



## Ottawa Special Olympics

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OTTAWA SPECIAL OLYMPICS & CARLETON UNIVERSITY HAVE ANOTHER SLAM DUNK AT THE 2007 HOOP-LA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

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**OTTAWA, ON (MARCH 26, 2007)** – Dribble, dunk and charge, this year’s second-annual Special Olympics **Hoop-La basketball tournament** was another great success. For the second year in a row, Carleton University generously donated the use of the Ravens’ Nest basketball facility for the tournament. The opening ceremonies started at 9 am with the initial tip-off at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 24, 2007 as over 140 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** consisted of 10 Competitive Teams and 5 Adapt Teams from across the region as well as 40 coaches and over 40 volunteers. It was an especially exciting tournament as it was the Special Olympics Region 7 provincial qualifier for the 2008 Provincial Spring Games.

Community Fundraising Co-ordinator and Hoop La Tournament Coordinator, Jean Traynor said, “It was like being a conductor of a large orchestra. On court 1 you have the strings section, on court 2 you have the wood winds, on court 3 you have the percussions and the coaches and volunteers are the music. The athletes (musicians) follow the volunteers and coaches (music), and when the athletes put their heart and soul into the game you have created the most beautiful symphony for the world to hear.”

In the final game Carleton Division – Ottawa Sharpshooters over powered Kingston Magic C1 team, Smith and Andersen Division – Renfrew beat Kingston Magic C2 and in the Kelly Santini Division it was Kanata beating out Arnprior. 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Arnprior (Carleton Division), Perth (Smith and Andersen Division) and Renfrew (Kelly Santini Division).

While Carleton University, Smith and Andersen Consulting Engineering were the major sponsors of the event, various local businesses donated items for lunch for the participating athletes, coaches and volunteers. Kelly Santini, long time supporter of Special Olympics Ottawa District also supplied many of the greatly appreciated volunteers to help ensure that the basketball tournament was 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](http://www.ottawaspecialolympics.org) or call the Community Phone Line (613) 860.6184.