

Olympic spirit high as torch nears

By CHRIS SYLVIA
 PREFONTAINE

Markhamites are invited to share the flame and celebrate the spirit — the Olympic Spirit — as the symbolic flame travels some 18,000 km to Calgary where it will open the XV Olympic Winter Games.

It arrives in Markham this Tuesday.

Since the torch relay's beginning at St. John's, Newfoundland a month ago, ceremonies have been held daily at the various towns through which it has passed.

Canadians have turned out enthusiastically to greet and cheer on runners.

Markham residents will have the chance to join the excitement on Tuesday as the Olympic Torch Relay passes through the town on day 36 of the 88 day trip.

The torch will originate in Pickering on that day to be passed along Hwy 7 from Brougham to the corner of Warden Ave. where it will stop for approximately 10 minutes at Unionville High School.

It will then continue on its way along Hwy 7 to Woodbine Ave. where it will turn north through Buttonville to Newmarket and south down Yonge St. to Vaughan.

A tentative schedule has been released to individual runners informing them of approximate times and locations of their participation in the relay on that day.

There are five Markham residents joining in the run.

Richard Clegg will run shortly after noon. He will travel west on Hwy 7 through the village of Unionville.

Andrea Crothers will run at approximately 1:30 p.m. She will receive the torch just north of the Cathedral on Woodbine Ave. and run into Victoria Square where she will turn it over to the next participant.

Sharon Cunningham estimates her time of departure to be at 1:45 p.m. when she will leave Victoria Square and travel north on Woodbine Ave. for 1 km.

Ten-year-old Derek Ling's parents anticipate that he will continue the relay to just north of the Stouffville Sideroad around 2 p.m.

And finally, Emily Skleryk should carry the torch along Woodbine Ave. to just north of Bloomington Rd. at 2:45 p.m.

The two other Markham runners who will carry the torch in the Toronto area Dec. 23 are Scott Hitchcock who will participate at 12:55 p.m. and Suzanne Higgins at 1 p.m.

Scott will run west on Queen St., approximately 1 km before Bathurst. He will turn north on Bathurst St. and hand the torch to Suzanne who will continue north until just past Dundas St.

To celebrate the arrival of the

flame in Markham, the town will host an array of events.

Celebration '88 spokesman Tim Thompson says our ceremony "will not only captivate the spirit of the Olympics but give a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for everyone in the community to participate in the spirit that heralds the Olympic games."

The following activities have been scheduled to take place at UHS between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. when the torchbearer will enter the grounds:

A Ski Waxing Clinic will be sponsored by Old Firehall Sports to inform people about waxing techniques.

There will be an area set up to entertain hockey enthusiasts. Nets will be ready and pucks and

sticks will be provided for individuals to test the precision of their slapshot.

Instructors from the Thornhill Midget hockey team will be on hand to give kids tips on how to improve their shooting accuracy.

The Markham and Thornhill Fitness Centres will sponsor a sports conditioning clinic which will be composed of two obstacle courses geared to Winter Olympic conditioning activities.

Markhamites will have the opportunity to see how athletes actually train for various sports while testing their abilities on sled pulls, cross-country ski machines and other similar facilities.

Snow permitting, there will be both downhill and cross-country ski demonstrations sponsored by

Old Firehall Sports, which will also provide a fashion show.

Adding to the festivities will be Hidy and Howdy the Olympic mascots along with Yogi Bear and other cartoon favorites from Canada's Wonderland.

Just before the torchbearer arrives at the high school, York-North MP Tony Roman will present Celebration '88 medals to the six Markham individuals chosen for their outstanding contributions to sport and their community.

Accepting honors for Markham in the categories of Male Athlete, Official and Coach are, respectively, Bill Crothers, Jim Metzler and for the late Paul Maybury, his widow, Pat Maybury.

Carlsen was chosen as Female Athlete, Tom Gove, Volunteer and Terry Adkins from the Thornhill Paint Supply as Sponsor.

Ensuring that no cars will be parked along the route, Markham will provide free transportation to the site.

Buses will leave the Markham Community Centre (the old Arena) every half-hour starting at 9:45 a.m. with a stop at Markville Shopping Centre on Hwy 7 along the way.

A second pick-up point will be at the west side of the Milliken Super Centre — also running half-hourly from 9:45 a.m.

At the high school, popcorn, donuts and hot apple cider will be provided free of charge along with balloons and Canadian flags.

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BIG V CORRECTION

Please note this correction regarding Big V flyer in your newspaper Dec. 16.

The Bonne Bell Ten-O-Six cleanser set should have read liquid Glycerine cleanser 250 mL with complexion brush.

The English Leather luggage tag set should have read Cologne 50 mL after shave 50 mL with genuine leather luggage tag.

Big V regrets any inconvenience this may have caused.

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