
NEWS RELEASE



Feb 10, 2010

OCEANSIDE PLACE TO SHOWCASE OLYMPIC TORCH

The legacy of the Olympic Torch Relay will burn brightly this weekend at Oceanside Place in Parksville, as the 2010 Winter Olympics begin in Vancouver and Whistler. On display will be the Olympic Torch carried by Parksville City Councillor Al Grier on Nov 1, 2009, in Ucluelet, BC, just after the start of the 45,000 kilometre pan-Canada relay, as well as Mr. Grier's official Relay outfit. The Regional District of Nanaimo will also host Olympic-themed recreation events this weekend at Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatics Centre.

"Over the years I have been quite fortunate to take part in many great events, but to carry the torch was something special – a once in a life time event for sure that I will never forget," said Mr. Grier. "There are still many people who have not seen the torch so I thought it would be a great idea to donate it to the arena. With the torch on display there, everyone will have a chance to see it up close."

Mr. Grier will attend the Spirit of BC Skate at Oceanside Place on Saturday, February 13 from 2:00 - 3:30pm, which will include Olympic-themed games and treats for the whole family. On Sunday, February 14, from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Ravensong Aquatic Centre will host the similarly themed Spirit of BC Swim. Both events are open to everyone, and regular admission rates apply. Additional Olympic Torch Relay runners will also attend both events.

"On behalf of local residents I'd like to thank Mr. Grier for his unique donation," said Frank Van Eynde, Chair of the District 69 Recreation Commission. "Mr. Grier is a regular patron at Oceanside Place, involved in the Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association, and Panthers hockey, and it will be great to share his 2010 Olympic experience with the community for years to come."

The 104-day Olympic Torch Relay finishes at BC Place in Vancouver, on Friday, February 12.

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