

Happy Birthday Canada!

Parksville, a 2010 Olympic Torch Relay community, celebrates nation's birthday and the countdown to Canada's Games in 2010

PARKSVILLE, BC - As residents of Parksville and Canadians across this great land 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 Parksville on Sunday, November 1.

This year's Canada Day festivities on July 1 have an Olympic Winter Games theme. Just eight months away! 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.

But before the Olympic Flame makes its way to downtown Vancouver to light the Olympic Cauldron in a magical and emotional ceremony before three billion people worldwide, 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 Parksville.

On Canada Day, Parksville will host the largest July 1st celebration on Vancouver Island. The event is organized by the Rotary Club of Parksville with the generous support of many sponsors. Canada Day celebrations offer something for everyone, including parade, main stage performances, a midway and children's entertainment, strawberry tea for seniors and Canada Day fireworks.

"As we celebrate Canada Day this year here in Parksville, we are reminded that in just over four 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 Mayor Ed Mayne. "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 Parksville Torch Relay task force is planning events for November 1 which will include a street hockey game between the Oceanside Generals and the RCMP, skate board competition, races, refreshments, music and prizes

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“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.”

Canada Day and Canada’s Games

On July 1 in our nation’s capital, the Vancouver 2010 mascots, Quatchi, Sumi and Miga, will rev up the tens of thousands of people in the crowd for the massive Parliament Hill celebrations televised live across Canada. In Ottawa, the public will also have a chance to see the beautiful curved winter white Olympic Torch up close and personal, as well as its sister torch - the newly unveiled icy blue Paralympic Torch.

And - for the first time ever - five 60-second clips of the best photos and words submitted online to Canada CODE will be showcased on giant screens at the Parliament Hill site. The project is a digital scrapbook of our country and neighbourhoods, who we are and the things we do every day. A selection of the best content will be showcased on public screens in Vancouver and Whistler for the thousands of spectators and athletes visiting during the Games. Everyone is invited to make submissions to Canada CODE at www.vancouver2010.com/code.

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

About VANOC

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010. Visit www.vancouver2010.com.

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About Parksville — One of the fastest growing communities on Vancouver Island, 12,000 residents call Parksville their home. Located on Vancouver Island’s sheltered east coast, Parksville offers a quality lifestyle with many activities. We are committed to being the city of choice for ourselves and future generations in a clean, safe, friendly, economically viable and sustainable environment.