



ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

***Special
Olympics***
Newfoundland
& Labrador



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Gail Baker, Shirley Miller

Tri-Con Gentle Giants

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Placentia Lions

Gord Pike, Joyce Walsh

Burin Peninsula North Bears

Trudy Harris-Power, Lori Hunt,

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Heather Miller, Athlete Representative



Mark Dawe, Chair



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

-Special Olympics athlete oath

EXECUTIVE REPORT



Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador



For 50 years, Special Olympics has been giving its athletes and participants the strength, determination and confidence to accept those challenges in sport – and in life, giving them the courage to stare down any hurdle and respond: Challenge Accepted.

Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador had a lot to celebrate as we marked the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics in Canada. The year began with a fantastic performance by our Athletes at 2018 Special Olympics Canada National Games in Antigonish Nova Scotia. The Team came home with 61 medals. 18 Gold; 26 Silver; and 17 Bronze. SONL Placentia Lions athlete Peter Hynes was selected to the Special Olympics Canada Team that competed at 2019 World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi this past March. He won a bronze medal in his division in the mini javelin event, and later placed fifth in the 100-metre run.

The 2019 Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador Provincial Winter Games, hosted by the town of Grand Falls-Windsor were held February 22nd-24th and March 1st-3rd. Due to the phenomenal athlete growth in the past 4 years, SONL moved to a 2 weekend format. These multi-sport inclusive Games gave athletes the opportunity to showcase their athletic ability in a Games environment. The Games Organizing Committee and the enthusiastic volunteers from the area made the Games a fantastic experience for all.

2018-2019 was a great year for athlete leadership. SONL hosted an athlete summit and trained 14 athletes in a speaker's workshop. Mark Peddle and Heather Miller were recognised nationally for their athlete leadership. Mark was featured in the Special Olympics Canada 50th Anniversary Awareness Campaign and Heather was chosen to represent Canada at the Special Olympics International Global Athlete Congress in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Our Unified Sports programs are growing with the addition of metro area schools. Teams from Ascension Collegiate and Carbonear Collegiate represented Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador at the 2019 Special Olympics Ontario Invitational Youth Games. The Youth Games took place from May 14th -17th in Toronto. Both Teams won medals and had a great time.

All these wonderful sport accomplishments would not be possible without the 816 athletes, 640 dedicated coaches and volunteers running our 16 local clubs. They are supported by fundraising efforts of our Staff, Board of Directors, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Canadian Progress Club, Special Olympics Festival Committee, Memorial Engineering Society B, Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union, VOCCM Cares, Rotary Club GF-W, and our Provincial and National Sponsors.

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.



PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS

Male Coach of the Year: 2019—Grant Cudmore



Grant has been a dedicated coach with the Gander Wings club for five years. During that time, he has demonstrated his obvious care for the athletes he encounters. Grant displays a positive and caring attitude and his calm demeanor helps all athletes have a positive experience. Regardless of coming

in first, second or last place, Grant helps everyone feel great about their efforts and encourages them to congratulate their peers.

Grant can be counted on to pitch in wherever he is needed and does everything with an ear to ear smile on his face, making him a great choice when he was chosen as Mission Staff for his club when attending the 2019 Provincial Winter Games. He did an amazing job taking care of the athletes and ensuring this group was well cared for.

Grant seeks out training opportunities to help him build on and improve his technical skills and his ability to help athletes.

Grant is a wonderful coach and individual that is well recognized and respected amongst the athletes, coaches and volunteers involved in his club.

Volunteer of the Year 2019—Sue Horne



Sue is a prime example of what every volunteer should bring to an organization. She is committed, compassionate and dedicated and a real team player. Sue puts the athlete's first and her opinions and actions reflect this.

Sue is currently serving as Club Registrar for Mount

Pearl, which is no easy feat for the largest club in the province. However, Sue makes it look easy with her top notch organizational skills and meticulous record keeping and reporting.

Sue is always one of the first to volunteer when her club needs something done, including being Team Manager for the 1st weekend of SONL 2019 Winter Games and Chef de Mission for the 2nd weekend of the games as well as Mission Staff for many provincial competitions.

Sue's compassion and enthusiasm for the organization is evident with every role she performs. Athletes learn from and respect Sue. She takes great pleasure in ensuring our athletes benefit and enjoy their involvement in SONL.

Female Coach of the Year: 2019—Colleen Ryan



Colleen has been a member of SONL for over eight years, first as a member of the Mount Pearl Club and currently as Club Coordinator with Exploits Hurricanes. During that time, Colleen's dedication and passion to Special Olympics is second to none. Colleen puts her heart and soul in to her volunteer efforts

which has led her to become the Club Coordinator. Colleen is also enthusiastic to step beyond her roles in her local club, she didn't hesitate to rise to the challenge of Chairperson for Snowshoeing during the 2019 SO Provincial Winter Games. Due to her strong community commitment, particularly in relation to SO, Colleen was chosen as the 2018 Citizen of the Year for Grand Falls-Windsor.

Colleen's high energy style and super positive attitude is reflected in the athletes she mentors. An accomplished athlete in her own right, sports has given her a joy that she eagerly fosters that joy and enthusiasm in others. Colleen's dedication and commitment to SO is an incredible gift.

Team of the Year 2018—Exploits Hurricanes Curling Team

Exploits Hurricanes Curling Team have been playing and competing together for 4 years and they truly demonstrate the definition of a team. Their work ethic and determination at practice and in competition is outstanding.

Exploits Hurricanes Curling Team is very coachable and has the utmost respect to the leadership and dedication of the coaching staff. They are truly committed to each and every practice, using their time to the fullest, increasing their knowledge and skill.

This team has had incredible success, including winning Gold at the 2019 SO Provincial Winter Games and will be competing at the 2020 SOC Winter Games in Thunder Bay, ON.



L-R: Tony Kyritsis, Kim O'Neill, Joshua Gardner, Margaret MacNeil, Gary Wicks

PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS

Gina Bludnon Award

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

2019—Heather Miller



Heather joined Special Olympics over a dozen years ago and has attended many SO events ranging from our Provincial Games to representing Canada at the Global Leadership Conference in the Dominican Republic.

Due in part to the knowledge Heather gained while attending the Global Leadership Conference, Heather returned home determined to develop a project to enable athletes to have a stronger voice within Special Olympics. With that goal in mind, Heather started a Newsletter, The Athlete Post, and a SO Facebook Group for athletes across the province to have input and discuss things relevant to them.

Heather's willingness to volunteer is very evident, she has been a speaker for many SONL events and presentations and sits on SONL's Board of Directors as Athlete Representative. Due to Heather's commitment and dedication to SONL, Heather was recently chosen to be the Athlete Representative for Special Olympics Canada Board of Directors.

Heather is also a member of the Canadian Athlete Leadership Council, attending SONL's first Athlete Leadership Summit where she was a presenter.

Heather is an asset to the entire SO organization, an inspiration to her fellow athletes, coached and volunteers.

Male Athlete of the Year

2019 - Joshua Gardner



Joshua has been a member of Exploits Hurricanes club for over 5 years. He is committed to achieving his best in all sports he participates in. Joshua's work ethic and determination at practice and in competition truly exemplify his spirit and dedication. He demonstrates sports-

manship at the highest level and consistently acknowledges his fellow athletes in a polite and professional manner.

Over this past season, Joshua became a role model for his fellow teammates. His leadership skills and understanding of the technical aspect of any sport is a huge benefit to his fellow athletes and they acknowledge him for that at every event. Joshua has qualified to represent Team NL as Skip of the Curling Team in the SOC 2020 National Winter Games in Thunder Bay, ON in February.

Joshua not only strives for his personal best in individual sports but has graduated high school and now attends College of the North Atlantic completing the Community Studies program. Joshua's ultimate goal is to become an advocate for Special Olympics and a mentor for those with Autism who face the same sort of challenges that he overcomes daily in his life.

Female Athlete of the Year

2019— Jessica Summers



Jessica has been a member of Mount Pearl Club for over 5 years and is a strong and determined athlete. Her personal motto is "I can do this!" which she has proven by tremendously improving her level of physical fitness.

Jessica participates in Athletics, Bowling, Snowshoeing and Power-

lifting with Special Olympics.

Jessica has demonstrated great sportsmanship. She respects her coaches, works well with her teammates, and works hard to achieve her goals. She is committed to her sport is an inspiration to her teammates.

Jessica's hard work has paid off by earning a spot on Team NL and will attend SOC 2020 National Winter Games in Thunder Bay, ON in February.

Jessica has a great attitude and is enthusiastic about practices and competition. She is also known as one of the best dancers within SONL, with the dance portion of a competition just as important to her as competing.

Jessica is a Fireball, be it on the track, on the trails, in the gym, or on the dance floor!

2019 PROVINCIAL WINTER GAMES

The 2019 Provincial Winter Games were hosted by the Town of Grand Falls—Windsor. These games took place over two different weekends, February 22nd - 24th and March 1st - 3rd athletes, coaches, volunteers and mission staff from 13 clubs in attendance. The first weekend was individual sports, Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing. The second weekend followed up with Team Sports; 5-pin Bowling, Curling and Floor Hockey.

The town of Grand Falls—Windsor went above and beyond to make sure the events were ran as smooth as possible. The Games Organizing Committee were a stellar group who worked hard for months to the lead up of these games to make it an incredible event for athletes, coaches, volunteers and fans!

Each weekend kicked off with an incredible Opening Ceremonies and a grand march by all our athletes representing their community clubs lead by a member of our LETR, Knights of Columbus and individuals from Scouts Canada. . We had two incredible Athlete MC's, Margaret MacNeil and Michael Barnes. We enjoyed performances by Lesley Oake School of Dance, Cantus Silva who sang 'Roar' by Katy Perry, and a Drumming Circle. We were joined by Municipal, Provincial, and Federal dignitaries as well as members of our Board of Directors as well as the entire Games Organizing Committee.



2019 PROVINCIAL WINTER GAMES

We were treated to video's from some well known Newfoundland and Labradorians as well, such as Premier Dwight Ball, Sean McCann, and Kevin Blackwood.

The Flame of Hope was carried by LETR members from across the Province. We had an athlete each weekend have the honour of lighting the cauldron to signify the start of the games, Melvin Hanhams and Amanda Collins.

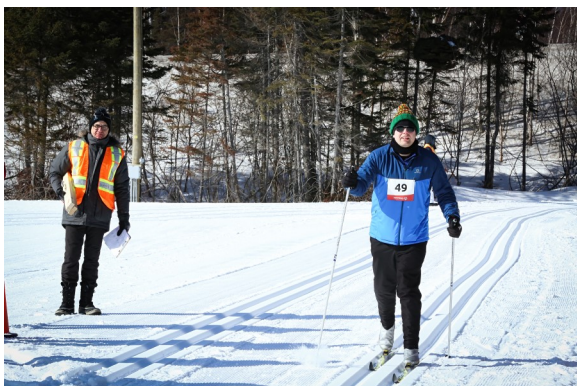
Special Presentations were also made by Joshua Gardner who gave the Land Acknowledgement. Sarah Moore and Gary Wicks who recited the Athlete Oath. Trevor Wicks and Colleen Ryan recited the Coach Oath. Shannon Ivey sang the National Anthem.

Each weekend was full of competitive spirit as each athlete strived for personal bests and showing of the results of their hard work training for the games.

All of the athletes who attended the Games had the opportunity to participate in the Healthy Athletes Program. This program is an assessment that offers our athletes the chance to be seen by qualified directors in a couple of different health disciplines.

Saturday evening, after a full day of competition, was the popular athlete dance where athlete's busted out their best moves and had a great evening!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2019 Special Olympics NL Winter Games a resounding success!!!

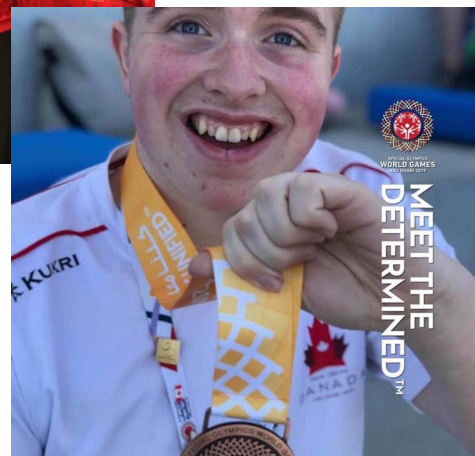


2019 SO WORLD SUMMER GAMES

SONL was delighted when Peter Hynes was selected to be a part of the 109 member Special Olympics Canada Team that travelled to the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi from March 14th - 21st, 2019. Peter earned the right to represent Canada in Athletics as a result of his performance at Special Olympics Canada Summer Games that were held August 2018 in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Peter is a member of the Special Olympics Placentia Lions Team. He is relatively new to Special Olympics as the Placentia Team was only formed in 2015. He attended his first Provincial Games in 2016 where he earned his spot on the Special Olympics Newfoundland & Labrador Provincial Team in 2017. Peter received a hero's welcome with motorcade in Placentia when he arrived home with a bronze medal for his performance in the Mini Javelin event and fifth place in the 100m run.

Peter was not the only Newfoundland and Labradorian who was on Team Canada. Rosie Ryan from Kippen's, NL brought her wealth of experience to Special Olympics Team Canada as an Assistant Coach for Athletics. Both team doctors, Dr. Carmel Casey from Gander and Dr. Neil Cheeseman from St. John's, did a fantastic job keeping the athletes healthy allowing them to perform their best and bring home 155 medals.



LETR

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is the movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle worldwide. At its most basic level the Torch Run is an actual running event, in which officers and athletes run the Flame of Hope™ to the Opening Ceremonies of local, regional, provincial Special Olympics competitions and National Games.

Today, the Torch Run is more than just a run and encompasses a variety of fundraising vehicles such as T-shirt sales, special events including Polar Plunges, Cop on Top, Battle of the Badges, and a host of other events that have local appeal.

All funds raised through the Law Enforcement Torch Run Newfoundland & Labrador events are directed into program support that directly affects all community Special Olympic NL programs. Funds are then put into community programs and help pay for various expenses including: games travel, accommodations, meals, grants to new community programs, volunteer and athlete training, administration and information/promotional materials.



NEWS & EVENTS

Unified Sports

An exciting program was introduced to Special Olympics Newfoundland and Labrador over the past couple of years - Unified Sports. Team sports bring people together. Special Olympics Unified Sports 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 Sports 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.



Community Car

We have been very fortunate to receive a community car from our National Sponsor, Kia Canada. Kia Canada is proud to be taking a hands-on role in helping to spread the message of acceptance and inclusion—as well as providing funds and transportation needs to support Special Olympics.



Charity Ball 2019

SONL was excited to learn they had been selected to be the recipients of this year's MUN Engineering Society B Charity Ball. It was held at the GEO Centre on February 9th where attendees received a three course meal, entertainment and opportunity to bid in a Silent and Live Auction.

We thank MUN Engineering Society B for all their hard work and choosing SONL!



Carl English and Sailor Danny Art

SONL was very excited to partner with Sailor Danny's Art on a pair of sneakers featuring NL's own Carl English!

Sailor Danny donated his time and tremendous skills to design a pair of sneakers featuring Carl English. These sneakers were then put up for Silent Auction during our SONL Festival held last April 6th.

Up Sky Down Films filmed a promotional video featuring Carl English and Sailor Danny that was played during the St. John's Edge play offs.



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 and Fundamental Movement Skills Course; this course is intended for coaches working with the Active Start and FUNdamentals program.

SONL hosted a number of Competition Courses this year, across the island. 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.

SONL also hosted a Super Coach Weekend. All who attended received practical, technical training. It was held at Lavrock Camp and Conference Centre from Friday, November 2nd to Sunday, November 4th. There were a variety of NCCP courses offered such as: Making Ethical Decisions and Planning a Practice as well as some SO Courses such as: SO Competition Coaching Course and Athletes with ASD & Challenging Behaviours.

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.

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.

Staples Partnership

Staples generous support improves the lives of athletes with an intellectual disability, and this, we cannot thank Staples enough!



NEWS & EVENTS

Day Of Inclusion

To mark the 50th Anniversary we celebrated the first of 'Global Day of Inclusion' on July 21st, 2018. We lit the province Red with Cabot Tower and Confederation building lit up to honour the start of the year long celebration and proclaiming the Day of Inclusion. This day was created to help build a world where all people are recognized and included.

On July 20th, 2019, we held our 2nd Annual Day of Inclusion.

Our National Partner, Tim Horton's came onboard once again and we had a SO donut to mark the day. 100% of proceeds from the SO donut sales support SO Athletes across the country. Our athletes were out in Tim Horton's stores helping mark the occasion. #ChooseToInclude



Athlete Leadership Programs (ALPs)

SONL is so proud to announce that Heather Miller is Special Olympics Canada Athlete Representative on SOC's Board of Directors.

Leadership is not new to Heather. She sits on SONL Board of Directors, is the Chair of the Canadian Athlete Leadership Council, writes a Newsletter, The Athlete Post, delivers many speeches to our sponsors and partners and works tirelessly to promote Special Olympics. Congratulations Heather!



What is ALPs?

Through organized training and practical experiences, Athlete Leadership Programs prepare athletes to undertake meaningful positions of influence and leadership throughout the SO organization, both on and off the playing field.

In April SONL held an ALPS Athlete Leadership Summit where 14 athletes came together with a mentor and worked all weekend on speeches which they delivered on Sunday. It was a resounding success and each athlete was asked to give a speech in their community over the next few months.



NEWS & EVENTS

50th Anniversary Awards

2018 was the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics. From its humble beginning with just 1,000 athletes on Soldier Field in Chicago in 1968, Special Olympics has become a global movement with more than 5 million athletes from 170 countries around the world.

In celebration of Special Olympics 50th year, SONL presented awards to people who have made a lasting impact on Special Olympics in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Builder Award was presented to volunteers who exemplifies Leadership; Dedication; Perseverance; and has made an impact on SO programs. The recipients were:

- Susan Lamond - Happy Valley – Goose Bay Howling Huskies
- Len Moores - Corner Brook Vikings
- Carmel Casey - Gander Wings
- Ken Marshall - SONL Board of Directors
- Maryanne Walsh – St. John's Club



50th Anniversary Awards

The Partner award was presented to partners who have made a lasting impact on SONL. The recipients were:

- Browning Harvey represented by John Patten
- Canadian Progress Club represented by Steve Puddister
- LETR represented by Lynette Wells and Wendy Murphy
- Metrobus represented by Ray Lawlor and Judy Powell

The Star Award recognized volunteers who are inspiring positive growth and setting a future vision for SONL. The recipients were:

- Colleen Ryan – Exploits Hurricanes
- Shirley Miller – CBS Brightstars
- Carmel Oliver – TriCon Gentle Giants
- Juleah Lunden – SONL Board of Directors
- Mark Dawe - SONL Board Chair

The Champion Award was presented to athletes who have shown Dedication; Leadership; Loyalty and Excellence. The recipients were:

- Jackie Barrett – Corner Brook Vikings
- Crystal Young – TriCon Gentle Giants
- Justin Dodge – Grand Bank Fortune Seahawks
- Nadia Brenton – Mount Pearl Club



NEWS & EVENTS

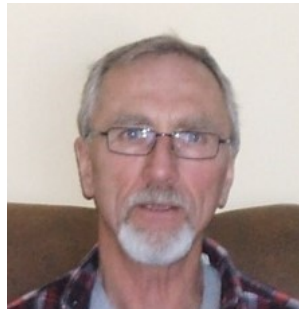
SONL is very grateful for Sobey's partnership. This partnership is the first of its kind, addressing the need for increased nutrition, education and resources for Canadians with intellectual disabilities. Sobey's helps our athletes, families and coaches eat better and feel better with nutrition guides, cooking classes and fresh, accessible food.

This year, Sobey's raised \$929,980, 100% of those funds raised will support Special Olympics in Canada.



IN MEMORY

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



Jim Moss
Gander Wings Coach

Gander Wings Special Olympics Club were very saddened at the beginning of our 2018-2019 sport year with the passing of our dear friend and coach Jim Moss.

Jim started as a volunteer with Special Olympics when the Gander Club started up in the 1990s. In the years since then Jim coached bowling and bocce and served on the Gander Wings Committee in many roles for many years. However, that was not the extent of Jim's volunteer time with Gander Wings. He could always be called upon when we needed help setting up for functions and clearing away everything after the functions. And for the past several years, he was a great help to his son Lenny, our DJ. Jim lugged in and set up the equipment Lenny uses for playing the tunes that keep our athletes dancing at all our celebrations.

Jim's great sense of humour was enjoyed by athletes, coaches, volunteers and anyone else who came into contact with him. His joking and carrying on with the athletes made them all feel very special.

Jim did not seek the limelight but went about pitching in very quietly (most of the time) in the background. His passing is a tremendous loss those of who were privileged to know him and who spent time with him. Jim is missed very much.

To honour Jim, Gander Wings has renamed its Volunteer of the Year Award. From now on, the award will be known as the Jim Moss Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award. It is a very fitting tribute and a special way to remember our dear friend.

PROVINCIAL SPONSORS



Canadian Progress Club

Club Progrès du Canada



Newfoundland
Labrador

The logo includes a stylized graphic of three red and orange flowers on a green stem, positioned above the text.

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 April 5th - Special Olympics NL athlete Kristen Tibbo was our keynote speaker; with athletes Mark Peddle and Heather Miller sharing hosting duties.

The April 6th 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 with music from DJ Paddy Greene 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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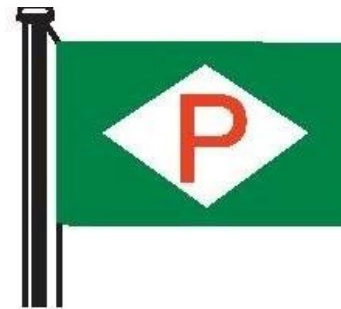
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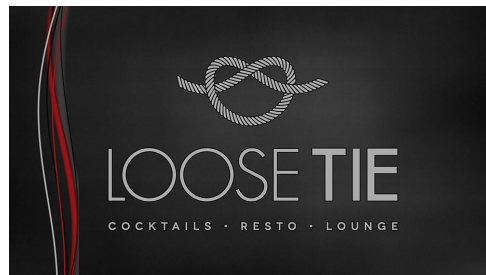
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