

President's Message
Submitted September 26, 2016 by Thomas Gibbs

It has been my pleasure to have been president of Special Olympics Yukon for the past year. I am proud of what we have collectively accomplished in the last year:

- There were 84 Athletes and 70 sport volunteers participating in our programs and initiatives
- The new Active Start project with Yukon Daycares has been a huge success; Over 340 Daycare aged children are participating in Special Olympics Active Start programming led by SOY-trained leaders
- 5 Athletes and 4 Coaches and Mission Staff participated at the 2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games held in Corner Brook, NL. The team brought home 8 medals and as a result, 3 Team Yukon members were named to Special Olympics Team Canada that will compete in the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in Austria this coming March.
- 32 Athletes and 12 coaches participated in the 8th Annual Development Games held in Summer 2015. These Games were held in Haines Junction, YT. Once again, Healthy Athletes programming was offered at the games; All attending athletes participated in the "Health Promotion" discipline.
- The continued development of Rhythmic Gymnastics and Floor Hockey programs.
- The Special Olympics Yukon Athlete Ambassador program continues to shine, as over 17 presentations and speeches were given by Special Olympics Yukon athletes this past year
- Fundraising was successful, having increased overall revenues from existing events and new sponsorship agreements
- The Law Enforcement Torch Run continues to grow, helping increase awareness of Special Olympics in the territory and raising more money than ever before
- Government relations are stronger than ever; this has translated into a remarkable increase in public funds

I would like to thank all of our volunteers and board of directors for their commitment to Special Olympics Yukon. Without you, this organization could not move forward as it has in the last twelve months.

In the next year, Special Olympics Yukon will continue offering quality programs to its athletes and providing a number of training opportunities to its sport volunteers. In addition, Special Olympics Yukon will continue its fund development efforts to assure the organization is adequately funded.

Looking into the future, I am confident that our organization will continue to enrich the lives of Yukoners with an intellectual disability through sport.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Gibbs, President
Special Olympics Yukon

Executive Director's Report
Submitted on September 26, 2016 by Serge Michaud

Administration

Special Olympics Yukon continues to be a Sport Governing Body in good standing with Yukon's government.

Staffing

Special Olympics Yukon employs Serge Michaud as Executive Director (Responsible for the Administration, Marketing, Fundraising and Awareness of SOY and Brettanie Deal-Porter as Program Director (responsible for all sport and program related activities of SOY).

Special Olympics Yukon (thanks to funding provided by Special Olympics Canada through Sport Canada) also employs a part-time Administration, Marketing and Development Coordinator (Sylvia Anderson) and a part-time Program Coordinator (Linea Eby).

Sport Yukon

Membership of Sport Yukon remains worthwhile for our organization. We continue to receive occasional support from them with respect to administrative services. Use of the board rooms and office equipment is an advantage of affiliation with Sport Yukon. Also, inclusion in the annual Awards Banquet gives us great visibility within the sport community.

Office

Special Olympics Yukon operates its own office space, located at 102-211 Hanson Street. The mailing address remains 4061 4th Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H1

***Meetings, Conferences, Workshops
And Professional Development***

- **September 2015 Serge Michaud and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) committee member Laurie Tamminen** attended the Annual LETR International Conference held in Nassau, Bahamas. As Serge Michaud is a member of the Special Olympics North America Leadership Council, he also attended the Special Olympics Caribbean Leadership Council meetings held in conjunction with the LETR conference.
- **October 2015 Serge Michaud and Brettanie Deal-Porter** attended the SOC Fall Business Meetings held in Toronto, ON
- **May 2015 Serge Michaud, Tom Gibbs and Brettanie Deal-Porter** attended the 2016 SOC Spring Business Meetings held in Toronto, ON.
- **Brettanie Deal-Porter** calls in for the Monthly National Sport Council Conference calls
- **Serge Michaud** calls in for the Monthly Canadian Leadership Council Conference calls

- **Brettanie Deal-Porter and Linea Eby** call in for regular youth development conference calls
- **Serge Michaud** sits on the SOC Marketing and PR sub-committee of the Canadian Leadership council (MARCOM)
- **Serge Michaud** calls into the SOC Marketing conference calls
- **Serge Michaud** continues to sit on the North American Leadership Council (NALC). This consists of bi-monthly conference calls as well as 1-2 face-to-face meetings per year.
- **Serge Michaud and Sylvia Anderson** attend all LETR Yukon related meetings.

Fund Development

Fundraising activities this past year included:

- The 2015 Golf Gala Presented by Finning
- 2015 Tim Horton's Cookie Campaign
- 2015 MEGA Giant Bingo
- The 2016 Special Olympics Festival presented by Whitehorse Canadian Tire
- 2016 Staples "Give a Toonie, Share a Dream" campaign
- Donations continue to be offered to SOY from various groups and companies
- Program and Initiatives Sponsorships included (new sponsorships secured in 15-16 are in **bold**):
 - Northwestel – Cross Country Skiing, **Soccer and Curling**
 - Northwestel – Development Games Presenting Sponsor
 - Whitehorse Tim Horton's – 5 Pin Bowling
 - Yukon Energy Corporation – **Figure Skating**
 - **ATCO Electric Yukon – Athletics**
 - **Fireweed Lions Club – Rhythmic Gymnastics**
 - Whitehorse Lions Club – Swimming
 - **Whitehorse Knights of Columbus - Bocce**
- Law Enforcement Torch Run initiatives included:
 - "Battle of the Badges" – 13 cyclists took on the Kluane Chilkat International Bike Relay and raised funds through pledges
 - Car Wash
 - BBQ held at the Special Olympics Yukon Golf Gala
 - Yukon Final Leg of the Torch Run including t-shirt sales in anticipation of the 2015 Northwestel Development Games

Grants received this past year were:

- YG – Operational funding
- YG - Moving to Inclusion
- YG - participation at S.O. Multi Sport Games
- YG – "Active Start in the daycares" project
- City of Whitehorse Recreation Grant
- Government of Canada youth development funding
- Government of Canada PHAC funding
- Government of Canada Program Funding

- SOC Athlete Leadership Grant
- SOC Volunteer Development Grant
- SOI Healthy Athletes Grant

**I would like to thank the many volunteers
who assisted in holding these Fundraisers and Special Events!**

Marketing / Public Awareness and Relations

Awareness/ Marketing opportunities that SOY took advantage of over the past year:

- Annual participation in the city of Whitehorse community registration fair
- Youth development displays and community presentations, including “see it, try it” days
- Various Newspaper and Radio ads (CKRW Sports report at 3) promoting Special Olympics Yukon programs
- New signage at both the Canada Games Centre and Takhini Arena
- Enhanced website and social networking presence (Facebook and Twitter)
- New SOY branded “pop-up” tent/gazebo

Program Director's Report
Submitted on September 2nd, 2016 by Brettanie Deal-Porter

Member Awards

Sport Yukon Member Awards will be presented in November with awards for the following Special Olympics Yukon categories:

- **Male Athlete of the Year- Owen Munroe**
- **Female Athlete of the Year- Rachel Dawson**
- **Male Most Improved Athlete of the Year- Albert Bill**
- **Female Most Improved Athlete of the Year- Alanna Dene**
- **Heather Miller Sport Volunteer of the Year- Tanya Sage**
- **Lynne Smith Event Volunteer of the Year- Dan Austin**

Community Based Programs

Athletics

Sport Volunteers: Leah Greenway, Jenelle Greenway, Susanne Wirth, Graeme Campbell, Stefan Gronsdahl

Totals for Fall/Winter = 4 sport volunteers, 7 athletes

Totals for Summer = 3 sport volunteers, 8 athletes

The ATCO Electric Yukon Bolts continue to work on running, jumping and throwing skills as well as proper techniques. The head coach focused on fitness this year and building fitness capacity.

This was a building year for the athletics program as we are now headed into the summer sport cycle. One of the highlights from the year was when the athletes and coaches met the program sponsors and raced against them.

Bowling

Sport Volunteers: Krista McKinnon, Dianne Canning, Lee Pigage, Janice Moor, Simon Charles, Catherine Lyon, Sofia Hosni (YCIT)

Totals = 6 sport volunteers, 1 Youth Coach in Training, 35 athletes

The Tim Hortons Ice Caps bowling program continues to be the largest registered sport in Special Olympics Yukon, and the bowlers had another great season ending with the Yukon Bowling Championships and a visit from Olympic Champion Jamie Sale.

Whitehorse's bowling alley is committed to keeping their doors open, pending no unforeseen circumstance, so that our athletes can train for our upcoming summer sport cycle (Provincials/Nationals). This commitment will allow SOY athletes to train for, and compete at Nationals on Prince Edward Island.

Bocce

Sport Volunteers: Dianne Canning, Deb Sumner, Jodi Binns, Janice Moor, Esther Chasse

Totals = 5 sport volunteers, 19 athletes

The Knights of Columbus Bocce Bears has grown into the largest summer sport Special Olympics Yukon offers. The program now trains and competes at Christ the King Elementary school once a week with the plan to expand to twice a week, next year.

The athletes continue to learn more about strategies towards a successful bocce match in anticipation for the upcoming summer sport cycle.

Curling

Sport Volunteers: Deb Sumner, Elaine Sumner, Jodi Binns, James Roddick, Andy Hodgson

Totals = 5 sport volunteers, 7 athletes

The Northwestel Chilkoot Sweepers focused on the continual understanding of general curling rules and how games are played.

The SOY program team along with the curling program coaches and athletes made the decision not to send a team to the 2015 Special Olympics BC Winter Games as they did not feel they were prepared to compete.

In preparation for future games SOY held a two day curling clinic lead by high performance curling coach, Al Kersey. Skills worked on included sweeping, delivery, and strategy. This clinic was enjoyed by both coaches and athletes.

Cross Country Skiing

Sport Volunteers: Helen Slama, Jerome McIntyre, Lee Hawkings, Susanne Wirth, Jennifer Lemay

Totals = 5 sport volunteers, 5 athletes

This was an important year for The **Northwestel Nordics**. We had two new athletes join the program and 3 athletes qualified at SOBC Winter Games held in Kamloops, to compete at Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Cornerbrook 2016. Training for the Games was the priority for this ski season and the athletes worked hard on and off the snow.

Their hard work paid off and all three athletes posted personal best performances and medaled in all races entered at Nationals. One Skier, Ernst Chua, has been selected to compete at worlds in Austria this March. He has been working with Head Coach, Helen Slama to develop his strength and endurance until the snow falls.

Figure Skating

Sport Volunteers: Esther Chasse, Tanya Sage, Michelle Semaschuk, Dallas Smith, Sarkis Hajian, Sherry Dube (Spare), Marilyn Lawrence (Spare), Natalie Austin (YCIT), Tess Casher (YCIT)

Totals 7 sport volunteers, 2 YCIT, 8 athletes

The **Yukon Energy Corporation Ice Cutters** had a great winter. This program continues to be a popular winter sport in terms of registrations.

Skill development and challenging each skater to achieve their personal bests was the focus this year. All skaters showed improvement in multiple areas including balance, jumps and turns.

Michael Sumner and Tijana McCarthy qualified for the 2016 SOC Winter Games in February. This is the first time since 2008 that 2 SOY athletes qualified for Nationals. Both athletes performed very well and brought home gold medals. Michael and Tijana have been selected for Worlds, Tijana in Women's Level 1 Freeskate, and Michael in Men's Level 2 Freeskate. Since Nationals both skaters and head coach, Michelle Semaschuck, have been working off ice to prepare for world games in Austria this March.

Golf

Sport Volunteers: Janine Peters, Simon Charles, Catherine Lyon, Danny Guhl, Tanya Sage, Linsey Eby, Stefan Gronsdahl, Jamie Milligan, Neil Scheffer

Totals = 9 sport volunteers, 10 athletes

The Golf program (supported in part by a City of Whitehorse Recreation Grant) continues to be a popular choice among SOY athletes and interest is growing. Athletes honed their skills on the putting green and driving range, and then got the chance to show off what they had learned over a series of on-course sessions.

On course clinic sessions were provided by Mountain View Golf Course Pro Graham Frey, and the athletes learned some great new skills. Chipping, putting, driving, and course etiquette.

They also got some time at Meadow Lakes Golf Resort on Sunday evenings with a chance to perfect the lessons they learned earlier on in the week.

To end the year on a high note, for the first time in SOY history, Special Olympics Yukon athlete Gaetan Michaud got a hole in one!

Soccer/Floor Hockey

Sport Volunteers: Ken Binns, Jodi Binns, Stacey Bowden, Thayna Wasiliew, Mike Achtymichuk, Zoe Phelps (YCIT)

Totals for fall/winter = 4 sport volunteers, 10 athletes

Totals for summer = 4 sport volunteers, 1 YCIT, 15 athletes

Motivated by the upcoming summer sport cycle, The **Northwestel Charging Moose Soccer program** continues to focus on overall skill development, teamwork as well as game play situations. The general theme throughout all SOY programming this year has been fitness and this holds true for the Charging Moose. Also new this year, a soccer program was started in Dawson City Yukon. We look forward to a fantastic continued relationship with this community and developing this program further.

For the 12th year, the team enjoyed opportunities to play against Whitehorse Minor Soccer's U-12 teams. They also participated in a fun game against their sponsors, McDonalds, and the traditional year-end game against parents and caregivers.

The floor hockey component was a new addition as a cross-training tool for the soccer athletes. The concept was to increase training and competition opportunities for the athletes including the prospect of sending a Floor Hockey team to 2019 SOBC Winter Games.

As we had low numbers for the Floor Hockey Program we hosted a Floor Hockey Development Camp in March which we invited all our registered athletes too as well as a Floor Hockey team from BC and the Whitehorse Huskies. This Clinic was well attended and we look forward to seeing if this affects registration numbers for the 2016-2017 Fall/ Winter season.

Swimming

Sport Volunteers: Marilyn Lawrence, Annie-Claude Letendre, Kathryn Kimber, Annie Pellicano, Leah Greenway, Jenelle Greenway, Isobel Ness, Valarie Bilodeau

Totals = 8 sport volunteers, 14 athletes

The **Whitehorse Lions Killer Whales and the Sharks** continued working on their swim skills. For some, it meant working towards independence in the deep end of the pool. For others, it meant working towards an increase in stamina/number of laps completed. A highlight from the year is when three athletes, Sara-Lee, Kevin Spofford, and Ernst Chua competed in the Yukon Invitational (Inclusive) Swim meet on May 7th. The competitive swimming program noted they would like to move to two days a week for the 2016/2017 season.

Both Swim programs would like to thank the Whitehorse Lions Club for their sponsorship of Special Olympics Yukon swimming.

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Sport Volunteers: Jenevieve Dumlao, Jasmine Dumlao, Kelsey Quinn, Kelly Weatherby

Totals for fall/winter = 4 sport volunteers, 4 athletes

Totals for summer = 4 sport volunteers, 4 athletes

Special Olympics Yukon's newest sport program, **The Fireweed Lions Rhythmic Ravens** is developing quickly thanks to the commitment of our four dedicated

coaches. Last year, coaches introduced athletes to the sport and taught them basic skills and movements. Both coaches and athletes are looking forward to a Rhythmic Gymnastics clinic we hope to offer this fall. SOY hopes to have an athlete ready to compete at SOBC 2017 Summer Provincial Games.

School Based Programs

This year there were 9 schools (36 athletes) registered in the School Based Program. SOY tried something new and ran FUNdamentals at the beginning of the school based programming season, led by the program coordinator. Like previous years, we followed fundamentals with sport competitions. The athletes practiced Skating, Swimming and Bowling for four weeks and then participated in an inter-school meet where athletes compete against their peers and other schools.

Takhini Elementary School has joined our roster of Schools that participate in the School Based programming; we are excited to welcome them to the crew.

Unified Sport

This was the first year we tried unified sport for high school students in Yukon. Unified Sport is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified Sport joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

Two High Schools (Porter Creek & Vanier) participated in unified soccer, adapting programs to fit their school's needs. Both High Schools look forward to working with SOY in the coming years to develop unified programming in their schools.

Youth Community Programming - Active Start and FUNdamentals

Program led by SOY Program Coordinator Linea Eby

Totals = 1 program leader, 4 athletes

Active Start is a dynamic program that uses sport through play to physically engage younger children aged 2-6. This program aims to involve the whole family in the world of sport and physical activity and is a great stepping stone into a life of health, fitness and sport.

FUNdamentals builds off of the Active Start program, providing children aged 7 – 12 years old with basic sport skills before they enter the Special Olympics community based programming.

Due to low, community based numbers; we ran this as a hybrid of the 2 programs to accommodate the range in registrants' ages.

We offered FUNdamentals in the Park from June 23-August 4th (7 sessions) which was a success and had a lot of positive feedback. All registrants are hopeful a program will continue into the fall/winter.

Active Start in Daycares

SOY took a different approach to Active Start this year. We were seeing very few numbers in our youth programming and at our "see it, try it" days. Noticing this, we decided to offer the training to Daycare providers in the Yukon. Our goal was to develop relationships with Daycares and be a support for daycares/families in Yukon who have a child with an intellectual disability.

To date, 5 workshops have been held, 16 daycares have at least 1 staff that have completed training. 46 child care workers have been trained and over 340 children attend programs at their specific daycare. Of the 16 daycares offering the program, 5 are in rural communities.

Athlete Ambassador Program

This program provides athletes with training in delivering speeches and presentations and then provides them with opportunities throughout the year to show off their skills at SOY events. Other training components included in the program are media and social media training as well as sessions on governance.

9 athletes are currently taking part and have achieved various levels of training:

Class of 2014 - Mallory Pigage, Michael Sumner, Gaetan Michaud, Carrie Rudolph, Aimee Lien, and Darby McIntyre. All 6 athletes are now fully trained in the following: Athletes Speaking 1, Media/Social Media and Governance

Class of 2015 – Sara Lee Edmonds, Duncan McRae and Owen Munroe. All 3 athletes are now fully trained in the following: Athlete Speaking 1

This past year, about 20 speeches and presentations were made by our athlete ambassadors.

SOY would like to thank each athlete's Speech Mentors. These individuals volunteer their time to assist their assigned athlete ambassador through training and speech/presentation preparation.

Games and Competition

2016 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Team Yukon presented by Whitehorse McDonalds

5 athletes, 2 coaches, 1 mission staff and one Chef De Mission, participated at the Winter Games held in Cornerbrook, NFLD in February/March 2016. Athletes participated in Skating and Cross Country Skiing. Over 8 personal best performances and 8 medals were earned by Team Yukon (they medaled in every event they partook in, a great testament to their coaches).

Highlights of these games included:

- 8 personal best performances
- 8 medals earned by Team Yukon (medals in every event entered)
- Figure Skating athletes Tijana McCarthy and Michael Sumner along with Cross Country Skiing athlete, Ernest Chua was chosen to represent Canada at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.
- This is the first time three Yukon athletes have qualified for World Winter Games
- Results included:
 - o Figure Skating:
 - Team Yukon Captain, Michael Sumner, wins GOLD in Men's Level 2
 - Tijana McCarthy wins GOLD in Ladies Level 1
 - o Cross Country Skiing
 - Darby McIntyre wins SILVER in the 5km and GOLD in the 7.5km
 - Owen Munroe wins BRONZE in the 7.5km and GOLD in the 5km
 - Ernest Chua wins GOLD in 500M and SILVER in 1km

Northwestel Development Games 2015

SOY hosted the annual Summer Development Games presented by Northwestel on August 8th in beautiful Haines Junction, Yukon. 30 registered Athletes and 12 coaches participated. The opening ceremonies took place on Saturday morning at the convention center and saw athletes, coaches, dignitaries, families and friends take in wonderful entertainment and inspiring speeches. Law Enforcement Torch Run member Phil Whiles and SOY athlete Tijana McCarthy opened the games by bringing in the Flame of Hope.

The day was packed with sports competitions, clinics and a healthy athlete's component. Athletes participated in Bocce, Athletics and a Basketball clinic. Also featured at the games was "Health Promotion", a healthy athlete's initiative that saw all participating athletes go through basic health promotion & well-being stations.

The closing dinner and dance party took place in Haines Junction at the convention center.

SOY would like to thank the Community of Haines Junction for their support & for being fantastic community hosts.

Curling Development Clinic

In preparation for future games, SOY held a two day curling clinic lead by high performance curling coach, Al Kersey on February 20th. 7 SOY athletes and 3 coaches participated in this clinic where they learned new techniques and honed their skills. This clinic included on and off-ice practice and focused on delivery, sweeping and strategy. This clinic ran from 9:00-2:00 and was enjoyed by both coaches and athletes.

Floor Hockey Development Camp

SOY hosted a Floor Hockey Development Camp March 18th-20th to help spark interest in our Floor Hockey program which has been struggling. Four coaches and 18 athletes attended from SOY. We also had two coaches and six athletes from SOBC join us for this event.

The clinic was held at the CGC and began with a welcome from the Executive Director on Friday night followed by clinics and a friendly game. SOY was very excited to partner with the Whitehorse Huskies and have coach, Michael Tuton attend along with 6 players.

Saturday followed the same format and ended with a full scrimmage open to the public..

Both SOY & SOBC coaches and athletes enjoyed a meal together afterwards and spent the evening dancing the night away. This clinic was very successful and SOY would like to thank SOBC for their help in making this event happen.

Spring/Summer Boot Camps

SOY held three boot camps this summer lead by Sport Yukon's Physical Literacy Coordinator, Jeremy McCulloch. The boot camps focused on proper warm-up's, circuit training and a cool down. The boot camps were well received by both coaches and athletes with between 20-25 athletes and 6 coaches attending.

Some of the techniques taught at the boot camp have been incorporated into weekly practices by attending coaches.

SOY would like to thank Jeremy for volunteering his time and sharing his expertise.

Coach Education

Our coaches took part in a range of professional development opportunities throughout the year. Several updated their first aid and CPR certifications, while others took part in NCCP coaching certifications including Theory Parts A and B and Special Olympics Canada's Competition Coach Course.