



Ottawa Special Olympics

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA'S SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES BRING HOME THE GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE AT THIS YEAR'S PROVINCIAL WINTER GAMES

OTTAWA, ON (FEBRUARY 19, 2007) – It was a great weekend for all of the coaches and athletes who participated in the recent 2007 Special Olympics Provincial Winter Games. The Ottawa district was very proud to send a team of 17 athletes to this year's winter games which were held in Owen Sound from Thursday, February 1st until Sunday, February 4th.

Despite the snowy weather conditions in Owen Sound, Ottawa's athletes and coaches were able to excel in each of their respective sports, bringing home a total of 34 medals. For the **Cross Country Skiing** team Marianne Scharf received Silver for both the 500m and 1km and Bronze in the 2.5 km, Madeleine Hyslop received Silver for the 500m and Gold for the 1km, Mike Roy received Bronze in the 500m and Gold in the 1 km, Tim Siebrasse received Gold for the 500m and Lisa Lacasse-Behan received Bronze for the 500m and Gold in the 1 km. In **Figure Skating**, Kyle Mathew received Gold in the singles: level 2, James Arnold received Silver in the singles: level 1 and together Tim Parisien and Cheryl Genon won Bronze in the pairs. Competing on the slopes in **Alpine Skiing** were Robert Desautels who won Giant Slalom Gold and Super G Bronze, Ryan Radmore who received Giant Slalom Silver, Super G Gold and Slalom Gold and Jennie Brown who left with Giant Slalom Gold, Super G Silver and Slalom Silver. In **Snowshoeing**, Jacob Mathews received Silver for both the 200m and 400m and Gold in both the 800m and relay, Ildiko Fejes won 100m Silver, 200m Gold, 800m Silver and relay Gold, Caroline Joannis won Gold in the 100m, 200m Silver, 400m Gold, 800m Gold and relay Silver while Beth Oldfield earned Bronze in the 100m, Gold in the 200m and relay Gold. The Ottawa District would also like to give a special thank you to all of the hardworking coaches and volunteers who made the weekend games so enjoyable: Jennifer Purves, the Coach for Cross Country Skiing, Myriam Gay and Tara Chitnis, the Figure Skating Coaches, Gord Brown and Stefan de Laplante the Coaches for Alpine Skiing and Rachel Mathews and Alan Wortman, the Coaches for Snowshoeing. Congratulations to all for making the games such a success.

The Ottawa Area Coordinator, Shelley Freake says "the Ottawa district would like to acknowledge the successes of each and every one of the athletes and coaches who participated in the recent games. All of the athletes and coaches were great representatives of Ottawa and demonstrated remarkable athletic ability and sportsmanship skills. The hard work and commitment of the athletes really proved to pay off, and we wish them all the best in their future pursuits."

The 2007 Special Olympics Provincial Winter Games serve as the qualifying competition for the 2008 National Special Olympics National Winter Games. For more information on the Special Olympics 2007 Provincial Winter Games, please visit www.2007wintergames.ca.

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.