

# 'Thank you for being a volunteer' skier tells Stouffvillite



Carolyn Greer-Barber returned to Stouffville Monday after 17 days of volunteering during the Olympic alpine skiing events in Whistler. All skiers drank Coke and some were very emotional, she said. She'll watch the rest of the Games on TV at home, like the rest of us.

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"It was pretty spectacular. The beauty of this country's landscape was breathtaking," said the mother of two, who is a respiratory therapist at Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Mrs. Greer-Barber would then ski for about 15 minutes to her lodge and spend the day with world-class athletes, mostly attending to their needs and observing, as volunteers were directed to not speak to the Olympians unless spoken to first.

Mr. Greer-Barber, however, bent the rules a few times and chatted with some athletes.

The Canadian skiers had their own warm-up lounge, so she did not see as much of them prior to their races. However, she did have one encounter she will never forget, with Jan Hudec.

"He actually came up to me and started talking to me and saying: 'Thank you for being a volunteer,'" she said.

Mrs. Greer-Barber wasn't sure what the Olympic experience would bring her, but it taught her one thing: camaraderie.

"When I watch sports on TV, I wish for poor performances from opponents," she said. "(But the athletes) would watch all the prior races, gasp for apparent mistakes, cheer for good finishes. I realized they wished the very best for each other because they are so respectful of each other."

Mrs. Greer-Barber did get some downtime, in which she watched a bobsled event and walked around Whistler Village.

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Carolyn Greer Barber  
Stouffville Olympic volunteer

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Mrs. Greer-Barber was asked to return as a volunteer for the Paralympic Games next month, but she declined the offer.

"I had my experience, it was great and I would just leave it at that," the big-time hockey fan said. "I'm looking forward to watching (the Olympics) on TV now."

## HOCKEY FINAL SUNDAY

It may be the question of the week: When is the gold-medal hockey game at the Vancouver Olympics?

Answer: The game is on Sunday at 3:15 p.m. EDT. Will Canada be in it? They had to win two playoff games, including last night's quarter-final against Russia.

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