

Special Olympics B.C. – Burnaby Local  
"Let me win, But if I can't win, Let me be brave in the Attempt"

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**April 2006**  
**Volume 2**  
**Jim Wong – Event reporter**

**National Volunteer Week – April 23 - 29, 2006**

The Burnaby Local of Special Olympics B.C., participated National Volunteer Week by hosting a Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 29, 2006. The purpose of the event was to celebrate volunteers, create interest in the community and recruit new volunteers into our programs.

The poor weather did not dampen the spirits of approximately 50 athletes, coaches and volunteers who participated in the event held Willingdon Heights Park in Burnaby. Sport demonstrations were held in Soccer, Track and field, and Bocce by Burnaby Special Olympians.



Athletes, coaches, and volunteers huddle under cover during periods of heavy rains



Debra Colvin, Local Coordinator provides opening remarks, while Paul Colvin, Program Coordinator looks on

Debra welcomes all athletes, coaches and volunteers to the soggy event. Special guests included Burnaby Councillors Garth Evans and Sav Dhaliwal and Barb Tilley from the Regional Office. Shaw Cable Television and a local newspaper were also on hand to cover the event. Colvin noted that event such as these provided opportunities for volunteers to participate in their community for a worthwhile cause. "The goal for the Burnaby Local this year is to recruit 10 additional volunteers."



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Burnaby Councillor Garth Evans addresses the participants as athlete Bridgette Colvin and Debra Colvin look on

Burnaby Councillor Garth Evans was appreciative of the contribution of all volunteers, noting that "one third of Burnaby residents benefit from the efforts of dedicated volunteers." Evans, noted that he has special regards for the work of organizations such as Special Olympics as his own daughter has down syndrome. He supports funding for all volunteer organizations and encourages delegations to meet with City Council to apply for funding.



Colvin carefully measures the balls in the Bocce demonstration as the athletes look on.



Board Treasurer Ron Hammell and Burnaby Councillor Sav Dhaliwal

Burnaby Councillor Sav Dhaliwal echos Evans, and states that "nationally we have 7 million volunteers in 160 organizations that provide important and valuable services to their communities". Dhaliwal further notes the commitment of the City of Burnaby towards volunteer services. "We have a small department of four staff that encourages and support volunteer organizations such as Special Olympics, and organizes the annual Local Heros event."



Athlete Matthew Wong participates in Soccer Drills in the soccer demonstrations.



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Local Coordinator Debra Colvin being interviewed by Shaw Cable TV



Burnaby Athletes Monet Yu (soccer), Sammy Langthorne (track and field), Warren Jones, and Christopher Mitchell (track and field) manage to stay dry

Mitchell (far right) has been involved in Special Olympics for two years in Track and Field and will be proudly representing Burnaby in the National Games held in Manitoba in July. He will be competing in the 100 and 200 meter events.



Volunteers Ray Vieau, Ron Aarstad (coach), and Ron Hammell (Coach and Treasurer of Board)

Aarstad volunteers as a coach in many events including track and field, soccer, floor hockey, bowling, and show shoeing noted that participation in these sports "really helps athlete build confidence and enhances their day to day living skills".



Athletes Lindsay Aarstad, sister Veronica, and Brigette Colvin huddle under the umbrella to keep dry



Volunteer and Board Members Rahmoun Vieau, Rowena Schlogl, Zee Simpson, and Ron Aarstad (stationed at BBQ)

These events would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our very own volunteers. Board Members above were busily preparing the lunch for the athlete and coaches. (Note: picture taken just prior to Zee receiving a cold shower from the rain run-off overhead!!)

Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, the athletes once again demonstrated that they can overcome life's obstacles and make the best of the situation at hand. Well done, athletes, coaches and volunteers!