

## Wickenheiser Inspires at International Women's Day *Women in Sport* Conference

by Wendy Long

Hayley Wickenheiser knows well how witnessing the Olympic Games can impact a young athlete and change the course of her life.

She was nine years old when her family travelled from Saskatchewan to watch the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. They had tickets for ski jumping and watching Finnish ace Matti Nykanen fly through the air captivated and inspired the young hockey player from Shaunavon, Sask.

"I am a true, living testament that the Olympics truly do inspire and can take kids to another level in terms of what they think they can do with their lives," declared Wickenheiser. "I thought I was going to get to the Olympic Games some day."

Wickenheiser shared her Olympic inspiration with delegates attending the March 8 International Women's Day *Women in Sport* Conference at the University of B.C. The event, presented by 2010 Legacies Now and UBC Recreation Program and supported by ProMOTION Plus and ActNow BC, celebrated International Women's Day in exploring various areas of sport and the opportunities and challenges experienced by women and girls in those disciplines.

The conference marked Wickenheiser's first public appearance since she played a pivotal role in the Canadian women's hockey team winning a gold medal at the recent Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.



*Pictured left to right are: Beverley Siver of ProMOTION Plus, Katy Player of UBC Rec., Hayley Wickenheiser, Katherine Ringrose and Kendra Penrose of 2010 Legacies Now. (courtesy of UBC Rec.)*

The 27-year-old national team forward scored 5 goals and had 12 assists to earn Olympic tournament Most Valuable Player honours at the Games, in addition to securing her third Olympic medal after taking gold with the Canadian women's team in 2002 and silver from Nagano, Japan in 1998.

During the proceedings, delegates also celebrated the news that five-time Olympian Charmaine Crooks of North Vancouver had, that same day in Geneva, Switzerland, been honoured as a recipient of the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Trophy for the Americas.

Wickenheiser has emerged as one of Canada's most revered, and recognized, athletes. But, as she told the predominantly female crowd at the conference,

her trip to athletic excellence was often met with skepticism and derision from people who opposed the idea that girls can, and should, play ice hockey. Honing her skills on the family's backyard ice rink, she had no female hockey heroes to admire although she recognized pentathlete Diane Jones Konihowski as a worthy athletic role model. Her hockey heroes were Edmonton Oilers Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier.

As a player from a small town, she joined boys' teams as there was a dearth of girls playing the game. She was not always welcome.

"I learned at a young age to develop a thick skin and not to listen to the critical opinion of others," she said, noting as the only female player she was often forced to dress in bathrooms or rink boiler rooms.

"I remember once a mother came in and said: 'You don't belong here, why don't you take your skates off, leave my son alone and get off the ice?' It was just one incident, a string of many throughout my young life and I learned to laugh at those things. Nothing was going to stop me."

Indeed, nothing has stopped Wickenheiser,

*(continued on page 3)*



Canadian women take 16 medals at the 2006 Olympic Games – see page 7.

## This Issue

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## Our Vision

All girls and women in the province of British Columbia will participate in and have access to a complete range of opportunities, choices and resources for positive experiences in physical activity and competitive and recreational sport and have equity as participants and leaders.

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# Message from the Chair

Wow! What an exciting time! What a time of tremendous achievement and opportunity for women in sport!

In February, Canadian athletes won 24 medals at the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games and 16 of them were won by women! And as this article was being written, the Paralympic Games were underway in Turin, Italy. Canada had already won 12 medals (half by females). It is very exciting to see our athletes do so well and to see so many female athletes achieving great success – they are leaders and role models for all of us – particularly for the young women who are our future athletes and leaders in sport. See page 7.

Hot off her victory in Turin, Hayley Wickenheiser was the keynote speaker at the first *Women in Sport* Conference, which was held on International Women's Day, March 8, 2006. The conference, held at the UBC Centre at Robson Square, was sponsored by 2010 Legacies Now Society and UBC Rec and supported by ActNow BC and ProMOTION Plus. To an audience of over 220 high school and university students and sport leaders, Hayley shared her experiences as a woman in hockey, her Olympic stories, and her hopes and dreams for the future of women's hockey. Hayley is a true inspiration – see page 1 for ProMOTION Plus Board Member Wendy Long's article on Hayley's presentation. The conference included workshop and panel discussion sessions on women as athletes, administrators and coaches. ProMOTION Plus wishes to acknowledge 2010 Legacies Now and UBC Rec for the vision, leadership, and resources that make opportunities like this first *Women in Sport* Conference possible. We look forward to this as an annual event.

In the past 2 years, ProMOTION Plus has received BC Sport Participation Program funding which has enabled us to partner

with other agencies in the BC Sport and Recreation system to support programming for girls and women throughout BC. Over 16 community and sport organizations were involved in 12 different communities throughout the province.

From the collective vision of passionate women in sport in BC, ProMOTION Plus was formed over 16 years ago. One of these women was Bobbie Steen. After Bobbie succumbed to cancer in 1995, the Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation was formed to recognize individuals and organizations whose work and beliefs actively support the goal of gender equity in British Columbia. In addition, agencies in which Bobbie played a significant role (BC Recreation and Parks Association, the Province of British Columbia Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, BC Games Society, and Sport BC) came together with ProMOTION Plus to honour Bobbie and provide annual recognition through the Bobbie Steen Awards of Excellence. These three awards were presented on March 8 at the Sport BC Presidents' Awards held in conjunction with the Athlete of the Year Awards. See page 4 for more information on the Bobbie Steen Awards recipients. Bobbie was a colleague and a friend and I am proud to have had the opportunity to present these awards that honour her life and contribution to sport and recreation.

As exciting and profoundly rewarding as the past 12 months have been, the next 12 months promise to be equally significant. ProMOTION Plus looks forward to working with individuals and organizations to further enhance opportunities in this province for girls and women in sport and physical activity.

Irene Schell  
ProMOTION Plus Chair



# Greater Trail Was a Fabulous Host for the BC Winter Games 2006

by Beverley Siver, Executive Director

From February 23-26, 2006 the cities of Trail and Rossland and the Villages of Montrose, Warfield and Fruitvale were host to the 2006 BC Winter Games! The residents of Greater Trail were exemplary ambassadors for their community and the volunteers were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. Everyone exuded a warm sense of pride and community spirit which made this visitor's experience a memorable one.

The Opening Ceremony on Thursday evening was infused with enthusiasm as the young athletes representing all 8 regions of the province paraded into the Trail Memorial Centre. Tony Parsons of Global TV was the MC for the evening and the stage was filled with dignitaries representing Greater Trail, the regional district of Kootenay Boundary and the province of BC. This evening was sure to become a memorable one in the lives of many of the athletes who participated.

Following the Opening Ceremony, guests were invited to the Provincial Government Reception held at the Prestige Mountain Resort in Rossland BC and a stellar event it was too.

As the Games commenced on Friday, athletes were visible all over the Greater Trail area. In conjunction with the Games, 50 youth from across BC attended the BC Olympic & Paralympic Youth Leadership Academy. The goal of the Academy was to teach young people Olympic values and to develop their individual leadership skills.

ProMOTION Plus was pleased to present the BC Games Society with the "Toward Balance" Award at the Civic Luncheon on Friday. This award was given to the BC Games Society to recognize their progressive work in the area of gender equity at all of the BC Games.

Gender equity is a challenge to implement and the BC Games Society has embraced it in a meaningful and inspirational manner. The award was presented by



Pictured from left to right: Beverley Siver, Wendy Ladner-Beaudry, Kelly Mann, Kimberley White-Gilhooly and Irene Schell (courtesy of BC Games Society)

Irene Schell the chair of ProMOTION Plus and accepted by Wendy Ladner Beaudry co-chair of the BC Games Society.

The Games and festivities continued through to the Closing Ceremony on Sunday February 26th, 2006.

It was this Executive Director's first experience of the Games but I assure you it will not be the last. Congratulations to Greater Trail!

## WICKENHEISER INSPIRES (con't from page 1)

who expanded her competitive horizons by playing for the 2000 Canadian Olympic women's softball team in Sydney, Australia. After the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah she spent a year in Finland playing with a professional men's team in the Finnish Elite League.

During the recent Olympics in Torino, much was made of lopsided scores in the women's hockey tournament with Canada receiving some criticism for what was perceived as "running up the score." Wickenheiser noted the women's game is still in a large growth curve internationally. In Canada there are some 65,000

girls and women playing the game but in countries like Sweden and Finland the numbers are only 8,000 and 5,000 respectively. However she believes the world will, one day, catch up.

"In the men's game, if you look back, it took 64 years for Sweden to beat Canada internationally," she explained. "It took 100 years for Finland to win a world championship in men's hockey. In the third Olympics, in men's hockey Canada was beating teams 30-0. So I look at our women's game and I think we're much further ahead. The women's game is in great shape."

The conference crowd was also privy to some insider news as Wickenheiser confirmed she plans to stay in the game and to compete in her 4th Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Wickenheiser also had some advice for 2010 Olympic organizers.

"Make sure that the food and the tickets and the venues are first-class for the athletes, and involve former Olympians in the process," she said. "I think Vancouver will put on a great show. It will inspire lives, change people for the better, like Calgary did for me in 1988."

# Bobbie Steen Award Recipients Honoured

March 8th, 2006 marked the second year that ProMOTION Plus has partnered with Sport BC to present the Bobbie Steen Awards at the Presidents' Awards ceremony at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver.

The Bobbie Steen Awards of Excellence and the Legacy Foundation Award were established to honour the memory and work of Bobbie Steen and to foster a sport and recreation system that supports the ideals of equity and fairness for girls and women.

The **Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation Award for an Emerging Leader** (\$1,000) was presented to **Kathleen Stody**.

Kathleen is a member of the Simon Fraser University Swim Team and has won medals at the Pan American Games 2003 and at the N.A.I.A. championships. She is very involved in her community, coaching the local swim club and running summer camps and swim clinics for 6 – 12 year olds at SFU. Kathleen is an outstanding athlete, coach and role model and an exceptional emerging leader.

The **Bobbie Steen Award of Excellence for Career Achievement** was presented to **Gail Donohue**. Gail has

contributed immensely to sport during her successful career as a coach and administrator and has inspired many athletes to pursue excellence in synchronized swimming. One of her greatest contributions has been coaching development. As Director of the Pacific Sport National Coaching Institute, Gail facilitated the development of many coaches to level 4/5 certification. Gail continues to lend her expertise to Synchro Canada as a member of its Long Term Athlete Development Steering Committee and as a member of the Coaches of Canada board of Directors.

The **Bobbie Steen Award of Excellence for Development** was presented to **Norma Foster**. Norma Foster has studied Karate for over thirty years and holds the exceptional rank of 6th degree black belt. She is the only female member of the Referee Council of the World Karate



*Pictured from left to right: Gail Donohue, Norma Foster and Kathleen Stody*

Federation for which she also chairs the Gender Equity Committee. Norma has developed a Karate Officiating program for women and girls in Northern BC with the ultimate objective of increasing the number of female Karate officials province-wide.

On behalf of the BC Games Society, BC Parks & Recreation Association, Sport BC, the Province of British Columbia, the Bobbie Steen Legacy Foundation and ProMOTION Plus, we would like to congratulate the recipients and thank the nominators and nominees for their involvement.

Special thanks to Moira Gookstetter and Stana Campbell at Sport BC for helping make the Bobbie Steen Awards ceremony a great success!

## ProMOTION Plus Nominates Sandra Friedman for the 2006 Sport BC Presidents' Awards



*Pictured from left to right: Irene Schell, Kirsten Close, Adrienne Bouris, Sandra Friedman and Wendy Long*

We are proud to have nominated Sandra Friedman for a 2006 President's Award. Sandra was a ProMOTION Plus board member for 7 years from 1997 to 2004. She was a co-chair for one year and was on the Executive Committee from 1998 to 2004. We recognize Sandra for her continuing dedication to the organization, its vision and ideals and for her passion and commitment

to improving the lives of girls and women. Sandra is an educator, therapist and consultant on issues such as the treatment and prevention of eating disorders. She has spent much of her adult life promoting healthy lifestyles through her writing and providing her expertise to organizations such as ours. ProMOTION Plus would like to honour Sandra for her unique perspective and important contributions.

*Sandra was presented with this award by ProMOTION Plus Chair Irene Schell at the Presidents' Awards Ceremony on March 8th, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver*

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# Work and Family Keep Coach Townsend Running

by Wendy Long

Brit Townsend achieved athletic success as a runner but if juggling became a sporting event she would be up there with the best.

Since 1998 Townsend has served as head coach of the Simon Fraser University men's and women's cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field teams in addition to coaching athletes from the Valley Royals Track and Field Club, plus occasional assignments with provincial and national teams. Through the years she has juggled extensive travel, workout schedules and coaching administrative duties while raising two young daughters with her husband, Chris.

Hers is not an easy schedule. But the same fierce determination that took Townsend to the international ranks of track and field is clearly evident in her steadfast commitment to excellence in raising a family while coaching and mentoring athletes.

"Coaching as a career has been a good decision for me," says Townsend. "I'm pretty efficient, I can do a lot of things at once. That may not be the case for others, you could become pretty frustrated and burn out. Chris and I made a choice early on that we weren't going to put the kids in daycare, we wanted to be with them as much as possible. They've travelled with me from the time they were born – for me there was less stress in taking them with me, as crazy as that sounds. But that was definitely my priority."

Townsend was recognized recently as a finalist for Coach of the Year honours at the Sport BC Athlete of the Year awards in Vancouver. In November 2005 she earned her third consecutive NAIA women's cross-country Coach of the Year award after her SFU women captured the NAIA cross-country championship for the third year in a row. In the spring of 2005 she was also named NAIA Coach of the Year

for women's outdoor track and field as her SFU women's team took the 2005 outdoor championship.



*Brit Townsend  
(photo courtesy of SFU Athletics)*

Townsend began her NAIA coaching career in 1996 as an assistant coach of cross-country and distance runners at SFU. She recalls at that time she was the only woman coach in the NAIA track and field/cross-country ranks that include more than 350 small universities and colleges throughout North America. Not much has changed.

"When I started, I was the only female coach in the NAIA – now, I think there is one more but she just does cross-country," muses Townsend, who has her Level 4 coaching certification. "In the beginning some of the male coaches just kind of passed me off but once you start having results things change. I think I have gained a lot of respect. One of the biggest challenges has been coaching men – not many of them have been coached by females. Even as youngsters in basketball or soccer many of them have not been coached by females in their lifetime. But seeing my experience and that I get results, I have their respect."

Townsend brings considerable experience

for her athletes to draw upon. She was a member of the Canadian track and field team for 13 years and held several records, including the national women's 800-metre mark of 2:00.02 which stood for some seven years after she set it in 1983. She was a finalist in the 1,500 metres at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, a gold medallist at the 1989 Francophone Games and bronze medallist at the 1985 World Games and 1987 Pan-American Games.

Not all great athletes make great coaches. But Townsend believes her international experience is an asset in working with young athletes.

"Having been an elite athlete is one of my strengths," she says. "I have some athletes who are federally carded and I can really start to give them some of what I learned. That means not just preparing them physically but mentally, helping them learn how to juggle heats, semis and finals and to prepare for high level competition. I know what's possible – some of these kids, when they go to university they don't know what's possible. I have high expectations for all of them, in the hope that they will have high expectations for themselves."

Holding a Level 4 coaching certificate means Townsend is eligible for international coaching assignments with Canadian national teams. But her current work schedule and family commitments have prompted her to turn down many of those opportunities – for now. But she revels in her athletes' accomplishments, whatever level they may achieve.

"It's wonderful to see athletes like Julia Howard and Rebecca Johnstone run fast times and go to the World Student Games," she says. "But it is equally rewarding to have other athletes run their best times and just feel good about themselves."

# Softball Gone from Games after 2008

by Wendy Long

The International Olympic Committee slammed the door on one group of women athletes and opened the door for others during meetings prior to the opening of the Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.

The IOC general assembly voted to eliminate softball, which is played only by women in the Summer Olympics, and baseball (an Olympic men's team event) from the Games beginning in 2012. The tally reinforced a previous vote by the IOC last summer.

## Mark your calendars

The ProMOTION Plus Annual General Meeting will take place  
**Thursday June 8th, 2006**  
at 7pm. Please come out and show your support!

At 2005 meetings in Singapore, softball missed just one vote short of confirmation with the total coming 52-52, with one abstention. The vote for ousting baseball was 54-50. Both sports lobbied for reinstatement but in the February vote softball was again rejected 47-43 while baseball was rejected 46-42.

Softball made its debut on the Olympic program at the 1996 Games in Atlanta. Both softball and baseball remain on the program for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

The IOC has been under pressure to review the Games programs and in some circles it is believed baseball and softball are gone due to pressure to add more individual sports. But at the summer meetings in Singapore, after baseball and softball lost the vote, IOC members also

rejected including other sports seeking a spot on the Games program – squash, karate, rugby, golf and roller sports.

Even as the IOC was eliminating women's softball from the program the organization approved requests for more women athlete quota spots in other sports – fencing, modern pentathlon, taekwondo, triathlon and cycling. According to the IOC, based on these and other program changes there will be 128 more female athletes in Beijing than at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, where some 42 per cent of the 10,500 competitors were women.

Yet while the IOC was lauding the additional spots for women athletes, a number of extra men's spots were also added in the same sports.

## IOC Honours Charmaine Crooks

by Wendy Long

Charmaine Crooks of North Vancouver was among six women honoured on March 8, International Women's Day, by the International Olympic Committee.

Crooks, a five-time Olympian and track and field silver medallist from the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, received the IOC Women and Sport Trophy for the Americas as five continental trophies were awarded to recognize individuals working to advocate and support women in sport.

Joining Crooks as trophy winners were Albertine Barbosa Andrade (Senegal/Africa), Elisa Lee (Korea/Asia), Dominique Petit (France/Europe) and Lorraine Mar (Fiji/Oceania)


Argentine tennis player Gabriela Sabatini was awarded the 2006 World Women and Sport Trophy for her efforts to develop tennis for young people, particularly young girls, in her country.

Crooks served on the IOC Athletes' Commission from 1996 to 2004 and is a founding member of the IOC Ethics Commission. She is also a member of the Canadian Olympic Committee's executive board and the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Organizing Committee.

The 2006 winners were selected by the International Olympic Committee's Women and Sport Commission, chaired by IOC member and former U.S. Olympic team rower Anita DeFrantz.

learn to play - starts April 1

# women's rugby



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join us for more info & registration

Sunday March 26 2 - 5PM	Thursday March 30 6 - 8PM
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# Canadian Women Terrific in Torino

by Wendy Long

Canadian women athletes played an integral role in the country's historic third-place finish at the February Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy. The Games marked Canada's best Winter Olympic performance ever with a third-place finish and 24 medals (seven gold, 10 silver, seven bronze) – seven more than the previous Canadian best of 17 gained at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Sixteen of the 24 medals were garnered by Canadian women competitors, tying Canada with Games-winner Germany for the most medals won by women athletes from a single country. Germany topped the Torino Games standings with 29 medals.

Canadian speed skater Cindy Klassen emerged as not only a star for the Canadian Olympic team, but as a memorable competitor and international role model in earning five medals at Torino – one gold, two silver, two bronze. Klassen's outstanding effort, coupled with a bronze medal earned four years ago at Salt Lake City, made her the most decorated Canadian athlete in Olympic history with six career medals. Her five-medal haul in Torino was the most won by a woman long track speed skater at a single Olympics.

It's no wonder International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge was moved to proclaim Klassen "The Woman of the Games" at the conclusion of the Torino Olympics.

Canada's impressive showing in Torino is testament to a sport system which, in recent years, has evolved to provide more training and competitive opportunities for women athletes. Klassen and her female compatriots have shown what is possible when given proper support and opportunities. Their accomplishments will inspire a generation of young Canadian women to strive for excellence.

But there is more work to be done. The Winter Olympics have yet to include ski jumping and nordic combined events for women. In Canada, and elsewhere, there remains a dearth of women coaching at the international levels of many sports.

ProMOTION Plus salutes the following Canadian women athletes – those who stood on the medal podium at the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy, and all the women athletes from B.C. who competed as members of the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic teams:

## Canadian Women Medallists

*2006 Olympic Winter Games – Torino, Italy (Feb. 10-26)*

### GOLD

**Chandra Crawford** – Sprint, Cross-Country Skiing

**Cindy Klassen** – 1,500 Metres, Speed Skating

**Jennifer Heil** – Moguls, Freestyle Skiing

**Clara Hughes** – 5,000 Metres, Speed Skating

**Canadian Women's Ice Hockey Team** (defeated Sweden 4-1 in final)

Gillian Ferrari, Becky Kellar, Carla Macleod, Cheryl Pounder, Colleen Sostorics, Meghan Agosta, Gillian Apps, Jennifer Botterill, Cassie Campbell, Danielle Goyette, Jayna Hefford, Gina Kingsbury, Caroline Ouellette, Cherie Piper, Vicky Sunohara, Sarah Vaillancourt, Katie Weatherston, Hayley Wickenheiser, Charline Labonte, Kim St. Pierre.

### SILVER

**Cindy Klassen** – 1,000 Metres, Speed Skating

**Kristina Groves** – 1,500 Metres, Speed Skating

**Kristina Groves, Clara Hughes,**

**Cindy Klassen, Christine Nesbitt,**

**Shannon Rempel** – Women's Team Pursuit, Speed Skating

**Alanna Kraus, Anouk Leblanc-Boucher, Amanda Overland, Kalyna Roberge, Tania Vicent** – 3,000-Metre Relay, Short Track Speed Skating  
**Sara Renner and Beckie Scott** – Women's Team Sprint, Cross Country Skiing

### BRONZE

**Mellisa Hollingsworth** – Skeleton

**Anouk Leblanc-Boucher** – 500 Metres, Short Track Speed Skating

**Cindy Klassen** – 3,000 Metres, Speed Skating

**Cindy Klassen** – 5,000 Metres, Speed Skating

**Dominique Maltais** – Snowboard Cross, Snowboard

**Shannon Kleibrink, Amy Nixon, Glenys Bakker, Christine Keshen, Sandra Jenkins** – Curling

*2006 Paralympic Winter Games – Torino, Italy (March 10-19)*

### GOLD

**Lauren Woolstencroft** – Giant Slalom, Alpine Skiing

**Sonja Gaudet** (Wheelchair Curling Team) – Wheelchair Curling

**Karen Blachford** (Wheelchair Curling Team) – Wheelchair Curling

### SILVER

**Lauren Woolstencroft** – Super-G, Standing, Alpine Skiing

**Lauren Woolstencroft** – Slalom, Alpine Skiing

### BRONZE

**Colette Bourbonje** – 5km Freestyle, Cross-Country Skiing

**Colette Bourbonje** – 10km Classic, Sitting, Cross-Country Skiing

**Kimberley Joines** – Super G, Sitting, Alpine Skiing

(continued on page 8)

# Sundays with Mom at the YWCA!

by Beverley Siver, Executive Director

ProMOTION Plus, the YWCA and Crabtree Corner have partnered to bring sport to mothers, daughters and their friends. The 12 weeks of programming include sports and physical activities such as; badminton, yoga, karate, water polo, rhythmic gymnastics, lawn bowling, cycling, tennis, rugby, golf, soccer and ultimate Frisbee. Every Sunday throughout February, March and April we are providing programming, transportation and child care so that moms and their daughters can spend a couple of hours each Sunday involved in activities which are sometimes exciting, sometimes relaxing and always fun.

We are pleased to be able to provide this



pilot project to women and their families in the Downtown Eastside. We hope this program affords moms and their daughters a moment each week to be together in a safe and supportive atmosphere. These physical activities and sports are fun, available locally and economical to encourage families to continue on with them after the program ends.

After the first week, one of the moms had gone out and bought badminton rackets and birdies for her family so they could play together. She was excited about the program and looked forward to 11 more weeks. As this program is a pilot, we are very interested in the feedback of participants. They know what they need and want and are interested in helping us improve the program. We are confident that this program will grow if we can implement the input we receive.

We have learnt a great deal over the past eight weeks and are looking forward to the next four weeks with our moms and daughters.

If you would like to join us or know of a family who might be interested in participating, contact Elaine, the program coordinator at the YWCA #604.895-5760.

## ProMOTION Plus nominee **Roxy Abernethy** Receives Honourable Mention for Leadership in the **2006 Volunteer Vancouver Annual Volunteer Recognition Awards**

**Congratulations Roxy!** For over 35 years Roxy Abernethy has been an inspirational leader and a dedicated volunteer who continues to give extraordinary service and spends many hours weekly contributing to the community.

Roxy has been particularly motivating in bringing sport opportunities to Burnaby children regardless of their financial means. For 26 years she has enthusiastically promoted and worked diligently to ensure minor softball thrives for youth in Burnaby. Roxy served for 10 years as the president of Wesburn Softball association and a further 16 years with Burnaby Minor Softball Association where she has been president for 10 years and still currently holds the position.

Recipients of the Volunteer Recognition Award will be honoured at the gala ceremony on April 24, 2006 at the Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina. Visit: [www.volunteervancouver.ca](http://www.volunteervancouver.ca)

*WOMEN IN TORINO (con't from page 7)*

## BC WOMEN ATHLETES AT THE 2006 OLYMPICS GAMES IN TORINO, ITALY

### ALPINE SKIING

Emily Brydon, Fernie  
9th – Super Giant Slalom  
13th – Combined  
20th Downhill

Allison Forsyth, Nanaimo  
DNF – Women's downhill

Christina Lustenberger, Invermere  
DNF – Giant Slalom

### CURLING

Sandra Jenkins, Salmon Arm  
3rd (bronze medal) alternate for  
Shannon Kleibrink rink

Christine Keshen, Invermere  
3rd (bronze medal) playing lead for  
Shannon Kleibrink rink

### FIGURE SKATING

Mira Leung, Vancouver  
12th – Women's Final

Megan Wing, Vancouver  
11th – Ice Dance, Figure Skating

### FREESTYLE SKIING

Kristi Richards, Summerland  
7th – Moguls

### SNOWBOARDING

Alexa Loo, Richmond  
20th in qualifying – Parallel Giant Slalom

Mercedes Nicoll, Whistler,  
27th – Halfpipe

Maelle Ricker, Whistler  
4th – Snowboard Cross  
23rd Halfpipe

Erin Simmons, West Vancouver  
17th – Snowboard Cross

Dominique Vallee, Whistler  
19th – Snowboard Cross

### SPEED SKATING – SHORT TRACK

Alanna Kraus, Abbotsford  
2nd (silver medal) – 3,000-Metre Relay  
3rd – 500 metres quarterfinal

## BC WOMEN ATHLETES AT THE 2006 PARALYMPIC GAMES IN TORINO, ITALY

### ALPINE SKIING

Lauren Woolstencroft, Victoria

### WHEELCHAIR CURLING

Sonja Gaudet, Vernon

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