With glowing hearts...

Polite? Easygoing? Sure... sounds like us. But Canadians are also proud. Very proud. And we’d like to share that pride with a personal photo journal of February 12-28, 2010.
OLYMPIC MOMENTS

Name one other event in the history of our country that has so completely enthralled Canadians. We responded to the Vancouver Olympics as one with belly laughs and streaming tears, involuntary cringes and collectively held breath, leaps to our feet, fists pumping the air, voices raised in cheers and anthem until we could no longer speak — and most of all — hearts filled with unqualified pride. Here are some of the moments we will cherish.
CARRYING THE OLYMPIC TORCH INTO THE RAINY NIGHT. OUR HOCKEY ICON TAKES THE FINAL LEG OF A 45,000-KILOMETRE RELAY THAT ENDS AS HE TOUCHES HIS TORCH TO THE BASE OF THE OLYMPIC CALDRON AND FLAMES RACE TO THE FIVE PINNACLES, LIGHTING UP THE VANCOUVER GAMES.

PHOTOS BY PAUL BYRNE
DAY 2: 13/02/10
THE OKANAGAN’S OWN KRISTI RICHARDS PLACES 20th IN LADIES’ MOGULS AND 1st IN SPORTSMANSHIP. AFTER A FALL ENDS ALL HOPES FOR A MEDAL, THE GUTSY COMPETITOR RETRIEVES HER SKI, COMPOSES HERSELF AND SHOWS THE CHEERING CROWD HER SENSATIONAL AIR. IN THE SAME EVENT, JENN HEIL CAPTURES SILVER—CANADA’S FIRST MEDAL OF THE GAMES.

DAY 3: 14/02/10
ALEX BILODEAU ENDS THE DROUGHT—BECOMING THE FIRST CANADIAN TO CAPTURE OLYMPIC GOLD ON HOME SOIL. TELEVISION VIEWERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE Brought TO TEARS BY THE IMAGE OF THE MOGUL SKIER’S BROTHER FREDERICK, WHO SUFFERS FROM CEREBRAL PALSY, IN JUBILANT VICTORY CELEBRATION ON THE SIDELINES, AND LATER, THE MOMENT WHEN THE TRIUMPHANT

BILODEAU IS ABLE TO EMBRACE THE MAN HE CALLS HIS INSPIRATION. KRISTINA GROVES NOTCHES UP A BRONZE IN THE 3,000M SPEED SKATING EVENT.
jumps into the stands and picks his way over rows of spectators to reach his family and share an Olympic moment.

Day 5: 16/02/10
Maelle Ricker makes no mistake when it comes to tackle the snowboard cross course on Cypress Mountain. With the crowd in screaming hysteria, she clinches the first gold medal for a Canadian woman on home soil.
DAY 6: 17/02/10
MARIANNE ST-GELAIS GETS AN UNEXPECTED 20th BIRTHDAY PRESENT AS SHE MUSCLES HER WAY TO SILVER IN THE 500M SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING EVENT AT PACIFIC COLISEUM. SPECTATORS SHARE HER JOY AS THE EXULTANT SKATER CIRCLES THE TRACK WITH THE MAPLE LEAF FLAG STREAMING FROM HER UPROISED ARMS AND EMBRACES BOYFRIEND AND TEAMMATE CHARLES HAMELIN.

DAY 7: 18/02/10
CHRISTINE NESBITT SPURS AN ALREADY SUPPORTIVE CROWD TO THEIR FEET AS SHE POWERS BACK FROM A DISTANT 15th PLACE AT THE 200-METRE MARK OF THE 1000M SPEED SKATING RACE. FRENZIED FANS BRING THE HOUSE DOWN AT THE RICHMOND OLYMPIC OVAL AS SHE LUNGES FOR GOLD AT THE FINISH LINE, EDGING OUT A DUTCH SKATER FOR TOP SPOT ON THE PODIUM BY A PHOTO FINISH TWO ONE-THOUSANDTHS OF A SECOND.
Day 8: 19/02/10

What a night. Jon Montgomery rattles some bones as he launches his sled for the third run in the skeleton competition at the Whistler Sliding Centre and clocks speeds of 145 km/h to rip the track record and a solid shot at gold. Montgomery literally leaps to the top of the podium after the fourth run results confirm his win. Later, the feisty red-head thrills the on-site crowd and gives TV viewers the iconic image of the day as he chugs a jug of beer on his triumphant walk through the streets of Whistler.

Day 9: 20/02/10

Apart from opening ceremonies, this is the only medal-free day for Canada at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Contributed, all other photos by Paul Byrne
DAY 10: 21/02/10
FANS AT THE RICHMOND OVAL DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO HELP KRISTINA GROVES CLINCH AN EXPECTED GOLD MEDAL IN THE 1500M SPEED SKATING RACE, BUT HER LEGS JUST DON’T HOLD UP. AFTER A BLISTERING START AND MAINTAINING A WINNING PACE FOR MUCH OF THE RACE, SHE BEGINS TO FADE AND NO AMOUNT OF CHEERING CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. GROVES HANGS ON FOR SILVER AND BECOMES CANADA’S FIRST DOUBLE MEDALLIST OF THE VANCOUVER GAMES. AND THERE’S NOT MUCH TO CHEER ABOUT IN HOCKEYVILLE AS ARCHRIVAL TEAM USA STOPS OUR MEN COLD AND THE DOOM-AND-GLOOMERS START TO PREDICT DISASTER.

DAY 11: 22/02/10
ADMIT IT, EVEN YOU STICK WELDING HOCKEY FOLKS ARE WAVING THE FLAG WHEN ICE DANCERS TESSA VIRTUE AND SCOTT MOIR PROVE THAT HOCKEY PLAYERS AREN’T THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TOPPLE THE RUSSIANS. THE PAIR NAILS THEIR FINAL SKATE TO SCORE GOLD BY A CONVINCING MARGIN AND BECOME THE FIRST NORTH AMERICANS, AND ONLY THE THIRD TEAM IN ICE DANCE HISTORY, TO DENY RUSSIAN/SOVIET SKATERS THE TOP STEP ON THE PODIUM.
DAY 12: 23/02/10

ACTION PACKED, EMOTION FILLED DAY. KELOWNA’S KELSEY SERWA FINISHES FIFTH IN THE HISTORIC OLYMPIC DEBUT OF THE SKI CROSS EVENT IN WHICH HER TEAMMATE, ASHLEIGH MCKIVOR, DELIVERS CANADA’S SIXTH GOLD MEDAL OF THE GAMES, AND THERE’S NOT A DRY EYE OR A SILENT

VOICE IN THE HOUSE AS GUTSY JOANNE ROCHELLE DELIVERS AN UNFORGETTABLE LESSON IN COMPETITIVE SPIRIT AND PERSONAL CHARACTER, SKATING HER SHORT PROGRAM JUST DAYS AFTER THE SUDDEN DEATH OF HER MOTHER

© VANOC/COVAN, ALL OTHER PHOTOS BY PAUL BYRNE
DAY 13: 24/02/10
IT’S LADIES’ DAY. FLAG BEARER AND SENTIMENTAL FAVOURITE CLARA HUGHES, THE ONLY OLYMPIC ATHLETE TO WIN MULTIPLE MEDALS AT BOTH SUMMER AND WINTER GAMES, CAPTURES BRONZE IN THE 5000M SPEED SKATING EVENT. RED JACKETS DOMINATE THE PODIUM IN WOMEN’S BOBSLEIGH AS CANADA WRAPS UP BOTH GOLD AND SILVER, AND FOUR MORE SPEEDY WOMEN TEAR UP THE SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING OVAL TO BRING HOME SILVER IN THE 3000M RELAY. OH, YEAH, THE GUYS MAKE A SHOWING TOO — UPHOLDING OUR NATIONAL PRIDE WITH A 7-3 QUARTER-FINAL DRUBBING OF THE RUSSIANS AT THE HOCKEY RINK.

DAY 14: 15/02/10
KELOWNA’S STEVE OMIŚCHL CARRIES THE PRESSURE OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS AS THE FORMER WORLD CUP AERIALS CHAMP SEeks TO BANISH HIS OLYMPIC BOGEYmen. HE PULLS OFF AN EIGHTH PLACE FINISH. BUT CANADA DOESN’T MISS OUT ON THE MEDAL TALLY TODAY. FIGURE SKATER
JOANIE ROCHETTE CLAIMS BRONZE IN HER EVENT AND GOLD IN OUR HEARTS. HOCKEY MADNESS REACHES FEVER PITCH AS OUR WOMEN’S TEAM LEAVES THE AMERICANS WITH HEADS HANGING AND STEPS UP TO CLAIM THEIR RIGHTFUL GOLD.

DAY 15: 26/02/10

THE WOMEN’S CURLING TEAM CAPTURES SILVER IN SPITE OF TWO GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES AND CANADA FINDS TREASURE ON THE SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING OVAL. CHARLES HAMELIN CLAIMS GOLD AND FRANÇOIS-LUIGI TREMBLAY PICKS UP BRONZE IN THE 500M WHILE THE MEN’S 5000M RELAY TEAM SKATE TO THE TOP OF THE PODIUM, GIVING HAMELIN HIS SECOND GOLD OF THE NIGHT

DAY 16: 27/02/10

MEN’S DAY ON THE PODIUM. KELOWNA’S CHRIS LE Bihan HELPS PUSH CANADA TO BRONZE, JUST ONE ONE-THOUSANDTH OF A SECOND SHORT OF SILVER IN THE FOUR-MAN BOBSLEIGH EVENT. JUSTIN KRIPPS, FROM SUMMERLAND, RIDES TO FIFTH PLACE ABOARD CANADA 2. AND THE GOLDS KEEP PILING UP WITH MEN’S CURLING, MEN’S SPEED SKATING TEAM PURSUIT, AND JASEY-JAY ANDERSON’S FOURTH OLYMPIC BID.

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†‡ OKANAGAN LIFE April 2010 35
Day 17: 28/02/10

Hockey fans (say, every man, woman and child from coast to coast to coast) ride a collective emotional roller coaster with our men. First Period, First Goal—Euphoria; 24 seconds-on-the-game-clock-tying goal—Shock/Anger/Despair; Sweetest sudden death overtime score in Canadian history—national delirium. Local heroes Duncan Keith, from Penticton, and Shea Weber, from Sicamous, share the glory as the gold medals are hung around their necks and a country-wide party takes off.

Giddy with the memory of 26 medal moments—five bronze, seven silver and a games-topping 14 gold—along with a host of personal bests and inspirational performances, we ride a wave of newfound, or at least, newly expressed national pride. In the closing ceremonies, we take a few good-natured pokes at ourselves (and our equipment malfunctions), then pass the torch—with glowing hearts.
### MEDAL COUNT (TOP TEN COUNTRIES)

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PHOTOS BY PAUL BYRNE
WHEN THE FIRST WINTER OLYMPICS WERE HELD IN 1924 IN CHAMONIX, FRANCE, THE CANADIAN ICE HOCKEY TEAM WENT UNDEFEATED IN FIVE GAMES AND OUTSCORED THEIR OPPONENTS 110-3. SUFFICE IT TO SAY, THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS CAUGHT UP. TEAM CANADA BEAT NORWAY 8-0; NEEDED OVERTIME TO FINISH THE SWISS 3-2; LOST TO THE US 5-3; THRASHED GERMANY 8-2;-dismissed the Russians 7-3; AND SNUCK BY SLOVAKIA 3-2 BEFORE JAROME IGINLA SET UP SIDNEY CROSBY FOR THE OVERTIME GOAL THAT GALVANIZED OUR NATION.
canada's game…

Photos by Paul Byrne

BRETHERMAN, PAITYN BUDD,
TOM BUDD, SANDY EDMONSTONE,
ANNE CROSSLLEY, KELOWNA

HE SHOOTS HE SCORES