



2008: Significant Events

The 2008 Ontario Spring Games

Special Olympics Ontario has long been the charity of choice for the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. In the spirit of this partnership and through the drive and determination of Deputy Chief Chuck Mercier, the DRPS successfully applied to host the 2008 Spring Games in Durham Region.

After years of planning and through a community-wide network of support, the DRPS was proud to bring these athletes and their families to Durham Region for a magical week in May.

Approximately 700 Special Olympians competed May 28- 31st in various sporting events across Durham Region as the Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) 2008 Provincial Spring Games took flight.

The competition was exciting and every athlete was applauded for his or her efforts as proud family members, coaches and friends looked on. From the waters of the Pickering Recreation Centre swimming pool to the top of the basketball rim at Durham College, each sport thrilled spectators and left people wanting more.

The official closing ceremony on May 31st was an emotional event as the Special Olympic flag was passed from Chief Constable Mike Ewles to the next host community.

On the Sunday morning, the athletes said goodbye, climbed back into their buses and began the long journey home, full of great memories of one of the most successful SOO Games ever held.

The DRPS would like to thank the extraordinary number of athletes, volunteers, family members and the dedicated coaches who made this memorable event possible.

Volunteers produced and distributed about 4,000 boxed lunches and provided more than 20,000 hours of work to make it all happen. Approximately 1,900 medals were awarded throughout the Games.

The 2008 Ontario Spring Games Legacy

Over \$1 million was raised in financial contributions and gifts-in-kind to help make the Games a great success.

With some of the uncommitted funds, a significant contribution was made to the Abilities Centre planned for Iroquois Park in Whitby. There will be a permanent office created in this new facility for local members of Special Olympics to use.

Another important legacy was the first ever Healthy Athletes Expo in Durham Region for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The two day event was held at Durham College/U.O.I.T. on May 9th and 10th prior to the Spring Games and afforded athletes special access to health care services such as eye exams, dental exams and more. Over 700 athletes attended the expo.



Largest Cocaine Seizure in Durham Region's History

A major investigation into drug trafficking in Durham Region led to the largest seizure of cocaine in the history of the DRPS, and one of the largest in Ontario history.

Project Falcon was led by the DRPS Gang Enforcement Unit and the goal was simple – find the source of the cocaine on Durham streets. A successful investigation led investigators to a food importer based in Etobicoke who was bringing in cocaine hidden inside boxes of hot sauce from Guyana through the Port of Saint John, New Brunswick. Working with the R.C.M.P. and the Canada Border Services Agency, a freight container was stopped in Saint John in December 2008 and 276 kilograms of cocaine was found pressed inside the cardboard dividers in boxes of hot sauce. Several days later, a second vessel was intercepted in St. Croix, the U.S. Virgin Islands and another 100 kilograms of cocaine seized.

In total, the 376 kilograms of 78 per cent pure cocaine was seized worth \$54.5 million.



DEU and GEU Drug Seizures 2006, 2007, 2008 (\$10,000+)

	2006 (\$)	2007 (\$)	2008 (\$)
<i>Marihuana</i>	2,015,972	19,435,400	6,404,188
<i>Cocaine</i>	36,200	2,880,000	55,128,555
<i>Ecstasy</i>	23,460	525,500	6,220
<i>Ephedrine</i>	125,600	150,000	-
<i>Cannabis Resin</i>	29,600	130,000	8,870
<i>Anabolic Steroid</i>	-	32,500	-
<i>GHB</i>	-	25,300	3,500
<i>Oxycodone</i>	3,540	22,600	17,010
<i>Psilocybyn</i>	750	12,056	532
<i>Methamphetamine</i>	1,671,610	-	129,450
<i>MDMA Powder</i>	16,012	-	-
TOTAL	4.2 M	23.2 M	61.7 M

Taking the Profit Out of Crime

From January 2008 until mid-2009, the DRPS seized approximately \$5.98 million under all seizure and forfeiture processes available. About \$683,000 of that total was through the Civil Remedies for Illicit Activities (CRIA) program. Most of these seized assets are vehicles and houses. Eventually the monies are received by the provincial or federal government after final dispositions have been made in court.

One of the most significant seizures was the Hells Angels clubhouse on Ortono Avenue in Oshawa.

