Cormack chosen Olympic runner

Ken Cormack, of 339 Albert St. in Paisley, is the second area resident to be involved in the Olympic Torch Relay. Cormack will be carrying the 1.6 kilogram torch as he runs one kilometer January 6, somewhere between London and Kitchener.

By Tim Kember

A Paisley man is the second area resident to be selected to run in the Olympic Torch Relay.

Ken Cormack of 339 Albert Street received first confirmation via a letter sent by mail in mid-August of last year. He will be running one kilometer of the world's total 18,000 kilometer journey across Canada January 6, somewhere between London and Kitchener.

Ryan Whyte of the Bar C.K. in Chesley, will be carrying the torch for a one-kilometer distance between Kincardine and Tiverton on January 5. Whyte found out she would be a participant in the relay in late June.

The Olympic Torch Relay began its journey towards Calgary, the site of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games, on November 17 in St. John's, Newfoundland. The games begin February 13 and run until February 28.

The torch was lit in Greece, near the site of the original Olympic Games, on November 12.

Cormack is a Grade 3/4 teacher at Paisley Central Elementary School, who also teaches Physical Education at the school for Grades 1-4.

"When I was first accepted I really didn't appreciate how honorable I was," Cormack said. "I understand there were about 6.5 million applications so I was pretty fortunate to be picked," he said.

Many more hundred people will be participating in the relay before it reaches Calgary. That means the odds were one in one thousand that Cormack would have been picked.

"I should have gone out and bought a lottery ticket after I was initially selected," Cormack said.

Cormack said he originally planned to be a torch relay runner because it would be like a run of fun.

"As cross-country skiing," he said. "And because I have a few unusual attributes. I thought it might spark a little bit of interest on their part in running," he said.

Cormack said he received his initial application for the relay in the mail in January of last year. He said that in the original application, it warned all applicants to stand in as many applications as having could.

"Many Canada sponsors (the relay) so the kids were given to Kelt's Chief Seminole and they gave us a handful," Cormack said.

The teacher figures altogether he filled out about 50 applications.

In late May, Cormack said he received a preliminary or tentative acceptance in the mail. He had to supply a little bit more personal information, and as long as he were the

By the end of that day, the students at Paisley Central Elementary School had cumulatively run 5,000 kilometers.

Cormack said that he is pretty excited about the run.

"I usually watch a little bit of the Olympics on TV but this time I will be a little bit special," he said. "It's be pretty good to have been a part of it."

Paisley's Ken Cormack receives the Olympic torch in the [illegible] Relay. January 6, Cormack was to receive the flame at 9:55 a.m. [illegible] city hall, although the day's events turned out to be an [illegible]

G.O. KEN — Twelve-year-old Kenneth Cormack, a 12-year-old runner physical education teacher from Paisley, is greeted by friends as he carries the Olympic torch Monday morning on Highway 8 near Stanley on the way to Kitchener. The torch, [illegible] 18,000-km journey to the 1988 Olympic [illegible] in Calgary, arrive on [illegible] ville today. Several Canadian [illegible] among those carrying it this week.