



VANOC Torch Relay and Trans Canada Trail Update (Dec. 24, 2008)

BACKGROUND

Trans Canada Trail National began discussions over two years ago with VANOC to have the Olympic Torch Relay route include portions of the Trans Canada Trail.

Recent announcements and correspondence indicate that we were successful in having both TCT trail sections and pavilions included on the running route of the VANOC Torch Relay, though details have yet to be worked out.

TCT will continue to promote TCT involvement with the Olympic Torch Relay to achieve the following goals:

- Increased awareness and profile of Trans Canada Trail and revitalizations of the Trans Canada Trail brand
- Recognition of the commitment and dedication of thousands of volunteers and local organizations involved in building trails
- Heightened profile for communities that support the building of trails
- Promotion of an active and healthy life style through use of the Trail
- Promotion of the shared values of TCT and VANOC to create a legacy for Canadians today and generations to come.

ROUTE

- On November 21, 2008, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) announced the route of the Olympic Torch Relay. Specifically, it named **1020 communities** and places of interests that the Torch Relay will visit.
- Close to **30 percent** of these communities are on or near the Trail
 - 275 of the torch relay communities are **on or within 5 km.** of operational sections of the Trans Canada Trail
 - 37 more are on or within 5 km. of the proposed route of the Trail.
- Trans Canada Trail GIS staff has prepared **maps for each province/territory.** These show the torch relay communities on or within 5 km of the Trail, as well as those within 10km, 15km and 20 km of the Trail.
- The Torch Relay will pass by **18 Trans Canada Trail pavilions.** Locations include **NL:** Corner Brook¹; **PEI:** Summerside; **NS:** Dartmouth; **NB:** Moncton and Fredericton; **QC:** Quebec City; **ON:** Peterborough, Burlington and Barrie; **SK:** Yorkton; **BC:** Cranbrook, Trail, Grand Forks², Penticton, Nanaimo, North Vancouver; **NWT:** Yellowknife; **YN:** Whitehorse.
(*This information was provided to Deborah Apps in a letter from Jim Richards, Director of Torch Relay.*)

¹ Clarification needed. Correspondence mentioned Pasadena

² Pavilion yet to be built.

- **Note:** The exact route (street by street) that the Torch will travel has yet to be determined. According to VANOC staff, these details are now being worked out at the national operations level (in consultation with regional coordinators). When more detailed route information is released, Trans Canada Trail will be able to determine exactly how much of the Torch Relay will be on the Trans Canada Trail.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

- There will be Torch Relay celebrations in **187 celebration communities**. These celebrations will take place at noon and 6 p.m. each day.
- Many of the celebration communities are on or near the Trans Canada Trail. (Note: On the TCT maps the celebration communities are highlighted in yellow.)
- The details of the formal Torch Relay celebrations in each community are being developed at the national Torch Relay operations level. Local organizing committees can organize additional activities around these events.

SCHEDULE

- The Olympic Flame will arrive in Victoria, BC on October 30, 2009 at 12 noon. The Torch Relay will travel across the country for 106 days, finishing back in Vancouver, BC at BC Place Stadium on February 12, 2010.
- The Torch will travel 45,000 kilometres (18,000 by air, 1000 by water and 26,000 by land.)
- The Torch will visit every province and territory.

BC:

Oct 30 - Nov 3; Jan 21- Feb 12 (27 days)
266 communities on route
50 community celebrations

Alb:

Nov 6, Dec 1, Jan 13-21 (8 days)
73 communities on route
16 community celebrations

SK:

Nov 7, Jan 9-13 (4 days)
39 communities on route
9 community celebrations

Man:

Nov 7-8, Jan 5-9 (5 days)
33 communities on route
8 community celebrations

ON

Dec 11-Jan 5 (21 days)
226 communities on route
43 community celebrations

QC

Nov 10, Nov 29-Dec 12, December 31
(15 days)
192 communities on route
27 community celebrations

NB:

Nov 23-29 (5 days)
58 communities on route
10 community celebrations

NS:

Nov 16-21 (5 days)
54 communities on route
7 community celebrations

PEI:

Nov 21-23 (2 days)
26 communities on route
2 community celebrations

NL:

Nov 11-15 (5 days)

41 communities on route
8 community celebrations

NWT:

Nov 4-5 (2 days)
4 communities on route
2 community celebrations

YU:

Nov 3-4(1 day)
4 communities on route
3 community celebrations

NU:

Nov 5, 8-9 (2 days)
4 communities on route
2 community celebrations

For exact dates in each community: go to www.vancouver2010.com, then go to Torch Relay > Route > Route Maps > National route map.

TORCHBEARER PROGRAMS

- A total of 12,000 torchbearers will be selected to carry the torch on the 106-day relay. TCT will explore with VANOC how TCT representatives and volunteers can be included.
- Members of provincial groups and volunteers are encouraged to apply through the public application process (go to www.vancouver2010.com)

Trans Canada Trail Involvement

- TCT National began discussions with VANOC over two years ago. During recent discussions with VANOC Torch Relay organizers, TCT expressed interest in being involved nationally, provincially and locally.
- VANOC as yet has not clarified how TCT can be formally involved. The Torch Relay team said they have yet to work out how they will engage with groups like TCT but will be focusing on this in the New Year.
- At the VANOC national level, there is an operations team that is broken down into 6 regions (North, Prairies, Atlantic Canada, Ontario, Quebec and BC). There are approximately 12 regional coordinators.
- Trans Canada Trail is scheduled to have further discussions with VANOC Torch Relay communications staff in early January. It is hoped that this will be an opportunity to explore how TCT can work more closely (nationally and provincially) with Torch Relay organizers to support the Torch Relay program and ensure the Trail and its volunteers have profile.
- Provincial representatives across the country that are working with VANOC regional coordinators or Torch Relay organizing committees at the local level are asked to share the information so TCT can develop a comprehensive strategy around the Torch Relay.

Jane Craig, 12/24/08