



Special Olympics
Ontario
Aurora

Annual General Meeting

Meeting Agenda with Notes
Distributed in advance of AGM



September 18th, 2012

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO – AURORA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday September 18th 2012– 7:15pm

1. Call to order;
2. Approval of agenda;
3. Minutes of last meeting;
4. Opening remarks;
5. Business arising out of the minutes;
6. Executive reports;
7. Sport Club reports;
8. Reports as may be directed by the SOO-AURORA Community Council;
9. Acceptance of Budget;
10. Election of new officers to the SOO-AURORA Community Council;
11. New business;
12. Adjournment.

Many thanks to our Partners:

Our Corporate Sponsors:

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| Aurora Master Ducks |
| Aurora Men's Slow Pitch League |
| DCL International |
| Moore Park Landscapes |
| NAV Canada |
| Staples |
| Timberlane Athletic Club |
| York Regional Police Association |
| W.P. Scott Charitable Foundation |

Our Business Partners:

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| Able Network |
| Apple Suites |
| Auroran Newspaper |
| Great Gulf Homes |
| Howes Designs |
| Ice Photo Studio Aurora |
| In Sport Magazine |
| Neighbourhood Network |
| St. Andrews College |
| Westview Golf Club |
| York North Basketball Association |

Our Sponsor Block Donors:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tom Leger | Jim and Joanne Talbot |
| Janet and Andy Mitchell | Cheryl Duckworth |
| Lloyd Brown | Hayley Black |
| Daniel Wells | Stefanie Lee |

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|--|---------------------------------|
| Julia Gonzales | The Porters |
| Jersey Joe's Mon/Wed group (via Jamie Farkas) | Paul and Jane Haffenden |
| Tanya Sudy | Casey Jacob |
| Frank and Taina Sodonis | Tom and Dorothy Hall |
| Phil Dodgson | Lori Haws |
| Diane Clark | Chungyee Hagesteijn |
| Colin and Cheryl Simpkin | Bryce and Eran Wrightman |
| Meredith Allan | Ella and Lily Desbarats |
| Bill Carnegie | Hayden Edwards |
| Katherine North | Anne Dittmar |
| | Alicia Dibben |
| | Dave Cruickshank |
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And all of Golf Tournament Sponsors!

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Concord Premium Meats |
| Carrus Investments |
| The Humberview Group |
| Fairgate Homes |
| Tire Depot |
| Peck Brothers |
| Master Ducks |
| Bryan Black, Remax |
| Great Gulf Homes |
| Four Seasons |
| Stoneworx |
| Moen |
| White Paper Company |
| Vintage Floors |
| Plus... |
| All the golfers who took part! |

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ONTARIO - AURORA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 27th, 2011, 7:15 pm

Present: Meredith Allan, Andrew Belanger, Nancy Black, Lloyd Brown, Cheryl Duckworth, Casey Jacob, Dorothy Hall, Stefanie Lee, Janet Mitchell

Absent with Regrets: Jaclyn Black, Heather Brookes, Nicola McGovern, Nancy Shaw

In Attendance: Total of 28 in attendance (including members of the Community Council Executive and Community Council Positions). Total attendance up from 2010 (20).

1. **Call to Order** – The Annual SOO-Aurora AGM was called to order by Nancy Black at 7:20 pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion by Nancy Black to modify agenda (item #10) to include question and answers. Revised agenda approved by Barb Allan, seconded by George McKie.
3. **Minutes of last year's meeting**– Motion by Nancy Black to approve last year's minutes. Approved by AJ Kirkpatrick, seconded by Sue Deacon.
4. **Opening Remarks** – Nancy Black, Community Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the AGM. Thank you to businesses and individuals for their support. Special thank you to Colin Simpkin, webmaster and Cheryl Duckworth for AGM prep work. Introduction of executive members.
5. **Business arising out of last year's minutes**
 - i. Now have a functioning website with a "donate now" button
 - ii. Mass mailing – Stefanie Lee, Fundraising coordinator, to investigate
 - iii. Determine cost of athlete per sport ratio – Dorothy Hall, Treasurer, to investigate
6. **Executive Reports**
 - I. **Community Coordinator – Nancy Black**
 - a. Two principles for SOO-Aurora:
 1. Increase awareness of SOO-Aurora in the community
 2. Ensure competitive opportunities for all athletes
 - b. Introduced basketball (last fall) and golf (towards end of fiscal year)
 - c. Continued to research new sports (ongoing)
 - d. Fell short of volunteer training goals
 - e. This fiscal year:
 1. Will introduce a new sport (likely one of: track and field, bowling, or baseball)
 2. Emphasis on training
 3. Make the Torch Run a bigger priority
 4. Partnership development
 - II. **Fundraising – Stefanie Lee**
 - Increased revenue by over 70% last year; have strong group of loyal support, and want to expand on this
 - Workout sponsorship is core to our fundraising, and will be further promoted
 - New this year – will be participating in IBM Sponsor Program
 - Law Enforcement Torch Run – looking for greater participation from the SOO-Aurora community this year (early June)
 - Mass mailing was investigated; deemed to be too expensive at this time

III. Volunteer Coordinator and Registrar – Andrew Belanger

- New to this position as of Spring 2011
- Basketball – success in terms of number of coaches and volunteers; will have new coaches this season – have a female coach lined up; hoping to add a male coach; Jaclyn back as Team Manager
- Swimming – Sue back as Team Manager
- Golf – had a great response for coaches athletes; hoping to get a Team Manager for next season
- Utilizing partnerships to build up volunteer and coach rosters (SAC, York Region Police, Westview golf course, York North Basketball Assn etc)

IV. Public Relations – Nancy Black for Nancy Shaw

- a. Ensuring awareness in the community
- b. Website (Colin Simpkin, webmaster) is a tool for sponsorship
- c. Community events – Santa Claus parade, Aurora Street Sale, Staples promotion etc.
- d. Awareness – articles in newspaper and Sport in Aurora magazine, Military Tattoo, Torch Run
- e. Community Partnerships

V. Parent Liaison – Nancy Black for Heather Brookes

- a. Parent Liaison is available to the athletes and parents – act as a liaison to the SOO-Aurora group
- b. Any feedback is welcome

VI. Sport Technical Coordinator – Lloyd Brown

- a. New position on SOO-Aurora executive this year
- b. Interact with parents, athletes, coaches and other SO communities to make sure there are ample competitive opportunities for the athletes
- c. Work with Volunteer Coordinator re NCCP training courses
- d. Responsible for knowing the specific requirements for coaches to attend higher level meets or tournaments with their athletes

VII. Treasurer – Dorothy Hall

- a. SOO-Aurora is in good shape financially
- b. Have managed to computerize everything so can analyze on a sport specific basis; thank you to Cheryl Duckworth for doing this position manually in the past
- c. Challenge – what we don't know. How to fund our successful athletes when we don't know what these costs will be? To handle this, we have set aside funds in reserve: if we have very successful athletes, we will have to set aside more

7. Sport Club Reports

1. Swimming – Team Manager Sue Deacon

- Stable number of athletes: approximately 25
- Will need a few more coaches
- Eric Oliver – assisting to help with scheduling
- Attended more meets (5) this year including our first overnight
- Appreciate the sponsorship block donations
- Price increase this season - \$50 (same) for once/week; \$75 for twice/week
- Excited to announce: 5 swimmers have qualified for next year's Provincials!
- Meredith Allan is our swimming athlete representative (in addition to being overall athlete rep)

2. Basketball – Nancy Black for Team Manager Jaclyn Black

- a. Basketball is a new SOO-Aurora sport this season; started with 19 athletes; ended at 22; season runs October thru April
- b. Attended 1 tournament; had 5 intramural games
- c. Next season:

- i. Hope to send all athletes to a tournament instead of just a select group
 - ii. Would like to have more competitive opportunities
 - iii. All athletes but 1 are returning; 6 on waitlist; may expand to 30 (absolute max)
 - d. Basketball athlete rep – Mary Haberer
 - 3. **Golf – Nancy Black for Head Coach Nicola McGovern**
 - a. New SOO-Aurora sport this season; started end of last fiscal
 - b. Sport chosen based on need within SO
 - c. 23 athletes at season start; ended at 25; 12 coaches
 - d. Westview Golf Course (Mike Nisbet) provided facilities; thank you to Casey Jacob for connecting us with Mike;
 - e. Athlete cost of \$50 for the season
 - f. 9 athletes attended Stouffville tournament; was also a skills competition
 - g. Golf athlete representative – Ian Mckie
 - h. Nicola - acted as both manager and head coach;
 - i. Next season:
 - i. Would like to add another tournament
 - ii. Looking for more coaches as well as golf cart drivers
 - iii. Looking for a Team Manger
7. **Reports as may be directed by SOO-Aurora Community – Nancy Black – noted that Cheryl Duckworth is our Event Coordinator which is a new position for fiscal 2011/2012**
- 1. **Athlete Representative – Meredith Allan**
 - a. I am the overall rep for the three sports clubs: Ducks, Dunks, and Eagles
 - b. Mary Haberer – Dunks basketball athlete rep
 - c. Ian McKie – Eagles golf rep
 - d. I am the Ducks swimming rep
 - e. Last year – attended monthly board meetings to learn what SO was doing in Aurora and how I could do my job
 - f. I speak with athletes in each sport club and talk to them if they have questions. This year I met with the basketball and golf team
 - g. I look forward to another great year of Special Olympics in Aurora
 - 2. **High School Liaison – Casey Jacob**
 - a. New position created towards the end of May
 - b. Purpose – to determine where the gaps lay as athletes graduate from high school
 - c. Looking for feedback from high school; Hoping they will help us determine which sports to look at next, and to help with procuring facilities
 - d. We can offer students the opportunity to fulfill their volunteer hours with SOO-Aurora
8. **Election of new officers to the SOO-Aurora Community Council – Nancy Black noted that there are no elections as positions were acclaimed (Nancy Black – Community Coordinator, Janet Mitchell – Secretary, Dorothy Hall – Treasurer)**
9. **New Business – Nancy Black**
- 1. Barb Allan from ABLE network has a display at the back of the room – please check it
 - 2. Floor was opened to questions

Question: (AJ Kirkpatrick): I feel that communication between volunteers, athletes etc waned as the year went on. I would like a 1 page communication document (eg newsletter) to come out each month

Answer: (Nancy Black): We have started, and will continue to have Heather send out information to athletes as one source to avoid repetition; Volunteer info will come out from Andrew (eg Staples promotion); Wanted to make sure we are not sending out too much information too often. We will add addressing communications to our “to do” list.

(Colin Simpkin, webmaster): We can have a link on the website where we can send information off to other people

Question: (Diana Hristovski): I have the opposite problem – I am receiving too much information for swimming for Friday nights, as I only coach Sundays

Answer: (Sue Deacon): As this is specific to swimming, this will be worked out with the coaches

Question: (Cheryl Duckworth): Re communications: are there sometimes too many emails to a household?

Answer: (Nancy Black): Asked parents in attendance if too much/too little info. Will ask Heather to follow up. When yearend surveys are done, will poll parents

Question: (AJ Kirkpatrick): Is there any way to get feedback for a coach – ie a coach evaluation?

Answer: (Nancy Black): That comes down to a head coach – coach's responsibility with assistance from Andrew. Can make sure there is enough on questionnaires at season end.

10. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by Dorothy Hall. Seconded by Lloyd Brown. Adjourned at 8:45 pm, followed by DVD presentation

Minutes submitted by Janet Mitchell

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Community Coordinator Report – 2011-12

This past year, the main focus areas were:

- Adding another sport as per our Community guidelines
- Raising SOO – Aurora awareness in the community
- Establishing best practices at Board level
- Better managing volunteer intake process

Highlights:

- SOO-Aurora was thrilled to gain the services of another volunteer who took over TWO roles (Volunteer Coordinator and Registrar). We thank and welcome Rhonda Wood, who also took over the role of Softball Head Coach. Rhonda replaced Andrew Belanger who continues to volunteer with our basketball team (the Dunks) and who has proven to be a tremendous link to York Regional Police, given his position with that organization (also in volunteer services)
- Our community procured itself with a beautiful and multifunctional (10 x 10') tent that is to be used at community, competitive and/or Special Olympics events (Street sale, golf tournaments, etc)
- Announced that SOO-Aurora would introduce softball instead of soccer as the new sport for 2011-2012 and thusly started the team "Aurora Special Grand Slams"
- Developed sound strategy/system for adding new sport

Upcoming Focus:

- SOO-Aurora will endeavour to enhance its relationship with York Regional Police AND York Regional Police Association
- SOO-Aurora will add another sport – through a consultative process including current athletes/families and SOO
- SOO-Aurora will add a volunteer position for Community Outreach (including high school liaison)
- SOO-Aurora will ensure that every volunteer is NCCP certified and is properly recognised for his/her efforts
- SOO-Aurora will support and develop its Athlete Representatives with the goal of transitioning in spirit from a 'Board led' community, to an 'Athlete driven' community
- SOO-Aurora will continue its efforts to promote Special Olympics in this community

Submitted by: Nancy Black

Treasurer's Report – 2011-12

Submitted by: Dorothy Hall

This was our best year yet, with fabulous support from the community. We want to specifically acknowledge Mike Nisbet of Westview Golf Club, whose continued support enables the participation of the current large number of athletes in our golf program, and the York Region Police Association, for their generous donation from the proceeds of their Military Tattoo and the free use of their fields by our softball team.

Once again we were under budget with respect to volunteer training. This is mostly due to the limited local availability of NCCP training. We are hopeful that Special Olympics Ontario will consider providing a course in Aurora in the next fiscal period.

Fundraising Report – 2011-12

2011/2012 was the most successful year of fundraising to date for Special Olympics Ontario-Aurora. Our fundraising revenues increased from \$14,819 in 2010/2011 to \$25,095 in 2011/12.

We continued our base programs and events; Sponsor Blocks, Staples' Special Olympics Fundraiser "Give a Toonie, Share a Dream" and the Christmas Craft Sale which together brought in \$5,163.00. Donations for Sponsor Blocks will soon be available on our website.

Donations to SOO-Aurora increased significantly this year, from \$11,953 in 2010/2011 to \$17,347. This increase resulted from a significant donation from the York Regional Police, Military Tattoo. We are extremely thankful for the strong support we receive from York Regional Police Association and our loyal corporate sponsors.

A new event for this year was the SOO-Aurora Community golf tournament held at Westview Golf Club. The tournament was very successful and generated funding of \$6,100. We hope to make this an annual event.

We were also able to participate in the IBM Employee Charity Showcase which introduced SOO-Aurora to IBM and generated donations from employees. This type of corporate charity showcase is another potential source of funding we will explore in the coming year.

We have now established a solid fundraising platform with core programs and annual events that we will continue and expand upon with new events and corporate fundraising opportunities.

Submitted by: Stefanie Lee

Community Volunteer Coordinator/Registrar Report – 2011-12

I was new to this position this year, taking over from Andrew Belanger who stepped down mid season. We are growing! With the addition of softball in June, we are now providing 4 sports for our athletes. We have numerous coaches to help us run our programs, with a breakdown last fiscal year by sport as follows:

- Softball: 20 athletes, 6 coaches
- Basketball: 24 athletes, 12 coaches
- Swimming: 25 athletes, 42 coaches!
- Golf: 28 athletes, 20 coaches

My time in this position has been spent by:

- working on cleaning up database and registering all coaches
- working on having all coaches take the AODA online course
- continuing having all coaches NCCP trained
- attending the Volunteer Fair sponsored by Town of Aurora
- taking the online database course so that I am now able to make changes within the Special Olympics database

Looking forward, I will continue with the registration process for all coaches (and new athletes).

Submitted by: Rhonda Wood

Public Relations Report – 2011-12

Special Olympics Ontario - Aurora Website

Since our 2009 launch of the website it has become a place where you can go to look at our calendar of events, and details on the many sports we offer. We also post the names of our sponsors so that you can support them!

Visit our Website to find out more, donate, or volunteer as we grow in Aurora!

aurora.specialolympicsontario.ca

Getting the Word out

One of the key goals for our community is to develop awareness in our community about Special Olympics Ontario - Aurora and our goal to provide sport training and competition for people with an intellectual disability.

This year we developed a few more standardized marketing materials including:

- A boilerplate for telling our story to our community.
- Sport specific key facts brochures.

We also developed a marketing plan which included an overall plan for the year to publish articles in local publications. We have received great support from The Auroran, Sport in Aurora who have been fantastic at profiling our athletes and their achievements, and Ice Photo Studios. We receive comments and inquiries following many of the articles so we know our plan is working!

Key events that we value for their opportunity to develop awareness in our community are:

- The Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Aurora Santa Claus parade
- Staples Fundraising event (Stouffville and Aurora)
- Aurora Street Sale

This year at the street sale we had our Fundraising Coordinator present the whole day selling wristbands. People are so generous often they stopped and simply donated. If you ever doubt the kindness in the hearts of those around us just attend one of these events and talk to the many people who stop to chat. Our plan for next year is to ensure our Volunteer Coordinator is there talking to all the interested individuals that frequent our tent looking for a way to support our athletes.

Thank you to our athletes and their families and our volunteers and sponsors for their participation at these events!

We have made 2 key investments in marketing material this year.

- A portable display board that can be changed and updated for any event.
- And a tent which proudly displays our Special Olympics logo. These 2 items make it simple for our volunteers to attend community events and get the word out about Special Olympics Ontario – Aurora!

We would love for anyone with an artistic flair that would like to do design work for us to have a look at our display board and give us some suggestions.

More to come.

York Region will be sponsoring the 2013 Provincial Summer games.

We are looking forward to this being a key 2013 event to showcase our community, our volunteers and our athletes!

Submitted by: Nancy Shaw

Parent Liaison's Report – 2011-12

I am the parent Liaison for Special Olympics in Aurora. I am here to voice your opinions and concerns at monthly committee meetings. Please feel free to contact me through e-mail, the phone or in person. I do try to attend the sports on regular bases and can easily accommodate a meeting at one of the sports, so please contact me with anything you feel should be brought to the committees attention. We do want to hear from you.

We have had an exciting year here at Special Olympics Aurora with the introduction of one new sport, softball which has been received very positively in the community. Softball has gone off without any issues and some athletes have even been confident enough to go to qualifiers! We have been very thankful for that. We have enjoyed team the support of a great coaching team.

This year our athletes representatives (Meredith – overall rep plus for swimming, Mary for basketball, and Ian for golf) took part in speech training with Theresa Buck.

Our athletes touch people in many great ways in their everyday lives. They take non believers and make believers just through their being. We as a community both see and feel the great accomplishments of our athletes and will continue to support that here at Special Olympics Ontario - Aurora with the launch of more sports in the coming year.

Submitted by: Heather Brookes

Sport Technical Coordinator's Report – 2011-12

2011-2012 was a fairly busy year. Adding a new sport, with a sudden last minute change, Spring Provincial Championships and continuing with the ongoing sports. I attended the Championships as a swimming coach and learned more about what Special Olympics is all about, not to mention added to my knowledge for my position on the Community Council (Sport Technical Coordinator).

Two of our swimmers attended the Provincial Championships and did really well: congratulations to Mary Haberer and Cindy Noble. Another athlete, Meredith Allen, qualified but, unfortunately, had to drop out due to injury.

Softball is the new sport and just in time as this year is a qualifying year for Summer Provincials (2013 in York Region). The qualifying tournament, August 11th, was rained out with no new date as of this writing.

The other summer sport we have is golf. New coach and etiquette guidelines have been drawn up and will be available soon. This is also a qualifying year for golf and the qualifier for us (Region 6) is on August 23rd at Pinestone in Haliburton.

Next year we plan to add soccer. There is not yet a plan for any winter sports but that may change in the future.

Looking forward:

- 2013 Winter Worlds, Pyeongchang Korea (January 26 – February 6)
- 2013 Summer Provincials, York Region
- 2014 Summer Nationals, Vancouver
- 2015 Summer Worlds, Los Angeles
- November 2012, National Special Olympics month

Submitted by: Lloyd Brown

Sports Club Reports

Swimming Report – 2011-12

- All but 1 swimmer returned – Jakob decided skiing was his thing!
- 3 swimmers (Cindy, Mary & Meredith) qualified for Provincials! Only 2 could attend. Meredith broke her ankle!
- Now at 25 – expect 3-5 new swimmers!
- Planning to categorize swimmers into 2 streams – Competitive and Learn-to-Compete
- Hillary has “retired” but her strength lives on through us
 - Separate practices – separate pools
 - AFLC – for Learn-to-Compete
 - Friday nights 7:00p – 8:00p
 - SARC for Competitive (deep-end, diving etc.)
 - 2 practices – Friday 6:00p - 7:00p & Sunday 9:30a – 10:30a
 - To that end – Casey Jacobs, Head coach, Lloyd & AJ Competitive (meet) Lead & TBD for LTC Lead.
- Hope to attend 5-7 meets this year since we had an average of 12 swimmers per meet last year!
 - Hope to encourage new meet participants, too!

Submitted by: Sue Deacon, Swimming Team Manager

Basketball Report – 2011-12

In the second year of Aurora Special Dunks Basketball, the team grew in size with seven new players, a new head coach and seven new volunteer coaches, including one parent and one previous athlete. We had one team manager, a parent liaison, and a new athlete representative (Mary Haberer).

The season started in the middle of October, meeting weekly on Wednesday Nights from 7:00-8:30pm at St. Andrew College. Within the first month, we had a parent's meeting that outlined our goals and expectations for the season. We also had a Dunks wear sale, for athletes to purchase team clothing and athletic wear. Shortly after we took part in our first fundraising event held at two Staples locations (Aurora and Stouffville), where athletes donated their time representing our team on behalf of Special Olympics Ontario - Aurora. In November, we hosted Richmond Hill in our first intramural game of the season.

As expected, December was a busy month as our team visited Richmond Hill for a second intramural game. We took part in the Aurora Santa Claus Parade and participated in the SOO-Aurora Craft Sale. Our Christmas Party was a huge success, where athletes from all three Aurora sports (basketball, golf and swimming) had a combined party at the new York Regional Police facility.

Our season resumed in the new year, with another intramural game, which helped our athletes prepare for the Annual Mary Matthew's Basketball Tournament where we had two teams participate. Both teams were recognized in "IN SPORT" magazine for a job well done.

To close our second season, April was a great month, where athletes had fun on and off the court. We played our last game of the season, and took a group outing to watch the Toronto Raptors play. New this year, we had a family game where parents and siblings were encouraged to challenge our Special Dunks on the court. Fun was had by all and with more than expected participation; we will definitely include that in our third season. Our year end party was held at the Community Safety Village, where athletes and their families joined for a Barbeque. We handed out team pictures, gave thanks to our amazing coach and volunteers and even had a dance party!

For our third season, we look forward to welcoming back the same coaching staff as last year. Emphasis will be placed on individual evaluation of skill set to provide our athletes with proper training in areas needed for maximum growth, both individually and as a team. Our vision also involves increased involvement in intramural games and tournaments to provide numerous competitive opportunities for our athletes.

Submitted by: Jaclyn Black, Basketball Team Manager

Golf Report – 2011-12

GOLFERS

- 2012 is a Provincial Qualifier year for Golf
- Registration and assessment day held June 5th
- 28 golfers registered for 2012 (6 new) 2 athletes who didn't return
- Practices held on Sundays from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at Westview Golf Club, June 10 through to September 30
- We anticipate all golfers to return next season. We have 5 athletes who are one-on-ones and we will need to ensure we have continued coaching resources to support them.

COMPETITIONS

- Brampton Invitational
 - Peel Village Golf Course on Saturday July 7th
 - 7 golfers attended
- Provincial Qualifier
 - Pinestone Resort, Haliburton on Thursday August 23rd
 - 4 Individual Stroke Play, and 1 Unified Partner to attend
- Special Olympics Ontario - Annual Golf Open
 - Stouffville on Friday September 7th
- Region 6 Tournament
 - Wasaga Beach on Saturday September 15th
- Eagles Season end with mini game, skills competition and BBQ

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

- 16 coaches, including 2 parents and 1 Professional Golf Club Fitter
- Strong teaching skills throughout the group
- Many coaches were available every Sunday which provided quality and continuity of the program while maintaining consistency in coaching/athlete groups. This is significant given the ratio of golfers/coaches and without their dedication we would be challenged to provide this ideal ratio and quality program.
- Coaches are able to work in one-on-one capacity and also in group format.
- Hopeful that our coaches will also return and that we will be able to recruit more to assist next season.

COACHING SUCCESSES

- NCCP Training – 6 coaches are NCCP trained
- Excellent one-on-one pairings and strong dedication of coaches to success of golfers
- Identified golfers abilities and matched them into groups based on similar skill sets; allowed for more groups on the course, and permitted head coach to oversee practice range groups
- Had several golfers fitted with proper golf clubs, which improved their skill and enjoyment of the sport

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Golfers and coaches received logoed golf shirts and hats!
- Spring Golf Tournament Fund held at Westview Golf Club was a HUGE success. **\$6,100** was raised for Special Olympics Aurora!
- Westview Golf Club provided facilities; carts; range balls; club rentals and course access at no charge to our sport club. This saved significant funds to put towards next year's budget. A big THANK YOU to Mike Nesbit and his staff at Westview Golf Club.

- Thank you to Mary for leading our weekly warm up sessions.
- Thank you to Ian Hale for fitting our golfers with appropriate clubs.

ATHLETE LIAISON

- Ian McKie is the athlete liaison.

NEXT YEAR

- Attend 2013 Provincial Golf Tournament in York Region.
- Continued focus on quality instruction to meet the individual needs of the golfers
- Continue to stress the importance of appropriate equipment (men's/ladies/junior - size, weight, length etc.) to golfer's success. Playing with the wrong equipment is a huge obstacle and challenge and leads to frustration.
- Send a larger contingent of golfers to competitions.
- Recruit additional coaches for group and one-on-one format; NCCP training and golf specific courses for all coaches prior to next season.
- Recruit cart drivers and floater volunteers.
- Implement a system to help athletes measure progress and help them work towards their goals, however big or small that accomplishment is. Provide activities to track the progress towards the goals (e.g. putting contests, custom score cards, mini group skills tournaments, etc.)

Submitted by: Katie Vickers, Team Manager Golf

Softball Report – 2011-12

Softball was a new sport for SOO-Aurora this past year, with start up taking place in June. I am the head coach for softball (in addition to the Volunteer Coordinator/Registrar position). Highlights of softball:

- started up softball team in Aurora
- held registrations - 13 athletes
- after 5 weeks of play - 20 athletes
- 6 full time coaches
- equipment was donated by, Aurora Diggers Girls Softball, Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League, Newmarket Boys Baseball
- field is donated by York Region Police Association
- plan on attending the Provincial Qualifier
- plans for next year: to continue softball program and add a few competitions through our season; to staff the Team Manager position

Submitted by: Rhonda Wood, Head Coach Softball

Other Reports

Event Coordinator Report – 2011-12

Santa Claus Parade -- We had a lot of fun in the morning decorating the float: there were many volunteers and great ideas to put together our 'Country Christmas' Float. In the evening we had a beautiful evening for the parade, lots of athletes attended riding on the float, others walking and a great turnout of volunteers as well. We looked spectacular! We look forward to another good time this year and your ideas for a 'Theme' would be greatly appreciated.

SOO Craft Sale -- Great day, many vendors, there were games for the kids this year which was well run by our Student Volunteers. We hope to do more advertising to generate more flow through of shoppers for this next year.

Athlete Christmas Party -- Well attended, lots of fun for everyone, a great venue at the York Regional Police Building. Their Canine Unit dropped in which was informational, and their mascot also dropped in which was very entertaining for everyone – another highlight was a beautiful snowman cake which was yummy & homemade. A repeat of the fun is hoped for this year, and that we can obtain the same venue.

Trophy Case -- This is an ongoing project ... we have two at the Aurora Leisure Complex – one upstairs for all athlete involvement, one downstairs for the Special Ducks, and one at the SARC. Any sport articles, photos, and anything else that might be enjoyed by all – please help by getting them to me and I will make sure they get in there for display.

Art in the Park -- This was a Town of Aurora Sport initiative where our athletes got together for a few fun hours to paint boards that were then put together into a picnic table and displayed in Aurora's parks. We were also given a plaque from the Town of Aurora which is displayed in our Trophy Case at SARC.

Torch Run -- When we got together to do the Art in the Park picnic table board painting, we also painted a sign of thanks for the Torch Run. There were quite a few athletes and volunteers who attended the Torch Run when it passed by in Newmarket. They cheered them on and showed them our support and gratitude for their generous donation to the SOO-Aurora community.

Street Sale -- Although the day was not all sunshine, it was a great success for exposure and information about our Special Olympics Ontario – Aurora community. We had two additions this year, one being our beautiful SOO-Aurora tent and the other being our new SOO-Aurora wristbands which were for sale.

Golf Tournament -- We had a fabulous day for this inaugural event – 53 Golfers – a lot of participation in Hole Sponsorships, Prize Donations & Volunteers. We hope to grow a bit more for next year!

Volunteers are integral for any Event – Please let us know should you want to help in any way

Submitted by: Cheryl Duckworth, Event Coordinator