



Special Olympics
Newfoundland & Labrador

Annual Report 2008/09



Regional Leadership Council

Winnie Power, Chair
Nanette Blake, Vice-Chair

Club Coordinators

Region 1: St.John's - Daniel Reid, Coordinator
Bell Island - Lori Hann, Coordinator

Region 2: Mount Pearl - Don Finch, Coordinator
CBS Local - Gail Baker, Coordinator

Region 3: Tri-Con - Gina King Coordinator

Region 4: Marystown - Trudy Power, Coordinator
Fortune Local - Cecelia Dodge, Coordinator

Region 5: Vista, Vacant

Region 6: Gander - Carmel Casey, Coordinator

Region 7: Exploits - Rhonda Cater, Coordinator
Baie Verte - Coretta Stacey, Coordinator

Region 8: Corner Brook - Hope Wiseman, Coordinator

Region 9: Happy Valley/Goose Bay - Nanette Blake,
Coordinator

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Over the past eight years Special Olympics has gone through significant changes and developments. The organization has moved from living day-to-day to one that is a model sport organization that is planning for the future. That transformation is due to the volunteers of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador at all levels.

The passion and heart of the organization is at the grass roots. These are the individuals that kept the organization running when there was no staff and no provincial office to act as a resource or guide. The volunteers' dedication to their athletes ensured that programs would never stop and that individuals with intellectual disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador would continue to reap the benefits of Special Olympics.

The passion of the grass roots volunteers was the catalyst for change and a new beginning. With that energy a new group of volunteers were recruited to form the provincial board of directors. This group took on the responsibility of finding the necessary funds required to hire staff and provide adequate services and resources to the grass roots programs.

Eight years later, athlete numbers have more than doubled, new areas of the province are being reached and a new culture is emerging among members of the organization. Our volunteers and athletes have come to expect and demand technically sound sport competitions and venues, coach training and development opportunities that allow coaches to train the individual needs of all athletes and resources, policies and guidance that makes a volunteers' job easier. Volunteers see the rewards of Special Olympics and they know that their athletes deserve the best.



Special Olympics
Newfoundland & Labrador

As the organization moves into the future, this culture change is going to maintain itself and continue to raise the quality of programs. We are currently reaching over 550 athletes in more communities and age

groups than we ever have before. The reality is that there are over 8,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities in this province that can avail of our programs. We need to continue to develop our current programs and reach out to those potential athletes across the province who deserve the right to have the choice to be part of a Special Olympics program. Athletes with intellectual disabilities deserve nothing but the best possible programs. It is the



Ken Marshall
Chair



Johnny Byrne
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Ken Marshall, Chair
Carmel Casey, Vice Chair
Heather Moores, Treasurer
Winnie Power, RLC Representative
Evan Ash, Director
Mary Bluechardt, Director
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Tom Clift, Director
Judy Dobbin, Director
Rod Dunne, Director
Kevin Dunphy, Director
Bob Moakler, Progress Club Representative
Dan Hutton, Director
Kate O'Neil, Director
Brenda Steele, Auto Dealers Association Representative

Staff

Johnny Byrne, Executive Director
Nelson White, Program Director

Mission: Special Olympics is committed to enriching the lives of Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans with an intellectual disability through sport.

2009 PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS

Female Coach of the Year: Carol Strickland

Carol Strickland is the Head Coach of Special Olympics Mount Pearl's bowling program. She cares for over 100 bowlers on 20 alleys with another 31 coaches who she oversees. Carol is the rock in the midst of all this activity. She is always there, she arrives early and is ready to give her full attention to the athletes. She is responsible and reliable, attentive to the parents' concerns and coaches' needs. Carol is an unheralded coach devoting her time every week to a busy local program. She is well known and liked by her athletes and all the members of her club. She is a steady reliable coach who makes her coaches and athletes her top priority. She always sees the lighter side of things and her laugh can be heard throughout the alleys.



Male Coach of the Year: Guy Richard

Guy Richard is the Head Coach of the Special Olympics Mount Pearl Athletics Program. He quietly and competently plans and delivers an excellent fundamental skills program. Guy delivers his program without ever looking for personal recognition or glory. He is patient and understanding with the athletes and their parents and brings a tireless work ethic to everything he does. Guy has a modest and unassuming approach that with his athletes. Guy is a technically sound coach who uses all his skills to help athletes improve. He has a good understanding of the basics to help any athlete no matter what their level of ability may be. From the weekly warm-up exercises to the closing activity, Guy keeps everyone involved and active.



Volunteer of the Year: Carmel Casey

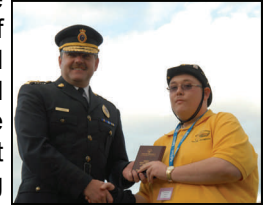
Dr. Carmel Casey is a volunteer with Special Olympics Gander Club. Dr. Casey amply fulfills the criteria for the Volunteer of the Year Award with her contributions, development and enhancement of Special Olympics over the last 12 years. Dr. Casey has been a tireless worker for Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador, as a coach, program leader, and advocate at all levels; locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. Dr. Casey is currently president of the Gander Club and she is head coach for the local athletics, snowshoe and active start programs. She is also Vice-President of the Provincial Board of Directors as well as a member of the provincial sport committee. This past winter Dr. Casey was the Physician for Team Canada at the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho. Her success is all accomplished while maintaining a full time medical practice, and caring for her mother and her sister who is a Special Olympics athlete. Dr. Casey's passion,



dedication and respect for others earned her not only the Volunteer of the Year Award for Newfoundland and Labrador but also the 2009 Jim Thompson Award which is presented to the volunteer of the year for Canada.

Male Athlete of the Year: Bradley Hurley

Bradley has been a member of the Special Olympics Gander club for 10 years. He competes and trains in the sports of athletics, bowling, floor hockey and snowshoeing. Though Special Olympics he has made major life style changes and has seen significant improvement in his overall well being over the past 4 years. Bradley came to SO as a significantly overweight self conscious young man. Through his involvement he has learned the benefit of regular physical activity and as a result lost nearly 100 pounds. He has been awarded the most improved athlete in numerous sports including Athletics, Floor Hockey and Bowling. Bradley shows extreme sportsmanship by respecting his fellow players and coaches. He is courteous, polite and takes every opportunity to have fun while engaging in every aspect of the sport.



Female Athlete of the Year: Sandra Smith

Sandra has been a member of the Special Olympics Tri-Con club for the past six years. She is active in all five Tri-Con sports; athletics, snowshoeing, swimming, bowling and floor hockey. Sandra always takes an initiative to make sure that she attends all her practises. She rides her bike, walks or calls a friend to secure a ride. Sandra is a good leader and encourages others to work hard and strive to do their best. She is always the first one to praise others after they have completed a race. Sandra has successfully operated her own recycling business for a number of years in the Carbonear area. She is outgoing and well known in her community for her positive attitude and strong work ethic.



Gina Blundon Award: Mary Ellen Murphy

Mary Ellen has been a member of the Tri-Con Club since its inception in 1993. She exemplifies the core qualities of Gina Blundon Award in her every day life and at all Special Olympics Activities. Mary Ellen is known for her positive personality, commitment to her sport training and teammates and her leadership through example. She is involved in all of the clubs sports and is enthusiastic about the potential to learn new sports and grow as an athlete. She is a regular participant in all sports and rarely misses practice, in her spare time she is a champion of healthy living who sets a strong example by following her own fitness programs.



Coaching

2008-09 marked a significant milestone for Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador as it was the first full year that it had a Master Learning Facilitator as part



of its coach development program. With Mary Holloway now fully trained and certified she was able to start the training of a second coaching facilitator in the province. In 2008-09 there were 77 coaches trained bringing the total number of trained coaches under the new coaching program to almost 140. These are exciting times for coach development in this province. Having our own facilitators allows the organization to meet coaching needs as they arise and be flexible about times and location of their courses. This is going to allow all of our coaches to be better qualified and for our athletes to be better trained.

Developing Team Sports

Floor Hockey - Floor Hockey continues to be a favorite sport of athletes across the province. Due to large numbers that it takes to field a floor hockey team, many clubs have trouble filling complete rosters. This has not stopped clubs from playing and having a passion for the sport. In April of 2009 the second annual floor hockey championships were hosted, this time in Clarenville. Five Clubs and 52 athletes attended and composite teams were created to allow smaller clubs to be able to compete. The championships were a huge success and the excitement is already building for 2010.



Soccer

- Soccer has been played by clubs around the province in varying capacities. In the Spring of 2008 Mount Pearl hosted a soccer camp to try and develop the interest

in the sport.

To solidify the development of the sport and to show support for their own local team that had been training diligently, Special Olympics Mount Pearl sent their Soccer Team to Halifax to compete in the 2009 Special Olympics Nova Scotia Provincial Games. By competing in these game the soccer team qualified for the National Games and will be representing

Newfoundland and Labrador in 2010 in London, Ontario.

Following their return, the Mount Pearl team played a series against a Special Olympics St.John's team in the fall. This is the start of an ongoing series and rivalry that will undoubtedly kick start the development of soccer across the province.

Club development

The 2008-09 program year saw the organization formally establish itself in one new community and make great in roads into developing a entire new region. Baie Verte Special Olympics launched in the fall of 2008 when a local group pioneered by Coretta



Stacey held their first bowling night. The group attended their first Provincial Games in Mount Pearl in July and held their first Torch Run in June. The group started small and apprehensive but through the help of other clubs and powered by the energy of attending their first Special Olympics event, they were hooked. This group has a great core of athletes and enthusiastic volunteers that see the potential Special Olympics has to bring to the Baie Verte peninsula. Their future is bright and Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador is proud to have them as part of our family.

The entire Western Region has been an untapped portion of the island for Special Olympics. Corner Brook has had a an extremely successful club for many years but programs outside of the city have been limited. At the 2008 NL Games in the Western Region several athletes and volunteers were exposed to Special Olympics. These athletes stayed involved and several attended the 2009 Summer Games in Mount Pearl. One of those athletes, Chris Dugas from Stephenville, qualified to be a member of the Provincial Team Training Squad. Chris and his coach Rosie Ryan's involvement has acted as the catalyst for further involvement and interest from the region. There is great potential to get more athletes and communities involved and we are very excited for what the future holds for that region.

COMPETITIONS

2009 Canada Games, PEI



The 2009 Canada Games, was a national multi-sport and cultural event held August 15-29, 2009 in the Province of Prince Edward Island. Since 1967, the Canada Games has evolved to become the pinnacle of national competition for Canadian athletes and includes divisions for persons with disabilities and an arts component called the National Artist

Program. In 2009 Special Olympics athletes competed in the sports of swimming and for the first time ever track and field. Newfoundland and Labrador sent a full quota of athletes; eight in total and as well as two mission staff and a coach.

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador was very proud and excited to have the opportunity to include its athletes in one of the premiere events in Canadian Sports. The Canada Games provided Special Olympics athletes with the opportunity to be a contributing member of their provincial team and to showcase their abilities alongside some of the best young athletes in the country. The results of Special Olympics athletes counted toward their team's total points used to determine the final standings at the Canada Games. Their achievements and results were equal to their non-disabled peers. That was true inclusion and a great accomplishment for the advancement of athletes with an intellectual disability.

2009 Powerlifting Championships

The sport of powerlifting returned to the provincial scene in 2009 when Special Olympics World Champion Jackie Barrett moved to Corner Brook with his family. Jackie competed at the 2009 Newfoundland and Labrador Powerlifting Championships in May where he qualified for the 2010 National



Games in the sport. Jackie is the first powerlifting athlete that Newfoundland and Labrador will send to a National Games since 2002. Jackie's involvement in the sport has generated a lot of interest so we look forward to other athletes taking up the sport in the future.

2009 Winter Championships

Gander has a reputation within Special Olympics for hosting quality events. They have on more than one occasion taken on the responsibility of hosting provincial competitions and in 2009 they came through for the organization once again. With less than three months until

the provincial championships were to be held the prospective host was forced to decline and the provincial board was prepared to cancel the event for 2009. Prior to the announcement being made, Carmel Casey stepped up to offer Gander as a potential host. With her initiative and the support of her local club, the Town of Gander, track organizer extraordinaire Murray Fudge and Airport Nordic Ski Club the 2009 Winter Championships became a reality. The quality of event that



Gander was able to host is a credit to their community and their amazing residents. Over 100 athletes, coaches and mission staff attended and were treated to a technically superior event and spectacular hospitality thanks to the local volunteers, Knights of Columbus and local Member of Parliament, Scott Simms who is a main stay at Special Olympics events in the central region.

Provincial Team Program

Following the completion of the Summer Games the Provincial Team Selection committee sprang into action. Within two weeks of the running of the last race local clubs received endorsement notices for their athletes, and by the middle of August the entire team was selected. In total 28 athletes, 8 coaches and 7 mission staff will be training over the next year to compete in the sports of 5 pin bowling, powerlifting, soccer, swimming, and track and field at the 2010 Special Olympics National Summer Games in London, Ontario.



The group that was initially selected were name to the Provincial Team Training squad who have committed to be part of a training program for the next year that will prepare them to compete to the best of their abilities at the National Games. The first major event of the training squad was the Provincial Team Training Camp that brought together the entire team for a training weekend that allowed coaches to evaluate their athletes and to set them up with training programs to follow for the year. The training camp also put athletes through a fitness test that measured the athlete base line fitness that will be tested again prior to the National Games to gauge the athletes' development through a year of training.

The entire training squad will be working hard all year so that they can represent their province with pride at the

2009 PROVINCIAL SUMMER GAMES

When Games Chair Evan Ash and Co-chair Mary Holloway sat down with Executive Director, Johnny Byrne in 2007 to discuss their plans to host the 2009 Provincial Summer Games their main priority was to host the best Games possible. Looking back on the games this goal was accomplished...and then some.



The 2009 Summer Games were the largest in the organization's history with over 500 athletes, coaches and mission staff taking part in the sports of Bowling, Track and field and Swimming. These team members were served by over 400 volunteers who attended to all the teams needs from cooking them breakfast, to driving their busses, to timing their races.

The amount of planning that went into the games was significant but the organizing committee could only control so much. It was the City of Mount Pearl and its residents that made the games such an amazing success. The support started at the top with the town council and city staff who provided in kind, cash and man hours to ensure that all needs of the organizing committee were met. They continually went above and beyond making sure that all details were taken care of and that the organizing committee was never in need. With city councillors giving up their weekend to volunteer, the enthusiasm permeated through the entire community, and over 400 community members came out to support the athletes of Special Olympics.



The sense of community made all team members in attendance feel like they were truly a special guest in Mount Pearl. The planning and community support led to a technically sound games that allowed athletes to compete to the best of their abilities without any organizational and technical barriers. Outside of the sport events the organizing committee had social activities planned that made the games a well rounded experience. On top of services for teams, the organizing committee also pioneered a parents program that provided for families who were away from home cheering on their children.



The 2009 Provincial Summer Games were truly the best that Mount Pearl could have hosted. They reached their goals, and because of that the athletes and volunteers of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador will have

memories to last a lifetime.

Healthy Athletes Program

For more than 10 years, Special Olympics has been serving athletes by offering free health screenings and health information at local, regional and World Games. As part of the 2009 Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador Summer Games, the Opening Eyes program was offered at the athlete's village during the Friday and Saturday of the Provincial Games. At the event, volunteers provided color vision testing, visual acuity tests and distribution of glasses and protective sports goggles for athletes. Opening Eyes provides diagnosis for vision related problems as well as corrective and protective eyewear all free of charge. The athletes receive a certificate detailing their vision needs and follow-up referrals to health care providers in their home areas if needed. Athletes were also taught how to take care of their eyes.



The objectives of Opening Eyes include providing screenings to Special Olympics athletes educating athletes, parents and coaches about the importance of regular eye care, educating and changing attitudes of eye care professionals about the vision care needs of persons with intellectual disabilities worldwide and increasing knowledge of visual and eye health needs of persons with intellectual disabilities through research.

The clinic saw an astounding 155 athletes, 99 of which were given glasses. This program made a profound impact on the athletes it reached and we look forward to finding opportunities to offer other Healthy Athletes programs in this province.



Young Athletes Games

As part of the Provincial Games Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador hosted an activity session for its young athletes and their families. This play session gave them the opportunity to be part of the games experience while taking part in an active play session during the a track and field lunch break.

REMEMBERING OUR SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOUNDERS

Special Olympics Worldwide: Eunice Kennedy Shriver

On a steamy July 20th afternoon in 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver strode to the microphone at Soldier Field in Chicago and convened the first Special Olympics Games. With a crowd of fewer than 100 people dotting the 85,000-seat stadium, about 1,000 athletes from 26 states and Canada, all of them routinely classified in those days as mentally retarded, marched in the opening ceremonies and followed Shriver as she recited what is still the Special Olympics oath:

Let me win,
but if I cannot win
let me be brave
in the attempt.

While sceptics shook their heads and most of the press ignored the unprecedented competition, Shriver boldly predicted that one million of the world's intellectually challenged would someday compete athletically. She was wrong. Today, more than three million Special Olympic athletes are training year-round in all 50 states and 181 countries. Mrs. Shriver's vision helped create a worldwide movement that continues to change attitudes and lives. Her presence will be missed but her impact will continue to be felt.

Newfoundland and Labrador: Tom Woodford

The history of Special Olympics in Newfoundland and Labrador has a rich library of stories of inspiration, hope and achievement that involve athletes, coaches, volunteers and families. These stories and the ongoing stability of Special Olympics in this province are possible because of the support of corporate Newfoundland and Labrador. No one was more integral in this than Tom Woodford.

In 1985 when the Automobile Dealers Association of Canada made a pitch to its members to support Special Olympics the fact that there was no active chapter in Newfoundland and Labrador did not dissuade that province's dealers. Led by Albert Hickman and Tom Woodford, the dealers championed the cause to ensure that a chapter would be started in this province. They came to the table with financial support and volunteers to ensure this province's population with an intellectual disability would have access to the programs of Special Olympics.

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador mourns the loss of one of its pioneers and is forever indebted to him for his foresight and drive that has changed the lives of thousands of individuals with an intellectual disability across this province.

In recognition of Mr. Woodford's support of Special Olympics members of the Automobile Dealers Association recently gave donations in excess of \$3,500 to Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador in his memory.

IN MEMORY

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador would like to remember the following athletes and coaches that passed away over the last year.

Athletes

Evelyn Hepditch, Mount Pearl
Janet Maher, Mount Pearl
Jerry Roche, Mount Pearl
Margaret Wade, Corner Brook

Coaches

Marie Gosse, St. John's
Mary O'Reilly, Exploits
Kimberly Stuckey, Gander

THANK YOU

PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest financial supporter of Special Olympics programs in the world and in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2008-09 the LETR celebrated its 20th Anniversary in the province and raised in excess of \$90,000 for local and provincial programs while raising awareness about Special Olympics programs. Runs were held in over twenty communities across the province spreading awareness about Special Olympics and the outstanding support it receives from Law Enforcement in the province.

North Atlantic Petroleum

The North Atlantic Petroleum Charity Golf Event was once again one of the premiere golf events in the province, raising in excess of \$30,000 for Special Olympics. At a time when budgets were being slashed and economic demands on large national companies were being stretched the NAP Golf Event continued to stand out. The commitment of the NAP staff as well as the involvement of the Special Olympics athletes in the event makes it a memorable day on the course that is a staple on many corporate calendars. A huge thank you goes out to the organizing committee members Dave Button, Rod Dunne, Rick Greenwood, Shawn Murphy, Craig Ralph, and Lisa Viguers.

United Way of Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2008-09 the United Way of Avalon provided a \$10,000 grant that made possible the development of SONL's Young Athletes program. Their support helped grow the Active Start program so that it could reach a wider range of children..

Auto Dealers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

Ever since there has been Special Olympics in Newfoundland and Labrador the auto dealers have been there to support the organization. In 2009 the ADANL provided a cash donation of \$15,000 to support SONL's programs.

Canadian Progress Club St. John's

The CPC St. John's donated \$12,500 to SONL and an additional \$5,000 to the Summer Games organizing committee to sponsor the athletes banquet. Although the financial support is invaluable to the success of SONL, the group are best know by our athletes for the socials and other athletes centered events that they organize. Whether it is the Christmas party, summer fling or the legendary Halloween Party you can be



guaranteed that you will find CPC members in the background enjoying the merriment of the athletes.

SUPPORTERS AND INITIATIVES

Knights of Columbus

One of the international mandates of the Knights of Columbus is to support Special Olympics. Over the past four years this relationships has grown exponentially. Clubs and councils have started to become more involved at the grass roots level and with provincial games. At both the Winter Championships and Summer Games Knights could be seen donning aprons to help prepare and serve food for athletes. In other communities they hosted dances and ran fundraisers. Their support has been unconditional and all encompassing and we are looking forward to continuing to grow and foster this relationship.



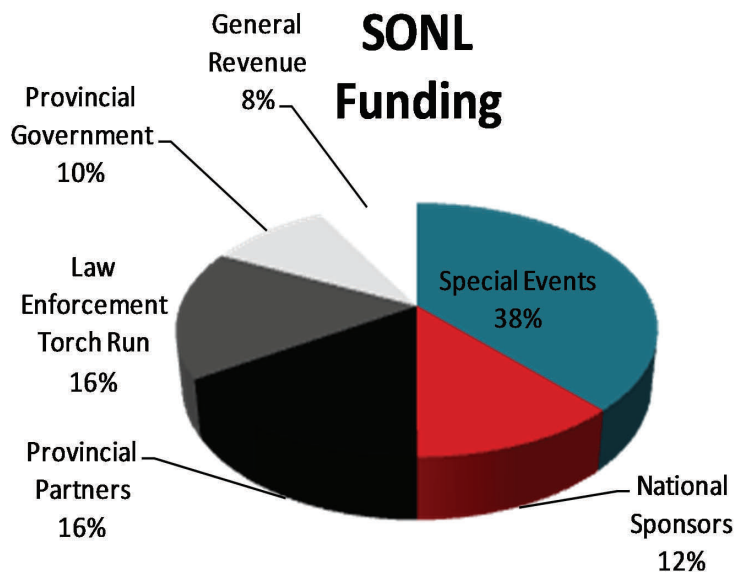
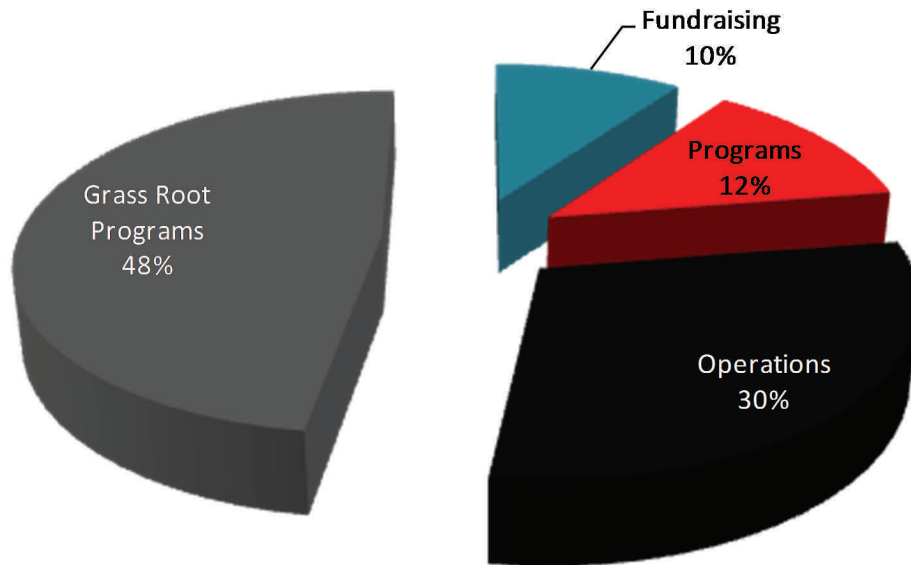
Special Olympics Festival

The Festival is one of SONL's biggest fundraisers of the year. It has seen many incarnations over the years and in 2008 it undertook its biggest reincarnation to date. 2009 saw a refining of the "party" concept launched in 2008. The Festival was once again hosted at Club One, with the emphasis being placed on guests having a fabulous night out with friends while raising money for a great cause. The night was highlighted by guest speakers Dave "The Hammer" Shultz and numerous Special Olympics athlete guests. The pre-party concept launched by committee member Judy Dobbin was a huge hit and when the metro busses arrived at Club One everyone knew it was going to be a night to remember. The Festival was a great success and the format will be one that is replicated again in 2010. A huge thank you goes out to organizing committee members Judy Dobbin, Kevin Casey, Dan Hutton, Ken Marshall and Wayne Barlett.

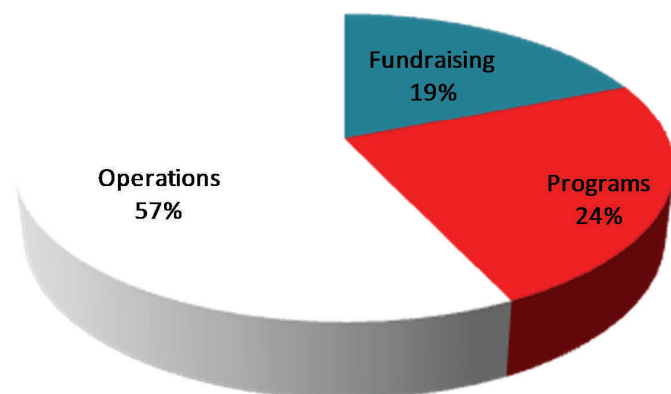
Special Thanks: Glenn Stanford and the Hamilton Bulldogs for their 50/50 donation from their exhibition series at Mile One Centre.

2008-09 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Provincial Finances



SONL Expenditures



SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2009

HARRIS RYAN
Chartered Accountants

PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

adanl.....
Automobile Dealers Association of Newfoundland & Labrador



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