



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2006

Special Olympics Awareness Week -

Across the Atlantic Provinces, October 23-29th is being celebrated as Special Olympics Awareness Week. During this week we will be spreading the word about Special Olympics PEI, its programs and the ways it benefits both the volunteers and the athletes involved. As we build towards Friday's major announcement, we are releasing "Did you know?" pieces to bring light to what Special Olympics PEI does in your community. Did you know Special Olympics is for people of all ages.

Special Olympics PEI offers programs for individuals with an intellectual disability as young as 2 years old. Our Special Friends program gives children from 2-7 years of age the opportunity to participate in activities that promote motor and social skill development. The Special Friends program consists of two parts: a one hour pool session and a one hour gym session.

"We are very excited to be able to offer this type of program for children. The Special Friends program has enabled Special Olympics PEI to reach out to a new generation of athletes. The other enormous benefit of this program is the opportunity it has provided parents and guardians to network." Says Charity Sheehan, SOPEI Program Director. Special Olympics athletes grow immeasurably from their participation in Special Olympic programs; not only in terms of their athletic ability, but also from the perspective of self-image. Gaining self-confidence has many positive benefits to the athletes' everyday life and work situations and contributes to an overall happy, healthy outlook on life. The chance to make new friends and face new challenges is both stimulating and rewarding for everyone involved.

Special Olympics PEI is a charitable organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Prince Edward Islanders with an intellectual disability through sport. Athletes can participate in either community or competitive sport streams and have the opportunity to train year-round and compete at games held provincially, nationally and internationally.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving more information about how to donate, participate or volunteer, please contact Special Olympics PEI office at 368-8919, via e-mail at sopei@sopei.com, or visit us on the web at www.sopei.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2006

Special Olympics Awareness Week – Next, Winter Games.

Did you know....

Our athletes are beginning to train for the 2008 National Winter Games. Although we provide the opportunity for people to participate in sport year round in the community sport program, we also have athletes who choose to participate in the Competitive Sport stream of Special Olympics PEI. These athletes are now beginning their training for the next winter games to be held in Quebec City in 2008. The last winter games were held in Charlottetown in 2004 and were a very successful venture for Team PEI...despite the best efforts of "White Juan." Team PEI 2008 looks to build on past successes and bring home the gold in 2008. Trials will begin this winter at the 2007 Winter Games in Bathurst, NB, February 15-18. Those who meet qualifications at this event will be in the running for Team PEI 2008.

Special Olympics athletes from PEI will train to compete in 5 events at the National Winter Games, including snow shoeing, floor hockey, curling, Nordic skiing and figure skating.

As usual, we expect Team PEI to makes us proud in 2008....much like they did this past summer at the 2006 National Summer Games in Brandon, Manitoba.

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