

**Jason Richardson –Newest Member
Brantford and Area
Sports Hall of Recognition**

One of the newest members of the Brantford & Area Sports Hall of Recognition is Jason Richardson. On Thursday, June 18, 2009, Jason attended the induction ceremony at the Best Western Brant Park Inn for his accomplishments as a weightlifter through Special Olympics. In 2007, Jason, who was injured at the time, competed in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai China where he won gold and two silver medals. His lower back injury was not going to get in the way of his determination to succeed. Jason won the gold medal for lifting 330 pounds in the bench press. It was the dead lift competition where his determination to win came into play. Despite excruciating pain in his back, Jason managed to make a clean lift of 540 pounds to win a silver medal. He also won a silver medal for his combined total for the two lifts. For his efforts, he was named the 2007 Special Olympics “Male Athlete of the Year” for both Ontario and Canada. When interviewed by the Brantford Expositor, Jason said he knew he was going to be in tremendous pain when he attempted the dead lift but he decided he wasn’t going to let that prevent him from trying to reach his goal. He said “You’ve got to dig down deep. It was will power, representing your country, the last hurrah and one big straight pull.” Even though Jason has retired from the competitive world of weightlifting, he now serves in the role of a Coach for Special Olympics. Jason went on to say that “As much as there’s good things, there’s bad things like my injury and having to leave a sport that I love. Even though I’m a coach, I miss it. My back says no, no, no but my heart says yes, yes, yes.”

Well, Jason, all we can say at Community Living Brant is a Yes, Yes, Yes to you on becoming a member of the Brantford and Area Sports Hall of Recognition!!

Congratulations!

