



MEDIA RELEASE

Only 100 days out 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games

Sarnia-Lambton, ON - We are only 100 days out! The 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games (OPSG) are coming to Sarnia, Lambton! The best Athletes in Ontario will be competing August 19-21, 2011.

"With only 100 days to go, I am confident that the Region of Sarnia-Lambton will make the 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games a tremendous success! This event will showcase the community and highlight Ontario's talented ParaSport athletes, coaches and managers who are an inspiration to all Ontarians".
-Margarett Best, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport

ParaSport Ontario has played an integral role in the development of ParaSport athletes and Paralympians since 1975, through an established multi-sport games program, which features Ontario ParaSport Summer and Winter Games.

"For many of the Sarnia/Lambton Games Organizing Committee members, this will be their third time hosting these Games" said Cathy Vincelli, ParaSport Ontario Executive Director. "Their commitment to the ParaSport and Paralympic movement in Ontario is incredible. These Games have always been, and will continue to be, truly athlete focused. We look forward to arriving in Sarnia/Lambton 100 days from now to first class sport competitions and events."

"Sarnia has a great reputation for hosting events. The Sport Alliance of Ontario is confident that once again the organizers and volunteers will do an incredible job on behalf of the City and that all the participants will leave Sarnia with great memories of another very successful ParaSport Summer Games" said Blair McIntosh, Director of Games, Sport Alliance of Ontario

In order to host an unforgettable event and leave Sarnia-Lambton with a wonderful legacy, you need sponsors, volunteers and community support. Sarnia-Lambton has once again stepped up to the plate. The Games have received amazing support from, individuals, organizations and companies, such as The Sarnia Construction Association, Chemfab, Sure Signs, Grafiks, KeddcO, McDonald's Sarnia Loyal Order of the Moose, Scotia Bank, Blue Water Bridge Canada, Callester Musico Insurance Group, Bluewater Power, Union Gas and Tim Hortons.

Today with only 100 days left to go before the Caldron is lit, Shoppers Home Health Care will present the Games Organizing Committee with a \$10,000 donation. Shoppers Home HealthCare will be the presenting sponsor for the 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games. Shoppers Home Health Care has been a valued sponsor and partner of ParaSport Ontario and the Ontario ParaSport Games Program Since 2006.

"Shoppers Home Health Care is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Ontario ParaSport Summer Games. We recognize the talent and tremendous work exhibited by the athletes in earning their opportunity to compete in these Games. We look forward to welcoming all the athletes and working with the organizing committee and the volunteers, on this outstanding event." said , Sandra Torelli Shaw, Store Manager, Shoppers Home Health Care.

The two-day event will consist of six sports, all of which will be represented by Ontario's top-level athletes, in the sports of Athletics (track and field) Boccia, Goalball, Lawnbowling, Wheelchair Tennis and Para-Equestrian. Athletes qualify for the Ontario ParaSport Summer Games by meeting or surpassing standards at qualifying events held throughout the province by their individual provincial sport and multi-sport organizations.

The 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games will be held at the Sarnia Athletics Southwest Track & Field Complex, Strangway Community Centre, St. Patrick's High School, Sarnia Lawnbowling Club, Sarnia Riding Club and Fiddick's Farm. The Holiday Inn will be the Athletes Village for over 250 participants. Local and provincial media coverage will be present throughout the event and will showcase not only the Games but also our community.

"This 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games will once again build pride and celebrate the achievements of our Ontario athletes, said Rob Janoska Co-Chair of the 2011 OPSG. "We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has come forward to support the Games and we look forward to seeing the community out August 19-21"

The host committee, which includes representatives from Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, Pathways Health Centre for Children, Strangway Community Centre, Community Living Sarnia-Lambton, SD Lambton Holiday Inn and TV COGECO, Sarnia Athletics Southwest Track & Field Complex and many other community members at large have been hard at work preparing for these Games and are excited to showcase Sarnia-Lambton to all the athletes, coaches, families and friends from across Ontario that will call Sarnia-Lambton home for those 3 days.

Over the next 100 days, the Games Organizing Committee will be hard at work putting the final touches to the Games, including the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Their goal is to successfully present the two day event to the Province as a benchmark for excellence and create memories that will last a life time.

"It was an honour to have been selected to host the 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games and an absolute pleasure working with the Games Organizing Committee, our sponsors, and all our facility representatives. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to welcome athletes from across Ontario to our beautiful community", said Vicky Praill, Co-Chair of the OPSG and Special Events & Group Marketing Co-ordinator for Tourism Sarnia Lambton. "As always I am extremely proud of our community and their continued support. Without the monetary and in-kind support from businesses and organizations, these Games would not be possible".

With only 100 days to go, it is not too late to get involved. The Games are still looking for sponsors as well as volunteers. Anyone interested in being part of the 2011 Ontario ParaSport Summer Games should visit www.ontarioparasportgames.com or call Vicky Praill at 519-336-3232.

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