

RA SKI-MAIL, 1 APRIL 2009

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OTTAWA WINS 2014 WINTER OLYMPICS

The International Olympic Committee announced today that Ottawa has won the rights to host the 2014 Winter Olympic games.

Mergatroid Macgillicutty, chair of the Ottawa Olympic Organizing Committee, is thrilled with the decision.

Macgillicutty says, "The Olympics have become too commercial, and so expensive that few countries can afford to put them on anymore, so it's time that we simplified the games. The Ottawa games will be known as the Simplistic Olympics".

"The ski events will be held at Mount Pakenham," he said. "The downhill and super-G will go on the black run, and the slalom will be held on the blue run. While Pakenham does have short runs, people's attention span these days is too short to watch a 2-minute race. The major target of advertisers in 2014 will be the teens of today, who will be in their 20's by then, making lots of money. Kids have a short attention span – just watch a rock video. Also, look at track and field. The event with most interest is 100 meter dash (9-10 sec), not the distance events. In skiing, you know who's going to win after the first few turns anyway. Besides, after you've watched a couple of turns, they all look the same, and you start to lose interest."

To handle the crowds, the road to Mount Pakenham will be widened to one lane in each direction. The province of Ontario, the Federal Government and the City of Pakenham will each contribute \$79.99 to cover the cost. The mayor of Pakenham says that Pakenham's share of the cost of putting on the Olympics will be covered by adding a surcharge of a nickel to the price of ice cream cones sold at the Pakenham General Store.

Skating events will be held at bottom of tubing run at Mount Pakenham.

Bobsledding and Luge will be held at the Carlington Hill in Ottawa. To handle the crowds, the bike path to the top of the Carlington Hill will be widened to four lanes.

Ice hockey will be held at the outdoor rink in Brewer Park, as all the indoor rinks in Ottawa are already booked by the RA for their hockey leagues.

Athletes will be housed in tents at Lebreton Flats. Macgillicutty says, "We don't want another Olympic Village financing fiasco like Vancouver had. Besides, these are the winter Olympics, and athletes are used to the cold as they have been training in it for the last eight years or so."

YouTube won the TV rights to the 2014 Olympics, with its bid of \$29.99, beating CBC's bid of \$3.98 and TSN's \$17.95. (With the economy in the dumps, the major TV networks are hurting from a lack of advertisers.) Spectators will be encouraged to film the events with their cellphones, and post the videos on YouTube.

RA Ski Club president Doris Dallaire offered the party room of her condo for the opening ceremonies. "Why hold the ceremonies in -30 below weather when our party room is so comfortable and warm" says Doris.

To keep costs down, the opening ceremony will be done by buskers. It's a win-win situation for everyone. There's no cost to the Olympic Organizing Committee, and the buskers can go into the crowd and get donations for their performances, at a time of the year when there is generally not much demand for buskers' services.

2010 RA SKI XC/DH WEEKEND TRIP

A chance meeting with a Le Massif ski patroller on this season's weekend trip has led to planning next year's trip at a later than usual date. This patroller tipped us off to the fact that snow there lasts until late June, so the 2010 weekend trip has been booked for Friday June 6 to Sunday June 8, 2010.

Register early to avoid the rush! There will be lots of snow, and absolutely no lift lines. The fact that no lifts will be running will only be a minor inconvenience to dedicated skiers. Registration opens at 0:00 a.m. sharp on April 1, and closes at 9:01 a.m. Take advantage of the low season price of only \$99!

2010 RA SKI WEEKLONG BOOKED!

Due to the minus 30 degree weather on this year's weeklong trip, we have selected a warmer destination for next year. We will be travelling to Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa on August first 2010. Stay tuned for further details soon, and start taking those malaria pills.

SPORTS NEWS

In hockey, the Toronto Maple Leafs continue their downward spiral, losing again. Here are last night's hockey scores:

Montreal 5, Toronto -3
Alex Ovechkin 7, Ottawa 2
2-1
3-0
4-1
2-2 (in overtime)
And, in a real squeaker, 7-6

RA SKI ENVIRONMENT CORNER

Save the Earth! It's the only planet with chocolate on it.