



Special Olympics Ontario Kitchener-Waterloo 2014-2015 Annual Report

Achievements

2014 Canada Summer Games

Congratulations to the following athletes on Team Ontario for the 2014 Special Olympics National Summer Games, held in Vancouver, British Columbia from July 8 to 13, 2014.

5-Pin Bowling

- Calvin LaPierre (Silver Medal)

Athletics (Track & Field)

- Andrew Johnston (Silver Medal)
- Chris Litwiller (Bronze Medal)
- Peter Snider (3 Gold, 1 Bronze Medals)

2015 Provincial Winter Games

Congratulations to our athletes listed below who competed at the 2015 Provincial Winter Games in North Bay from January 29 to February 1, 2015. Thank you to our coaches - Jenn Mondell (Alpine Skiing), Stephanie Goyert and Angela Nyhout (Nordic) and Brian Chin, Carol Anne Johnston and Julie Wetzler (Snowshoe).

Alpine Skiing: Alaina MacDonald (1 Gold and 2 Silver Medals)



Nordic Skiing: Sasha Evsikov (2 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze), Melissa Heubner (1 Gold), Allie Libertini (3 Gold, 1 Bronze), Scott Mitchell (1 Gold, 1 Bronze)



Snowshoe: Andrew Johnston (3 Gold medals), Chris Litwiller (2 Gold), Jim MacLean (1 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze), Peter Snider (4 Gold), Brian Wetzler (3 Gold, 1 Silver)

2016 Canada Winter Games

Special congratulations to our six athletes whose achievements at the Provincial Games qualify them to compete at the 2016 Canada Winter Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland February 29 to March 6.

Nordic Skiing: Allie Libertini, Scott Mitchell

Snowshoe: Andrew Johnston, Chris Litwiller, Peter Snider, Brian Wetzler

Community Council, Head Coaches and Contacts

- Special Olympics Ontario Kitchener-Waterloo (SOO KW) had 240 athletes, 170 volunteers and 20 active sports clubs as of June 30, 2015.
- Community Council and Head Coaches as of June 30, 2015 are listed in Appendix A.
- City of Waterloo contact is Darcy Drummond, City of Kitchener contact is Bob Cheyne, and Special Olympics Ontario contacts are James Noronha and Pratima Bhatt.

Awards

- Karolyn Heubner was recognized as SOO KW Volunteer of the Year at the 26th Annual Kitchener Sports Association Volunteer Recognition Night on November 18, 2014.



- Donal Crooke, our Five Pin Bowling Head Coach who also spearheads our very successful Holiday Ball, was saluted in a February 28, 2015 article in The Record for his volunteer contributions to SOO KW.
- At the City of Kitchener Athletic Awards in March 2015, Peter Snider was honoured in recognition of his three gold medals at the 2014 Canada Summer Games.
- The following coaches (50 years and older) were recognized by SOO KW at the Salute to Seniors event presented by the City of Kitchener on June 11, 2015: Steve Singer, Karolyn Heubner, Silvia Burnett, Pauline Schaefer, Ted Blanchett, Dave Williams and Heather Wilson
- SOO KW was honoured by the City of Kitchener at their council meeting on June 29, 2015 "in recognition of 15 years of awesome contributions towards building a healthy and active community through minor sports". There to accept the certificate were Julie Wetzler (Coach), Tannis Gayler (Volunteer Coordinator) and John Emslie (Athlete Ambassador).

Sports Reports

- Alpine Skiing athlete, Alaina MacDonald, from our KW team achieved three medals at Provincials.
- 5-Pin Bowling had approximately 65 bowlers this year. From the Provincial Qualifier, six athletes will proceed to the Spring Provincial Games in Guelph. Names will be released at a later date.
- 10-Pin Bowling had 24 bowlers this year, including a few new bowlers. We had no tournament as we held the Provincial Qualifier. We have two legally blind bowlers and 1 wheelchair bowler. Our motto is 'We are here for fun' and we do have fun!
- Basketball celebrated its 15th season in 2014-2015. It continues to thrive through a combination of dedicated volunteer coaches and enthusiastic athletes. Our Monday nights with the A team attracted 8 athletes and our Thursday nights with the remaining skill levels had a great group of about 20 players. Our program continues to emphasize fun, skill development, and socialization in our fast-paced sessions. As in previous years, we had both a Christmas and season-ending tournament with pizza served at both events. In addition, our A and D teams participated quite successfully in weekend tournaments in Hamilton, Burlington, Guelph, and Toronto against teams from throughout Ontario. The D team's season highlights included going undefeated 5-0 at Burlington's first annual Frank Layton tournament, named for the

Canadian founder of the Special Olympic movement, as well as 2-1 at the Provincial qualifier in Guelph. Not bad for a team that doesn't practice much together all season! The A team won both the Hamilton and Guelph tournaments. They also played some hard-fought, close games against their rival Quinte Roc from Trenton, both at the Mary Matthews tournament in Toronto and three times in one day at the Provincial Qualifier in May. Our season ended with an A team barbeque in July as well as a fundraising event at Walmart where we raised about \$1000 for new uniforms for next season. We are looking forward to having another great upcoming season this year. Steve Singer, Head Coach, Basketball.

- Bocce had a very successful season with many athletes out each week. The Waterloo Park location worked well. Unfortunately we had a few rain cancelations. Special thanks to coaches Val, Sharon, Anne and Jess!
- Floor Hockey had fewer athletes and coaches this year than in the past, but we have a new Assistant Coach for next year. No floor hockey tournaments were attended but, because of demand, we would like to attend a tournament or two this coming year.
- Golf had a successful season with all athletes showing some level of improvement/knowledge while enjoying and showing enthusiasm for the game. We had a minimum of nine athletes for any of the sessions with two days cancelled due to the weather. Along with playing technique, we stressed the importance of etiquette, fair play and sportsmanship all participated happily. Two athletes showed marked improvement/skills and in the future may be able to participate in a tournament. The coaches were incredible both in passing some knowledge on and the level of interaction/concern with the athletes. The overall session is too long, however, and should be shortened with it ending before August. The City of Kitchener has a similar program that runs from May to June and we may be interested in combining the programs next year, if possible.
- The Penguins Nordic Ski team had a great second season. Most of the athletes and coaches were back from last year, with a few new additions. Consistent snow throughout January and February made for great ski conditions. All of our athletes pushed themselves to complete longer distances and significantly improved on their times from last season. In late January 2015, four of our athletes and two coaches made the trip to North Bay for the Provincial games. Despite a short training season due to the games taking place at the end of January, our athletes returned to KW with an impressive collection of medals. Based on their performances in North Bay, Allie Libertini and Scott Mitchell qualified for the National Games in Corner Brook, Newfoundland next year. The Penguins are looking forward to their third season together and hope to have the opportunity to participate in competitions with other southern Ontario teams.
- Rhythmic Gymnastics sent three athletes to the Provincial Qualifier.
- Softball attracted 30 athletes. The C team attended two tournaments and the D team did three tournaments.
- Outdoor Soccer had a great group of enthusiastic athletes working hard on developing skills and competitive scrimmages. The Friday night practice time in the summer meant that numbers varied week to week.
- Indoor Soccer numbers were low, possibly because the 4:30 pm start time was inconvenient for caregivers.
- Snowshoeing registered 12 athletes, including four new athletes. Five of the athletes had qualified for the Provincial Games in North Bay in January and were accompanied by three coaches. The athletes all achieved medals. Four of the athletes have now qualified for the Canada Winter Games in Newfoundland in 2016 and are thus actively fundraising to cover the \$1600 cost. New sizing of snowshoes has been approved and the club is in need of new equipment.
- Swimming had another successful season. After attending the Provincial Qualifiers, four athletes will proceed to the Spring Provincial Games in Guelph. Names will be released at a later date.
- Track & Field sent three athletes and coach Julie Wetzler to the 2014 Canada Summer Games. Andrew Johnston achieved a silver medal, Chris Litwiller a bronze medal, and Peter Snider 3 gold medals and a bronze medal. Track had 49 registered athletes for 2015, attending three track meets and achieving many red ribbons.

Executive Reports

Fundraising

- Home Hardware Market, St. Jacobs, September 2014 raised \$1000
- The Works Restaurant, Kitchener, September 30, 2014 raised \$3000
- In September 2014, Karolyn Heubner and her athletes volunteered at the JYSK store, raising \$250.
- NHL Alumni Hockey game fundraiser at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, October 23, 2014, \$850 was raised from the sale of programs
- Kitchener Rangers game in January 2015
- Home Hardware Market, St. Jacobs, April 2015 raised \$1000
- In May 2015, Karolyn Heubner, Steve Singer, Rich Preece and their athletes worked at three local Staples stores during their 'Give a Toonie Share a Dream' campaign. As part of this larger campaign, Boston Pizza and Staples had a fundraising event for SOO



- "In Running Colour" fundraising run, Columbia Lake, Waterloo, May 30th, 2015 raised \$7000
- Eight athletes participated in The Law Enforcement Torch Run from Kitchener to Cambridge on June 5th, 2015. The Waterloo Regional Police Services are tremendous supporters of SOO KW.
- In June 2015, Jenn Mondell received \$500 from Stantec Consulting for travel to the Canada Winter Games
- Blackberry supported SOO KW with employee volunteer funding of \$1000 for Donal Croke and Stephanie Goyert.

Public Relations



- Melissa Heubner and Angela Nyhout were featured in a January 13, 2015 article in The Record about their training for the 2015 Provincial Winter Games.
- On May 25th, 2015 our Athlete Ambassador John Emslie and Fundraising Coordinator Jenn Mondell were interviewed on Rogers TV's 'Daytime' program about the upcoming Colour Run event.
- Rich Preece and John Emslie worked at the KW Habilitation Health and Wellness Fair on May 26, 2015.

Financial Report

- SOO-KW will receive \$3,800 per year for 3 years from the City of Waterloo.
- In April 2015, SOO KW received a \$2640.60 grant from the City of Kitchener.
- The Year-end Financial Report is provided as a separate document.

Other Activities

- In October 2014, Cindy Aponte joined our Community Council as Public Relations Coordinator.
- On November 25, 2014, Donal Crooke and his athletes hosted our third Annual Holiday Ball for all athletes, coaches, volunteers, friends and family. The venue was filled to capacity with 200 tickets sold.
- Donal created a 2014 Highlights video, which was well received at the Ball and is now on our webpage.
- Storage space was rented from Public Storage as of March 2, 2015 at \$118.65 per month for out-of-season equipment, public relations displays, coaching t-shirts and so on.
- In April 2015, Tannis Gayler joined our Community Council as Volunteer Coordinator.
- In June 2015, Ljiljana Krajisnik joined our Community Council as Registrar.

Appendix A: Community Council and Head Coaches as of June 30, 2015

Community Council

Community Coordinator	Sharon	Lavoie	kw.coordinator@specialolympicsontario.ca
Athlete Ambassador	John	Emslie	
Fundraising Coordinator	Jenn	Mondell	kw.fundco@specialolympicsontario.ca
Parent Liaison	Vacant		kw.parent@specialolympicsontario.ca
Public Relations Coordinator	Cindy	Aponte	kw.pr@specialolympicsontario.ca
Registrar	Ljiljana	Krajisnik	kw.registrar@specialolympicsontario.ca
Sports Tech	Dave	Williams	kw.sport@specialolympicsontario.ca
Treasurer	Roger	Comens	
Volunteer Coordinator	Tannis	Gayler	kw.volunteerco@specialolympicsontario.ca
PYS Liaison	Tammie	Peeler	kw.pys@specialolympicsontario.ca
K-W Hab Liaison	Rich	Preece	

Head Coaches

1812 K-W Alley Cats 10-Pin Bowling	Heather	Wilson	
1557 K-W 5-Pin Olympic Rollers	Donal	Crooke	
4737 K-W Alpine Skiing	Jenn	Mondell	
2042 K-W Basketball Hoops	Steven	Singer	
4419 K-W Boccia Ball	Valerie	Herteis	
2105 K-W Curling Rockers	Brian	Rethoret	kw.curl@specialolympicsontario.ca
1748 K-W Floor Hockey Cubs	Ted	Blanchett	
4420 K-W Golf	Sheldon	Gayler	
3617 K-W Martial Gym	Karolyn	Heubner	
5480 K-W Nordic Skiing Penguins	Angela	Nyhout	
1729 K-W Powerlifting Grizzlies	Paul	Terelya	
2044 K-W Rhythmic Fireworks	Karolyn	Heubner	
2218 K-W Snowshoeing	Julie	Wetzler	
1891 K-W Soccer Kickers C/D	Kerri	Boehmer	
2043 K-W Soccer Lightning Indoor	Jean	Smillie	
1741 K-W Softball Strikers C	Brian	Rethoret	kw.softballc@specialolympicsontario.ca
1905 K-W Softball Sparks D	Stephanie	Charette	sosoftball@hotmail.com
1402 K-W Swimming Crusaders	Eleanor	Namuddu	kw.swim@specialolympicsontario.ca
1636 K-W Track & Field	Elissa	Cressman	

Inactive Clubs

1635 K-W Speed Skating Club			
1406 Floor Hockey Bears B			
2092 K-W Figure Skating Ice Stars			
3609 K-W Sluggers Softball A			
4817 K-W Spirit Soccer A/B			