

Ramblin' Ruth



Keeping The Flame Alive

By Ruth LeBlanc

The Olympic torch is travelling from Greece through Canada en route to the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, and on Dec. 17 it passes through downtown Stouffville.

The flame was ignited at the site of the ancient Olympics, where 11 women in the role of priestesses performed a ceremony in which the flame was kindled by the light of the sun.

The Olympics were held every four years from 776 BC until 393 AD, when they were abolished by the Christian Byzantine Emperor Theodosius I. A campaign to revive them was started in France in the late 19th century, and the first of the modern summer games opened March 4, 1896 in Athens, Greece, without fire or flame.

The tradition commemorating the theft of fire from the Greek God Zeus was reintroduced at the 1928 Summer Games in Amsterdam. The Olympic torch is a symbol of peace between the continents of the world and its people.

Today it is being brought from Greece by a relay of torch bearers. Over the years the flame has travelled by dragon boat in China, under the Great Barrier Reef and across the English Channel. The final bearer of the torch, usually a sports celebrity from the host country, runs towards the cauldron and uses the torch to light the flame. As in ancient times, this fire will burn until it is extinguished at the Olympic Games' closing ceremony.

The Stouffville torch runners will meet at the council chambers at 7 a.m. Dec. 17 for a briefing, before going to their respective spots along the route. Each will

carry the torch for 300 metres, before meeting the next runner and lighting his or her torch.

Three vehicles will escort the runners, with seven following closely behind. At 9 a.m. town crier Marcel Bossi will be taken by horse and buggy across town to proclaim the arrival of the flame. The run will go from east to west on Main Street, so find a spot on the north side of the street where the view will be the best.

Members of council will meet the runner who will stop for one minute at Main and Church streets where photos will be taken. Close by at Nineteen on the Park, our national anthem will be performed by students from Summitview Public School. Young people from other local schools will line the street waving Olympic flags, and Stouffville District Secondary School students will film the relay.

Festivities will continue at Nineteen on the Park, where Mayor Wayne Emmerson will welcome local Olympic medal winners Karen Cockburn and Mike Harris, along with Irene Barr, at 9:45 a.m. You are invited to meet the medalists and enjoy complimentary hot refreshments and take advantage of some great photo opportunities.

Come out and watch history in the making!



Nassau News Nuggets

The Stouffville Free Press provides the perfect beach read for intrepid travellers in the Bahamas. Take your Free Press on vacation, send us a photograph and we'll include the best shots in an upcoming issue.

Elizabeth Furs Ltd.
Premium Fashion & Quality

We're retiring after 38 years
CLOSING OUT SALE

50-70% OFF

ENTIRE INVENTORY MUST BE SOLD!

905-294-9515
126 Main St., Markham
Hours: Mon-Sat: 9-6 & Sun: 10 to 4

SCHELL LUMBER **Home Building Centre**
SINCE 1922

FROM OUR HOME BUILDING CENTRE TO YOUR HOME
BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SCHELL DESIGN CENTRE

Hardwood, cork & bamboo flooring & laminates to beautify your home

47 Edward St., Stouffville
905-640-3440

SCHELL LUMBER HOME BUILDING CENTRE

"Tools make the perfect Christmas gift for the HANDY PERSON in your life"

33 Edward St., Stouffville 905-640-3440
or 20971 Dalton Rd., Sutton 905-722-6561

SCHELL COUNTRY DEPOT

"We've got the clothing you need for those winter projects"

47 Edward St., Stouffville
905-640-1550

Map showing Schell locations in Stouffville: Schell Design Centre, Schell Lumber Home Building Centre, and Schell Country Depot. Includes landmarks like aeroplan, North Yard, Railway Tracks, and Downtown Stouffville.