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County of Prince Edward



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For release: November 21, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

Prince Edward County to Host 2010 Olympic Torch

Picton, ON – Prince Edward County has been chosen as one of 1000 Canadian communities to be proud hosts of the Olympic Flame as it passes through on its way towards the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games on December 15, 2009. Of even greater significance is that Picton has also been identified as one of 200 Celebration Communities across Canada in which the Opening Ceremonies will be replicated. The announcement was made today by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC).

The full public announcement of the event will be made by Mayor Finnegan at the Prince Edward Community Centre following the afternoon performance of Celebrate 2008, a skating show hosted by the Prince Edward Figure Skating Club. The performance starts at 2:00 p.m. and features Joannie Rochette, Canada's Figure Skating medal hopeful for the 2010 Olympics. Joannie will join Mayor Finnegan for the announcement.

"It is a tremendous honour to be recognized for the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Route and to be one of the select Celebration Communities," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to be part of the journey to the 2010 Winter Games, see what it means for aspiring athletes and realize how it translates into everyday life."

The torch relay route is available at vancouver2010.com. Residents can apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to carry the Olympic Flame by applying at icoke.ca or rbc.com/carrythetorch. Coca-Cola and RBC, the relay's presenting partners, have the exclusive rights for the public to enter the Olympic Torchbearer program and are looking for Canadian applicants who commit to live healthier or are inspired to create a stronger country by volunteering or making sustainable choices. There will be several opportunities to apply for torchbearer spots beginning on November 21, 2008.

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will begin its 106-day Canadian journey on October 30, 2009. The Flame's pan-Canadian journey will culminate on February 12, 2010 when it arrives in Vancouver for the Opening Ceremony before a global viewing audience of billions.

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route will be the longest domestic Torch Relay in Olympic history, stretching over 45,000 kilometres throughout Canada. Upon its conclusion, the Olympic Flame will have been welcomed in over 1,000 communities and passed within one hour of more than 90 per cent of the entire Canadian population.

The Government of Canada is a proud supporter of the Olympic Torch Relay helping to bring the Olympic Flame to as many Canadians as possible.

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 vancouver2010.com for further details on programs and schedules.