



July 25, 2003

Members of the Kanata RSG Club performed at the World Gymnaestrada in Lisbon Portugal in July. Twelve members of the club, along with Head Coach Dasa Lelli and Team Manager Paula Preston were part of the 450 member strong Canadian Delegation to the World Gymnaestrada. The WG is the largest sporting event in the world with over 25,000 participants from over 50 countries.

This Gymnastic Festival attracts participants in all varieties of gymnastics from high level tumbling and trampoline work, to pyramids and balances, all elements of Rhythmic Gymnastics and large group performances. Participants' ages range from 6 to over 70. So it is truly a sport for all ages.

The Kanata RSG group performed in two group routines – one a partnership with the Ottawa Pirouette Club and the other as part of the Pan American Gymnastic Union group with teams from Brazil, Mexico and Costa Rica. The Kanata group also performed in the English Speaking Countries National Evening held in the 7,000 seat Main Performance Hall. Opening and Closing Ceremonies were held in the 30,000 seat National Stadium on the outskirts of Lisbon.

The City of Lisbon was a wonderful site for the event, with the team enjoying the sightseeing, shopping, beaches and friendly people.

Members of the team included: Jade Carpenter, Sarah Davies, Georgia Gallup, Alexis Hbranchuk, Kieva Hbranchuk, Larissa Kawai, Erin Lawless, Victoria Lopez, Lauren MacHattie, Jessie Perry, Alisa Wiebe and Helenka Zemanek. They were led by Head Coach Dasa Lelli and Team Manager Paula Preston. Team supporters who traveled with the group also included: Maggie Beaudoin, Mary Davies, Ruth Hunter, Shannon Lawless, Nancy and Mike Lawless, Susan Lopez, Franta Zemanek.

Planning is already underway to go to the next World Gymnaestrada to be held in Dornbirn, Austria in 2007!