the purpose

opportunity development preparation

Photography by Kevin Bogetti-Smith / Volunteers of the 2010 BC Summer Games
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.
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British Columbians’ thoughts turned from snow to sun as the 2010 BC Summer Games provided an opportunity for 2462 athletes, 513 coaches, and 365 officials to obtain their personal bests. Two years of planning by 2599 volunteers culminated in a four-day event in the Township of Langley. To put these BC Games in perspective, the Vancouver Olympic Games hosted 2566 athletes, accessing in excess of 25,000 volunteers.

The Township Games leveraged the provincial investment of $600,000 with the addition of $656,800 of cash and value-in-kind. Through thoughtful planning, the support of area businesses and local government, the overall budget yielded a Host Community financial legacy in excess of $75,000. The dollars will be invested in the community with sport and culture being the ultimate beneficiaries.

The BC Games Society congratulates Team BC for its best performance at a Canada Winter Games since 1999. Halifax was the host this past February as 162 BC Games alumni joined Team BC in this quadrennial winter competition. Alumni won or contributed to 56 of BC’s 88 medals, once again highlighting the excellence our Provincial Sport Organizations provide in readying their athletes. Had our alumni been competing as a Province, we would have placed fifth at these Canada Games for medals won.

Support for the BC Games Society remains strong with our annual provincial investment leveraged through support from Global BC, the BC Lottery Corporation, and Jazz Air, as well as hundreds of local businesses at the Host Community level. Collectively, their support enables volunteers to plan and implement the Games so BC’s athletes and coaches can pursue their personal bests.

Our Board thanks Minister Stephanie Cadieux and Minister Ida Chong for their confidence and appreciation for the value brought to the province by the BC Games Society, its Host Communities, and the thousands of volunteers who make the BC Games possible. Through the vision of the Board of Directors, and the professionalism and dedication of staff, we continue to uphold our mission to provide event management leadership in the creation of development opportunities for individuals, sport organizations, and host communities throughout British Columbia.
The Township of Langley 2010 BC Summer Games were led by a dedicated group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to create an event that would inspire everyone involved to “Dream, Challenge and Achieve”. The Township of Langley’s investment in facilities was showcased as BC Summer Games athletes competed at first-rate venues throughout the area. At the Langley Events Centre and McLeod Athletic Park, hubs of multiple sports created an incredible energy and enthusiasm amongst the hundreds of participants.

50% of the Games participants competed in and around the Langley Events Centre and McLeod Athletic Park.

The Township of Langley business community invested in the event, leveraging the $600,000 provincial contribution with equal amounts of cash and in-kind contributions. As a first-time host of the BC Summer Games, Langley has a bright future in sport hosting as a result of their success in 2010.

As a testament to the event, the Langley Advance named the 2010 BC Summer Games “Newsmaker of the Year” for the important and lasting impact the event had on the community.
“What a thrill it was to see so many talented young athletes, all in one place, all reaching for their goals, realizing their dreams, and achieving excellence. It was truly an event that will not soon be forgotten.”

Township of Langley Mayor, Rick Green

“Our goal was to leave a legacy to be proud of and today, I can say we have accomplished that goal and put on the best Games possible. And much of the credit has to go to our incredible volunteers.”

Michael Jackstien, President
Township of Langley 2010 BC Summer Games

“It didn’t take me long to realize what the BC Summer Games is all about, to dream, to challenge and to achieve. I also realized it was about people from around BC coming together to show our skill and abilities and it was the most fun I have ever had on a sports trip!”

Brooke Graham
Zone 6 Field Hockey
For many young athletes, competing at a BC Games is their first opportunity to test themselves against the best in their sport from across the province. Often it is also their first opportunity to work with a qualified coach, such as Randy Coutts, who has been the guiding force of the Vancouver - Squamish Zone 5 basketball team at six BC Games.

**randy coutts - committed coach**

“The experience the kids get through BC Games takes them to the next level,” says Randy. “For most of these student athletes it’s their first opportunity to play against all the best kids in the province, so it gives them a measuring stick of where they are at and where they want to go to. It’s a great experience over the four days of the Games as they develop friendships with the other kids they will see and compete with in high school. It’s a good competitive kind of atmosphere for these kids.”

Randy’s “day” job is at Kitsilano Secondary School in Vancouver where he is the athletic director and teaches physical education, social studies, and career preparation. He is also the basketball coach of a team that has made it to the provincials 12 out of 14 years.

With the young 12 and 13-year-old athletes who have been named to the team for the BC Games, the focus is on fundamentals. Some of the athletes named to the team for the Games haven’t necessarily had much formal coaching, Randy says, so he tries to teach them the fundamentals that make the game fun and enjoyable so that they will continue to be involved in sport.

“I really feel that sport is all about how it builds character,” says Randy. “Through commitment and dedication we try to build the character of the individual to get him or her on to the next level.”

Randy Coutts and the Zone 5 team - Gold medallists at the Township of Langley 2010 BC Summer Games.
513 Coaches

28% of head coaches were female

6 female apprentice coaches

80% of coaches were new to the Games

91% of Head Coaches achieved NCCP Level 2 Certification

365 Officials

37% of officials were female

The BC Games provide an excellent opportunity for more experienced coaches to mentor and train younger developing coaches. Following a Games year, the majority of level two coaches progress to a national level and the assistant coaches take on the role of coaching in the provincial stream.”

Synchro BC
With the achievements of BC athletes like Olympian Simon Whitfield, and marquee events such as the Penticton Ironman, the sport of Triathlon is well recognized in BC.

**triathlon bc**

At the past few BC Summer Games, triathlon only had a small representation of athletes, which risked the sport’s future participation in the Games. Triathlon BC set out a strategic plan following the 2008 Games to increase participation.

Key individuals committed to spearhead the plan which first included increasing the numbers of certified coaches through offering more coaching clinics, decreased fees, and offering travel subsidies. The result was over 200 coaches were certified at the community sport level in the two years between the Games.

On track with coach development was identifying key coaches who worked with Games-aged athletes and initiating regular communication to streamline recruiting efforts, disseminate critical Games information, and ultimately engage athletes and prepare them for Games competition.

With tremendous growth in the sport that now includes close to 20,000 annual participants and 70 sanctioned events, increasing the numbers of officials was mandatory. The publicity of the BC Games within the community was used to promote local clinics, certifying seven Level One officials.

The successful result of Triathlon BC’s plan was evident at the 2010 BC Summer Games, where athletes from all eight zones attended with certified coaches from each zone and were supported by a trained team of officials.

Triathlon BC was chosen as the recipient of the Wendy Ladner Beaudry Sport Achievement Award for 2010. This award was initiated following the sudden passing of our Co-Chair, Wendy Ladner Beaudry and speaks to Wendy’s passion and commitment to sport by recognizing a Provincial Sport Organization which is progressive, dynamic, and professional in their approach to sport participation and development.

“Receiving the Wendy Ladner Beaudry Award was a crowning achievement for Triathlon BC last year. The sport has grown at all levels, from grass-roots participation through to international calibre recognition, and Triathlon BC has established itself as a leader in sport development in Canada.”

Allan Pratsky, Executive Director, Triathlon BC
Provincial Sport Organizations are the foundation of a strong provincial sport system. These organizations provide the leadership and direction for development of their sport in the province and ensure that the BC Games are part of that development model.

**2010 BC Summer Games Provincial Sport Organizations**

BC Athletics  
BC Special Olympics  
Baseball BC  
Basketball BC  
Canoe Kayak BC  
Cycling BC  
BC Diving  
Field Hockey BC  
British Columbia Golf  
Horse Council BC  
BC Inline Hockey Association  
BC Lacrosse Association  
Rowing BC  
BC Rugby Union  
BC Sailing Association  
Soccer BC  
Softball BC  
SportAbility - CP Sports of BC  
Swim BC  
Synchro Swim BC  
Triathlon BC  
Volleyball BC  
Waterski and Wakeboard BC  
BC Wrestling

Provincial Sport Organizations brought a maximum number of athletes:

- **Rowing BC**: 24
- **BC Rugby Union**: 6
- **BC Sailing Association**: 18

Provincial Sport Organizations brought teams from at least 7 zones:

- **Swim BC**: 24
- **Synchro Swim BC**: 6
- **Triathlon BC**: 18
Volunteers 2010

2599 Volunteers
7 years old - youngest volunteer
89 years old - oldest volunteer
30% involved at sport venues

58% female

60% from Langley
A track and field superstar in the making, 2010 was an exceptional year for Langley’s Georgia Ellenwood.

In her first year of competition at the high school level, Georgia became the youngest athlete ever to win the Heptathlon. She then went on to win the senior girls long jump and took silver medals in the senior girls 100m hurdles and high jump.

“My favorite events are the sprint hurdles because I can use my speed and agility and the long jump because it’s fun to jump into a pit of sand!”

Georgia’s BC Summer Games experience started with carrying the torch into the Opening Ceremony and from there it took off. She had high expectations for competing at her home track and she didn’t disappoint. Taking home three individual gold medals in the 200m hurdles, high jump, and long jump, she capped off the Games with a gold in the 4x400m relay with her Zone 3 team. She was chosen as the recipient of the W.R. Bennett Award for Athletic Excellence for the 2010 BC Summer Games and received a $2500 bursary to support her training and competition.

“The BC Summer Games was something that I had never experienced before; the combination of athletic and social opportunities for people my own age. I made many friends from all over BC. When I was called to receive the W.R. Bennett Award I was shocked and thrilled to be recognized in front of so many of my fellow athletes.”

Georgia’s obvious talent and love for the sport took her to the national championships in 2010, where she finished with a gold in high jump, a silver in long jump, and fourth place in the 200m hurdles. This season Georgia is working towards qualifying for the World Youth track and field championships in France. Her dream is to compete at the Olympics in 2016 in Brazil.
Athletes, coaches, and parents were invited to attend free G2G (Guide to the Games) sessions to assist with preparing for and maximizing the experience of the Games.

**from a parent**
“When we know what to expect for our daughter upon arrival and are looking forward to the Games more than ever. This will be such a good experience for her.”

**from an athlete**
“I felt like I left the session feeling more knowledgeable and confident about travelling to the Games.”

**from a coach**
“The session was excellent. Very informative and provided an opportunity for everyone to understand what was happening.”

G2G sessions

- **547** attendees
- **9** G2G sessions held
- **87%** recommend it
2009 Canada Summer Games

- BC Games Alumni made up 52% of Team BC at the 2009 Canada Summer Games.
- Alumni won or contributed to 58% of medals.
- Over 80% of the Triathlon, Sailing, and Basketball athletes were Alumni.

2011 Canada Winter Games

- BC Games Alumni made up 56% of Team BC competing at the 2011 Canada Winter Games.
- Alumni won or contributed to 64% of the medals.
- Over 80% of the athletes in 9 of the sports were Alumni.

BC’s Turn in 2015

Prince George, past host of BC Winter and BC Summer Games will welcome Canada’s athletes at the 2015 Canada Winter Games.

“When I was younger, my inspiration came from the champions, they were larger than life to me and that’s what I always wanted to become. The desire to always improve and my passion for the sport is what has kept me going through the years. It’s been quite a ride.”

Ryder Hesjedal
The 3,642 km Tour de France is known as the premier cycling competition in the world. Few Canadians have competed and even fewer have had successful results. That is, until the summer of 2010 when BC’s Ryder Hesjedal took the tour by storm finishing in seventh place, the best result by a Canadian in over two decades.

As Ryder was making his final push towards the Champs-Elysees in Paris, back home in BC athletes were gathering for the start of the 2010 BC Summer Games. A special surprise for the audience at the Opening Ceremony was a recorded video message from Ryder wishing the athletes good luck at the Games.

As a 12 year old athlete at the 1995 BC Summer Games in Penticton, Ryder credits the BC Games as his “first real success on the road bike.” His first competition at the Games was in mountain bike when a broken chain ended his race. The following day, he gathered up his strength and determination to take home the gold in the road race.

In his message, Ryder explained, “I fell in love with the sport and it’s what I have done ever since I was 12 years old at the BC Summer Games. My most memorable moment from that experience was standing on the podium but also hanging out with friends and the other athletes.”

BC Games Alumni are consistently atop the podium at international competitions. As a training ground for athletes, the experience of the Games is something athletes remember throughout their careers as a place where goals are realized and dreams are fostered.

Ryder Hesjedal
Professional Cyclist and BC Games Alumnus
The BC Summer Games were held this past weekend in Langley. The Games were well run, full of brilliant young athletes, and spirited competition. More than 3,000 athletes from all over the province took part in 27 sports and brought home medals and memories of all shapes, sizes, and colours.

I’m a 44-year-old man who’s been involved in sport most of my life, and the weekend was filled with lessons for me. On Saturday evening, I had one of the most memorable moments of my life when my daughter’s team, the Zone 5 Explosion, lost in the semifinal of the soccer tournament.

After shaking hands with the opposing team, the team formed a huddle and were sobbing together in the middle of the field for what seemed like hours. They were joined by two men, team coaches Bruce Dutnall and Scott Christie, in a moment so powerful you were looking around to find the vortex that was spinning off this emotional energy. It was at that moment that I was punched in the face with the reality that one of the most undervalued resources in our society today are coaches.

Dutnall and Christie, veteran and storied youth coaches on the North Shore who got into soccer because of their kids, stepped up to coach this particular group, despite not having any kids on the team. They believe in giving back, in making sure every girl who wants to play has a chance, and in the power of sport.

I witnessed the power of sport all around me all weekend. And I’m still weak-kneed from its effects. Dutnall and Christie first took to the field with 82 girls back in April. They practised three times a week as they whittled the group down to 12.

They preached the values of teamwork, of togetherness, of sportsmanship and friendship. In those categories, Zone 5 won the gold medal.

This is youth sport, and it wasn’t all good. There was some ugly behaviour by a very, very small minority. And funnily enough, it started with the coaches on another team. Therein lies the lesson for me.

The men and women who step up to coach our kids bear a tremendous amount of responsibility and a frightening amount of influence. The messages and lessons they learn, wittingly and subconsciously, form and shape them as athletes, but more importantly as people.

Which brings me back to this moment during the BC Summer Games.

For three months, the goal had been the gold medal, for the kids, the coaches, the parents. In that instant, that goal was gone. Dutnall and Christie stood locked in this circle with a group of crying 12-year-old girls, speechless as they tried to process the disappointment of what had just happened.

Three hours later, the girls were at a family barbecue. They were laughing, hugging, and having the time of their lives meeting kids from all over the province, sharing Facebook details to keep in touch and playing a game of cat and mouse with the boys’ teams staying in the same dorm.

The next morning, the girls were up at six to be on the field at 7 am to warm up for the bronze-medal game at 8 am.

They played Zone 4 (Fraser River-Delta) in one of the most entertaining games I have ever witnessed. A goal in the last minute gave our team the bronze medal.
medal, and the kids erupted in a volcano of happiness, pride, and relief. After the medals and pictures, there were the tearful good-byes, the signing of souvenirs, and the pledges to stay in touch.

Everyone wanted to win gold. But I couldn’t help but think the experience of suffering the loss, the process of building each other back up as a team, and the result of going out and taking care of business the next morning was a more valuable experience in the long run.

When these kids are trying to get into university, going to job interviews, making life-changing decisions, these kind of events are invaluable in teaching them to deal with everything life throws at them. They know how you need to depend on your friends and family to help you through, and how you need to be there for them.

If you’ve been wondering whether you should get your kids involved in sport, do it. If they are involved in a sport, but don’t have coaches, volunteer.

Be a Dutnall or a Christie. The kids need you more than you’ll ever know.

I have never believed in the power of sport more than I do today.

Paul Chapman, News Editor
The Province
Wednesday, July 28, 2010
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Unleash your potential.
There may be no one individual who is a greater champion of BC Games than Axel Kroitzsch. Not only has his physiotherapy supply company, HealthMed, been a sponsor at every BC Summer Games and BC Winter Games since 1997, but he has also attended the Games as a coach, and as the parent of an athlete.

**axel kroitzsch - bc games champion**

“As the owner of a business there are certain things I can do to support the community,” says Axel. “I like to support kids who are physically active because, from my perspective, a very large number of our young people are not nearly active enough.”

“I personally believe that sports are just as important for children’s development as scholastics. Even the ancient Greeks believed that if you have a sound body you will have a sound mind. So I support anything that has to do with kids’ athletics, out of my convictions.”

HealthMed was founded in 1995, and two years later Axel began donating, free of charge, a full physiotherapy clinic with the best available equipment to assist the Medical Directorate in caring for athletes at the Games. It’s a package worth between $25,000 - $35,000 which Axel says he happily provides “purely out of conviction”.

Axel got involved in coaching when his daughter took up the sport of biathlon. He coached the sea cadets in New Westminster for a number of years, and had the opportunity to coach at the BC Games. His daughter Anne-Marie, 19, competed at the Games both in biathlon and in sailing. Son, Alexander, won medals at the Summer Games in sailing and the Winter Games in biathlon. Axel’s wife, Mandeesh, has been a Games chaperone.

“The BC Games is a phenomenal program,” says Axel. “It allows kids from many communities to come together to compete with other kids. It gives the younger generation a means of learning more about their province as well as making friends. It just gives them a different outlook.”
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