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Written by State Secretary Mark Bourgoïn  
Photographs provided by DD 2 Bob Foley

### Polar Dip 2017



Long Lake Sporting Club once again hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Aroostook County Special Olympics Polar Dip.



Dippers plunged in cold (34°F) & choppy waters. Coming out are L-R Steve Richard of the County Special Olympics, Michael Giroux, Jon Harvey, DD2 Bob Foley and Sheena Lalonde (daughter-in-law of FDD Dan Lalonde)



This trailer was purchased by the Aroostook County Special Olympics from donations made by the Aroostook County Knights of Columbus for transporting the athletes gear to local, regional and state games. \$30,000 has been donated so far.



L-R Rear: State Advocate Jon Harvey, State Warden Michael Giroux, State Treasurer John Deetjen, Jr., Veterans Chair & Polar Dip Coordinator Duane Belanger & Carl Michaud of County Special Olympics. Front row: Maine Wardens in wet gear.

### Regional Games

Five days after the Polar Dip, Presque Isle Middle School once again played host for the Aroostook County Special Olympics Regional Games. This usually occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in May each year.



The Aroostook County Knights of Columbus were again requested as in past years to lead the athletes, coaches, and chaperones around the track and into the middle of the field. (L-R: State Secretary Mark Bourgoïn and DD2 Bob Foley)



Once everyone was in place, the National Anthem was sung by an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from the PI Middle School then an opening prayer was recited.



The flame was then lit by a Special Olympian escorted by a Maine Game Warden. Following the lighting, Games Coordinator had everyone recite the Olympians' motto: **“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”**

The winners of the Aroostook County Regional Games will compete at the State Games slated for 9-11 June 2017 at University of Maine in Orono. Good luck to all!!!