



Special Olympics Ontario-Ottawa District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA CELEBRATES LOCAL ATHLETES RETURN FROM THE 2008 NATIONAL WINTER GAMES

OTTAWA, ON (March 3, 2008) - A very special welcome back party has been organized to honour local athletes who participated in the recent Special Olympics Canada Winter Games. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 and will be hosted by the Royal Oak at 318 Bank Street beginning at 5:30 pm. Light refreshments and great company will help kick off the party while friends, family and colleagues join to congratulate the athletes and coaches who did such a great job representing Ottawa at the Winter Games.

Ottawa would like to welcome back the 8 athletes who competed in various sports including snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing and figure skating. For snowshoeing, Ildiko Fejes earned a bronze medal for both the 200 m and 800 m races and a silver medal for the 400 m races while Caroline Joanisse earned a bronze for both the 200 m and 800 m races. Representing Ottawa in Nordic Skiing was Madeline Hyslop who earned a silver medal in both 500 m and 1 km, Lisa Lacasse who earned a gold medal in the 500 m race, and Marianne Scharf who earned a silver medal in the 2.5 km race and a bronze medal in the 500 m race. In Alpine Skiing, Robert Desautels earned a silver medal in slalom, giant slalom and super G as well as a gold medal in downhill while Ryan Radmore earned a bronze medal for downhill. Kyle Mayhew competed in figure skating and earned a gold medal for freeski (interpretive) and a gold medal for overall figure skating singles. The Ottawa community would also like to welcome back Rachel Mathews and Al Wortman, two local Coaches who attended the recent 2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games and helped support and encourage our local athletes. Great job everyone!

The 2008 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games were held in Quebec City as part of the city's 400th anniversary celebrations and hosted many sport competitions including; curling, snowshoeing, alpine skiing, cross country skiing, floor hockey, figure skating and speed skating. The city brought together more than 1,000 participants including athletes and coaches from across the nation. To obtain further details on results of the past games visit www.osquebec2008.com.

As part of the welcome back celebration, Jonathan Hatchell, Vice President of Business Development for the Royal Oak will be presenting a cheque in the amount of \$1,100 to snowshoeing athlete Ildiko Fejes. The money was raised by the Royal Oak during their 7th annual Rib-Fest to support the Ottawa athletes participating in the recent National Winter Games. A portion of the proceeds from every Rib-Fest menu was donated to the Ottawa Special Olympics team and truly made an impact on helping provide a great competition opportunity for a well deserving athlete. Thank you to the Royal Oak for their continued support of the local Special Olympics organization.

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.