



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Let the Games Begin! The 38th Annual Lieutenant Governor Games at Variety Village Showcases Adaptive and Paraspports for Children of All Abilities

Scarborough, ON – February 27, 2026 - Variety - the Children’s Charity of Ontario, in collaboration with The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, hosted over 500 students from 25 schools today to participate in the 38th Annual Lieutenant Governor Games. Held at Variety Village, the Games provide a fun and inclusive atmosphere where children of various physical and developmental abilities can engage in adapted cooperative and competitive activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Taekwondo, Dance, Curling, Golf, and more.

The event is designed to cater to a wide range of abilities and brings together students, schools, and community groups from the Greater Toronto Area to celebrate inclusivity, empowerment, and the transformative power of sports. For many of the participants this is their first introduction to enjoy and explore the joy of adapted sport, develop their athletic potential and experience the thrill of both cooperative and competitive games.

The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, presided over the day’s festivities. “The Games offer a wonderful opportunity to empower young people and develop their abilities through teamwork,” says Madame Dumont. “When athletics become accessible, competition—and collaboration—create community.”

The Lieutenant Governor Games are a collaborative effort between Variety Village, local inclusive program providers, and affiliated sports organizations. The annual event is made possible by dedicated community and partners, including Toronto Football Club TBA (TFC), Jays Care Foundation, The National Ballet of Canada, Special Olympics Ontario, Golf Canada, First Tee, BAM Dance, Variety Village Taekwondo, Lacrossing Barriers, and Rock Solid Productions.

For the first time, the Games were hosted by Tracy Schmitt, a Canadian Disability Hall of Fame inductee, best-selling author, and award-winning athlete. The Unstoppable Tracy is a trailblazer in disability advocacy and inclusion who inspires people worldwide to embrace confidence, resilience, and possibility.

“Through these games, we aim to ignite a passion for sports and open the door for children to explore new opportunities,” states Charlie Johnstone, President & Chief Executive Officer of Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ontario & Variety Village. “This is more than just a day of competition; it’s about fostering inclusivity, building confidence, and inspiring our future athletes—whether they choose to join local recreation leagues or pursue careers at the Paralympic or Special Olympics level.”



Variety Village and its partners encourage those interested in learning more about the event to visit <https://varietyontario.ca/lieutenantgovernorgames/>.

About Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ontario and Variety Village:

Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ontario provides equal opportunities for participation in recreational and sports activities for individuals of all ages and stages. Its flagship project, Variety Village, is a world-renowned sports training and fitness center that offers specialized programs and services aimed at creating a level playing field for people of all abilities. With over 30 years of experience, Variety has established itself as a leader in integrated recreational programming, serving a diverse audience that includes individuals, school groups, corporations, and community organizations. This makes it a cornerstone in promoting accessible fitness and sports training. To learn more visit www.varietyontario.ca.

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