

## 50th Celebrations, Final Leg and more!



## Light it Up Day of Inclusion

### Celebrating 50 Years of Special Olympics

On July 21, 2018 Special Olympics is celebrating its 50th anniversary. That's 50 years of inclusion for people living with an intellectual disability.

To recognize this incredible milestone, on Friday, July 20th Special Olympics Ontario and Special Olympics New York have arranged to have Niagara Falls illuminated **RED**. The illumination will start at 10:00 PM and will last 15 minutes.

If you're in the area, make sure to swing by and check it out! Take pictures and share on social media. What a great way to kick off the Global Day of Inclusion (July 21) together!

Additionally, we (Torch Run Ontario) will have exciting news to share on 50th Anniversary celebrations in the near future, stay tuned!



## Provincial Final Leg - Peterborough



Peterborough Police Service hosted the 2018 Provincial School Championships from May 29-31. Over 1,000 athletes, coaches and staff attended, with athletes competing in what was one of the largest provincial school championships in history.. Sports included basketball, bocce, floor hockey, track & field and soccer.



The Final Leg kicked off the championships with the *Flame of Hope* being run into the Opening Ceremonies by approximately 100 Torch Runners from across the Province.

This was certainly a memorable event with great feedback from everyone in attendance.

If you want proof of the impact of the Games read the two quotes below from teachers/coaches of the School Championships. And have a tissue handy!

*"At the closing ceremonies one of my students came up to me and wanted to thank me so much for bringing him down. He said he had the time of his life. I told him that I had nothing to do with it. That it was his hard work and the Special Olympics Committee that had made it happen. He turned around and looked me right in the eyes and said 'sir, for the first time in my life I feel like I belong'... The little twerp brought tears to my eyes!!! This is what you guys do. You make all these kids feel like they are a part of something and that they belong!"*

- Coach & Special Needs Teacher (anonymous)

*"Words cannot express the gratitude we feel towards your committee; the volunteers, sponsors and everyone who work with Special Olympics. It is overwhelming how many of you worked so hard behind the scenes over the last year to make this amazing event happen for all the champions who came*

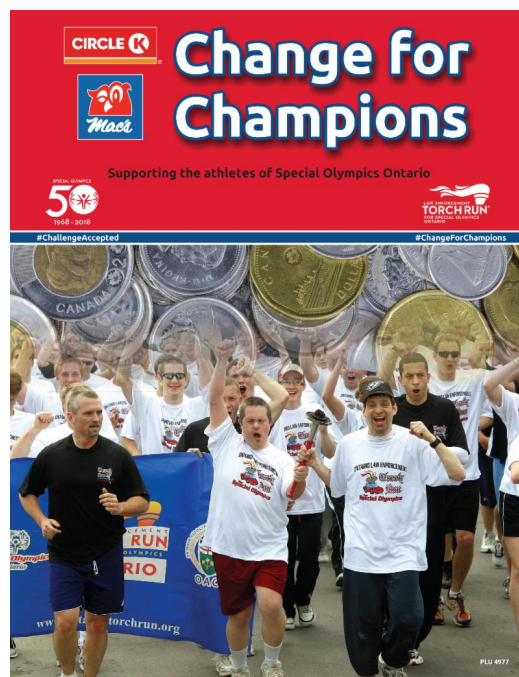
to Peterborough. Our 8 athletes have never been part of an organized sports team before the qualifiers. They gained a true sense of belonging and self-worth from this experience. Our athletes, their families and the many supporters from our school community loved absolutely every moment of the Provincials. It was incredible to see so many people hold up posters and cheer on the team. The excitement and tension felt at all our four highly competitive "nail biter" games was palpable. All the coaches, athletes and everyone attending or working the events were respectful and excited for each other's successes. One of our athlete's mom told me that she would "move mountains" to make this experience possible for her son. It was evident at the Provincials just how many of you were moving the mountains alongside her. "

- Coach & Special Needs Teacher (anonymous)

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and the funds we raise to offset the cost of the competitions. This is why we do what we do!

[See more pictures from the Final Leg here](#)

## Circle K / Mac's Change for Champions



In case you haven't heard, we've got an awesome fundraising partnership for the month of July with Mac's/Circle K.

For the entire month, Mac's/Circle K will participate in the Change for Champions program at every cash register in their 750 locations across Ontario. At the time a customer makes a purchase, they will be asked if they would like to donate their change to the champions of Special Olympics. The fundraising opportunity is huge!

### **What can you do?**

In July, make a purchase at your local Mac's/Circle K and donate your change to Special Olympics.

Stores have been issued a challenge that the location with the highest grossing



donations will **host the provincial cheque presentation** this fall! If you want your local store to win visit often and ask everyone you know to do the same!

## Toronto Police Service to host first-ever 2019 Special Olympics Ontario Invitational Youth Games, May 14 - 17

***2,000 athletes. 500 coaches. 7 International regions. 5 sports. 4 days of competition.***



The games will host a unified sports and traditional team option for athletes aged 13-21 in five sports: athletics, basketball, bocce, floor hockey, and soccer. Modeled after the School Championships Program, first launched by Special Olympics Ontario in 2011, the Invitational Youth Games (YIG) will serve as a landmark event during the 50th anniversary year of the Special Olympics movement (June 2018 - June 2019).

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), including the Toronto Police Service and Honorary Chair Toronto Police Service Chief, Mark Saunders, will play a critical role in supporting and enabling the games, building on the 30 - year relationship with Special Olympics which began with Toronto hosting the very first LETR in Canada in 1987.



## Race for Plunkett Raises \$35,000



On May 23rd, York Regional Police hosted their 4th Annual Race for Plunkett at Riverwalk Commons in Newmarket. In total, **235 Runners participated and raised \$35,000**. This event has raised **\$125,000** since 2015 for Special Olympics!

Click [HERE](#) to see all of the photos.

Didn't get a chance to participate in the Plunkett? Join us on August 18th at Bayfront Park in Hamilton for the 4th Annual **HELL IN THE HARBOUR**. Over \$145,000 has been raised in 3 years at the 6km obstacle course mud run!

Can you survive Hell in the Harbour??

**REGISTER NOW!**

**4TH ANNUAL :**



**HAMILTON'S PREMIER OBSTACLE COURSE CHALLENGE**

**BAYFRONT PARK**

**200 HARBOUR FRONT DRIVE HAMILTON**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

## **Volunteers Wanted!**



We are looking for volunteers for the 2018 Guardians Half Marathon & 5KM. If you aren't participating, why not come out and lend a helping hand?

**Date:** Sunday, October 14, 2018

**Location:** OPP Headquarters, 777 Memorial Ave., Orillia

**Registration:** 7:00 AM

**Race Start:** 9:00 AM

[Click here to register as a volunteer.](#) Invite your friends and family to join you! All

are welcome.

Feel like challenging yourself to one final run of the season while taking in the beautiful fall colours in Orillia? Register to participate!

Visit [www.GuardiansHalfMarathon.com](http://www.GuardiansHalfMarathon.com) to get started.

## A New Way to Fundraise

We know that Torch Runners are always looking for ways to fundraise whether its running in a marathon, hosting a BBQ, organizing a bowling tournament Etc..

We've now made it easier to fundraise for your favourite cause.

An online fundraising page has been created, similar to the event pages you use to register for Polar Plunges and other provincial events. You simply register online, create your personal account, and start fundraising! You can customize your page and your message to suit the fundraiser and off you go.

It's important to note that your page will be closed 2 days after the event ends, unless you send an email to [carolyneallan@torchrunontario.com](mailto:carolyneallan@torchrunontario.com) to advise us that you want to keep it open longer.

[Click here to open and bookmark the page](#)

Good luck & happy fundraising!

## Torch Run in the News



Have you heard the news? We've launched a blog for Torch Run Ontario - [The Guardian](#).

This is your opportunity to get on the mic and show off all your local events, share your Torch Run related stories and show us how much your community supports Special Olympics.

Send us pictures and a write-up and we'll get it on the blog and share it with the world.

Just email all details to [carolyneallan@torchrunontario.com](mailto:carolyneallan@torchrunontario.com).

No event is too small, no story is too short. We can't wait to hear from you!

## ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Keep up with Torch Run Ontario! Catch our videos, view pictures of events across the province and find out what others are saying about us. We are on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and now we're on Flickr too!

If you want your Torch Run related event photos showcased on Torch Run's Flickr account, [email your photos](#) to us with a brief description of the event.

### Follow us:



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