



2008 - 2009

BC Games Society - Year In Review

EXPERIENCE THE GAMES

THE PURPOSE

“To provide an opportunity for the development of athletes, coaches, and officials in preparation for higher levels of competition in a multi-sport event which promotes interest and participation in sport and sporting activities, individual achievement, and community development.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

The BC Games Society was established in 1977 to promote community and sport development across BC. Responsible for the policy of the Society is a fifteen member community-based Board of Directors appointed by Ministerial letter.

Wendy Ladner-Beaudry, Co-Chair, Vancouver

Frank Lento, Fernie, Co-Chair

Sharon White, Victoria, Provincial Government

Scott Braley, North Vancouver

Bob Irwin, Kitimat, Northern BC Winter Games Society

Anoop Sharma, Vancouver, BC Disability Games Society

Kelly Stefanyshyn, Vancouver

Gary Young, North Vancouver

Bruce Johnson, Penticton

Renee McCloskey, Prince George

Kimberly White Gilhooly, Vernon

Ken Wood, Coquitlam

Rod Cox, Terrace

Dorothy Paul, Brentwood Bay



MINISTRY OF HEALTHY LIVING AND SPORT

“These Games provide an opportunity for athletes to achieve their personal best and to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to physical fitness and healthy living. Their efforts and achievements serve as a model and inspiration to us all.”

**The Honourable Mary Polak,
Minister of Healthy Living and Sport**



In June 2008, the Provincial Government formed the new Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport further demonstrating the commitment made to ensuring British Columbians lead active, healthy lives. Minister Mary Polak was appointed to lead this new Ministry and she attended the BC Summer Games in Kelowna to experience the Games first-hand.



BC GAMES SOCIETY

This past fiscal year saw the BC Summer Games return to Kelowna after a fourteen year absence. The capital investments made by the City of Kelowna, and their supportive partners in sport and recreation infrastructure renewal ensured the summer sport athletes and coaches had top-notch facilities to compete on and in. Led by President Ron Rubadeau, the Kelowna Board of Directors welcomed 2,217 athletes, 426 coaches and 223 officials to their community. Volunteers numbering 2,562 were recruited and trained to host BC's best young athletes.

Critical to the overall success of the BC Summer Games is the commitment made by the participating Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) in naming their key volunteers, providing training opportunities for coaches, and recruiting the best athletes and officials. A key measurement of this success can be found in the fact that 95% of all head coaches attending the BC Summer Games were certified to the National Coaching Certification Program level II (NCCP II). The BC Games Society appreciates and thanks those PSOs, whose energy and effort ensured this training for their coaches, enriching the athletes' performance while creating a legacy of stronger leadership in sport across BC.

An expression of the importance of quality

coaching came from a North Vancouver soccer parent who said in an email to the BC Games Society, "the coach has made a huge difference in how our son and the other players play the beautiful game. He has improved so much since April. We have never seen him so dedicated and so passionate for soccer. This is one of the best results of this BC Games campaign."

Measuring the impact of the BC Summer Games goes far beyond empirical data, to the core of community gain and personal growth. The true value in the BC Games is in the stories told by those who come in contact with BC's largest multisport event.

"I am also privileged to see the impact of the Games not only at the host community level, where the BC Games are written into their community's history, but among the athletes and their friends, relatives, and supporters. My daughter had a BLAST!!!!!! The fact that the Games experience stood out as one of her most memorable to date speaks volumes for the Games because she has had other experiences at the national level. She loved the closing ceremonies and explained how all the athletes were entranced by the images of themselves and others, making them feel that it really was "their" Games because there "they" were on the screen."

Those words were written soon after the success of the Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games by Wendy Ladner-Beaudry. Wendy attended in her capacity as BC Games Society Co-Chair, and also as a parent of Jenna, her triathlete daughter. Sadly, Wendy was tragically taken from us while out for a run on April 3, 2009.

Wendy's "ideas to action" mentality made for many innovative improvements to our work at the BC Games. Principally, it was about us "telling the story" of athlete success, of community leadership, and healthy lifestyles. Wendy's positive outlook and incredible grace will be missed by the Board of the BC Games Society, its staff, and the many Games' volunteers she encountered along the way.

Frank Lento, Co-Chair
BC Games Society



Frank Lento and Wendy Ladner-Beaudry
Co-Chairs, BC Games Society

Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games

The sunny Okanagan played host to the 2008 BC Summer Games. 2776 participants took full advantage of the tremendous sport facilities in the Kelowna area and were welcomed by 2562 volunteers who provided an exceptional experience to everyone.



Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games Board of Directors

"Thank you all for the wonderful BC Summer Games in Kelowna where my daughter had an incredible experience as a triathlete. The Games provided a safe learning venue for my child where families, coaches, organizers, and volunteers came together and supported these up and coming young athletes."

Glynnis Kennell, Parent

"It was a pleasure to watch each group of golfers cheering each other on within their foursome then for us to see them walking together and encouraging each other once they were done was perfect. Our athletes, coaches, and managers were very pleased with everything! This truly was an event of excellence for us."

Gail Crane, Provincial Advisor, Golf

"A huge thanks for creating and delivering such an amazing experience for young BC athletes. I was able to speak with many athletes and there was always one constant; simply that they were loving the opportunity and experience, and that they would always remember it."

Joe Hitchcock, Executive Director, BC Athlete Voice



It Takes Vision



"The BC Games mean a great deal to me and I am very pleased to see that they are still going strong today. The original intention of the Games was to bring together communities from all regions of the province and showcase the host city and the spirit of volunteerism. Each BC Games event continues to celebrate the great diversity in British Columbia."

The Honourable W.R. Bennett, Former Premier of BC, BC Games Founder and Honourary Chair, Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games

SPORTS

The ongoing success of the BC Summer Games is due in large part to the commitment of the Provincial Sport Organizations to make the Games a priority in athlete, coach, and officials development. The network of volunteers representing the Provincial Sport Organizations ensures athletes from every corner of the province have the opportunity to compete and experience the BC Games.



2008 BC Summer Games Provincial Sport Organizations

BC Athletics
BC Special Olympics
Baseball BC
Basketball BC
Cycling BC
BC Diving
Horse Council BC
Field Hockey BC
BC Golf Association
BC Lacrosse Association

BC Rugby Union
BC Sailing Association
BC Target Sports Association
Soccer BC
Softball BC
Synchro Swim BC
Waterski and Wakeboard BC
Triathlon BC
Volleyball BC
BC Wrestling



It Takes Teamwork.

As part of the BC Games commitment to providing a meaningful competitive development opportunity, Provincial Sport Organizations have been required since 2004 to ensure their head coaches are certified at a National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) Level 2 or equivalent. The percentage of coaches achieving this certification has steadily increased from 70% compliance in 2004 to a record of 95% certification at the 2008 BC Summer Games. Athletes and parents have commented on the importance and impact of qualified coaches to maximizing their Games experiences. More certified coaches in the province further enhances the provincial sport sector and builds community resources and opportunities.

In addition to a commitment to coaching, Provincial Sport Organizations are integrating the BC Games in their athlete development programs across the province. Seven sports including Athletics, Basketball (Boys and Girls), Equestrian, Golf, Sailing, and Box Lacrosse brought athletes from all eight zones to the Games. Another eight sports had representation from seven zones. As a provincial event, representation from every zone is a priority and Provincial Sport Organizations are responding to the challenge of utilizing the BC Games to develop their sports in all regions.

95% of Head Coaches achieved certification standard

The BC Lacrosse Association (BCLA) has been a model Provincial Sport Organization within the BC Games structure for many years. Consistently achieving representation from all eight zones in Box Lacrosse, BCLA has integrated the BC Games into their provincial athlete development program. The 2008 BC Summer Games served as the qualifier for Lacrosse athletes to be selected to the Midget Provincial camp and then to the Midget Box Lacrosse National tournament. Field Lacrosse made its debut at the 2008 BC Summer Games with 111 athletes representing teams from six zones.



POSTCARDS



FACES OF THE GAMES

"Being part of the BC Summer Games was an amazing experience. My fitness and technical abilities were put to the test and I was definitely able to measure myself compared to other elite athletes my own age."

Maddie Secco, Field Hockey



"The Opening Ceremony was one of my most memorable experiences. Getting to march in last with the other Zone 2 athletes and my basketball team with everyone cheering loud for us was incredible."

Braxton Bunce, Basketball



Achievement

The W.R. Bennett Award for Athletic Excellence was named in honour of the former Premier of British Columbia, Bill Bennett, who founded the BC Summer and BC Winter Games program in 1978. Mr. Bennett was at the Closing Ceremony of the 2008 BC Summer Games to present the award which also includes a \$2500 bursary for the recipient to use towards future sport expenses or post secondary education.



Mr. Bennett presents the W.R. Bennett Award for Athletic Excellence to Phillip Round, Vancouver Island-Central Coast (Zone 6) Sailing.

ACE Awards

The ACE (Athlete Community Excellence) Leadership Award was created by BC Athlete Voice to recognize the contribution BC Athletes make to their communities through leadership on and off the playing field. BC athlete leaders play a crucial role in building healthy, productive, and engaging communities for people young and old.

"I have been extremely proud of the BC Summer and Winter Games since their inception. The Games celebrate the diversity of our province's talented athletes, communities and regions. It is indeed an honour to have my name attached to the Award for Athletic Excellence"
W.R. (Bill) Bennett

Six BC Games athletes were selected to receive an ACE Award at the BC Summer Games.

Marc Camenzind, Beach Volleyball

Cera Bollo, Equestrian

Samantha Jubinville-Mah, Volleyball

Madeline Secco, Field Hockey

Maddison McCammon, Towed Water Sports

Braxton Bunce, Basketball



Madeline Secco,
Field Hockey



Maddison McCammon,
Towed Water Sports



Braxton Bunce, Basketball



Marc Camenzind,
Beach Volleyball

It Takes Experience.

The BC Games are a once in a lifetime experience for the athletes attending. Each has trained to earn their place at the Games and competes with pride for their home zone at this prestigious event. The Games experience goes beyond the field of play as athletes enjoy special events and meeting others from across the province who share their passion and commitment to sport.



At the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 BC Summer Games, athletes watched a message from BC Games alumni and World Champion Triathlete, Kirsten Sweetland.

"My first major goal in Triathlon was the 2002 BC Summer Games. I went there and achieved my goal of winning a gold medal and after that I just kept setting higher and higher goals for myself. So with hard work, determination, and a lot of passion you too could make it to the world championship podium or whatever your goals may be."

Kirsten Sweetland



Alumni

As the world's attention focused on China in the summer of 2008, the BC Games Society proudly followed 45 BC Games Alumni who competed for Canada at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Riley McCormick, Diving
Brent Hayden, Swimming
Brian Johns, Swimming
Rick Say, Swimming
Drew Christensen, Swimming
Brian Hill, Swimming
Laura Jensen, Swimming
Thomas Marks, Water Polo
Kevin Mitchell, Water Polo
Con Kudaba, Water Polo
Brandon Jung, Water Polo
Mike Mason, Athletics
Gary Reed, Athletics
Dylan Armstrong, Athletics
Dustin Walsh, Athletics
Michelle Stilwell, Athletics
Anna Rice, Badminton
Brett Lawrie, Baseball
Brooks McNiven, Baseball
Matt Rogelstad, Baseball
Mike Saunders, Baseball
Jimmy VanOstrand, Baseball
Gina Grain, Cycling

Ryder Hesjedal, Cycling
Geoff Kabush, Cycling
Erinne Willock, Cycling
Svein Tuft, Cycling
Brian Cowie, Cycling
Mike Mahood, Field Hockey
Monica Kwan, Fencing
Karina LeBlanc, Soccer
Clare Rustad, Soccer
Moinca Pinette, Modern Pentathlon
Heather Mandoli, Rowing
Kyle Hamilton, Rowing
Nikola Girke, Sailing
Mike Leigh, Sailing
Ben Remocker, Sailing
Chris Trifonidis, Shooting
Ian Chan, Wheelchair Rugby
Trevor Hirschfield, Wheelchair Rugby
Robert Hedges, Wheelchair Basketball
Richard Peter, Wheelchair Basketball
Carol Huynh, Wrestling
Travis Cross, Wrestling

It Takes Pride.

Premier Campbell, athletes, and supporters at the 2008 BC Summer Games signed a banner which was taken to Beijing to wish the BC Games Alumni good luck.



"The BC Summer Games was the point in my career when I realized that I had the potential to go further in sport. It is unclear whether I would have noticed my own potential without the experience of the BC Summer Games."

Brent Hayden, 2008 Olympian and BC Games Alumni.



Brent Hayden

A Symbol Retired

After 26 years of service, the BC Games Torch was officially retired following the Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games.

The Torch has long been a symbol inviting community, participants, and volunteers to join the celebration of the BC Games. It has traditionally been lit 100 days prior to the start of the Games and then extinguished following the Closing Ceremony. For over 300,000 participants the burning of the torch has been a symbol marking an experience of a lifetime.

It was a homecoming of sorts for the torch to be retired in Kelowna. It was originally commissioned for the BC Summer and BC Winter Games by Inland Natural Gas. Okanagan College students designed and built the torch in 1981. Since that time, the torch has travelled to over 30 communities in BC.

A smaller, shorter burning torch will continue to highlight the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of BC Summer and BC Winter Games and research is being done into an alternate, eco-friendly torch.



Okanagan College Students creating BC Games Torch, 1981



The BC Games Torch at the Williams Lake 2002 BC Winter Games - one of the 30 communities to which it travelled.

Revenue Sources and Economic Impact

The Province of BC invests in the BC Games Society and host communities as part of their commitment to sport and community development. The Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games Society received an operating grant of \$600,000 from provincial funds. This amount leveraged an additional \$120,000 of cash and in-kind support from the City of Kelowna and \$519,783 from local businesses for a total operating budget of \$1,239,783.

The economic impact study at the 2008 BC Summer Games found that participants, spectators, and volunteers spent \$1,902,000 and organizers spent \$682,100 for a total direct economic impact of \$2,584,100.

When the activity of the leveraged operating budget is combined with spending by attendees the total economic activity related to the BC Summer Games was \$3,141,783, a five-fold increase over the original investment of \$600,000.



\$3,141,783 Total Economic Activity
↑
\$1,239,783 Direct Spending by Attendees
+
\$155,083 Host Community Investment
+
\$600,000 Provincial Government Investment

Partner Games

The BC Games Society works in partnership with the Northern BC Winter Games Society, the BC Disability Games Society, and the BC Seniors Games Society to provide support and resources to each of these Games with policy direction coming from the respective Boards of these Games. BC has the most ambitious Games program in the country with seven Games taking place every two years and involving well over 10,000 participants and an equal number of volunteers province wide.

Community Leadership

The variety of Games events in BC allows communities of various sizes and capacities to host, thereby further developing community leadership around the province. Three remarkable women have taken on key leadership roles in each of the Partner Games committing to their communities and the Games.

The **Mackenzie 2009 Northern BC Winter Games** were led by President Raye McMeeken. The community of Mackenzie suffered unprecedented economic strife in 2008 with the closure of every forestry employer.

Through it all, Raye had an unwavering belief in her community that inspired everyone to pull together to put on a remarkable Northern BC Winter Games. Over 600 participants from across Northern BC congregated in Mackenzie in February for four days of competition and celebration of sport.

Raye McMeeken was honoured with a Sport BC Presidents' Award in March 2009 for her outstanding leadership and contribution to sport and community in Northern BC.



Raye McMeeken and Kelly Mann at the 2009 Presidents' Awards

The **BC Disability Games** have moved to a biennial event, so this past year was focused on planning for the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows 2009 BC Disability Games. The Board of Directors led by President Anita Perler had the opportunity to observe the 2008 BC Summer Games and apply their learnings to these Games. Anita has a passion for her community through her involvement in a variety of organizations and events and she brings her athletic background to the challenge of hosting the BC Disability Games.

The 2009 edition of the **BC Seniors Games** took place in Prince George with 2561 active seniors competing in sports ranging from archery to whist. Since 2006, the BC Seniors Games Society has been under the leadership of President, June Parsons. An active senior herself, June is committed to building policies and procedures to make the BC Seniors Games Society a strong and sustainable organization.

Corporate Partners

The BC Games Society takes great pride in our association with four Corporate Partners. Their commitment to excellence and to community assists us greatly in our efforts around the province.



Air Canada Jazz has been a valued partner of the BC Games Society since 1988. As the official airline for the BC Games, Air Canada Jazz transports participants to and from the Games on charter aircraft. The travel experience is often one of the many highlights for athletes and ensures that everyone in our vast province has the opportunity to come together in the spirit of sport and community.



As the official broadcaster of the BC Games, Global BC provides exceptional profile of the BC Games across the province. From pre-Games promotional advertisements to on-site coverage of the athletes and the community, and hosting of major events like the Opening Ceremony Global BC is front and centre.



The BC Lottery Corporation and SportsFunder are proud supporters of amateur sport in British Columbia. To date, SportsFunder lottery games have raised \$4.1 million for amateur sport programs in every corner of the province.



TELUS is a company that demonstrates its commitment to community through involvement with organizations like the BC Games. The contributions of TELUS team members to the planning and staging of the Games, along with the corporate support, makes an enormous impact to the host communities.



BC Games Society

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