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Don't pass us by, Grafton students beg torch relay

RELAY

Students want to see Olympic Torch go by

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eight km. shorter than using the 401 to travel between those landmarks.

Not to mention that the 401 route means more traffic lights and intersections to manage, she noted.

Cain has made contact with a member of the Olympics committee who is accompanying the relay team. The official said vaguely that she would advocate for a change, but that the route was established quite a while ago.

Meanwhile, at the school, the students have been nurturing that Olympic spirit since September with a run of their own. Recording the distances they achieve in daily runs around the soccer field (four times around equal one kilometre, Cain said), they are plotting their route from Grafton to Vancouver on a giant map of Canada.

The hope was that the students would run two kilometres a day, but some are doubling that.

As each child completes a lap, he or she gets a special Popsicle stick. The sticks the children earn in each division are counted and divided by four, and their progress is mapped.

At this point, the junior students (Grades 4 to 6) are approaching Winnipeg, the intermediates (Grades 7 and 8) are in Saskatchewan and the primaries (Grades 1 to 3) have just crossed into British Columbia.

They all passed Port Hope on their very first day, Cain



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GRAFTON — The students at St. Mary's Elementary School in Grafton are determined that the Olympic Torch Relay won't pass them by when it goes through this area on Dec. 15.

They had assumed that the relay would make its way westward just a short block north of them on County Road 2, until they got an invitation from the Colborne Torch Committee to join them to watch the relay wind past Victoria Park, then north to Highway 401 on its way to Cobourg.

It was a bolt from the blue, teacher Maureen Cain said — especially since the torch route on the www.vancouver2010.com website shows the relay proceeding south of Highway 401 between Colborne and Cobourg, not along it, bypassing two elementary schools and 400 students.

Cain began playing detective and learned the Olympic committee took a negative marketing approach in plotting its route: sending notice to municipalities along the

route asking if they wanted the run to go through their communities and then, if they didn't respond by a certain date, planning to bypass them.

In the case of Grafton, she learned, there had been some kind of mistake.

"I asked (Mayor) Bill Finley why he hadn't invited the torch run through Grafton. They searched their records for three years back and found no record of an offer," she said.

"They have passed a motion to contact MPP Lou Rinaldi and MP Rick Norlock to find out why it's being detoured."

Cain assumed the relay is taking the 401 in the interests of time, but organizers are mistaken if they think that's a good plan. She has measured it herself: from Colborne's Victoria Park to Cobourg's Victoria Hall on County Road 2 is

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CECILIA NASMITH Sun Media

St. Mary's Elementary School teacher Maureen Cain leads a patriotic bunch of runners at the school's rally-behind-the-cause assembly. The students are hoping the Olympic Committee will rethink the wisdom of its plans to bypass Grafton on its torch relay.

added. When one division reaches the games, they will go back and run to help their friends in other divisions get there.

"That's what teamwork does. When we work together, we can get somewhere," Cain declared.

Students recently assembled for a kind of rally-behind-the-cause day. Students Jay Williamson, Shannon Gibson and Brianna Kirby-Chang gave a cheer for the occasion, followed by a mass singing of the spirit song that the primary teachers composed to keep the students inspired.

Then everyone retired to the

soccer field to warm up and then run together with flags, bunting, posters and occasional shouts of, "We want the torch."

"We want the Olympic torch committee to alter the route so they are going along County Road 2 through the community of Grafton, so we can show our Canadian spirit, our pride and our love for our athletes," Cain said to the students.

"It is tragic that the torch isn't traveling through Grafton, that two schools will not be able to be involved without considerable cost for bussing, and that many, many

communities through this magnificent nation may also be bypassed because their route has been detoured to avoid the general population," she added later.

Given the nature of the invitation to municipalities, Cain wonders how many other little communities are mistakenly assuming they will see the Torch Relay pass through their streets.

"I want our voice to be heard, and I want all the other communities who think it's coming through to make sure they are not standing out in the cold in December just waiting!" she warned.

Hoselton sculptures to grace Millennium Garden

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY VALERIE MACDONALD

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COBOURG — Two life-sized sculptures of the late local artist, Carl Hoselton, have taken up residence in the Five Corners Millennium Garden created by the Cobourg Horticultural Society in Cobourg.

While they were installed this past weekend, the official unveiling of *Virgin and Child* will take place next week when their former owners, Margaret and Murray Dillon, return from their trip to Asia, says Horticultural Society president Sarah Holland. Cobourg Mayor Peter Delanty will do the honours.

This is the first time the works will be in a public space; previously they graced Hoselton's own gardens at Tangmere House at 427 King St. W., Holland said this week in an interview with *Northumberland Today*.

The Dillons are the second owners of the property since Hoselton lived there and when they sold the home this past summer, they donated the sculptures to the Cobourg Horticultural Society which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, she said. The works were stored temporarily by Cobourg's parks department then foundations were laid and the installation in the flower garden at the corner of William, King and Ontario streets took place Sunday.

"It was an unexpected gift," Holland said of the late artist's sculptures. "They are free form and abstract... very lovely."

Hoselton co-founded Hoselton Studios in Colborne with his brother Gordon, and the aluminum and marble figures are in public and private collections around the world.

His daughter, Beth, an artist in her own right, will attend the 11 a.m. ceremony on Nov 17.

A jeweler by trade, Carl Hoselton studied sculpture in New York in the 1950s, and in the 1960s the Art Gallery of Ontario held a solo exhibition of his work comprised of "large sculptures, made out of the wooden moulds used to make the components of the lift locks," states a media release about the man. He sculpted in wood, marble, bronze, clay and concrete.

"He was a pioneer in bringing the love of sculpture to the greater public," the media release states.



TED AMSDEN Sun Media

Cobourg Horticultural Society president Sarah Holland, left, and artist Beth Hoselton were at the Five Corners Millennium Garden Monday to look at two sculptures Hoselton's father completed over 25 years ago.

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