

News Release: For immediate use

Doors still open for Ontario ParaSport volunteers as deadline nears

COBOURG (Feb. 28) – With the March 11 deadline approaching for volunteers to sign up for the Ontario ParaSport Games, organizers believe their target of 400 behind-the-scenes workers is now in sight.

“We’re heartened by the public response,” said Games Chair Paul Macklin. “It’s a real opportunity for people across Northumberland to join the team and have fun helping a worthy cause.”

With less than two weeks to go before the deadline, 157 volunteers have registered online through the Games website – www.2014parasportgames.ca.

“The word is getting out,” said Macklin. “We’ve noticed an uptake in registrations this week.”

Although the three days of medal competitions don’t begin until May 30, volunteers will need time to obtain a routine Vulnerable Sector police background check that’s required for the Games.

They’ll also attend training sessions, and be assigned to a variety of jobs at eight or more locations. Those tasks include registration, greeting, special events, meal service, scorekeeping, photography, set-up/tear down and announcing.

Shortly after the March 11 deadline, Games officials will email all volunteers an information package to guide them smoothly through the process.

Macklin, himself a volunteer, stressed the Games are community-driven. “Without volunteers, there is absolutely no way we could stage a sporting event of this magnitude in Northumberland.”

The Games chair said all volunteers, regardless of their duties, will serve as ambassadors who will send hundreds of para-athletes, coaches and their families home with fond memories. “We hope they’ll return again and again as visitors.”

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About Northumberland County: Quick Facts

Located an hour east of Toronto, [Northumberland County](http://www.northumberlandcounty.ca) is a thriving community strategically positioned along Highway 401 with access to both Toronto and eastern Ontario. As the upper tier of municipal government for the region, the County weaves together seven diverse yet complementary municipalities. Northumberland County Council is comprised of the Mayors of each of these seven member municipalities, representing:

- Township of Alwick/Haldimand
- Municipality of Brighton
- Town of Cobourg
- Township of Cramahe
- Township of Hamilton
- Municipality of Port Hope
- Municipality of Trent Hills