



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

***Special  
Olympics  
Newfoundland  
& Labrador***



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VOLUNTEERS  
DO NOT  
NECESSARILY  
HAVE THE TIME;  
THEY HAVE  
THE HEART

ELIZABETH ANDREW

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador is proud to be part of a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

Wow! What a year. We had 4 athletes compete for Team Canada. Crystal Young, Floressa Harris, Justin Dodge and Sandra Smith all had fantastic performances at the Special Olympics World Games in Austria. Labrador West joined the Special Olympics family with the creation of a new community club. We introduced a new school based Unified Sports program. Mark Peddle co-hosted the Special Olympics Canada National Awards with TSN's Vic Rauter. These are just a few examples of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador 2016-2017 successes.

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador completed the final year of our 5 year strategic plan. The plan focused on growth – the growth of athletes, coaches, volunteers, staff and the funds to support the growth. Since 2012 SONL has seen our athlete numbers grow by 47%, our coaches and volunteers by 74%, and our staff grow by 25%.

Although many these accomplishments are one-time events, they represent much more. They are the result of countless hours of preparation

**Special  
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by athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters. Our greatest impact and the successes of what we do starts at the grassroots with our community clubs.

SONL has trained motivated coaches and volunteers. Along with delivering superior sports training, they have had great success instilling confidence and self-esteem in our athletes. Their encouragement has led to healthier athletes with life-long physical fitness habits.

The Board of Directors and the Festival Committee have worked diligently to ensure the financial success of the chapter. Dedicated community partners such as the LETR and Canadian Progress Club have contributed greatly to the financial stability of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador.

The athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff of Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador can all take pride in the overall success of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter. We have worked together to enrich the lives of individuals with an intellectual disability through active participation in sport.



# PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS

## Female Coach of the Year: 2017 — Carmel Casey



Carmel Casey has been a member of Gander Wings since the club's inception holding various executive positions over the 15 year span. She is currently the Club Coordinator for Gander Wings. Carmel has organized many regional and provincial competitions over the years.

Carmel's main coaching focus is on Athletics and Snowshoeing but she also attends and assists other sports. Carmel started the Active Start Program for Gander Wings to introduce young children into the Special Olympic Programming. Carmel was responsible for the direct training of one of the athletes who attended the World Games, where she also attended as Team Physician in Austria 2017. Carmel is an excellent mentor, sharing her knowledge and experience in sports, providing excellent advice and support to others.

## Volunteer of the Year 2017—Marg Byrd



Marg Byrd is a tremendous asset to the Gander Wings club, hardworking and dedicated. No job is too big or too small for her, from being the Program Coordinator, to taking a lead role in helping their team prepare for the 2017 Provincial Summer Games to emceeding the end of year banquet for the Gander club.

Marg gets things done and is very efficient. She coaches two sports, Bowling and Bocce, taking a genuine interest in the Athletes and helping them become the best they can be. Marg reaches out to new athletes and puts time in to talking to the parents regarding opportunities that exist with in Special Olympics. Marg works hard to see that the Athletes have a quality sports program, opportunities to compete and fun social activities.

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.*  
~ Sherry Anderson

## Male Coach of the Year: 2017—Travis Maher



Travis Maher has been a member of the Mount Pearl club for over 7 years as a Floor Hockey and Soccer coach. He is an accredited coach through Sport NL and is committed to providing athletes with competitions and opportunities to enhance their skill. Travis is a leader, committed to the athletes and is a positive influence in their lives.

Trevor places the athletes first, provides constructive feedback and challenges the athletes to be involved in other sports. Trevor is also a certified St. John Ambulance First Aid Instructor.

## Team of the Year 2017—Gander Wings Curling Team

Gander Wings Curling Team have worked hard to develop as curlers and teammates. Gander Wings Curling Team have competed together for three years and have played in three provincial bonspiels showing improvement in individual skills and team strategy. Gander Wings Curling Team try their best each time they step on the ice, whether it is practice or competition. They support each other as develop their skills and win or lose, they get a lot of enjoyment from the competition. Gander Wings Curling Team comes off the ice with smiles on their face, respect for their opponents and knowing they did their best!



L-R: Daniel Ralph, Dennis Walsh, Daniel Philpott, Craig Aylward, Michael Harris

# PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS



## **Gina Bludnon Award**

*To earn the Gina Bludnon Award an athlete must exhibit the qualities of Heart, Commitment, Dedication and Leadership.*

### **2017—Heather Miller**

**Heather** joined Special Olympics in CBS over 9 years ago. Heather has participated in Bowling, Bocce, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Softball, Snowshoeing, and Athletics. In short, Heather has participated in and encouraged the initiation of every new sport offered in CBS. Heather is always in attendance at every CBS Special Olympics event, even when sometimes unable to actively participate, she is still there to cheer on her peers—as a “Very Important Fan!” Heather can always be counted on to represent her club. Heather has attended training camps to develop skills in sport, participated in Special Olympics Leadership Council, represented SONL at Hill Day in Ottawa, and currently holds a position on the SONL board as an Athlete’s Representative. Heather continues to exemplify what it means to be a Special Olympic Athlete, because she shows heart. Heather has the hand that reaches out to help, the attitude to be a cheerleader for Special Olympics at every level. Most of all, Heather has demonstrated that she has the determination to “Try, try again!” When the going gets tough, Heather Miller will always “Be Brave in the Attempt”. Congratulations Heather!

## **Male Athlete of the Year**

### **2017—Justin Dodge**



**Justin Dodge** is a wonderful athlete competing in Snowshoeing and Athletics. Justin cares for others and encourages them. Justin is known for saying “As long as you do your best, no matter where we finish, we are ALL winners.” Justin lives in a smaller, rural community with little snow nor a training facility, however, he doesn’t let that impede his training. He can often be found on the local soccer field in snowshoes, running and sprinting on grass or running on a treadmill. This has helped him improve greatly in regards to his running, technique and finishing time. Justin is cooperative, respectful and helpful. He is very eager each and every week, always there to help set up the equipment. All the hard work for Justin paid off when he went to the 2017 World Games in Austria. While there he received a Gold Medal and had two 4th place finishes! Way to Go Justin!

## **Female Athlete of the Year**

### **2017—Floressa Harris**



**Floressa Harris** is a pleasure to coach and a kind and sensitive athlete. Floressa competes in Snowshoeing, Athletics, and Bocce. Floressa set a goal of competing in the World Games and this past March she was part of the team Canada that travelled to Austria.

Floressa worked hard on her running form and put a lot of effort into building power and speed. Floressa takes a lot of pride in hearing what people say about what a great runner she is when she finishes a race. Floressa’s hard work and dedication paid off when she posted personal best times in finals at the World Games. Floressa moved herself up to the top division competing in the fastest division for women and came home from World Games with two Silver and one Bronze medals! What an accomplishment! Well done Floressa!

Let me win.  
But if I cannot win,  
let me be brave  
in the attempt.  
- Special Olympics athlete oath

# NEWS & EVENTS

## Coach Development

Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador believes strongly in educating our coaches. The National Certification Program (NCCP) offers different coaching courses for Special Olympics. One stream of SO coaching is the competition course; this course is required for all coaches intending to participate at national competitions. Another coaching stream is the Coaching Young Athletes Course; this course is intended for coaches working with the Active Start and FUNdamentals program.

SONL hosted a number of Competition Courses this year, from Stephenville to Gander to St. John's. This course is for coaches who would like to take their athletes to the next level - provincial, national or international - and focuses on training practices. These courses were well attended and we were thrilled to have Learning Facilitators Mike Greek from Nova Scotia and Charity Sheehan from Prince Edward Island to help train new facilitators in our province.

SONL also hosted a coaching clinic for Athletics and Snowshoeing that was held in Gander on January 28 and 29th. This was a fantastic event led by Rosie Ryan. All participants, coaches and athletes, received practical, technical training. There were two coaches and four athletes from each attending club who were able to take the information they learned and share with their home club.



## Young Athletes

**FUNdamentals** and **Active Start** are our Young Athletes programs that introduce young athletes and their families—not only to Special Olympics—but also to the key components of living a healthy active lifestyle and all the basic motor skills needed for life. They are built on the rationale that, when children with an intellectual disability receive early instruction in basic motor skills and developmentally appropriate play, there is an excellent opportunity for improvement in their physical, social and cognitive skills.



## S.O. Give it a GO!

**S.O. Give it a GO** are “try-it” days for potential and returning Special Olympics athletes. S.O. Give it a Go provides opportunities for individuals with an intellectual disability to try different activities. S.O. Give it a GO started in schools; where SONL introduced students, student assistants and teachers to the world of Special Olympics and what it has to offer.

## Dr. Frank Hayden

For his work in both creating the idea for the Special Olympics and for his critical role in developing it, Dr. Frank Hayden received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Memorial University in Corner Brook last May.



# NEWS & EVENTS

## Competitions

Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador has 16 community-based clubs that offer a variety of sports programs including athletics, bocce, bowling, cross country skiing, curling, floor hockey, golf, powerlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, softball, snowshoeing, soccer and swimming. Each club works diligently to ensure that athletes have an opportunity to showcase their skills in their chosen sport.

With a variety of sports offered by the clubs throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, SONL has multiple Provincial Competitions each year. Many of our athletes are multi-sport athletes so between Provincial Games years; athletes are encouraged to compete in Provincial and Invitational Competitions by sport.



## Unified

An exciting program was introduced to Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador this past year - Unified. Team sports bring people together. Special Olympics Unified Sport teams do that too, and so much more.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is an inclusive program that combines Special Olympics Athletes (individuals with an intellectual disability) and partners (individuals without an intellectual disability) on teams for training and competition.

Special Olympics Unified Sport promotes social inclusion through shared sport training and competition experiences for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. Unified Sports helps increase the skills necessary for individuals with an intellectual disability to be accepted and fulfilled socially.



# NEWS & EVENTS

## 2017 World Games - Austria



WOW! What a haul in Austria 2017 for the Special Olympics World Games! Our four athletes, Floressa Harris, Sandra Smith, Justin Dodge and Crystal Young competed in 12 events and came home with 9 medals!! 5 Gold; 3 Silver; and 1 Bronze as well as 3 Fourth place finishes! WAY TO GO!

All our athletes competed and won medals in Snowshoeing. Floressa returned home with silver in the 200m race and the 4x100m relay race. She received bronze in the 100m race.

Sandra came home with gold in the 4x400m relay race, and 200m race. She also received silver in the 400m race. Justin brought home gold in the 4x400m relay race and Crystal arrived home with gold in the 5k race and 4x400m relay race.

What an experience and accomplishment for all involved! Congratulations!



## Mark Peddle

Mark had the opportunity to attend an Athlete Leadership Course in Charlottetown, PEI where he began his training as a public speaker and advocate for Special Olympics. Mark's confidence, eloquence and poise at this course led to many additional speaking opportunities; including speaking to various groups about the benefit of Special Olympics, hosting several Special Olympics events, a nomination to become an International Global Messenger.

One of his most special speaking occasions was co-hosting the 2016 Special Olympics Canada National Awards in Toronto with TSN's Vic Rauter. Mark's ability to inspire audiences has made him a wonderful ambassador for Special Olympics.





# 2017 PROVINCIAL SUMMER GAMES

Lots of planning went into our 2017 Provincial Summer Games this year. We had over 562 athletes, coaches and volunteers from 15 clubs compete in 7 different sports.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for all their hard work and dedication leading up to the games. We had dedicated volunteers who took attended Coaching Clinics and Officials Training.

Two of our clubs held trial competitions in preparation for the games. Mount Pearl held a mini meet for Athletics and Carbonear held a mini meet for swimming. These were great opportunities for the athletes, coaches and officials to get ready for the games.



## LETR

A great turn out at all the runs across the Province!



# IN MEMORY

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



*January 15, 1974 -  
March 31, 2017*

## **Marsha Lynn Button**

Marsha was a member of the Tri-Con Gentle Giants Club who loved to compete in swimming. She enjoyed listening to country music and showing off her line dancing moves.



*January 13, 1945 -  
December 30, 2016*

## **Wayne Coffin**

Wayne was a member of the Exploits Hurricane's Club who always had a smile and handshake when he would see you. He always looked forward to bowling nights.



*December 15, 1968 -  
January 9, 2017*

## **Jimmy Hogan**

Jimmy was a member of Special Olympics for over 30 years. He was part of the St. John's Club and participated at one time or another in; Bocce, Athletics, Floor Hockey, and Bowling. He dearly loved these games and being with his friends.



*January 1, 1945 -  
December 30, 2016*

## **Jill Kolonel**

Jill was one of the original members of the Mount Pearl Club. She enjoyed Bowling, Athletics, and of course all the dances.



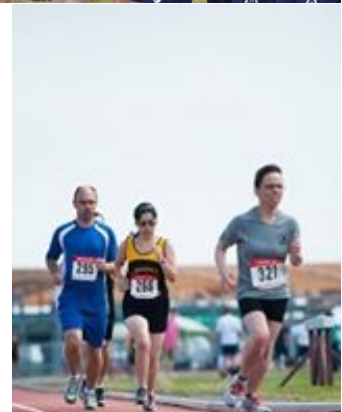
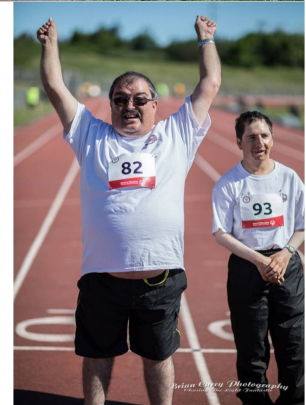
## **Betty Ann Roberts**

Betty Ann Roberts was a member of Gander Wings Club from 2011 to 2016. Betty Ann always had a smile for everyone she encountered and was a pleasure to be around. In addition to her dedication as a bowling athlete, she really loved to attend the non-sporting socials. Betty Ann was always positive and she was an inspiration for everyone.



*September 3, 1953 -  
July 27, 2017*

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS NL



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS NL



# STAFF



Trish Williams  
Executive Director

## Staff

**Trish Williams, Executive Director**

**Mike Daly, Program Director**

**Kim McDonald-Wilkes, (On Leave)**

**Natelle Tulk, Sport Coordinator**

**Jenn McCann, Youth Development Coordinator**

# PROVINCIAL SPONSORS



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# SPECIAL OLYMPICS FESTIVAL

The Special Olympics Festival is one of Newfoundland and Labrador's most popular and unique fundraisers. The event included a Sponsor Luncheon on March 24th - Special Olympics NL athlete Tyler Collett and his mother, Colleen Collett were our keynote speakers; with athlete Mark Peddle sharing hosting duties with popular personality, Andy Newman.

The March 25th evening festivities kicked off with Satellite Pre-Parties around town before heading to a glitzy Main Event at the beautiful Clovelly Clubhouse course. A lively After-Party Concert with music from Gilly Hickey capped off the evening.

A big thank you to the Festival Committee and all who supported the Festival!

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# SPECIAL OLYMPICS FESTIVAL

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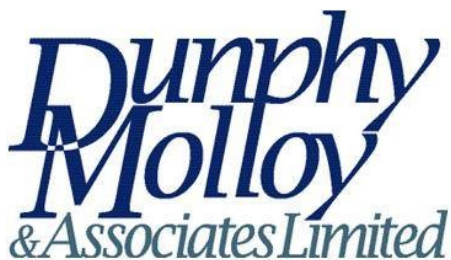


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87 Elizabeth Ave St. John's, NL A1B 1R6  
Phone 709.738.1923 Fax 709.738.0119  
Email trishw@sonl.ca Web www.sonl.ca  
www.facebook.com/TeamSONL @SpecialONL