

AROUND THE RINGS



VANCOUVER VIEW - No.8

Vancouver: Showers 11°C / 3°C - Whistler: Snow 4°C / -1°C

FEBRUARY 27, 2010

The View from Here: A Vancouverite Looks at the Games

The 2010 Games have come and are almost gone.

What was it like: better, worse or exactly what I expected?

As a Vancouverite, I have to answer D, for all of the above.

It has been nothing less than fascinating to watch the evolution of the Vancouver Games and the city itself from a twinkle in the eyes of local amateur sports and tourism officials in the mid-1990s. It was then carried forward by Arthur Griffiths to win the national nod. Then Jack Poole, John Furlong and their team carried the torch internationally.

I wasn't in Prague on July 2, 2003, but at General Motors Place (aka Canada Hockey Place) where it erupted in jubilation when IOC president Jacques Rogge broke a brief silence to announce Vancouver had won.

The Bid Corporation became VANOC, the economy overheated and the first government construction bailout came. Near the end of the decade the economy cooled off.



(ATR)



Kyle Nissen of Canada floats in the air behind a snow Inukshuk during the men's Freestyle Skiing aerials final at Cypress Mountain.

(Getty Images)

PHOTO OF THE DAY

More government help for a Games that were supposed to be about sustainability.

Poole, Furlong and Premier Gordon Campbell promised transparency, but they opted not to follow the example set by Salt Lake 2002 when Mitt Romney took over and pledged openness.

VANOC is governed by an internal philosophy that says it doesn't want to be seen to be losing. Corporate communications or traditional Canadian hockey mentality? Take your pick. It made it more difficult to report, but a good reporter enjoys the challenge.

VANOC never did endear itself with the community after making lofty promises to guard the inner city

(cont' page 3)

Airport Olympic Official: Short Lines Monday

The head of Olympic planning for the Vancouver International Airport says travelers leaving March 1 can expect shorter lines than at past Olympics.

The day after the Games is expected to be the busiest day in airport history, with an estimated 39,000 passengers.

"There will be some lines but not the types you've seen at other games," says airport vice president Paul Levy.

Levy says a "5-4-3-2-1" countdown should provide some guidance for

departures the day after the Games close..

"At five hours ahead you should be going online and checking your flight. And if you have the ability to check in at the hotel you can do that" Levy said.

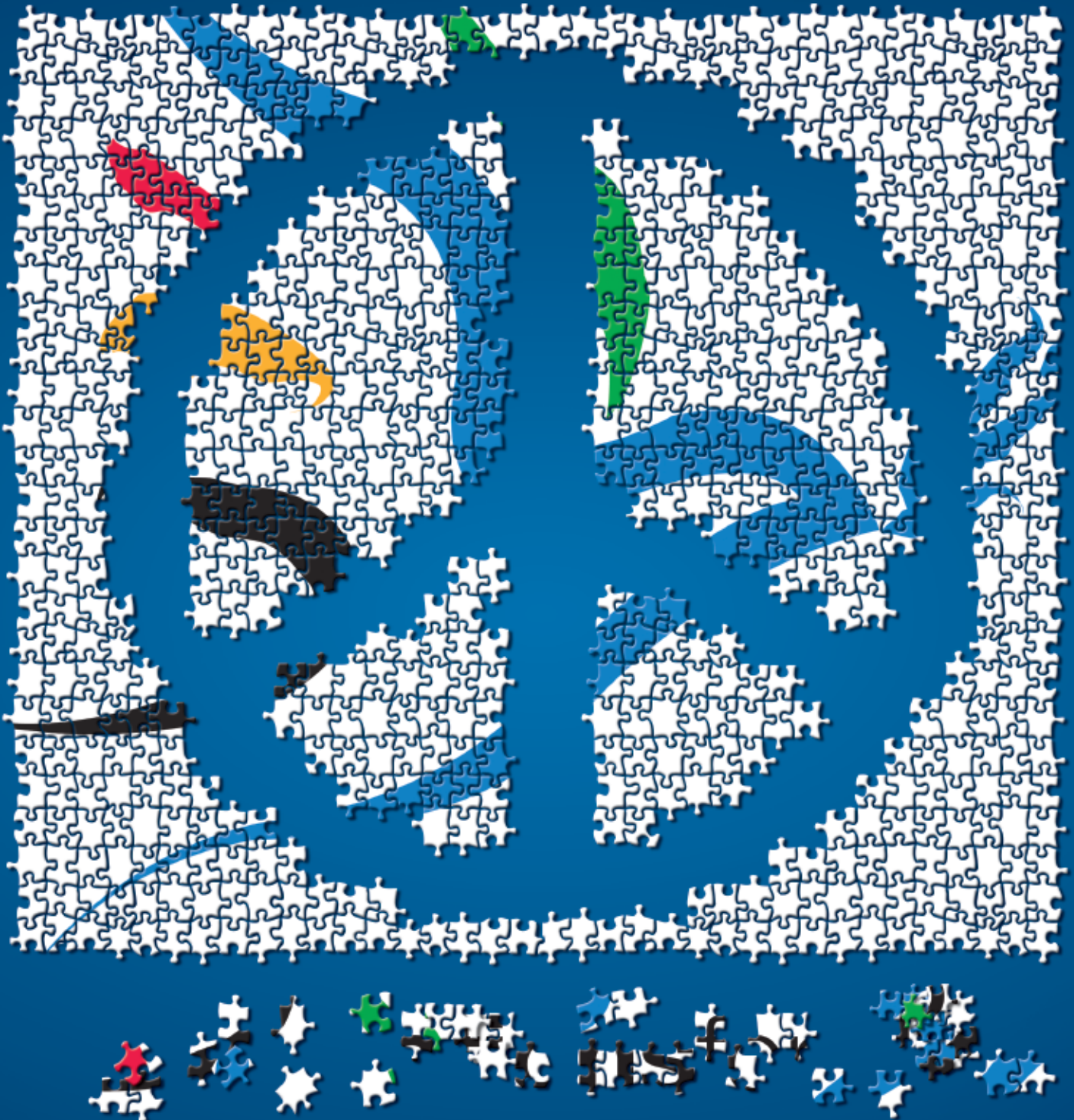
"At four hours you want to be at the airport. At three hours you want to be through your check in process. At two hours you want to be in the restricted side in the airport and at one hour you need to be at your gate prepared for boarding."

Staff has been reassigned to help cope with the flow of travelers.

(cont' page 3)



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Airport Departures: cont' from page 1

"We've taken upwards of 150 people out of what I would call their 'desk jobs' and they've been reassigned for the duration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to really be ambassadors" he said.

An auxiliary terminal will be used for the processing of around 10,000 passengers who will arrive via the VANOC bus network which serves accredited persons.

Vancouver's permanent terminal will be utilized for other passengers to ensure it remains "comfortable" for those passengers.

"This auxiliary terminal we put in place and it's just been completed a few weeks ago. It will make it a positive experience for everybody."

Additional security equipment was brought in to improve the flow of luggage following the Games.

Airlines are sending larger capacity planes than would normally fly the routes to handle the exodus.

Athletes, coaches and officials can check in at the Olympic Villages.

"We'll have airline representatives



(YVR B-roll archive)

who will handle about 3,000 departing guests" he said.

An added benefit to the Village check-ins is the flow of luggage. Luggage can be collected 24 hours ahead of flight time and brought to the airport. This will allow nearly 10000 pieces of luggage to be screened in off-peak hours.

More information at the airport website, <http://www.yvr.ca> +

ED HULA III



(read full article www.AroundTheRings.com)

The View from Here: cont' from page 1

of Vancouver from negative impacts of the Games.

Not until night fell on the opening day of the Games did Vancouverites embrace the Games.

They truly became Canada's Games on Feb. 14 when Alexandre Bilodeau broke the domestic gold jinx that dated back to Montreal 1976.

The costs of the Games were downplayed and the benefits inflated by politicians. Somewhere in between is the reality. Thanks to the challenging economy, the only gold the Games may leave here is hanging around the necks of Canadian athletes. But it

sparked a renewed sense of national pride and has ended forever the notion that Vancouver is North America's most notorious No Fun City.

They'll be known as the Bailout Games. But VANOC's ability to overcome weather, transportation and tragedy also means these will be the Resilient Games. +

Bob Mackin



(Getty Images)

Alexandre Bilodeau's gold made the Vancouver Olympics Canada's games, according to Mackin.

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COMING SOON TO CHINA

The Great Vancouver Walk-Off

The Final Steps Approach



With the end of the 2010 Winter Olympics just hours away, neither side is willing to declare or concede victory in the quest for gold in Olympic Walking.

Editor Ed Hula and Publisher Sheila Hula both insist the winner will be known only at the moment the Games end Sunday night when both cauldrons are extinguished at the closing ceremony.

The Great Vancouver Walk-off is the only competition that lasts all 17 days of the Games.


At the end of 15 full days of competition, the publisher maintains a commanding lead of 69.71 km to the editor's 26.3 despite taking a day off to nurse a hamstring injury.

"Any gains I make this weekend will be because I'm singing in the rain," the editor grouched, referring to the soggy forecast for the Olympic city.

Results will be published Monday at AroundTheRings.com. They will be verified via the VANOC-branded pedometers contained in kits for accredited media. +



(ATR)

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Everyone was envious of our silver parkas! They represented the months of stress and nail-biting deadlines that had led up to this moment. Standing on the main stadium stage, we cried with joy at our achievements of the past 15 days and sadness as Albertville's flame finally died.

Claire, France
Havas Sports & Entertainment
Associate Director



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U.S. Team and Vancouver



(left)
2008 Olympic
Silver Medal
Team

(below)
2008 Olympic
Bronze Medal
Team

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