



Ottawa Special Olympics

Media Inquiries can be directed to:

Jean Traynor, Community Fundraising Co-ordinator, Special Olympics Ottawa

Daytime: (613) 230-1186; Evenings & Weekends: (613) 821-1493

fund_raising@ottawaspecialolympics.org

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA SPECIAL OLYMPICS & CARLETON UNIVERSITY ARE EXPECTING THE 2008 HOOP-LA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TO BE ANOTHER SLAM DUNK.

OTTAWA, ON (MARCH 28, 2008) – Dribble, dunk and charge, whatever it takes to make this year's third-annual Special Olympics **Hoop-La basketball tournament** another great success. For the third year in a row, Carleton University has generously donated the use of the Ravens' Nest basketball facility for the upcoming tournament. The opening ceremonies start at 9 am with the initial tip-off set for 9:30 am on Saturday, March 29, 2008 as many Special Olympics athletes from Ottawa and other communities in Region 7 hit the court for a day full of fun, competition and exercise.

The **Hoop-La basketball tournament** will consist of 10 Competitive Teams and 5 Adapt Teams from across the region. It is an especially exciting tournament as it is the Special Olympics Region 7 provincial qualifier for the 2008 Provincial Spring Games.

Community Fundraising Co-ordinator and Hoop La Tournament Coordinator, Jean Traynor says, "We are very grateful to all of the sponsors, especially Carleton University for allowing us to host this wonderful Hometown Games initiative in our community. The tournament provides a great opportunity for participants to meet new athletes, strengthen their athletic ability and have a good time."

While Carleton University, Smith and Andersen Consulting Engineering are the major sponsors of the event, various local businesses will be donating items for lunch for the participating athletes, coaches and volunteers. Kelly Santini, long time supporter of Special Olympics Ottawa District will also be supplying many of the greatly appreciated volunteers to help ensure that the basketball tournament is a successful event.

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 offered in 25 different sport clubs 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.