

An Olympic Week for Marshall School
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One day last November one mom from Marshall decided to make red toques for her 2 children to wear the night of the Olympic Torch Relay. Two toques suddenly turned into 33 for her children's classes at school, and then, suddenly, a storm surge of toque making swept over the town. Everywhere you looked people were knitting, crocheting, and sewing red toques for the students of Marshall School. In the end, 165 red toques (proudly displayed in Marshall's Place prior to the BIG DAY) were available to adorn the head of every student.

After months of preparation day 75 of the Olympic Torch Relay finally arrived. Marshall School started off the festivities by hosting a Mini Olympics from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. People (students, pre-schoolers and members of the community) were able to take in the movie Cool Runnings, and participate in face painting, skating, coloring, a hockey skills competition, street hockey, luge and human curling. Following the Mini Olympics people assembled in the gym to prepare for the arrival of the torch. As everyone left the gym, the Marshall Rec. Board gave each child a homemade toque, glow sticks, a glowing coke bottle and a flag. The excitement was unbelievable as people lined the street outside of the school. Each class had made banners displaying a variety of Olympic Events and the children held them up with pride.

The Olympic vehicles started rolling into town a little after 5:00 pm, closely followed by the Olympic Torch. The excitement was so contagious, and the people pumped so full of energy, that the sounds of the enthusiastic welcome could be heard from one end of town to the other. As the Torch passed Marshall School, the flame passed from one runner to another and the crowd erupted. Then the torch runners made their way down 2nd Ave. and turned onto Main Street, where they were welcomed with an equal amount of excitement by the townsfolk and people from the surrounding area who had come in for the occasion.

The torch made its way down to the Marshall Town Office where Chris Ross, (a former resident), was proudly waiting for the flame to pass onto his torch. As the flame passed from torch to torch fireworks arranged by the Rec. Board lit up the evening sky and Chris carried the torch down Main Street and onto Railway Ave on his way out of town.

After the torch made its way out of town, people were able to gather at the Legion Hall for hotdogs, hot chocolate, coffee and cupcakes provided by the Marshall Rec. Board. A tent full of Olympic Memorabilia had been set up and visitors were able to enter their names into a draw and place bids in a Silent Auction for an Olympic Fire Pit (donated by Jody Freimark). Bonfires were lit at the end of main street, the skating rink was open for public skating, and people had a great time mingling, visiting and enjoying the evening.

After her run, torchbearer Frances Grace Moagahas stopped by at the school for pictures and to allow the children and the community to look at and hold her torch. It was a very special moment for lots of children and adults.

The following two days were also special for the community as local resident Kevin MacIntyre, who had run with the torch through Lloydminster, stopped by to visit the school on Wednesday with his torch. Kevin went from class to class, allowing each child to have the chance to touch or hold the torch and have a photo taken. Then on Thursday Canadian Bobsleigh Olympian Christina Smith stopped by for a presentation. Christina participated in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and will be a colour commentator for CTV in the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

It was a wonderful and very memorable Olympic week for the children and townspeople of Marshall. Thanks to everyone who created the red toques for our children to show Canadian Spirit, and a special thanks to Frances, Kevin and Christina.