

Olympic Torch is Coming to Parksville - Sunday, November 1 City of Parksville Hosts Community Celebration

PARKSVILLE, BC: The Olympic Torch Relay will be in Parksville on Sunday, November 1 from 9 am until 9.59 am. Parksville is Day Three of a 45,000 kilometre journey across Canada for the Olympic Torch.

To celebrate the arrival of the Olympic Flame, the City of Parksville is hosting a community celebration. Residents are encouraged to dress warmly and gather along the relay route to welcome the torchbearers and also join the celebration in the Community Park. Activities in the park will run from 8.30 am to noon. Plan to cheer as friends and neighbours carry the Olympic flame along Highway 19A, through the Community Park and up the Alberni Highway. We invite all residents to be part of history!

Said Mayor Ed Mayne, "With the Olympic Torch Relay, the countdown is on to the start of the 2010 Olympics and we are ready to celebrate in Parksville. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that the City has hosted a community party and we are doing it on Sunday morning, November 1. We hope all residents will come out to show their Olympic spirit and Parksville pride."

From 8.30 am until noon, the City of Parksville will host a community celebration in the Parksville Community Park with activities scheduled as follows:

08.30 - 10.30	Shiners' Pancake Breakfast (\$6)
08.30 - 10.30	Kids drop off Jack-o-lanterns for judging and prizes
09.00 - noon	Kids crafts, face painting, balloon twister, Shrine Clowns Music by <i>Mount Arrowsmith Pipe Band</i> and <i>Plastic Chair Explosion</i> Complimentary coffee and hot chocolate
10.00 - 11.00	Oceanside Running Club Association Celebration Mile Race and Kids Relays
10.15 - 11.45	Street hockey games - Oceanside Generals, Parksville Volunteer Fire Department and others (In lacrosse box)
11:00	Mayor and Council judge Jack-o-lanterns and announce winners
11:15	Medals presented to ORCA race winners

Kids... between 8.30 and 10.30 am, drop of your best carved Jack-o-lantern for a chance to win prizes. Pumpkins will be judged by City of Parksville Mayor and Council with winners announced at 11 am.

Family activities include kids Olympic crafts, facepainting, clowns, balloons and music.

Participants in the Celebration Mile Race, ages 17 and above should register between 8.30 and 9.30 am near the baseball diamond in the Community Park. Kids who wish to participate in the relay races should be at race registration at 10 am. Post race/run snack is provided and all participants in the relays will be recognized with an award.

Olympic Torch Route for Sunday, November 1 will be as follows:

09.00	Olympic Torch arrives at Englishman River Bridge - Highway 19A
09.00 -09:20	Torchbearers carry Olympic Torch along Highway 19A
09.20	Olympic Flame arrives in Community Park
09.45	Torch leaves Community Park to travel along Alberni Highway
09.59	Torch arrives Alberni Highway and Bernard Avenue (by vehicle to Coombs)

Residents are encouraged to gather along the route (Highway 19A, Community Park and Alberni Highway) to cheer on our Olympic torchbearers.

As well, Parksville residents are welcome to visit City Hall and sign a large banner with their best wishes for our Olympic athletes. The banner will be at City Hall until November 6 when it will be sent to the Canadian Olympic team.

Questions

Details on Parksville activities are available at www.parksville.ca. Information can be found on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay website at www.vancouver2010.com. For information about City of Parksville activities, please contact Debbie Tardiff at dtardiff@parksville.ca or phone 250 954-3073.

For more information:

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