



**CANADIAN** Transplant Games Team Saskatchewan took part in the games in Quebec City in August. Team members, front row, from left, are Sherry Duncan Paterson (heart/double lung transplant for 18 years), Carol Epp (liver, three years), Jamie Vermeulen, (liver, 22 years) and Sheryl Mamchur (liver, 10 years). Back row, from left, are James McLaughlan (kidney, seven years), Phil Gleim, (heart, two years), Orest Saskiw (heart, 10 years), Ed Kutz (kidney, 21 years), Lorne Ashby, (heart/double lung, three years) and Larry Kreklewich (kidney, 35 years).

## **CANADIAN TRANSPLANT GAMES**

# **All winners at these games**

Ten athletes represented Saskatchewan at the Canadian Transplant Games in Quebec City this past August, with Melville's Larry Kreklewich being one.

Saskatchewan won 27 medals finishing third in the final team standings but Kreklewich points out it's not all about winning.

"It's really all about meeting fellow transplant recipients, making new friends and rekindling old friendships," says Kreklewich who had a kidney transplant over 35 years ago. "It's also a great way for us to thank donors for such an unselfish gift."

Kreklewich says having athletes from age five to almost 80 taking part really brings out a sense of how important it is for people to fill out their organ donor cards.

"I think the organs

from one person can save seven lives, and I'm very thankful for having the opportunity to get a kidney," says Kreklewich whose wife Bev echoes his sentiments. "When someone passes on they don't need their organs but there are people out there that do. Sometimes if there's an accident the organs can be harvested so there can be some good that can come out of a tragic event."

With the Canadian games running on even years and the World Transplant games on odds, Kreklewich says he'll skip next year's World event to be held in Sweden, but admits he attended the World Games in London, Ont. in 2005.

"It was fantastic. There was absolutely no language barrier and there is such a feeling of

community for people who have had transplants," he says.

The Canadian Transplant Association was created in 1987 to raise awareness about organ donation and to celebrate the success of transplants in saving lives. Every two years, organ transplant recipients aged five to 90 from Canada and the US compete in the games with Mexico sending a team this year.

The Canadian Transplant Association is dedicated to promoting organ donation through public advocacy and events including the National Transplant Games and World Transplant Games. They are also a support network, offering programs to help donors and recipients live full lives after transplantation.