



Special Olympics Ontario-Ottawa District

Media Inquiries can be directed to:

Charmaine Nielsen, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

marketing@ottawaspecialolympics.org

or Jean Traynor, Fundraising Co-ordinator at jeant.sa@on.aibn.com

For all other inquiries, please contact the Ottawa District Community Phone Line: (613) 860-6184

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LET THE RACES BEGIN: SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO-OTTAWA DISTRICT ATHLETES HEAD TO EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE'S OLYMPIAD

OTTAWA, ON (July 16, 2007) - The events will begin on July 21, 2007 as 9 local Special Olympics Ontario-Ottawa District Track and Field Athletes and 4 of their Coaches will be heading to Kingston to participate in the annual Exceptional Peoples Olympiad.

For over 30 years this event has been hosted and organized by the inmates and Correctional Staff of Collins Bay Penitentiary who work year-round to provide two days of fun and games for the exceptional athletes. Each year, Frank Ignazzitto from Corrections Services Canada invites teams of athletes with intellectual disabilities from across Eastern Ontario to come to the event with chaperones, (usually represented by their home town coaches) for the weekend events. Individual athletes are paired up with inmates from Collins Bay, known as "Godbrothers", whose role is to coach and support them throughout the competitions.

Jean Traynor, Special Olympics Ontario-Ottawa District Track and Field Coach says, "This event provides a unique opportunity for everyone involved. The Olympiad provides an opportunity for the Athletes to demonstrate their talents and abilities while providing the Godbrothers the opportunity to demonstrate their compassion for others in a way that gives back to the community."

At the end of the competition the athletes will be rewarded by the inmates for their participation with ribbons while the inmates will be rewarded by the smiles, heartfelt goodbyes and thank yous from the athletes for organizing this competition. The annual event has been created with a common focus, that every one comes away a winner.

Special Olympics Ontario-Ottawa District Track and Field Athletes and Coaches will be traveling to this event in Kingston in 2 Caravans which have been generously donated by Southbank Dodge Chrysler to transport the 9 Athletes and 4 Coaches participating in the Exceptional People's Olympiad.

About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a charitable, non-profit organization that provides sports training and competition opportunities for individuals with an intellectual disability.

The Ottawa District Community of Special Olympics Ontario has over 250 volunteers and over 500 athletes who participate in sixteen sport disciplines throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about Ottawa Special Olympics and how to become involved as an athlete or

volunteer, please visit our Web site at www.ottawaspecialolympics.org or call the Community Phone Line (613) 860.6184.