

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12, 2009

City of Parksville Will Host Olympic Torch on November 1

PARKSVILLE, BC: Citizens of Parksville anxious to catch the Olympic spirit will have the opportunity to see the Olympic Flame in person on Sunday morning, November 1, 2009, as it passes through Parksville on its way to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. All Canadians have the opportunity to be a 2010 Olympic Torchbearer and the City is offering to help residents through the registration process.

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay begins its 106-day Canadian journey in Victoria on October 30 and is the longest domestic torch relay in Olympic history, stretching 45,000 kilometres across Canada. Upon its conclusion in Vancouver on February 12, 2010, the Flame will have been welcomed in over 1,000 communities and will reach more than 90 percent of Canadians within a one-hour drive of the route. The Olympic Torch Relay route is available at www.vancouver2010.com.

The Olympic Torch is tentatively scheduled to be in Parksville on November 1, for about one hour, from the Englishman River Bridge, east Parksville, through the Parksville Community Park to Despard Avenue and the Alberni Highway. Many details have yet to be worked out however, activities will be planned to mark this very special occasion.

Mayor Ed Mayne said, "Anyone can be part of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. Thousands of lucky Canadians will be chosen at random to take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity. I encourage all Parksville residents to share in this thrill by registering to be a torchbearer, a true Olympic experience."

Parksville residents can apply to carry the Olympic Flame. Coca-Cola and RBC, the relay's presenting partners, have the exclusive rights to the Olympic Torchbearer program and are seeking applicants who pledge to make Canada a better place, through healthy living, by volunteering or making sustainable choices. There will be many opportunities to apply for torchbearer spots and information on how residents can apply can be found at www.rbc.com/carrythetorch and www.icoke.ca. All residents over the age of 13 are eligible, regardless of physical abilities.

Should residents wish assistance with the online registration process to apply to be a torchbearer, contact Debbie Tardiff at 250 954-3073, dtardiff@parksville.ca. As well, residents with suggestions for activities to celebrate the torch relay in Parksville, or those who would like to help, should also contact Debbie Tardiff.

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For more information:

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