YEAR END ARTICLE 2014 MICHEAL OSWALD

SOBC Sunshine Coast

Here we are on the cusp of a New Year and believe me we in Special Olympics Sunshine Coast just keep on rockin’. 2014 has shown some strong developments within our organization along with a record number of athletes and volunteers.

First off, our Softball Team received new uniforms and a new name. Then they went on to win the trophy for their division at the Coquitlam tourney! Way to go Ravens!

It was also a big year for swimming as Nationals athlete Christel Jensen travelled to UBC for the big games. She came away with Gold in the 25-metre backstroke and was part of the Silver medal team in the 100-metre relay. Head swim coach Marie Telder was also there as part of Team BC.

Another contribution to Team BC from the Coast was Chuck Bertrand who was head coach in Golf. He said, they “dominated”.

Track Head Coach, Tania Flynn took Amber Maher, Bruce Stuart and Micheal Oswald to the UBC track meet where they brought home first places and personal bests.

Curling as usual has been cool (pun intended). The highlight of EVERY year is the social bonspiel in Abbotsford with dinner at the Spaghetti Factory and celebrating January birthdays.

The interest in Basketball this year has been huge. There are now three teams on the Coast – two in Sechelt and one in Gibsons. Coach Samantha Mills is excited to work with our new volunteers Callum Fallis and Kyle Stanley.

Floor Hockey has seen the Sunshine Coast Bears having a record number of athletes join in. In 2015 they hope to repeat the fantastic game they had alongside local members of the RCMP last January.

Rhythmic Gymnastics athletes enjoyed getting their new uniforms and performing at our banquet. We are sorry to see that head coach, Margaret (Maggie) Casey is leaving. However, Assistant Coach Jessica Davey will be taking the head position. We shall miss you Maggie!

Soccer saw new faces this year; new coaches in Sechelt and new players for both the Gibsons and Sechelt teams. The teams competed at two tourneys, taking a team of combined players to each. Soccer 2015 starts on April 6, until then the athletes and coaches are busy with other sports.

Finally, Bocce continues to be a hit and Coach Jeannie Barwise, says, her personal highlight was the windup game where the athletes practiced their aiming skills by flying paper airplanes through a hoop – aka – the airport. She enjoyed seeing how many ‘ace pilots’ were able to make a perfect landing.

On a sad note, 2014 saw the passing of one our own. John McAra passed away at the age of 49. All of us will remember John for his tireless dedication to Bocce and for his service at The Sunshine Shack that always came with a smile.

Well that about sums up 2014 for all of us here in our slice of paradise called the Sunshine Coast. Looking forward to 2015.

Micheal Oswald Athlete Reporter SOBC Sunshine Coast