

APRIL 2009

Volunteers

This month we highlight two more important volunteers for Special Olympics-Nanaimo. Out of the hat came Ron Kaneen and Geoff Dean.

Ron Kaneen has been with us since 1996 teaching the athletes the skills of curling. He is an excellent instructor, knowing his sport and highly qualified with the appropriate courses. The athletes have come a long way, many of our teams making it to the Provincial Games and a team going all the way to the National Games. Remember that year??? In Prince Edward Island they had the worst snowfall of decades. Anyway, a good time was had by all and we are glad to have Ron as our volunteer for curling to give the athletes the best training, guiding them to personal achievement. A program that continues to have the same athletes register every year and attract new ones is a very successful one, Ron has that. Not only does he keep his athletes happy and busy, he also has the same volunteers year after year. Ron has been our ambassador with the curling club and we are privileged to get the ice times free for the curlers. Ron is also very ambitious putting on curling bonspiels for the Region 6 athletes for many years. Here you can witness top notch curling at the club. Please take the time to visit the club this fall and check out the curling athletes having fun at learning their skills. Thank you, Ron, for the many years of dedication.

Pulling names out of a hat always gets you at least one that volunteers with our 5 pin bowling, for we have many that are dedicated to the athletes in this program. **Geoff Dean** is a keeper! He takes his position with all the attributes that are needed to get the personal best from the athletes. He is there to encourage and cheer each one as they try to keep their average or beat it. He celebrates their success and is understanding of their failures. He cares about each one and interacts with all. He is a friend to everyone who has been on his alley and I'm sure this is all 80 of the athletes by now. He volunteers every second week, starting out by being a spare, now he wants to further his learning by taking the coaching courses. Thank you, Geoff.

HE'S A WINNER!

Frank Charmley had the winning ticket for the signed hockey stick. What a memento to possess especially when he has athletes who play on our Floor Hockey team. He can use this instead of a broom to “sweep” for the playoff.

Thank you to everyone who supported this fund raising event. We raised \$800 but we want to sell all the tickets next time. There are only 500 printed so we can make \$1000. The money raised from the raffle tickets we sell goes directly to the athletes' programs. Remember, you, the community, are the ones who finance all the programs for the athletes. Keep up the spirit!!

DOWNHILL SKI TRIP

Our athletes and coaches had a marvelous time at Sun Peaks ski hill!! The weather was great and not too crowded so lots of runs were made in the days. The stay was for 4 days at a private condo and 2 days traveling. The athletes, Ron Greenhorn, Orin Jordan, Charla Joiner, Dennis Lynch, Glen McCord and Jason Kemp along with the coaches John Campbell, Bob Jordan, Angela Behn and Tabatha Smith. It is the very best way to train because it can be practiced many times throughout the days instead of having weeks between learning sessions. The financial status for this trip is more economical than the trips to Mt. Washington, so we all benefit.

Talking about finances—there was an unfortunate incident that clouded the whole trip at the end. There was a very large amount of money stolen. This money was to help finance the ski trip but now other programs will be short changed.

If anyone has any information about this money, please let one of the executive know or if the guilty person is willing to give up all or some of the money, leave it in an envelope at the 5 pin bowling alley with Special Olympics name on it.

SPRING/SUMMER SPORT ACTIVITIES

Is it finally SPRING?? We have all out programs started now and it is rewarding to see so many athletes taking part in the various sports. I think we need some more at golf, so show up at Beban pitch and putt to learn this new sport. You do not need equipment. Bocce will be starting May 12th after a rest from bowling. Rain or shine it will be a go at the gym or pitch.

BOWLING—COACHING COURSE

The bowling course for learning to teach our athletes 5 pin bowling is being held at Brechin Lanes on May 24th. Registration must be done by May 11th. The course costs \$40 PREPAID and what a deal because you get the Theory, Technical and the Practical all in one!!! It is an 8 hr. course starting at 9:00 am. ending at 5:00 pm (must be one hour for lunch which you bring). I can give you a registration form or you can phone Bowl B.C. 604 522-2990. This is not a Special Olympics course so all transactions must go through Bowl BC or you can contact Wendy at Brechin Lanes.

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Our talented ladies traveled to Victoria for a competition at the end of March. It was good practice for the three heading for the Provincial Games in July. All were awarded the ribbons they earned at a practice. Jay Brash was rewarded for the many hours of home practicing by receiving a first for hoop, two seconds for ball and clubs and a third for ribbon, she thus earned a second for all round. Charla Joiner got a third for ball, Joanna Steele earned a first for rope and Melissa Lohr has earned an all round for most improved in this season of rhythmic gymnastics. They are working very hard to learn four new routines in time for the Games.

****This year Special Olympics-Nanimo is going to celebrate the time the volunteers have given to our club in the past season. Anyone who is registered and has put in time helping the athletes will attend a banquet put on for them. This means that only they will be attending and not the athletes. Details will be given to you in the next newsletter.***

##The newsletters are prepared by Sylvia Taylor. If there are any news bits to be shared, please contact sylvia-miller@shaw.ca. The newsletters are added to the web page every month www.bcsonanaimo.ca .