

# Travelling flag promotes Special Olympics



JOHN CARTER/METROLAND

The players who make up the three Special Olympics basketball teams from the Arnprior area gather around the Special Olympic flag that is circulating around the Eastern Ontario. Knights of Columbus District Deputy Wayne Pickering of Arnprior presented the flag to Renee Stewart, Bryan Terrell and the athletes at a practice Jan. 13 at Arnprior District High School. After a tournament in Kingston this month, the Arnprior hoopsters will host a tournament at ADHS Feb. 20.

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One of six Special Olympics flags circulating about the province spent last week in Renfrew County.

The flag relay, which began Jan 4, is raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics. It is being organized by the Knights of Columbus, one of the sponsors of Special Olympics.

The six large flags are being passed through Knights of Columbus districts in Ontario prior to the Provincial School Championships that will be held in Durham June

1-3. The Eastern Ontario flag started in Pembroke before visiting Arnprior, Renfrew and Eganville. It went to Ottawa this week, where it will circulate for a couple of months before going to other Eastern Ontario communities.

Knights of Columbus District Deputy Wayne Pickering of Arnprior took the flag around this area. He showed off the flag at a well-attended practice by Arnprior area Special Olympics basketball players Jan. 13 at Arnprior District High School.

Earlier in the day, he took part in a ceremony that saw the flag raised at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Renfrew. Several mayors have signed the flag, including Arnprior's David Reid and Horton's Bob Kingsbury. So did the district's Grand Knights.

The Knights of Columbus announced a partnership with the Special Olympics in 2005; committing \$1 million over four years to grow the program in North America, in addition to pledging increased volunteer support for provincial/state and local games. The Knights of Columbus have extended that commitment through 2016.



WAYNE PICKERING/SUBMITTED

After Arnprior Mayor David Reid signs the Special Olympics flag last Thursday at town hall, he poses with Arnprior Special Olympians, their community co-ordinator Bryan Terrell and Knights of Columbus District Deputy Wayne Pickering.