



NEWS RELEASE

Canada Day Celebrations Encompass the Spirit of the Olympic Games

Abbotsford, June 29, 2009– As residents of Abbotsford and Canadians prepare to celebrate the country's 142nd birthday, it is also the perfect time to join together from coast to coast to mark the countdown to Canada's Games and the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, which will visit Abbotsford on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

This year's Canada Day festivities on July 1 have an Olympic Winter Games theme, celebrating the fact Vancouver – and Canada – will welcome the world to our shores for the start of the 2010 Winter Games on February 12. Almost seven thousand of the world's top athletes and officials from more than 80 countries will come to Canada for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games – the first time the country has jointly hosted both international sporting events.

However, before the Olympic Flame makes its way to downtown Vancouver to light the Olympic Cauldron in a magical and emotional ceremony, over 1,030 communities and places of interest in every province and territory will have their moment in the spotlight as they greet the warm glow of the Olympic Flame. Over 12,000 hands will pass the flame on one-by-one, linking us all together, during the 106-day journey of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, presented by Coca-Cola and RBC and supported by the Government of Canada. One of these stops will be Abbotsford.

On Canada Day, the City will celebrate the "Spirit of the Games", beginning with the annual parade down South Fraser Way at 11:00 a.m. The Family Festival at Abbotsford Exhibition Park runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with Olympic inspired fun and games for the whole family. Evening entertainment begins at 6:00 p.m. with the Valley Voices Competition followed by Canada Day ceremonies, local entertainers, and the traditional fireworks at 10:00 p.m.

"As we celebrate Canada Day this year, we are reminded that in just seven months the eyes of the world will be on us when we add our light to the glowing trail of the Olympic Torch Relay," said Abbotsford Mayor George W. Peary. "Our planning for this exciting day is well underway, and we continue to develop ways for residents of our community and surrounding areas to come together, celebrate and show our Olympic and Canadian spirit."

The torch relay will wind through the community on February 7, 2010 ending up at Abbotsford Exhibition Park, with a community torch relay celebration.

“With each torchbearer announcement and every final detail falling into place, we can see and feel the excitement growing across this great country towards hosting Canada’s Games in 2010,” said John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). “The Olympic Flame will be within reach of 90 per cent of all Canadians and we encourage everyone to get out and experience its inspirational glow as it passes through the heart of Canadian communities, from coast to coast to coast.”

For more information on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, visit www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay.

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