Snowboarder goes from Georgetown to Olympic venue

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A pair of lucky long johns and childhood memories at Caledon Ski Club have brought Zoe Bergermann all the way to Pyeongchang's Olympic snowboard slopes.

Bergermann, 23, was born in Georgetown and grew up in Erin. She first strapped a snowboard onto her feet when she was nine years old. A year later, Bergermann won her very first snowboard cross competition.

A bit about the sport: In snowboard cross, riders race in packs over a course featuring jumps, berms, rollers and other obstacles. The competition begins with a qualification round in which riders race individually against the clock. All riders get two runs with only the fastest one being used to determine the men and women who advance to the elimination finals. During the finals, riders race in heats of six with the top three in each heat advancing to the next phase until six riders remain to race in the big final for the medals.

Fast forward from that first race and Bergermann was named to Canada's national development team when she was 16 years old.

She made her World Cup debut in February 2013 on home snow at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. In both 2012-13 and 2013-14, she finished second in the overall snowboard cross standings on the Nor-Am Cup circuit. She made the podium in six of seven outings in 2013-14. Four of those trips to the podium were for first-place wins.

"I never thought snowboarding would take me around the world as it has," Bergermann told the Banner from Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Oh yeah: The sport has taken her to the pinnacle of amateur athleticism with a berth on Team Canada in the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.

"Growing up riding at Caledon Ski Club with my family and friends are some of my best of my memories," she said. "Before rac-
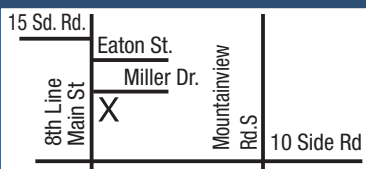
Zoe Bergermann/Twitter

Zoe Bergermann, at far left in bottom row, has come a long way from her childhood in Erin. She's a member of Team Canada's snowboard cross contingent on the 2018 Winter Olympic Games slopes in PyeongChang, South Korea.