBC – Kamloops), Bill and Joan Woikin (SOBC – Nelson), and Chuck Yee (SOBC – Richmond).

Spirit of Sport Award

DANNY Tress of SOBC – Burns Lake, a Special Olympics athlete and true sportsman, is the recipient of this year’s Spirit of Sport Award.

Along with being an inspiring athlete, Danny is a valuable member of the local executive. As Athlete Representative, he is known for contributing creative suggestions and solutions to SOBC. He is also known for his respectful and caring nature.

Danny demonstrated selflessness when Burns Lake hosted its first Law Enforcement Torch Run event. He took time out from the run to help fellow athletes who were struggling in the heat. And when Burns Lake re-launched programs over the past year, Danny offered his services in any way possible.

Danny has participated in all the sports that Special Olympics has offered in his small community over the past 13 years and shows no sign of slowing down. He enjoys curling, snowshoeing, 5-pin bowling, and track and field.

Congratulations to Danny and nominees

Danny Tress



Adam Advocaat (SOBC – Coquitlam), Alexander Bolt (SOBC – Golden), Fred Crerar (SOBC – Castlegar), Barbie Conway (SOBC – Prince George), Janet Gowanlock (SOBC – Elk Valley), Chris Harrington (SOBC – Kelowna), Robbie Jongewaard (SOBC – Prince Rupert), Marilee Manning (SOBC – Kamloops), Tim McTeer (SOBC – Trail), Kayleigh Postmus (SOBC – Trail), and Jonathan Robins (SOBC – Kimberley/ Cranbrook).

Revealing champions with Wolseley and SOBC



SPECIAL Olympics is fortunate to have enthusiastic support from our friends at **Wolseley**, both here in B.C. and across the country. In Vancouver this summer, they hosted a fundraising barbecue in support of Special Olympics BC. The event included tradeshow vendors who had the opportunity to meet SOBC athletes, as well as Regional Operations Manager



Stan De Jonge and his wife Louise, who drove from Kelowna for the day to be able to take part—they are pictured here along with SOBC – Vancouver athletes Sarah Brown and Nellie-Joe Kurta. Sarah and Nellie-Joe joined in the fun with the medals they earned at the 2013

Special Olympics BC Summer Games!
Thank you to Wolseley for their ongoing support of Special Olympics, and to everyone who helped the barbecue raise approximately \$4,000! ○

Awareness raised at World Outlook Financial Conference

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

The conference is also a supporter of Special Olympics BC. This year’s WOFC was held in Vancouver on February 1 and 2, and SOBC was grateful to have a presence at the conference, accepting generous donations from participants and raising awareness.

We are grateful to conference founder Michael Campbell for this amazing opportunity.

The 2014 WOFC will be held on January 31 and February 1 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel. For the first time this year, the conference will include a fascinating assortment of industry panels and heated debates. ○



Team Canada 2013 athletes from B.C. shine

SPECIAL Olympics Team Canada and its 13 athletes and eight coaches and mission staff from B.C. had the experience of a lifetime at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games in the Republic of Korea this past January and February. Team Canada set a new record by capturing 109 medals, exceeding the 2009 total of 101. B.C. athletes contributed their fair share with gutsy, passionate, and determined performances.

Coupled with the years of training and efforts leading up to the World Games, the achievements attained, friendships forged, and new sights seen added up to a life-altering experience.



"I can't believe it; I'm a world champion!" SOBC – Surrey alpine skier Kristina Ettema exclaimed to the cheering friends, family members, and fans who greeted the SOBC athletes and coaches as they returned to Vancouver airport.

Among the other World Games highlights, B.C. figure skater Marc Theriault and a handful of other Special Olympics skaters had the honour of taking the ice with figure skating icons Yuna Kim and Michelle Kwan during a fun "flash mob" performance in the Closing Ceremony. And basketball superstar Yao Ming joined the demonstration snowshoeing race between athletes and All-Star Fans, including Canada's Catriona Le May Doan, while wearing SOBC – Campbell River snowshoes! He autographed them after the race.

Thank you to all Special Olympics Team Canada athletes for representing our country with such pride, sportsmanship, and excellence! ○



B.C. ATHLETE RESULTS

ALPINE SKIING

Teenesha Coulson SOBC – Penticton
Gold, Advanced Super G
5th, Advanced Giant Slalom

Kristina Ettema SOBC – Surrey
Gold, Intermediate Giant Slalom
Silver, Intermediate Slalom
Silver, Intermediate Super G

Avery Newman SOBC – Whistler Valley
Bronze, Advanced Slalom
7th, Advanced Giant Slalom
7th, Advanced Super G

Jonathan Robins SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook
Bronze, Advanced Super G
6th, Advanced Giant Slalom

Erin Thom SOBC – Kimberley/Cranbrook
Silver, Advanced Giant Slalom
Silver, Advanced Super G
4th, Advanced Slalom

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Kevin Ellis SOBC – Penticton
Gold, 500M Freestyle
5th, 2.5KM Classic

Shelly Poland SOBC – Golden
Gold, 1KM Freestyle
6th, 500M Freestyle

FIGURE SKATING

Darlene Jakobowski SOBC – Dawson Creek
Gold, Singles Level 6
Silver, Ice Dancing Level 4

Alex Pang SOBC – Vancouver
Silver, Singles Level 3

Marc Theriault SOBC – Surrey
Gold, Singles Level 6

SNOWSHOEING - MEN'S AND WOMEN'S 4X400M RELAY

Sheryl Jakobowski SOBC – Fort St. John
Gold 4x400M Relay, Canada Ladies
Bronze, 1600M
Bronze, 800M

Hazen Meade SOBC – Campbell River
Silver, 1600M
Bronze, 4x400M Relay, Canada Men
5th, 800M

SPEED SKATING

Sean Casey SOBC – Coquitlam
Gold, 111M
5th, 333M



SOBC skaters lace up for Washington Winter Games

THIS February, for the first time ever, SOBC figure skating and speed skating athletes and coaches headed south to compete in the **Special Olympics Washington Winter Games**.

The event offered a valuable additional Special Olympics competitive opportunity for a strong group that included athletes and coaches from Coquitlam, Langley, Nanaimo, Richmond, Vancouver, and Victoria.

"I was floored by it," said figure skater Pauline Shaw of SOBC – Victoria before the event. "We've never gone to something like that before. We've always gone within B.C. unless it's been National Games. I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

Bobby Debrone, SOBC Manager of Community Development who supported the team that headed to Washington, said the SOBC athletes and coaches were great ambassadors—from the moment they proudly walked into the Opening Ceremony, to their dedicated preparations to compete and their strong on-ice performances. The figure skaters competed in Levels 2 and 3, and the speed skaters raced in the 333m, 500m, 777m, and 1000m events. ○



Enthusiastic runners and walkers raised funds for Special Olympics BC again this year through the Scotiabank Vancouver Half-Marathon & 5K in June. Taryn (right) ran the half-marathon and decided to generously fundraise for SOBC, and a terrific SOBC – North Shore crew (left) including Julia, AJ, Sandy, and athlete Lauren took part in the five-kilometre run/walk. Anyone who is planning to run or walk in this event in 2014 and would like to support their local SOBC program can contact Mackenzie Drescher by phone at 604-737-3059 or e-mail at mdrescher@specialolympics.bc.ca to find out how you can register for free!

Youth champions of Special Olympics

PASSION. Acceptance. Achievement.

Those are just some of the qualities that the 12 inspiring participants in Special Olympics BC's **Youth Activation Summit** see and value in the world of Special Olympics.

For two days in April, these enthusiastic young supporters of Special Olympics came together from around the province to share their ideas in Richmond. The vision for the summit was to create a network of supported youth leaders who will share the spirit of Special Olympics in their own communities, ready to take on new projects with help from SOBC.

The participants, who ranged in age from 14 to 21, took part in sessions on leadership, creative storytelling, presentation skills, and how to support the upcoming 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games.

The summit also provided an opportunity for SOBC to hear what these intelligent and inspiring young people had to say.

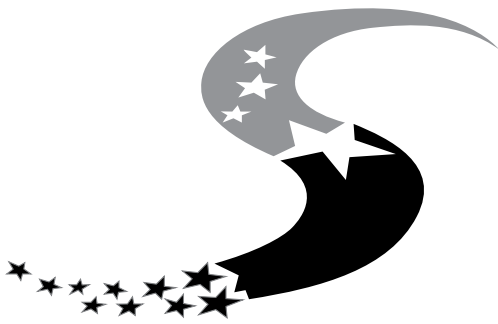
"They came up with some really cool ideas about what they can do in their communities to help raise awareness and tell the story of Special Olympics to others," said Bobby Debrone, SOBC's Manager of Community Development (Vancouver Island) and leader of the summit.

The youth leaders worked together with an inspiring vision—as



one participant said, it was an opportunity for "using innovative youth to spread awareness and empower volunteers." Another commented that the summit helped the participants develop skills as leaders and advocates while learning about the support and resources available from SOBC.

We are very grateful to the youth leaders who took time to participate in the summit and share their support of Special Olympics, and we look forward to seeing what they do next as SOBC's Youth Activation Council! Find them on Facebook at [SpecialOlympicsBCYAC](https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsBCYAC). ○



SPORTS CELEBRITIES FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

SILVER WHEATON™

Sports Celebrities Festival full of inspiring moments

AMID an inspiring evening of support for Special Olympics BC and the Canucks for Kids Fund at the **Sports Celebrities Festival** presented by **Silver Wheaton**, the moving words of Special Olympics BC – Campbell River athlete Bryan Jorgensen and Vancouver Canucks forward Chris Higgins were a highlight that brought the whole crowd of 650 guests to their feet.

Chris shared his own family’s experience with Special Olympics, watching and supporting his sister Jeanne as she has thrived as a Special

Olympics athlete in New York.

“My sister was told she wouldn’t walk, and through her own amazing efforts and the support of the amazing volunteers with Special Olympics, she has been playing soccer and swimming for 15 years now,” Chris said.

Bryan was proud to follow up “my new friend and an awesome hockey player, Chris Higgins” as he told everyone what Special Olympics has meant to him.

“I became involved with Special Olympics when I was 15 and my family moved to Campbell River from Port Alice. When we lived in Port Alice I would go to all my brother’s games and cheer him on. I loved to watch him play hockey but never thought I would ever get to do this as well,” Bryan said.

“My first night at floor hockey in Campbell River showed me that I could do just as much as anyone else out there. I came home from my first practice and told my parents, ‘I didn’t know there were other people out there just like me.’ It was so amazing for me. I am part of a group, part of a team!”

Through Special Olympics, Bryan

With all your support this evening and throughout the year, athletes like me are able to reach our dreams and show the world our strengths.

**Bryan Jorgensen
SOBC – Campbell River**



All photos by Jeff Vinnick-Vancouver Canucks



developed better communication skills, confidence, and a love of sports and healthy living. He has learned how to play floor hockey and 5-pin bowling, and now swims like a fish.

The incredible generosity demonstrated by all the sponsors, auction donors, and guests of the 2013 Sports Celebrities Festival means a great deal to support the ongoing work of the Canucks for Kids Fund and SOBC, and means a great deal to the SOBC community.

We are also so grateful for the time and support we receive from the sports celebrities who give their time to the evening, including the entire Vancouver Canucks roster and coaching staff and Canucks alumni; BC Lions Travis Lulay, Adam Bighill, Marco Iannuzzi, Ryan Phillips, Angus Reid, and Keron Williams; Vancouver Whitecaps Jay DeMerit and Jordan Harvey and Whitecaps legend Carl Valentine; Olympic and world ski cross champion Ashleigh DeMerit; and downhill mountain biking World Cup champion Stevie Smith.

The event also included outstanding emcee work by CTV's Tamara Taggart and Canucks play-caller John Shorthouse, as well as the comic talents of Brent Butt. Throughout the

night, generous guests also bid on auctions and enjoyed games and activities while CTV and TEAM Radio conducted live broadcasting from the event.

"With all your support this evening and throughout the year, athletes like me are able to reach our dreams and show the world our strengths," Bryan said. "I really want to thank everyone here tonight and the Vancouver Canucks for all their support."

The 24 other SOBC athletes who took part in the evening, all of whom are members of the Team BC 2014 Training Squad, were also paired with Vancouver Canucks players for the evening, and were thrilled by the experience of walking out on stage and dining with their hockey heroes.

"The memories will stay with me forever," one SOBC athlete wrote to his Canuck partner.

Now in its 15th year, the Sports Celebrities Festival has raised more than \$2.8 million to support the life-changing programs of the Canucks for Kids Fund and Special Olympics BC, and we're so grateful that this year was another huge success. Our sincere thanks to our sponsors, guests, and volunteers! ○

Thank you to the supporters of the 2013 Sports Celebrities Festival

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Jeff Vinnick
John Shorthouse
Metropolitan Fine Printers
SAP Canada
Tamara Taggart
Vancouver Canucks
Vancouver Canucks Alumni
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And all of the celebrities who gave so generously of their time to attend the event

Organizing and Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

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National Games return to B.C. 2014

JULY 2014 will see the largest-ever Special Olympics Canada Summer Games staged in Vancouver, marking the first time the National Games will be held in B.C. in 24 years, and an incredible opportunity for Special Olympics athletes to shine in our province.

Set to be held from July 8 to 12, 2014, the **Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games** will feature 11 sports, making the 2014 Games the largest in SOC's history. It is anticipated that more than 2,000 athletes, coaches, and officials from across the country will take part in the competitions, and more than 1,000 volunteers will be needed to help stage the significant event. Visit www.vancouver2014.com to find out more about the 2014 Games and sign on to volunteer with this exceptional experience.

Basketball, bocce, and golf are the sports set to make their National Games debut in 2014, joining 5-pin bowling, 10-pin bowling, aquatics, athletics, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, and softball. Nearly all of the events will be held in the high-quality venues at the

beautiful **University of British Columbia** campus in Vancouver. UBC is committed to being an outstanding host venue for the Games, and they have 60 staff members and many more students working on hosting an incredible experience. Find more stories here: <http://vancouver2014.ubc.ca/>

Chair Cathy Priestner Allinger, the world-class sport leader, former VANOC official, and strong supporter of Special Olympics BC, is leading an outstanding Games Organizing Committee stacked with significant Games experience. That team is hard at work with SOC to make the 2014 National Games a truly remarkable event.

A number of significant sponsors of Special Olympics BC have generously decided to back the 2014 Games as well, including the Government of B.C., Goldcorp, and Silver Wheaton. Along with the Government of Canada and the growing number of sponsors coming on board, these key supporters will help ensure the 2014 Games will be a fitting stage for Special Olympics athletes from across

the country to show all that they can do here in B.C.

As we prepare to host the country, we anticipate that families, friends, and fans from across the province will be just as excited to join us and cheer on our athletes as they go for gold! There will be plenty of interesting and thrilling events to take in throughout the week, as well as special families' zones filled with entertainment and information prepared just for the families and fans of our B.C. athletes. Please be sure to stay tuned to our website (specialolympics.bc.ca) for updates and registration information families will need to know leading up to the Games.

Check out www.soteambc2014.ca for news on Team BC as they prepare to be at their best in the remarkable experience of competing in a home-province National Games. ○



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
OLYMPIQUES SPÉCIAUX
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2014
SUMMER GAMES
JEUX D'ÉTÉ
VANCOUVER

Strong support for soccer growth

SOCCER is one of the most popular sports Special Olympics BC offers, and we are fortunate to have great athletes and coaches as well as great supporters who provide more opportunities and help us grow.

BC Soccer went out of its way this year to extend opportunities for our athletes to compete and be featured prominently in key areas. They offered the chance for SOBC soccer teams to play in Special Olympics tournaments in conjunction with the 2013 Youth Provincial Championships in North Vancouver and Prince George.

The brand-new tournaments gave our athletes a quality competition experience and allowed SOBC to create much-needed awareness through these high-profile events.

"BC Soccer is very excited to get involved with Special Olympics BC. It is wonderful to see these athletes having a great time as they perform at their highest level," BC Soccer Youth Competitions Chair Don Dancy said. "Soccer is a game that can be played by anyone no matter what their capabilities are. We look forward to working with Special Olympics BC

and hope these showcase opportunities become an annual event."

Around the tournaments, SOBC athletes and our partnership with BC Soccer were featured in two full-page articles in *The Province*, and the **Vancouver Whitecaps** invited SOBC to be the community partner featured at their huge July 6 match

against Seattle. The Whitecaps asked SOBC athletes to walk onto the pitch with the teams, and gave SOBC the chance to raise awareness at the well-attended match.

In another exciting new opportunity, soccer teams from Kelowna, Mission, Victoria, and Abbotsford hit the fields for the first-ever **Magnuson Ford Mariners F.C. Special Olympics BC Soccer Tournament** in spring 2013.

Magnuson Ford Mariners F.C. pulled out all the stops to help stage a terrific tournament that served as an early opportunity for soccer teams starting their seasons and looking for competition



experience, and an additional preparatory opportunity for the teams gearing up to play in the 2013 SOBC Summer Games in Langley.

The action in Abbotsford saw the SOBC – Kelowna squad finish on top with an undefeated record in tournament play, going 4-0 over the weekend, followed closely by the SOBC – Mission team that posted a 3-1 record to finish second. Strong efforts by the SOBC – Victoria athletes and coaches and the two teams fielded by SOBC – Abbotsford rounded out the terrific play and helped make the tournament fun and valuable for all.

The instrumental leadership and planning efforts by MFMFC Technical Director Ian Knight, and the critical organizing of all officials by Marissa Byrne, made it all possible. The MFMFC also has a partnership with SOBC – Abbotsford, offering technical support to help coach and program development. ○



Team BC to go for gold on home soil in 2014

AFTER the outstanding performances of the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games, we are thrilled to have the largest-ever edition of **Team BC**, at 364 members, gearing up for the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games to be held right here in B.C.

Meet all the members of Team BC 2014 in the list posted online: www.soteambc2014.ca

Taking part in a home-province Special Olympics Canada Games is, for most, an exceptional once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was clear from the Team BC 2014 coach and mission staff summit October 24 to 26 that Team BC is poised to make the very best of this extraordinary opportunity.

The Team BC 2014 philosophy is to create a team culture where athletes and coaches are motivated to learn, excited to improve, and committed to excellence. Along the way, they will be supported by sport experts and resources of a level unprecedented for our province and for Special Olympics programs across Canada, and perhaps even the continent.

"No other team will have access to the things we have access to," Team BC 2014 Chef de Mission Shawn Fevens told the more than 70 coaches and mission staff at the summit.

Team BC athletes are already demonstrating that they are ready to ramp up their training and work hard to be at their very best in their home-province National Games. They have taken part in functional testing that provides baseline data for them and their coaches to

understand how much they'll improve on their journey to the Games, and even that preliminary work is having an impact, as demonstrated by SOBC – South Okanagan athlete Stephen Lee.

Stephen is a 5-pin bowling athlete who will join the Summerland team for the National Games, and since taking part in the functional testing, he's been energized and making terrific strides. Stephen is now working hard at a local gym where the owner, a long-time Special Olympics supporter, is providing him with a trainer and free membership; Stephen is doing the exercises recommended by Team BC, eating healthy snacks, drinking water, and demonstrating a great attitude. He lost 10 pounds in just the first few weeks after his Team BC testing!

Team BC 2014 is fortunate to work directly with several world-class sport experts, including Cathy Priestner Allinger, Chair of the Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games, and husband Todd Allinger, co-authors of the Own the Podium strategy that powered the Canadian Olympic team to achieve a world-leading number of gold medals at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games on home soil. Cathy, Todd, and their Allinger Consulting team are currently working with the Russian Olympic

team to build toward the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, and have also been generously giving their time to the SOBC Performance Project and will help Team BC 2014 be the very best they can competing on home soil.

These experts are working with SOBC athletes and coaches in exactly the same ways they do with their elite generic athletes.

"We're not doing anything different than what we do with the Russian Olympic team or the Canadian Olympic team," Cathy told the Team BC 2014 coaches.

Ranging in age from 24 to 77, and bringing significant experience with Special Olympics and passion for supporting their athletes, the Team BC 2014 coaches themselves are an impressive group who were selected out of the most coach applications SOBC has ever received for a provincial team.

Three members of the Team BC 2014 coaching staff are getting a rare second opportunity at a home-province National Games. Athletics coach Angela Behn of SOBC – Nanaimo, 5-pin bowling coach Jaci Gaetz of SOBC – Powell River, and rhythmic gymnastics

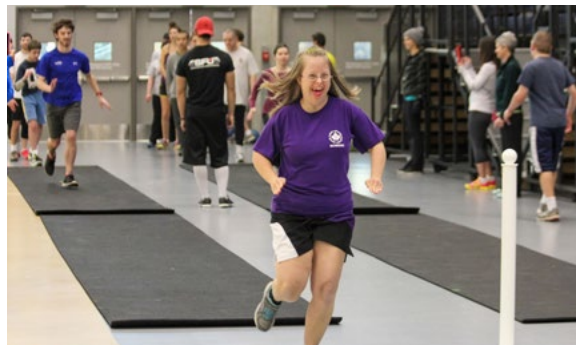


Draft an Athlete

Through Special Olympics Games, athletes with intellectual disabilities take centre stage and amaze everyone with their achievements, sportsmanship, determination, and joy. Their lives are changed by the skills, friendships, and self-confidence they develop throughout the journey and the Games experience.

Draft an Athlete donors make it possible for Team BC members to have these significant experiences by funding an athlete's travel, accommodation, meals, and competition costs.

Draft an individual athlete in any sport for \$1,000, or support an entire team! Draft a bocce or bowling team for \$5,000, or a basketball, soccer, or softball team for \$10,000. To be part of the Team BC 2014 experience as a Draft an Athlete donor, please contact SOBC's Farhad Abi at 604-737-3056/1-888-854-2276 (toll-free) or fabi@specialolympics.bc.ca.



TEAM BC 2014

coach Dee Neukomm of SOBC – Prince George were all part of Team BC 1990, sporting the uniform Dee modelled at the 2014 summit!

“It was a totally new experience for us,” Dee said, as she had just begun her Special Olympics coaching career in 1989. Walking into the 1990 Opening Ceremonies in her home-province National Games was a thrill, being surrounded by all the athletes, and getting a sense of the size of the large organization she had just become part of.

“It was so awesome, and something we hadn’t experienced before,” Dee said.

Another terrific Team BC 2014 story is the involvement of athletes for the first time who started out with SOBC in youth programs. SOBC – Langley athletes Joshua and Jaykob Low, who will compete in swimming and softball, respectively, got their start as SOBC athletes by participating in youth programs that helped build skills and confidence in a fun and supportive environment so they could move into traditional Special Olympics sport programs. Read more about the Low family and Special Olympics in the 2013 SOBC Summer Games coverage on page 1. ○

Team BC 2014 Families & Friends

AS the athletes’ training intensifies through the winter in anticipation of putting on the performance of their lives, we know that family and friends are helping them out every step of the way. And for this, we thank you!

As we prepare to host the country, we anticipate that families, friends, and fans from across the province will be just as excited to join us and cheer on our athletes as they go for gold. There will be plenty of interesting and thrilling events to take in throughout the week as well as special families’ zones filled with entertainment and information prepared just for the families and fans of our B.C. athletes. Please be sure to stay tuned to our website for updates and registration information you will need to know leading up to the National Games—families and friends packages will be available on the SOBC website early in the new year.

SOBC is thrilled to welcome you and yours to this very special event. We hope to see you there!

JYSK helps Champions Start at Home

FROM August 29 until September 30, JYSK stores across Canada showed their support of Special Olympics athletes with their **Champions Start at Home** fundraising campaign. JYSK locations across Canada collected donations at the tills and online, and we’re grateful to JYSK stores and customers for their great support as the campaign was a significant success once again.

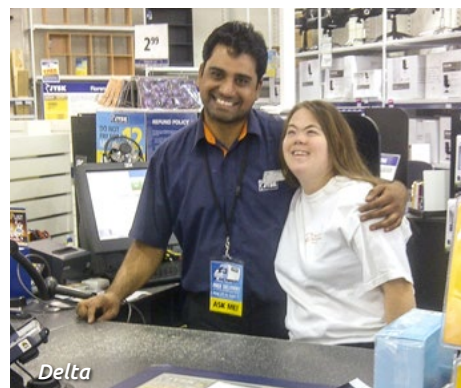
JYSK stores raised more than \$65,000 in support of Special Olympics athletes and programs across the country, marking a nearly 28 per cent increase from funds raised in 2012, and JYSK made a generous pledge to bring the total to \$100,000 for Special Olympics Canada.

The Prince George JYSK store, which has a wonderful relationship with SOBC – Prince George athletes and volunteers, was the top store in Canada, raising just over \$4,900. Congratulations to Mavis Fujino and her team and to SOBC – Prince George!

Sincere thanks to the Special Olympics BC athletes and volunteers who visited the nine B.C. JYSK stores in Coquitlam, Delta, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Pitt Meadows, Prince George, Richmond, and Surrey to support the campaign. The presence of the members of the SOBC community was appreciated by many JYSK employees and played a significant part in raising funds and awareness for our movement.

SOBC – Surrey athlete Michaela Robinson enjoyed volunteering in the JYSK Surrey store, her mother Paddi said.

“The staff were very warm and welcoming



Vicki Stratton

and genuinely seemed to enjoy and appreciate the presence of a Special Olympics athlete. They seemed to make her feel a real part of the staff, which made going in each day special,” Paddi said.

Store General Manager Chris Galipeau said they are inspired and energized thanks to their interactions with SOBC athletes, including Michaela and the athletes at the 2013 Provincial Games. In addition to JYSK’s campaign support, SOBC was also fortunate that JYSK stepped up to serve as a sponsor of the new Fan Zone at the 2013 SOBC Summer Games. JYSK provided quality outdoor furniture for the Fan Zone to offer a comfortable lounge for families, friends, and fans to enjoy while they took in the Games experience, and for the competitors to relax on during evening festivities in the Athlete Village.

“We’ve been inspired. Watching the Games this summer and spending time with Michaela—how can you NOT be inspired!” said Chris, who attended the Provincial Games as a spectator. “Seeing how excited Michaela was (about SO) was amazing. ... [And the] Games were so inspiring. To see the faces of the athletes as they crossed the finish line was just amazing.”

Thank you JYSK for all your support of Special Olympics athletes! ○

SOBC flies high with Pacific Coastal Airlines

FOR staff, volunteers, and athletes of Special Olympics BC, the cost of flying to an event or function could be prohibitive. Fortunately for us, we have the generous support of **Pacific Coastal Airlines**.

Throughout the year, Pacific Coastal Airlines provides air travel for our athletes and coaches to attend events all over the province, including the 2013 SOBC Summer Games in Langley. Thanks to Pacific Coastal, the 85 athletes from the Kootenays who were participating arrived

refreshed and ready to compete.

Quentin Smith, President and CEO of Pacific Coastal Airlines, has supported SOBC for many years. He has attended our fundraising events in person and provided significant support by donating highly valued travel packages as auction items.

SOBC is honoured, proud, and grateful to be supported by Quentin and Pacific Coastal Airlines.

Pacific Coastal Airlines has operated for over 30 years and flies to 15 communities in B.C. Make sure to check out their schedule if you're flying to a community they service. ○

Pacific Coastal
AIRLINES



Courtesy of Ben Postmus

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 B.C.'s Special Olympics athletes.

- 669142 BC Ltd.
- Andrew Mahon Foundation
- Grace Battiston
- Michael Campbell
- RBC Foundation
- Ted Hirst
- Van Tel/Safeway Credit Union Legacy Fund
- Weldon Financial

In-kind gifts

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

- **Garry Robertson Music for donating their sound equipment for various fundraising events; and**
- **Park'N Fly for helping us with airport parking needs.**
- **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.

SOBC Leadership Council update

SPECIAL Olympics BC's Leadership Council provides vital guidance for our organization and movement. We salute the significant contributions of outgoing members and welcome two new ones.

At October's Leadership Council meeting **Sharla Mauger** and **Karen Straith** stepped down after generously giving years of outstanding guidance and support in the roles of Region 3 and Region 5 Coordinator, respectively. Karen and Sharla have been kind and diligent champions of our athletes and programs, and we thank them for their many contributions.

With sorrow, affection, and gratitude, we also bid farewell to **Gordon May**, founding Executive Director of Coaches BC and recent member of the SOBC Leadership Council, who passed away on September 30. Gord made many valuable contributions to the Canadian sport system throughout his life, and to Special Olympics throughout his tenure on the Leadership Council.

We are very pleased to welcome **Darren Inouye** as the new Region 5 Coordinator. Darren brings a history of dedication and outstanding coaching to the position; he was a valued floor hockey and snowshoeing coach for SOBC – Vancouver for 10 years. He served as Head Coach for floor hockey teams competing in the 2003 and 2007 SOBC Winter Games and the 2011 SOBC Floor Hockey Championship, and was a mission staff member for the Region 5 team at the 2011 SOBC Snow Sports Championships and the 2013 SOBC Summer Games. In his spare time, he's an accomplished marathon cyclist.

We are also delighted to welcome **Deanna Eckstein** to the Leadership Council, bringing elite sport expertise and event planning from her background with Allinger Consulting International Inc. As Project Manager for Allinger, Deanna is working on helping high-performance athletes at the next Olympic Games. She also lends her expertise to the Special Olympics Canada 2014 Summer Games Organizing Committee and SOBC's high-performance sport initiative, the Performance Project. Deanna was Manager of the Main Operations Centre with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games (VANOC), and has worked for a number of non-profits.

SOBC's Leadership Council participates in the planning and development of sport, competition, and programming for the organization. Comprised of the Regional Coordinators representing the eight SOBC Regions, the council serves as the link between community and regional programs and the Board of Directors of Special Olympics BC. ○

SOBC youth programs expanding

ON a sunny Saturday in April, the playing fields at the EA Sports complex in Burnaby were filled with smiling faces and bustling activity. The occasion was the **Special Olympics BC Youth Sports Day**, where SOBC and EA teamed up to host a day of play for children with intellectual disabilities and their families.

This is one example of youth programming SOBC has launched around the province as part of its Long Term Athlete Development plan for young people with intellectual disabilities.

SOBC's Active Start program teaches vital motor and social skills to children ages two to six through fun activities. This is followed by FUNdamentals for kids ages seven to 11, and then Sport Start for youth ages 12 to 18—both of which help young people develop sport skills so they can transition into full-fledged Special Olympics sport programming.

As part of SOBC's initiative to increase

youth programming, teens in Kelowna can now participate in Sport Start with their peers after school. Thanks to a strong partnership with the local school board, young people can get involved in curling and basketball, and learn about nutrition and a host of other sport skills.

In Dawson Creek, athletes and parents head out to the local bowling alley, even in -40 weather, for Sport Start. One young athlete who couldn't throw a ball when he started was bowling from between his legs in a few weeks.

"It's awesome—he was very excited," says program Head Coach Trina Commandeur.

SOBC is also partnering with the Surrey School District with the aim of introducing a new FUNdamentals program to Surrey, which has lacked such programs in the past. We hope to get this started in the new year, and plan to run the program through March (and hopefully continue it for many years to come).

 **GOLDCORP**





Thanks to the leadership of a group of Grade 12 students, Special Olympics BC – Nelson now has one such program. The students helped launch Active Start after hearing a presentation by local SOBC staff about the need for youth opportunities.

"I think it's a great program, giving really good support for people with intellectual disabilities," says L.V. Rogers student Tessa Exley. "I think it's really important to do that sort of work in our communities."

Currently, there are 19 Active Start programs, 26 FUNdamentals programs, and 19 Sport Start programs offered around B.C., benefiting hundreds of young athletes with intellectual disabilities. ○



Sisters and students spread the word

SADLY, there are many people who still don't get why the r-word is so hurtful. But Summer and Tori Brack are helping them understand by putting a face to that hurt.

The sisters from Maple Ridge introduce people to their good-natured, smiling brother Colton, a Grade 10 student who has Down syndrome. And they tell their stories to help people understand what is wrong with the r-word. They've struck a chord online and in impactful personal presentations, such as when they spoke to an audience of hundreds at Garibaldi Secondary School in Maple Ridge—Summer and Colton's school—in April. They've even been featured on CTV.

"Our idea was to try and tell our story in hopes we would reach people that way and connect that way, instead of trying to blame people for using the r-word," eldest sister Tori said.

Summer said they've seen a wave of positive reactions, including supportive comments and friends and classmates sharing the sentiment on Facebook.



"In school that day and the next few days, people were coming up to me and saying, 'You and your sister did a great job, you really impacted me,'" she said.

Special Olympics BC is part of this movement as we educate others and seek to engage more students. At the fifth annual **Spread the Word to End the Word** awareness day in March, SOBC athletes



Adam Advocaat and Allan Hunter joined students with UBC's Sauder Gives Back group to share the spirit of this amazing international campaign on the Vancouver campus. They collected signatures, distributed laces, and encouraged everyone to pledge to build communities of inclusion and respect.

Learn more and take the pledge at www.r-word.org. ○

BC Law Enforcement Torch Run

'Heartwarming' Torch Run spreads respect, awareness



AFTER pounding the pavement with the inspirational **Law Enforcement Torch Run** in support of Special Olympics BC, Delta Police Department Cst. Lisa Coupar and Special Olympics BC – Abbotsford athlete Jeff James had similar reactions.

"I will be back again next year!" Jeff said after running the Abbotsford leg that opened the four-day Lower Mainland Torch Run, alongside dedicated Abbotsford Police

Department members running their local leg, as well as SOBC – Abbotsford athletes and the dedicated members of the Abbotsford, Delta, and Vancouver Police Departments who laced up for all four days of the Lower Mainland run.

After running hundreds of kilometres in the Lower Mainland run, Cst. Coupar expressed the same sentiment as Jeff: "I'm doing it again," she said. "I've absolutely loved every single minute of it. It's been heartwarming."

In B.C., hundreds of law enforcement members hit the streets in nearly 30 communities around the province for the 2013 Torch Run in order to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics BC, and show their respect for athletes.

The Nanaimo Torch Run nearly doubled in size from the previous year—attracting over 100 participants—as the local RCMP turned their annual event into a North Island Torch Run.

The Trail Torch Run had an amazing presence again this year, with more than 100

participants including RCMP, Canadian Forces, and Canada Border Services Agency members.

The Central Saanich, Saanich, and Victoria Police Departments staged a wonderful new Torch Run on the Galloping Goose Trail, which included participants from the Boys and Girls Club.

In Kamloops, the RCMP worked hard to introduce the Bridging the Gap run in support of Special Olympics, attracting 33 runners and starting off an exciting new event.

In the Lower Mainland Torch Run, Vancouver Canucks forward Chris Higgins, legend Stan Smyl, and mascot FIN joined in for the second Granville Kilometre. And schoolchildren lined the No. 5 Road in Richmond to enthusiastically cheer runners.

The Delta Police Department and community traditionally host the final leg of the run. This year included an extra-special celebration as the department marked



Chilliwack



Coquitlam



Mission



Abbotsford



Trail



2013 LETR locations

- Abbotsford
- Burnaby
- Burns Lake
- Chilliwack
- Comox Valley
- Coquitlam
- Cranbrook
- Dawson Creek
- Delta
- Greater Victoria
- Kamloops
- Langley
- Mission
- Nanaimo
- New Westminster
- North Vancouver
- Port Moody
- Princeton
- Quesnel
- Richmond
- Ridge Meadows
- Summerland
- Surrey
- Terrace
- Trail
- Vancouver
- West Vancouver
- White Rock

2014 Final Leg

THE **2014 Final Leg** will take place July 5 to 8, and lead into the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver. LETR Final Leg runners representing police agencies from across Canada will converge in B.C. for the event. Please check our website, www.specialolympics.bc.ca, for updates regarding the 2014 Final Leg events.

If you would like to get involved or volunteer, or if you have any questions, please contact LETR Liaison Farhad Abi at fabi@specialolympics.bc.ca, 604-737-3056, or toll free at 1-888-854-2276.



their 125th anniversary with a stirring Flag Dedication Ceremony. The Delta Police invited SOBC – Delta athlete Kim Davies to speak, and the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, introduced herself to all of the Torch Run members and SOBC athletes.

We can't wait to see all the members in action next year, when the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run will build toward the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver. ○



RCMP Musical Ride

WHEN the RCMP detachments in Langley and Burnaby played host to the iconic **RCMP Musical Ride** in the summer of 2013, they generously sought to use the opportunity to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics BC.

With the Ride wowing the crowds at Langley's Thunderbird Show Park, SOBC was the featured charity, and local athletes and family members were invited to be guests of honour at the prestigious shows. Langley RCMP raised nearly \$12,000 for SOBC with the exciting and well-attended shows.

"It's always exciting to see the RCMP

Musical Ride come to our community," said Superintendent Derek Cooke, Officer in Charge, Langley RCMP Detachment. "The Ride represents the proud traditions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada. We are particularly fortunate the proceeds will benefit such a worthwhile cause as Special Olympics."

Burnaby RCMP also directed funds from their local shows to support SOBC, and we sincerely thank both detachments for their generosity. The Musical Ride was an incredible opportunity for SOBC athletes and their families to stand in the spotlight in their communities with this iconic event, and we are grateful for the funds raised to support SOBC's ongoing mission of providing life-changing sport programs and opportunities. ○



Thunderbird Show Park



2014 LETR Regional Workshops

THIS year the Law Enforcement Torch Run will feature three regional workshops—on Vancouver Island, in the Interior, and in the Lower Mainland—as opposed to one provincial workshop as in the past. Check our website, www.specialolympics.bc.ca, for updates in the new year.

The workshops are an opportunity for new and current LETR supporters to learn about fundraising initiatives, the Draft an Athlete program, the 2014 Final Leg, and SOBC competitions and programs. Those who attend will also have an opportunity to meet athletes from their regions.

We encourage law enforcement personnel from across the province and from different agencies to attend these free workshops. To register or for more information, please contact LETR Liaison Farhad Abi at fabi@specialolympics.bc.ca, 604-737-3056, or toll free at 1-888-854-2276. ○

New logo, continued collaboration at International Conference

THIS year's **Law Enforcement Torch Run International Conference** in Orlando, Florida, was another great collaborative opportunity for participants from around the world, and saw the unveiling of a new, more dynamic logo for the LETR.

In attendance at the November conference were over 1,000 police officers representing agencies from across the United States and Canada, and international agencies as far away as Australia, Poland, Korea, Ireland, and South America.

The conference allows volunteers from all corners of the globe to mingle, share inspirational stories, and learn from one another as they collaborate to improve their local Torch Run programs.

Representing B.C. at the conference this year was Deputy Chief Barry Kross of the Transit Police Department, Cst. Nicole Hall of the Comox Valley RCMP, Cst. Lisa Coupar of the Delta Police Department, Sgt. Dave Colton of the Vancouver Police Department, and Patti Crighton of the Saanich Police Department.

Deputy Chief Barry Kross was selected as one of the Guardians of the Flame Miner's Lamp escorts and had the distinct privilege of escorting the Miner's Lamp in the closing ceremonies of the conference!

In 2012 the Law Enforcement Torch Run



Dave Kramer

raised \$46,325,747 USD for local Special Olympics programs worldwide.

Next year the International Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from September 10 to 13. ○

Abbotsford Police Challenge Run 2013

APPROXIMATELY 575 participants took part in the 23rd annual **Abbotsford Police Challenge Run** in June. 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 2013 Abbotsford run a success, especially committee chairperson Kelly Pater of the Abbotsford Police Department.

The event raised \$15,000 for SOBC. ○



John Van Patten

Delta Police Department and Vancouver Giants 50/50 Draw 2013

MANY thanks to the **Delta Police Department** who hosted a 50/50 draw at the March 3 **Vancouver Giants** game. Department members and their families and friends sold hundreds of tickets to the game against the Everett Silvertips. And on game night, the enthusiastic volunteers raised an impressive \$2,050 from 50/50 ticket sales.

The night featured members of both the Giants and Silvertips sporting red Special Olympics laces, and special guest and hockey legend Gordie Howe.

The night also saw Deputy Chief Lyle Beaudoin and Cst. Lisa Coupar each receiving a Medal of Valor from the Vancouver Giants Hockey Club for their outstanding support and efforts towards Special Olympics BC.

Without the support of Deputy Chief Beaudoin and Staff Sgt. Debbie McLeod this event would not have been possible. Thanks also to the many volunteers from the Delta Bulls hockey team, civilian staff, and SOBC volunteers and athletes.

The next Delta Police and Vancouver Giants 50/50 fundraiser will take place Sunday, February 16, 2014.

In total the event raised just over \$5,294 for SOBC. ○



Draft an Athlete – 2013 SOBC Summer Games

TO help give Special Olympics BC athletes the empowering experience of competing in a Provincial Games, a significant number of BC Law Enforcement Torch Run members generously donated and raised funds for highly successful **Draft an Athlete** campaigns.

We are proud to announce that the BC LETR has raised \$78,784 for Draft an Athlete 2013.

Leading the way was the Vancouver Police Department, as 371 VPD members donated overtime hours totalling just under \$45,000 in donations. VPD members also sought community donations and fundraising to bring the VPD's total support to \$64,793, funding 130 athletes to compete in Langley.

Our sincere thanks also to the following agencies for their support of Draft an Athlete:



Abbotsford Police Department	\$2,000
British Columbia Association of Chiefs of Police	\$2,240
Coquitlam RCMP	\$3,269
Cranbrook RCMP	\$858
Delta Police Department	\$1,600
Port Moody Police Department	\$546

Prince George RCMP	\$1,180
Saanich Police Department	\$1,800
Transit Police	\$647
Vancouver Police Department	\$44,996
Victoria Police Department	\$3,120

RCMP E Division

IT was a busy year for numerous detachments within **RCMP E Division**, which raised a net amount of \$31,421 for SOBC.

The top donor was Coquitlam RCMP Detachment, which raised an impressive \$5,268 and drafted three athletes for the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games. This would not have been possible without the incredible leadership of Cst. Michelle Luca and the support of her team, which included Cpl. Jamie Chung, C/M Julie Wyrwal, Aux. Cst. Zabrina Braithwaite-Kelso, Cpl. Scott Shorten, and Danielle Marchand.

Special thanks to Sgt. Tom James of the Langley RCMP Detachment for organizing the Torch Run as part of the opening ceremonies for the Provincial Games.

Thank you to the following detachments, which spent countless hours fundraising, volunteering, and raising awareness for SOBC:

Burnaby	Golden	Pacific Region Training Centre	Ridge Meadows
Burns Lake	Kamloops	Pitt Meadows	Summerland
Comox Valley	Kelowna	Quesnel	Surrey
Coquitlam	Langley	Richmond	Trail
Cranbrook	Nanaimo		Whistler



New Car Dealers kick support into overdrive

THE 2013 New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C. / Special Olympics BC Auction was the most successful yet in the event's history, with bidding on an expansive roster of more than 220 items, including six cars donated by The Chevrolet Dealers of BC, B.C. Dodge Dealers,

Ford BC Dealers and Ford Canada, BC Honda Dealers Association, and Toyota BC Dealers. We are also grateful to the British Columbia Volkswagen Dealers who all chose to make a cash contribution in lieu of a vehicle.

The longtime annual fundraiser is open

to New Car Dealers members who bid generously in support of Special Olympics and the New Car Dealers Foundation. Auction items were solicited or donated by New Car Dealers from communities throughout British Columbia—from Northern B.C. to Greater Vancouver, from Vancouver Island to the Kootenay-Rockies.

In addition to providing vital support to SOBC, 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.

We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the New Car Dealers who make the auction happen and who bid for the betterment of the charities.

The New Car Dealers Association has been supporting SOBC for 29 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.

This year, the New Car Dealers Association has generously offered SOBC the chance to share news about Special Olympics and profiles of supportive Dealers in their Signals publication. They have shared thoughtful comments about why they choose to support Special Olympics.

Manse Binkley, President of Harmony Honda & Harmony Acura: "The end result for some of [the athletes] is quite magnificent to watch. I've always been quite moved by how [athlete speakers] have handled themselves and how they've presented things."

Darren Graham, New Car Dealers Association of B.C. board member and Applewood Kia franchise founder: "My exposure to Special Olympics

THANKS TO OUR VEHICLE DONORS



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Spark LS



DONATED BY
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2013 Dodge
Dart



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B.C. Dodge
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and Ford Canada



2013 Honda
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BC Honda Dealers
Association



2013 Toyota
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THANKS TO THOSE DEALERS WHO SUPPORTED THE AUCTION WITH A CASH PLEDGE OR BY DONATING AUCTION ITEMS



AUTO WEST GROUP
EXCEPTIONALLY DRIVEN



Brian Jessel



has been through the lens of the New Car Dealers, and I think it's fantastic. There seems to be a lot of people involved, and very good support of the programs."

Peter Heppner, General Manager and Dealer Principal of Preston Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac Ltd.: "As we watched the teams parade into [the 2013 SOBC Summer Games Opening Ceremonies], you could see the absolute joy on their faces to be part of this big event, an important part. You can just tell the sense of self-worth they felt, and the benefits of the self-esteem."

Jim Inkster, New Car Dealers Association of B.C. Chairman: "These folks would never be noticed or recognized should folks not get in to sponsor and support them in some

Seeing what Special Olympics does for the athletes, the confidence and sense of belonging, the pure enjoyment they have—everybody should have a chance to enjoy that.

Jeff Rae
General Manager of
Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey

kind of organized activity. This one happens to be athletics, and it's a good one. It's all good-news stories, and you can't help but get involved."

The Keith family of Dueck Auto Group, including Special Olympics BC Chair **Pamela Keith**: "I think the 2013 SOBC Summer Games was a great success. The athletes and volunteer coaches were so inspiring both on and off the playing fields, and we so appreciated the 1,200 volunteers who worked so hard to deliver such a rewarding and memorable experience for everyone."

Joe Mitchell, Chairman of the Carter Auto Group: "You very seldom see any less than a smile on [the athletes'] faces, and when you see them in motion it's incredible. When you know you're a little part of helping them, it makes you feel pretty good about it all."

Jeff Rae, General Manager of Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey: "Seeing what Special Olympics does for the athletes, the confidence and sense of belonging, the pure enjoyment they have—everybody should have a chance to enjoy that."

John Wynia, New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C. Chair and Harbourview Volkswagen Dealer Principal: "The motivation [to be

involved with SOBC] is the actual process Special Olympics has done to attract people who have this need to join a social group that has athletic aspirations, and trying to achieve and measure their successes with their own peers ... and be healthier citizens of their communities." ○

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 B.C.*

John Wynia, *Harbourview Volkswagen*

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

Pride and motivation from Canada Games experience

AT the **2013 Canada Summer Games** in Sherbrooke, Que., eight great Special Olympics BC athletes raced with determination to terrific achievements and personal bests.

In the pool, Magnus Batara delivered a four-medal performance in the Special Olympics men's events in the pool. The SOBC – Richmond athlete swam to gold in the 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, and 100m backstroke events, and added a bronze in the 50m freestyle. His time of 36.80 seconds in the 50m breaststroke set a new meet record for that event!

The other seven super SOBC swimmers and runners piled on the impressive results, qualifying for finals in multiple events and achieving numerous personal-best times.

Many thanks to the SOBC coaches who did a wonderful job preparing and supporting the athletes, and helped guide them to great achievements. Thanks also to Leslie Thornley, Region 2 Manager of Community Development, for her fantastic job of chaperoning the swimming team.

The Canada Games offer valuable high-performance competition opportunities for our athletes and coaches. Special Olympics athletes from across the country compete in Special Olympics sport divisions and give their all as members of provincial and territorial



teams alongside generic athletes, sharing great team spirit all together.

Anne McCaw, mom of Courtenay Rekis, said it was incredibly loud when Courtenay swam in her finals, with all of Team BC cheering her on. Courtenay qualified to race in three A finals, in the 50m freestyle, and the 100m freestyle and backstroke, which was a significant achievement.

"She said the experience of swimming in a final at the Canada Games was the best ever," Anne said.

SOBC – Prince George athlete David had a "cheering committee" of five family members who made the trip to Sherbrooke to see him swim in this national competition.

"It was a great experience for him to be competing at this high level, and as the time



went on he realized how good all the athletes are," his mom, Suni, said. "He has a lot of respect for his competition, and this is motivating him to work even harder to be able to compete with them."

David's family also benefited from watching the competitions in person and enhancing their understanding of how to support David to achieve his full potential. They were very proud of his accomplishments, Suni added.

Also competing in aquatics was Michelle Forberg of SOBC – Campbell River. Competing in athletics was April Armstrong of SOBC – Burnaby, Jake Hooper of SOBC – Comox Valley, Laura Strauss of SOBC – Smithers, and Matthew Williams of SOBC – Langley.

Congratulations to all eight athletes and their great coaches, families, and supporters! ○

Diamond Jubilee medals for SOBC leaders and supporters

THIS year, Special Olympics BC has had the great pleasure of awarding deeply deserving sport and fundraising champions with Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals. Created on the occasion of the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne, the medals serve to recognize significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Michael

Campbell has worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to expand the reach of Special Olympics. An active Board member since 2003, Michael served as Chair for several years and continues to advise SOBC. He redesigned the Goldcorp Invitational, a cornerstone of our fundraising calendar. He's dedicated significant time, knowledge, and personal advocacy to making sure no athlete is left behind.



Michael Campbell



Scott Ellis

A critical fundraising leader for SOBC in his role as the Auction Chair for the Sports Celebrities Festival, **Scott Ellis** has given his time to this organization and our athletes since the 1990s. As the SCF's Auction Chair, his dedication to help athletes reach their potential fuels his drive to make the auction a significant financial success.

Since 1985, **Harvey Hunter** has been at the forefront of developing snowshoeing in B.C. and across Canada.



Lori Holmgren
Harvey Hunter

A founding member and leading champion for SOBC – Campbell River alongside partner Maureen Brinson, Harvey is also a coach and a fundraising force to be reckoned with.

Doug Holtby has been a champion of Special Olympics since 1996, playing many roles including Co-Chair of the Sports Celebrities Festival. He first joined SOBC as a

member of the Board of Directors, and provided invaluable guidance when SOBC was refocusing on growth, quality, and sustainability.



Doug Holtby

Rick Lucy's leadership has been instrumental in growing the BC Law Enforcement Torch Run into a provincial organization, and his commitment to Special Olympics athletes in his 22 years of involvement is truly inspiring. Rick is a valued member of our Board



Abbotsford Police Department
Rick Lucy

of Directors, served as the Chair of the 2009 SOBC Summer Games, and has given his time as a mission staff member for Team BC and Special Olympics Team Canada.

Colin MacKinnon has been a staunch advocate of Special Olympics athletes since almost the beginning of SOBC. He supported the Tiger Williams Golf Classic, and then helped develop the Goldcorp Invitational, one of our largest sources of funds. He's served on both the provincial and national boards of Special Olympics. Colin has a great understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities for our athletes.



BCAA
Colin MacKinnon

Joe Mitchell has been raising funds and supporting Special Olympics for more than 25 years. He's helped build our largest endowment fund and is a driving force in our New Car Dealers Foundation of B.C./Special Olympics BC Auction. He

works tirelessly on the auction committee and is also a champion of the Howard Carter Fund. Joe and the Carter Group of Companies are great community heroes.



Doug Bower
Joe Mitchell



Ron Neukomm
Dee Neukomm

Since 1991, **Dee Neukomm** has dedicated herself to developing rhythmic gymnastics, giving her time to mentor coaches and athletes from the community level to the world stage. She's been a source of inspiration and enthusiasm for countless initiatives within her Local.

Over her 27 years with Special Olympics BC, **Jo Osborne** has been an incredible source of support and leadership at the local, regional, and provincial levels. Jo has given



Bob Vanderford, courtesy of SOBC – Victoria
Jo Osborne

her time to Special Olympics through many positions, from Local Coordinator with SOBC – Victoria, to her current role as Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island.

For 15 years, **Blair Shier** has provided outstanding leadership and direction for the Sports Celebrities Festival, a benchmark of funding and exposure for SOBC. Blair helped take the event from a money-losing venture to a noted gala that now raises around \$350,000 per



Blair Shier

year. As well, as a Board member from 1996 to 2000, Blair provided invaluable guidance for SOBC.

As President and CEO of Pacific Coastal Airlines, **Quentin Smith** has supported SOBC and our athletes, coaches, and staff for many years. He contributes to our fundraising events by donating highly valued travel packages, and attending in person, and generously providing air travel for our athletes and coaches across the province.



Quentin Smith

Patty Wheeldon has been involved with Special Olympics for more than 20 years, beginning with her Local Executive Committee and growing to encompass many sport and leadership roles. Patty, the 2010 winner of the SOBC President's Award, is the SOBC Leadership Council Chair, a member of the

SOBC Board of Directors, an Athlete Congress facilitator, a coach in Langley, and a member of the mission staff for the 2011 Special Olympics Team Canada.

Diego Azubel, courtesy of Special Olympics International



Matthew Williams

At just 20 years old, **Matthew Williams** has earned the respect of leading international figures for his eloquent advocacy of Special Olympics. An accomplished SOBC – Langley athlete who has earned National Games medals in both athletics and speed skating, Matthew has also served as a Special Olympics Global Messenger. Elected as the Chair of the Third Global Athlete Congress held in Morocco, Matthew sits on the Special Olympics International Board of Directors. He also gives time here in B.C. as a member of the SOBC Leadership Council.

We thank these champions for all that they do for Special Olympics and their communities, and we salute SOBC members who've received well-deserved Diamond Jubilee medals through other channels! ○

SOBC athletes and volunteers honoured

WE'RE very pleased to congratulate and celebrate Special Olympics members and supporters who have recently been recognized with awards for their significant contributions to Special Olympics, sport, and community!



- We're delighted to congratulate SOBC – Prince George cross-country skiing Head Coach **Calvin Dyck** and SOBC – Surrey Local Coordinator and longtime volunteer **Karen Theriault**, deserving winners of two of Special Olympics Canada's 2013 awards! Karen is the recipient of the Jim Thompson Award, and Calvin has won the SOC Male Coach of the Year Award.
- **Donna Bilous** of SOBC – Abbotsford, **Maureen Brinson** of SOBC – Campbell River, and **Randy Scott** of SOBC – North Shore were deserving winners of 2013 Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Awards based on the medal-winning performances of their athletes with Special Olympics Team Canada 2013 at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in the Republic of Korea.
- Several of our outstanding volunteers have been honoured with Sport BC Community Sport Hero Awards by Teck. **Sheila Hawton**, Region 1 Coordinator and a longtime coach of SOBC – Trail, was recognized earlier this summer for her many contributions. So was **Sandra Rothwell**, who was involved with SOBC – Trail for 13 years, powering their fundraising. **Doris Linemayr**, SOBC – Vernon Local Coordinator, was also awarded for her generous and long-standing service to her Local. With more than 16 years of dedicated service to Special Olympics BC – Elk Valley, Local Coordinator **Georgina McIntosh** was also thanked with an award for her efforts.
- This year's very deserving Sport BC Presidents' Award winner for Special Olympics BC is **Karen Theriault** of SOBC – Surrey. Karen has been involved with SOBC since 1997 and worn many hats with dedication and commitment.
- After becoming the first floor hockey team from Nanaimo to make it to the Special Olympics Canada Games, and after they became national gold medallists, the **Nanaimo Tigers** earned the title of their hometown's **Sports Story of the Year** at the annual Nanaimo Sport Achievement Awards.
- At the 30th annual CFX 1070 Community Awards, **SOBC – Victoria** was celebrated front and centre with local community leaders as the winner of the Teamwork Award.
- Figure skater **Darlene Jakubowski** is featured in the high-profile new Sport Legacy Project in Fort St. John's Pomeroy Sport Centre. Darlene's Special Olympics World Games medals and outfits are displayed next to fellow world-class sport heroes such as Olympic speed skater Denny Morrison.
- Longtime athlete **Bryce Schaufelberger** was inducted into the Mission Sports Hall of Fame in April, joining the elite company of 23 members whose names are honoured in the Mission Leisure Centre. Bryce has attained many achievements in his athletic career, including two Special Olympics World Games medals for soccer.

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 whom we may have missed! We love to hear about and celebrate your achievements—please forward stories to: megan@specialolympics.bc.ca. ○



Patty Wheeldon

Crystal Daley, SOBC – Langley

News from SOBC – Sunshine Coast

By Micheal Oswald, athlete

2013. What a year for SOBC – Sunshine Coast! Chock full of surprises and accomplishments.

At the top of the list is the Provincial Games held in Langley in July. Our athletes worked their absolute best and really showed how dedication and hard work can pay off. Everyone achieved a new personal best and proved that no matter what the challenge we were ready and willing. Collectively our athletes brought back over a dozen medals! Truly awesome. Congrats go out to Christel Jensen who will be going to Nationals in 2014.

The athletes who qualified to go to Provincials were Wes Harrison, Christel Jensen, Micheal Oswald, Tracey Schouler, Theresa Prestley, and Lindsay Pearson. The coaches were Gary Rogers, Marylin Adams, Marie Telder, Margret (Maggie) Casey, and Chuck Bertrand.

We here on the Sunshine Coast have a lot to

be proud of, with great programs in swimming, floor hockey, basketball, curling, rhythmic gymnastics, softball, bocce, golf, and soccer, as well as circuit training. Our Active Start and FUNDamentals programs are a wonderful way for the young 'uns to become the next Special Olympics stars.

At the SOBC – Sunshine Coast AGM it was announced that a stunning seven new athletes and 16 new volunteers took part in this year's activities.

Of course we also had our customary Volunteer Appreciation Banquet held at the Gibsons Legion. Athletes, coaches, volunteers, and parents all attended and were treated to a couple of performances, one by Micheal Oswald reading poetry dedicated to the tireless efforts of coaches and volunteers, and also a wonderful rhythmic gymnastics routine with a certain performance only practiced once!

Our winter banquet was set to be held at the Sechelt Legion on December 14, with the winner of our fundraising raffle to be drawn.

I would also like to acknowledge Jordan McCourt and Sandi Cavalier for their

fundraising program of collecting refundable bottles and cans that helps donate money to SOBC – Sunshine Coast. This year marked Jordan being awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award on February 9. Congrats and keep going strong!

This year also brought us, thanks to Annette Bertrand, a brand-new website. www.specialolympicssunshinecoast.ca is an easy way for anyone interested in more information to find out facts, see fabulous photos, and do some fun reading.

I look forward to the new year and all the sports fun ahead!

Please visit specialolympics.bc.ca to read Micheal's full 2013 report; this version was edited due to space. ○



Athlete from SOBC – Keremeos

By Janet Lehtonen, Local Coordinator

ASHLEIGH Cummings is from Keremeos, B.C. She is a wonderful person who is always cheering on her teammates, and has a smile and something encouraging to say to everyone. She has been a member of Special Olympics for about nine years. She's been involved with track and field, bocce, and 5-pin bowling.

Ashleigh has tried many times to qualify at Regionals to move onto Provincials in a few sports. At the Kelowna Regional Qualifier in 2012, her 5-pin bowling team, which included Mackenzie Walker, Brian Smith, Jessica Lehtonen, and Chris Page, played outstandingly and qualified for the 2013 Special Olympics BC Summer Games.

During Provincials Ashleigh and her teammates again put their best efforts in and qualified for the 2014 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

Ashleigh is putting all of her enthusiasm into her training for the upcoming National Games. Good luck Ashleigh at the Nationals! ○



News from SOBC – Vancouver

By **Travis Barker**, PR Coordinator

AS Special Olympics BC – Vancouver volunteers, we are very proud of everyone's accomplishments for the year 2013. Partnering with local businesses, charities, and Special Olympics athletes, we have helped build communities that are both inclusive and empowering.

As our athletes know well, SOBC – Vancouver is about more than just competition; forming lasting relationships and developing healthy lifestyles are also part of our mission. In pursuit of these values, Special Olympics athletes participated in several 2013 community festivals and events in support of raising awareness about disabilities. Examples include the Chinese New Year's Parade, the Provincial Games, the Vancouver School Board's Post-Secondary Transition Forum, and the annual Holiday Party. SOBC – Vancouver athletes are also involved in meetings and participate in elected positions on the Executive Committee.

Exciting and fun activities are available for athletes at all skill levels. SOBC – Vancouver facilitated 30 different sports-related activities during the 2013 season. This amounts to 626 classes (approximately 1,565 hours) for the full Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter schedules! These socially empowering and integrative activities are available at 23 different locations throughout the City of Vancouver.

Our Special Olympics athletes love their activities so much that many programs are often completely full within the first week of starting. Epitomizing the spirit of the Special Olympics Athlete's Oath — *"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt"* — our athletes continue to request more activities to compete in; this is despite the fact that many are already participating in several events each week.

Our 2013 partners' commitment to supporting integrated opportunities for people with disabilities makes us proud and provides an outstanding role model for other businesses and individuals in the community. Of note, SOBC – Vancouver sponsors include Safeway, Murrick Insurance Services, Body & Soul Health and Fitness, as well as the Province of British Columbia. Fundraising partners include the Vancouver Aquarium, the Vancouver Police Department, Phat Sports Bar & Grill, Staples, and Bum Biters Ski Club (just to name a few). These crucial contributions continue to support the purchase of uniforms and supplies, while also helping to cover the costs of facilities where these activities are held.

At SOBC – Vancouver we are also highly dependent on our dedicated volunteers. Over 150 coaches and executives volunteer their time in serving more than 200 Special Olympics athletes within the City of Vancouver, by way of running weekly programs and coordinating administrative duties behind the scenes.

SOBC – Vancouver thanks all of our partners in 2013 who have helped to make this a great year. ○

News from SOBC – Salmon Arm

By **Aly Clifton**, Local Coordinator

OUR enthusiastic new Board started 2013 by putting together a plan to introduce ourselves to the community to recruit volunteers and athletes. In January we began to make our presence known by placing public service articles in the local papers and notices on the radio, and keeping in touch with those people who had expressed an interest in volunteering.

The decision was made that our first program should be Club Fit, to be able to assess all athletes on their fitness level and interests. We were fortunate to have an experienced coach for this program along with an assistant coach.

The information was circulated throughout the community and attracted several athletes immediately. The Shuswap Secondary School Leadership class participated as volunteer assistants and worked very successfully to get all athletes involved in the activities.

This program ran for eight weeks, and was very well attended with up to 16 athletes on a regular basis. At the conclusion all athletes were given a ribbon of completion.

When we resumed in September we continued our Club Fit program and added

basketball, which has been very well received and attended. We held an End of Year Wind-up in December at Salmon Arm Curling Rink where the athletes received their T-shirts and membership cards, and athletes and volunteers enjoyed a short curling session and a healthy snack.

To raise funds for our growing programs, we were successful with our grant application to ViaSport and benefitted from an opportunity to raise money with Askew's Foods through donations for Beef on a Bun and beverages. We also took part in the annual Safeway and Staples fundraising campaigns in April and May with several of our athletes who enjoyed these activities very much.

For the past months we have been planning a fundraising raffle to be held in the new year, partnering with the Salmon Arm Silverbacks hockey team to sell tickets on the concourse and hold the draw on the ice at one of their games. Excellent prizes have been secured, so we feel certain that this undertaking will be a great success.

We continued our efforts to raise awareness about Special Olympics by attending events such as a transition fair for parents of children with significant support needs, and a registration week in our local mall in September. We also entered a float in the Salmon Arm Fall Fair (pictured here), which was a fun experience for the volunteers and athletes alike.

The new sports we are considering in 2014 include floor hockey, snowshoeing, and bocce.

We are extremely gratified with the response we have had from volunteers, athletes, and the community during our first 12 months of operation and hope that we can continue to grow and facilitate opportunities for individuals in our community with intellectual disabilities, to enhance their lives, and to celebrate personal achievement through the positive sport experiences that Special Olympics offers. ○



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