



Top left: Kelsey Wagner was fortunate to meet many athletes at the Coliseum. Top right: Fun at the temporary outdoor rink in Richmond. Bottom: Shelley Walushka coordinated over 200 volunteers between the Pacific Coliseum and Trout Lake Community Centre.

Upon graduating from Langara, I began the journey of a lifetime working for the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Winter Games. I was on contract for just over two years as Coordinator for Figure Skating. My role oversaw more than 200 volunteers working in two venues, (Pacific Coliseum and Trout Lake Centre), which included the selection, scheduling, and training of an on-site management team. Also, I was responsible for managing the rules and regulations of the sport and worked closely with the officials, international federation, and broadcasters.

Most people's favourite memories of the 2010 games are from those two amazing weeks and typically involve some gold medal performances and some hockey. My favourite memories were before the games even began: The countless months of volunteer scheduling and weekends leading training sessions, watching Trout Lake Centre being built for two years and finally stepping foot in the completed building without wearing a hard hat, and

months and months of late nights in the office with my outstanding, incredible and inspiring team. And of course, skating across centre ice in Pacific Coliseum before any athlete had taken to the ice.

The Vancouver 2010 Games have truly changed me as a person and as a professional. I have found a passion for organizing and planning events and for making a difference in my community. I was able to be a part of this amazing event and incredible team that has changed our country for the better for one simple reason... I graduated from the Langara College Recreation Program. I was given the chance through my final internship to work with VANOC and through the guidance of my internship supervisor and the Langara Staff was able to make a lasting impression and was hired on before my internship was even complete.

Shelley Walushka
Langara Grad 2008

RECREATION LEADERSHIP DIPLOMA PROGRAM

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With alumni of over 900 strong, the Langara Recreation Leadership Diploma Program has been providing cutting-edge industry-based training for recreation professionals for over 40 years. Our graduates gain the solid foundation in recreation theory and practice to succeed in recreation and related fields such as business management, government administration, education, and community development.

Pathways are also available towards a Bachelor of Recreation Management at Langara or university transferable course credit.

We're Recruiting!

We're currently recruiting for our two-year Recreation Leadership Diploma program. Tell someone about us! Who knows? Maybe your friends, family, or co-workers are potential students for our program.

We're looking for people who are Grade 12 graduates and are passionate about making a difference in their communities through recreational activities and services.

Recreation Leadership Diploma Program

- Sense of community
- Building friendships
- Practical experiences
- Diverse, experienced, caring and accessible faculty
- Applied theoretical courses for the emerging recreation professional
- Rewarding "first career" jobs after Diploma graduation

For further information, call Vince Kreiser, Assistant Department Chair, at 604.323.5276 or visit www.langara.bc.ca/recreation

Rec News • Fall/Winter 2010

LANGARA SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

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THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.

This past spring, Langara's Recreation Leadership graduates and interns had the unique opportunity to participate in the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. From community centres to opening ceremonies, their behind the scenes work helped make the games successful while also providing them with an invaluable experience.



Renata Turick was involved in recruiting about 40 performers to entertain approximately 30,000 spectators while they waited for Rick Hansen to arrive carrying the torch.



Will Kump coordinated a temporary outdoor ice rink, at the Richmond Ozone. The 15,000 sq. ft path attracted more participants than the Robson Square Rink in downtown Vancouver.

Putting it all together

My involvement with the Olympics started almost two years before the actual BIG event. I was asked to be part of the team that would help organize the City of Richmond's Ozone Opening Ceremonies that took place on February 12, 2010. I went to my first meeting not knowing what to expect, and for the next few months the details became much clearer; I was going to be a part of history!

Though we were a small team of six in the grand scheme of things, in reality there were several hundred people who helped made the opening ceremonies a huge success. I was responsible for the roving entertainment for this very special night. I had the pleasure of recruiting about 40 performers who would walk on stilts, do magic tricks, dance and entertain the crowd while they waited for Rick Hansen to arrive carrying the torch.

It wasn't one course at Langara that helped prepare me for this big event, but a combination of many courses. I needed the accounting class to help me work with the budget, the law class to help prepare contracts, the programming class that gave me the knowledge of working with special events and the list goes on. Honestly everything I learned was somehow put to use for this event, right down to Vince's high expectations of highlighting with a ruler. There was no room for error on this night and it took a lot of knowledge, skills and ability to pull together one of the most successful community events the City of Richmond has ever seen.

Renata Turick
Langara Grad 2007

I was given the opportunity to be part of the Olympics in coordinating a Temporary Outdoor Ice Rink during the Richmond Ozone.

The City of Richmond worked with the Ice Rink Events to provide the first temporary outdoor linear skating experience in North America. This 15,000 sq. ft. path stretched around Minoru Park during the Ozone and had over 28,000 visits over the 17 day event. With a maximum of 275 skaters per hour, our 48 staff at over 2,300 hours and 25 volunteers at over 1,200 hours provided countless compliments and requests to do it again. The Ice Zone drew more participants than the Robson Square Rink and featured a free experience with fire pits, lights, trees, music, and skate rentals.

The event provided me with a once in a lifetime opportunity to use some of my knowledge gained from the Langara Recreation Facilities Management Program to expand my skill set.

Will Kump
Langara Grad 1996

Looking for Alumni

If you can help find any of your "old" classmates, please contact Vince Kreiser, Assistant Department Chair of Recreation Leadership Diploma Program, at 604 323 5276 or email cfields@langara.bc.ca. We want to hear from you!

Internship Pays Off

During my Recreation Diploma Internship with Langara College I was placed at Dunbar Community Centre from January 14th to April 23rd, 2010. I was able to participate in programming special events for the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics, prior to working at the StreetCar Project at Granville Island during the 2010 Games.

One of the special events I organized was a Torch Making workshop. I invited community members to make their own torch lanterns to hold as they watched the Olympic and Paralympic relays pass through Vancouver. This initiative was created and organized by the 2010 Host City Legacies Team. I was very surprised by how this Torch Making workshop brought the community together and helped promote the other 2010 Winter Games special events at the Dunbar Community Centre.

I feel this experience has taught me to be open minded to new things and reinforced my career aspirations that any event can bring a community closer together, no matter how big or small.

Michelle Stebnicki
Langara Grad 2010



The Torch Making workshop event organized by Michelle Stebnicki at the Dunbar Community Centre brought the community together in anticipation for the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games.



A key part of the Community Happenings event, Vanessa Bloodoff's internship also allowed her to gain unique experiences and build connections with the City of Vancouver.

I did my internship at the Kitsilano Community Centre and I was a part of the Community Happenings event. We had the Mayor come out to make speeches, the Olympic/Paralympic mascots, many Olympians and Paralympians, fun activities between the centres for families, and companies promoting a "green" lifestyle. There were competitions along with prizes. It was a lot of work, and planning to create this event, but it was definitely worthwhile. In addition to an amazing experience during the Olympics, I also made a lot of connections with the City of Vancouver and am so proud to say that I was a part of that.

Vanessa Bloodoff
Langara Grad 2010

The greatest highlight during the Olympics for me was experiencing everything that was happening in and around the Pacific Coliseum. Being able to participate and watch the transformation of the building, to standing backstage at the events and seeing and meeting some of the athletes. These are things that I only ever dreamed of doing, and with my internship, was able to live out.

Something I learned from the program at Langara is that with hard work and dedication you are able to achieve the goals that you set forward for yourself.

Kelsey Wagner
Langara Grad 2010



Kelsey Wagner with Scott Moir, the Canadian gold medalist figure skater for the ice dance event.

Stay Connected!

For the latest updates, please visit RecWeb at www.langara.bc.ca/recweb

Did you know we have a Facebook page? Find us by searching "Recreation Leadership" on Facebook.



Operations Leaders



Jodie Becker with Apolo Ohno, the silver and bronze medalist for the short track speed skating event.

I had the once in a lifetime opportunity of working at the venue for Short Track Speed Skating and Figure Skating for the 2010 Winter Games. As the Operations Manager at the Pacific National Exhibition, I was involved in almost 2 years of planning for this event.

Two test events were held in the years leading up to February 2010, both a short track world championship, and a Four Continents Figure Skating event. These trial runs were an opportunity for the venue to practice things like ice making - something that found me flooded with memories of Recreation 1170 - and volunteer management, a topic often discussed throughout the 2-year program.

Since the Pacific Coliseum was a "host venue," we were required to submit RFP's to the Organizing Committee to win the ability to

provide such services as food and beverage, and cleaning during the 2010 Games. Working closely with the Vice President of Operations, I brought my experience from the Enterprise stream of the Recreation Program to help support this process.

Looking back, I realize that upon graduation, I did not see the value that the Recreation Diploma from Langara College would have upon my future. Today, as I am transitioning through careers, my experiences in the Recreation Program are displayed proudly on my resume and cover letter.

Jodie Becker
Langara Grad 2004

In June of 2008, I was hired to be the Manager of Oval Operations at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Having the opportunity to start at the Oval six months before the opening allowed me to build and train a staff team, create procedures with my signature and truly understand the building from the ground up. This was an opportunity to create a solid base that would be the beginning to a path for a gold medal performance by not only Team Canada, but the operations team that I was leading!

During the year and half leading up to the games, I pulled experiences and learnings from the previous positions I held to my days at Langara and learning how to read blueprints in a drafting class.

The first day of events at the Richmond Olympic Oval was February 13th. The race was the 5000m and to everyone's surprise the day ended with a new Olympic record of 6:14.60 by Sven Kramer of the Netherlands. If that would have been the only event that I was a part of, it would have been worth the last year and half but it wasn't.

We were told that attaining one Olympic Record at the Richmond Olympic Oval was going to be impossible, never mind three. These records may only last until the next Olympics in 2014; however, for the Operations team and myself, these records will last a lifetime!

Jamie Rennie
Langara Grad 1992



Jamie Rennie had the opportunity to start at the Oval six months before the opening allowing him to build and train a staff team.

Community Connections

My job as the Community Celebration Assistant was to help build excitement leading up to the Games. I went from planning special events for a community centre with \$500 budgets to working on special events costing millions of dollars. I went from applying for grants, to assisting in the administration of a City grant program (Host a City Happening), which included the adjudication process, approval of promotional material, coordination and evaluation of events.

The 2010 Winter Games came and went so fast that it seemed like it was never here. It was an experience of a lifetime and I was able to experience a lot of the stuff front and centre.

Jessica Yee
Langara Grad 2009



As a Community Celebration Assistant, Jessica Yee applied her skills and knowledge she learned from the Langara Recreation Leadership Program such as grant application, planning, and coordinating to successfully execute special events worth millions of dollars.