

Several local residents pitching in at Olympics

Catch The Flame Thursday, February 11, 2010

Continued from pg. 1

Lori Gysel

An avid hockey fan who loves to cook, the 44-year-old Gysel admits she's already "freaking out" about the prospects of living out her own sort of Olympic dream.



LORI GYSEL

And she's even getting paid for it.

Co-ordinator of Georgetown's Real Canadian Superstore Cooking School, Gysel is one of five head chefs who've been selected to work in the Molson Canadian Hockey

House, an 81,000-square-foot pavilion beside GM Place that will serve as hockey headquarters for the much-anticipated men's and women's tournaments.

"The whole reason I'm going is for the kitchen experience, to step out of the box and do something different," she said.

"Sure, I want to be there for the Olympic experience too, maybe not so much for the individual sports, but to be involved in my sport, which is cooking. This is a world event and the idea is to meet people in the front end of our profession and share our passion."

Gysel has been assigned to oversee the kitchen operations for the Family Fun Zone at the Hockey House, which can seat about 500 people in the 3,500-person-capacity pavilion. Items on the menu include macaroni and cheese, Kobe beef sliders, Japanese salad and homemade cookies.

Hockey House will serve as an entertainment centre and home base for Hockey Canada, VIPs, along with national team members and their families.

"We've been told to expect to be working 10- to 12-hour days and I would say that's a conservative estimate," added Gysel, who has 30 years experience in off-premise catering. "When we get there they'll probably lock the door behind us and keep us there for a few days."

Joanne Mletzko

After retiring from teaching last year, Joanne Mletzko was looking for a big project that would put her organizational skills to work.

An advertisement seeking volunteers for the 2010 Winter Olympics in B.C. seemed like the ultimate challenge and Mletzko asked good friend Sally Plackett if she'd like to join her.

Mletzko submitted an application and resume last March, then was subjected to thorough phone and in-person interviews, as well as an RCMP background check, before learning she'd been chosen to be a team event leader at the alpine skiing venue at Whistler.

"We got through all of the approval process and it's been quite an interesting journey already just getting this far," she said.



JOANNE MLETZKO

At Whistler, Mletzko will be in charge of a crew of over a dozen volunteers scattered amongst the race fans for crowd control and security concerns, while also ensuring that the logos of non-Olympic-sponsoring companies or organizations are not

prominently displayed.

"We have to make sure all the spectators are happy and look after any problems on the hill, checking that everyone's got the right credentials, that kind of stuff," explained Mletzko, 55.

"We're going to be on the hill all day, so I'm hoping for nice, sunny warm weather, but I don't think that's going to happen. It will probably rain or snow most of the time."

Christine Conte

Making The Sports Network personalities in Whistler such as Michael Landsberg and Jennifer Hedger look good outdoors for the cameras will be Georgetown South hair and makeup artist Christine Conte.



Christine Conte, left, a freelance makeup artist, will be tasked with making TV hosts like TSN's Jennifer Hedger, and guests look their best.

Submitted photo

The Olympic Broadcast Media Consortium hired the 45-year-old mother of two to prep the hosts, athletes and guests who'll appear on a number of network channels broadcasting around the clock, with the wide-ranging Whistler weather posing some possible malfunctions.

For someone who has gone on road trips with World Wrestling Entertainment performers and applied pancake to the likes of Microsoft gazillionaire Bill Gates, the Olympics promises to be her most intense work experience in 14 years as a freelancer.

"Hair could be more of a disaster if they're outside in certain weather," said Conte, who expects to be doing strictly makeup, but is bringing three suitcases to be prepared for anything.

"It's going to be almost a 24-hour operation with Canada AM doing their show at 6 a.m., meaning that they'll have to start getting ready at 3 a.m., and I don't expect there'll be a lot of down time. Everybody thinks it's glamorous and it's not. Yes, we'll have some fun and

I'm excited about being part of a world event, but I'm sure it will be pretty draining, too."

She will also prepare ETalk and Much on Demand hosts and expects to work 12-hour days for most of the month, taking in some decompressing yoga sessions whenever possible.

Annette Graydon

Graydon will be stationed in the athletes' village at Whistler, serving as a concierge/troubleshooter for the competitors and their support staff, answering questions and attending to a wide range of visitors' needs. She figures that the website babblefish.com will come in handy to communicate in the many foreign languages.

"We're there for the hospitality side of it and to help out with things might come up where the athletes live. They might need to have their toilet fixed or want to go out for dinner somewhere. We'll try to help them with whatever queries they have."

Graydon has worked extensively with the Anglican Church in its Mother's Union and as a member of the organization's worldwide council in London, England. Her marketing, administrative and arbitration background were

skills that Games organizers favoured during the lengthy interview process.

"I'm not a very sporty person, but I'm an Olympic junkie," she said.


"I don't watch sports on TV but when the Olympics come around I leave the TV on all day."



ANNETTE GRAYDON

The 52-year-old from Terra Cotta had hoped to watch her nephew, skier Trevor Conroy of Truro, N.S., compete in person, but an injury has forced him to serve as a cheerleader to his teammates.

See AREA, pg. 6



Living Healthy

haltonhealthcare.com

Thursday, February 18, 2010

The Positivity Training Plan:
Strategies for Increasing Positivity at Work and Home

Louisa Nedkov
HHS Staff Wellness Coordinator and The Energy Coach

Georgetown Hospital Activity Room
1 Princess Ann Drive, Georgetown, L7G 2B8

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Celebrating Food for Healthy & Active Children
Partnering with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

Sandra Saville
Registered Dietitian

Karen Skyba
Fitness Supervisor

Milton District Hospital Classroom
7030 Derry Road, Milton, L9T 7H6

FREE SEMINARS start at 7 pm

For more information or to register call 905-878-2383 (4379) or
healthpromotion@haltonhealthcare.on.ca

www.haltonhealthcare.com

GEORGETOWN • MILTON • OAKVILLE HOSPITALS

Winter BLOWOUT

OPEN FAMILY DAY

SALE \$129



SALE \$109



SALE \$199



70% off

UP TO

ON ALL LEATHER, SHEARLING & WOOL COATS

49 Eastern Av. Acton
Hwy 401 to Hwy 25 North
519-853-1031

HIDE HOUSE

It's Worth The Drive To Acton

Mon. - Sun. 10am - 6pm
Fri. 10am - 9pm
www.hidehouse.ca