

Special Olympics

News



Volume 1 Issue 1

September to January

In This Issue...

President's Message	...1
Chair's Message	...1
Car Lottery	...2
SONS Festival	...2
National Coaching Award	...3
Volunteer Recognized	...3
NS off to Winter Games	...4
Active Start & FUNdamentals News	...5
Our Sponsors	
• Provincial	...5
• National	...5



President's Message



September arrived quickly and a successful Registration Day sparked the start of another exciting cycle of sport. The Provincial Leadership Council met in Halifax in November, with Region's not only represented by their leaders, but playing an active and crucial role in shaping the direction of our organization, including our Annual General Meeting.

There is no question Special Olympics makes a difference and can be genuinely described as a powerful movement that is helping to change our very society for the better. I think that explains why our athletes are truly our ambassadors, our volunteers our strength and our sponsors the fuel that supports the entire organization. We are a team, and, like any team,

it takes each part working in unison to succeed.

We have many reasons to be excited, but I believe the groundwork and positive reception of our Active Start and Fundamentals programs is the most significant change in over a decade. Providing opportunities for young children who have an intellectual disability must be part of our programs because it is part of our mission. It takes significant resources both financially and volunteer-wise, but if it were easy the reward would not be as great.

Stay involved, get involved and get others involved ... it will change the lives of the children you help and in turn change your life.

Mike Greek

Chair's Message



As we are about to host our annual major celebration, the Special Olympics Festival, things are good shape at Special Olympics Nova Scotia.

It really means a lot to our athletes and those of us who support them when we see people coming out for our annual event. They have so many options to choose from and we are grateful they chose ours.

Special Olympics Nova Scotia is a very special organization. The programs are delivered by many wonderful volunteers throughout our province and our dedicated staff. These people are our backbone.

Our work would not be possible without our sponsors. Companies like Michelin and

CTV, along with our local gold, silver and bronze partners and our national sponsors make all of our duties easier.

Please check our website for our events. A highlight will be our upcoming 2012 summer provincial games in Antigonish.

A special congratulations to Chris Nolan who is receiving the Elizabeth Chard memorial award for his ongoing dedication to SONS. Chris has worked tirelessly for SONS through the years expecting nothing in return. We are very fortunate that he has chosen to share his many talents with us.

Continued success to all of us involved with SONS!

Ed J. McHugh

Car Lottery Results

This year's Special Olympics was a huge success with over \$55,000 raised in Nova Scotia alone.



Congratulation to our 2012 Car Lottery Winners!

Winner of the 2012 Toyota Camry:

Mr. Stephen Judson - Charlottetown PEI - Ticket # 2012
Nova Scotia Winners:

Winner of the Trip for Two or \$2500 Cash:

Mr. Soupie Campbell - Halifax NS - Ticket # 16321

Winner of the \$500 Home Hardware Shopping Spree:

Mr. Bill Gates - Halifax NS - Ticket #18382

Thank you to all who made this fundraiser a success.

Special thanks goes out to Toyota Canada and the Atlantic Toyota dealers, CTV and Atlantic Home Hardware Dealers.

Note...

Special thanks to Mr. Bill Gates as well for donating his winnings back to SONS.

Special Olympics Festival 2012

Presented By:

Wednesday January 25th, 2012
Pier 23, Cunard Center
Reception 5pm, Dinner 6pm

Special Olympics Nova Scotia and Presenting Sponsors, CTV & Michelin North America (Canada) Ltd., are pleased to announce that the 18th Annual Special Olympics Festival Dinner and Auction (SOF) will be held on Wednesday January 25th, 2012 at the Cunard Centre, Pier 23 here in Halifax!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

This year's SOF committee is pleased to announce, that through the generous support of Micco Companies and Clearwater, we are able to present to you as our Key Note Speaker, Mr. Theoren Fleury! Mr. Fleury's message, "Don't Quit before the Miracle" is one of true inspiration and perseverance. One we feel fits well with the strength and determination of our athletes.

To learn more on Mr. Fleury visit his website theofleury14.com

Dr. Frank Hayden will return as an honoured guest to help us recognize a very special athlete, and as always, Starr Dobson will act as our Emcee and back by popular demand is the ever so talented Jeremy Webb! All of this is for a very special evening to bring awareness to, and raise funds for, Special Olympics Nova Scotia. The event will begin with a reception at 5:00 pm, followed by dinner at



6:00 pm. Inspirational moments, good food and wonderful company are the hallmark of this wonderful event.



Theoren Fleury

Volunteer Recognized

The New Glasgow Pictou County division of Special Olympics, as well as the Provincial Board of Directors, is honoured to congratulate Mr. Terry Richardson, on being awarded the Alex M. MacKay Volunteer / Community Service Award.

Terry was the recipient of this award on Wednesday, November 30th at the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce Gala Awards dinner. This award was received in unison with the Hector Quay Society, a very worthy winner as well.

We would like to thank you for all of your hard work and years of service to Special Olympics in Pictou county and Nova Scotia. Congratulations! Well deserved.



Pictured here: (L-R) Lesley Sobey, Bernadette MacLeod, Cathy Mason, Terry Richardson, Craig Smith, Tyler Helm, Andrew Heighton, (Pictou Co. Special Olympics Executive Committee)

Local SONS Coach Captures National Award

Ross MacIntosh

Born and raised in Westville, Nova Scotia, Ross MacIntosh never thought that sitting "on the bench" at a couple of Saturday morning floor hockey practices would turn into an amazing 20-year run with Special Olympics Nova Scotia.

A veteran of the provincial scene, Ross was the head coach of the Canadian powerlifting team that competed in Athens, Greece this past summer, leading the four competitors to 12 gold medals and one silver, as well as a world record. Athens also marked his first world games appearance.

The final medal tally was immensely gratifying, considering that he had spearheaded the development of the provincial powerlifting program, resurrecting this sport in Nova Scotia just three years earlier by organizing demonstrations at provincial games. At the 2010 summer nationals in London, Ontario, one of the three athletes he coaches competed at this level of competition for the very first time. "I think that for any coach, there is no monetary value in what we do," says Ross, "but it's that you get to share in the athletes' success when you see them doing their best."

In addition to powerlifting, he has also coached soccer, softball, floor hockey, and curling. He is credited with launching the Special Olympics curling program in Pictou County, which has now grown to two teams.

Outside of Special Olympics, Ross manages several group homes, teaches first aid, and is also a volunteer firefighter, something he has done for more than 20 years.

Ross is the 2011 Male Coach of the Year, and was honoured at the 23rd annual Special Olympics Canada Awards on December 8, 2011 in Toronto.



Mary Claire and Ross MacIntosh

Team NS off to St. Albert for Winter Games

The 2012 National Winter Games being hosted in St. Albert, Alberta from February 27th to March 3rd are fast approaching. Over the past year Team NS have been training and preparing for this great event. All of the athletes, coaches, and mission staff are looking forward to the experience of representing Nova Scotia on the national stage. Here are the athletes and coaches:

Curling

Rebecca Foster

Bruce Lightle

Tammy Schnare

Stephen Parkin

John Robicheau

Coaches: Don Sanford & Bernie Thompson

Snowshoeing

Skylar Banks

Matthew Hunter Andrew Hicks

Jennifer McIntosh

Emily Latta

Annette McCann

Coaches: Betty-Ann Daury & Kody Latta

Floor Hockey

Mitch Slaunwhite

Darrell Corbin

Gilbert Watson

Rene Welsh

Kenny Decoste

Andy Jones

Sandy Morrison

Cyril Corbin

Ricci Sheaves

Kerry Daye

Darlene Borden

Bill Whalen

John Hannams

Ian Wright

Coaches: Toney Thomas, Craig Arsenault, & Ursula Morgan

Speed Skating

Phillip Brown

David Baker

Vesna Crnogorac

Aimee Gordon

Coaches: Collin Bonnar & Mike McCarther

Figure Skating

Paul Jocy

Michele Brushett

Kailey Stewart

Coach: Maryann Crowley

Cross Country Skiing

Tim Prosser

Eileen Ramsey

Coach: Cathy Mason

Chef de Mission: Mike Greek

Team Managers: Anne Marie Shannon & Matt Quinn

Medical Liaison: Shanna Thompson

Mission Staff: Darlene Broom & John McIntosh



Active Start & FUNdamentals Programs

The Active Start Program is going well throughout Nova Scotia at this time. The program has been implemented in 7 of eight School Boards (250 schools), 19 Early Intervention Chapters, the Dartmouth Y, and five regions in SONS—Cobequid, Annapolis, Halifax, Pictou and Cape Breton.

Two Fundamentals programs are beginning in January and February in Bedford/Sackville and Halifax respectively. The future certainly looks bright as the programs catch on thanks to the leadership of our volunteers. Contact is Kem Simmons for Sackville (kemsimmons@ns.sympatico.ca) and Doug Branscombe (branscd@halifax.ca) for the Halifax program.

For those not familiar with these two programs, please go to our website, www.sons.ca and click on the appropriate button for an explanation of the rationale behind the development of these 2 SOC programs.

Recently, the CTV morning show did a segment on the Active Start Program at Elmsdale District School which was warmly received. Elmsdale is part of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board which has been a pilot board for Active Start and

will undertake the same role with FUNdamentals. Their cooperation and support has been outstanding!

SONS would like to give special thanks to the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Wellness for their continuing support.

SONS, through the sponsorship of Special Olympics Canada, is bringing Dr. Meghann Lloyd, a researcher for SOC, in to present at the National Physical and Health Education Conference, being held in Halifax on May 10-13, 2012. Dr. Lloyd is the author of 2 PHE manuals dealing with developing Fundamental Movement Skills in children with physical and intellectual disabilities. She will be doing a 3 hour presentation for the pre-conference session on May 10th.

There will also be a free session at the IWK for all those interested in hearing her speak on May 10th in the morning. If you are interested in registering for this, please contact:

tfahie@sportnovascotia.ca

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