



## Knights of Columbus District 67 Flag Relay – March 7 -13, 2016

News Release  
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Burlington & Oakville Knights wave the flag in support of Special Olympics Week March 7-13

One of six Special Olympics Flags crossing 113 Ontario Knights of Columbus Districts will arrive in Burlington March 7. The City of Burlington is proclaiming March 7-13, *Special Olympics Week*.

The Flag Relay started Jan. 4 to raise awareness of the Special Olympics and the Provincial Youth Games taking place June 1-3 in Durham Region. Athletes competing at the Special Olympics Provincial Youth Games come from all over the province and earned their way through 52 regional events.

The flag will be in District 67, which includes Burlington and Oakville from March 7 to March 13. There will be a flag raising ceremony at Burlington City hall at 9am on Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> and at Oakville Town hall at 10:30 a.m. on Friday March 11.

### March 7 Burlington City Hall flag-raising ceremony

The City of Burlington will recognize our Special Olympians by having a special flag-raising ceremony with **Mayor Rick Goldring** at City Hall from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Burlington Knights will also present a cheque to the Special Olympics.

The event will start with a piper led march followed by Special Olympians and Burlington Knights of Columbus Colour Guard from St. Philippe's Church, 472 Locust Street along the sidewalk to City Hall. Everyone is welcome to participate.

## March 10 Haber Centre Athletes Night & Flag Transfer Ceremony

Special Olympics Athletes and coaches from Burlington and Oakville will present an Athletes Night and Oakville Flag Transfer Ceremony on March 10 from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Haber Recreation Centre, 3040 Tim Dobbie Drive in Burlington.

Special Olympics Athletes will demonstrate their skills in several athletic categories, including basketball, floor hockey and others. A representative from Burlington and Oakville City Councils are expected to attend to help promote the Special Olympics Organizations.

The flag will be transferred to Oakville during the evening. Its final destination will be the Games in June. Members of the Halton Police and Burlington Firefighters, who are also strong supporters of the Special Olympics movement, will be invited.

## March 11 Oakville City Hall flag-raising ceremony

The City of Oakville will recognize their Special Olympians by having a special flag-raising ceremony with **Mayor Rob Burton** at Oakville Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will be followed by refreshments served to participants at the town hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Special Olympic fund-raising bottle drive

Burlington Knights have arranged a city-wide bottle drive to support Burlington's Special Olympic athletes competing at the June games. Everyone is encouraged to drop-off beer, wine or liquor bottles and beer cans at the following Roman Catholic Churches.

- **March 5: 11 a.m. - 3p.m.** -- St. Raphael's, 4072 New St.
- **March 7: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.** -- St. Gabriel's, 2261 Parkway Dr.
- **March 8: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.** -- Holy Rosary, 287 Plains Rd. E.
- **March 9: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.** -- St. Paul's, 2265 Headon Rd.
- **March 10: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.** -- St. Patrick's, 196 Kenwood Avenue
- **March 11: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.** -- St. John's, 2016 Blairholm Avenue

## How to support our Special Olympians

Anyone can offer financial support to the Special Olympics by visiting [www.kofcflagrelay.com](http://www.kofcflagrelay.com) or by purchasing raffle tickets from the Knights during events on *Special Olympics Week* in Burlington. Funds raised will support Special Olympics.

## Burlington & Oakville Special Olympics history

In case you didn't know, the founder of the Special Olympics movement is long-time Burlington resident **Dr. Frank Hayden**. The Burlington and Oakville Knights of Columbus have been working closely with the Special Olympics over the past couple of years. The Knights are a major sponsor of the Youth Games.

"These people are so much fun to be around," said the Knights District Flag Relay Chair **Ken Fleming**. "They're very inspiring people and we all feel so good about being part of their lives."

"Coaches who volunteer their time to teach and help the Special Olympians deserve a big thank you. In Burlington, we have volunteers like **Ken Medland**, special liaison to the Knights of Columbus and last year's basketball coach, and **Sara Bauer** and **Carlo Cerninara** current coaches of the *Burlington Flames* basketball team.

"In Oakville we have a few Knights of Columbus members like **Bingo Rivera**, **Steve Montague** and **David Fisher**, who volunteer as coaches with the *Oakville Shooting Stars Basketball*, *Oakville Lightning Track & Field* and *Oakville Cougars Floor Hockey* teams, are a few examples of volunteers who make the Special Olympics so special.

"**Catherine Hawkins (Cate)** also deserves our thanks. She is the Burlington Co-ordinator for the Special Olympics and works hard to ensure athletes have lots of opportunities to get involved, exercise, make friends and have fun."

## Burlington & Oakville Knights

There are hundreds Knights of Columbus members within District 67, which includes Burlington and Oakville. Burlington councils include **MSGR JAMES CORBETT WARREN MEMORIAL COUNCIL 5073** with members from across Burlington including, the parishes of St. John's, St. Raphael's, St. Patrick's and St. Paul's;

**OUR LADY OF THE MOST HOLY COUNCIL 15920** at Holy Rosary parish, **ST. GABRIEL'S COUNCIL 10061** at St Gabriel's parish and **SAINT ANTOINE DANIEL COUNCIL** at St Philippe's parish.

Oakville Knights are represented by **MARIAN COUNCIL 3881** and **MARY MOTHER OF GOD COUNCIL 14446**. The Knights support charities and people in need within Burlington and Oakville.

The order was formed in 1882 by **Father Michael J. McGivney** of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, to render financial aid to members and their families.

They have helped families obtain economic security and stability, and has contributed time and energy worldwide to service in communities. There are approximately 16,000 councils and more than 1.9 million members worldwide.

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