

Nation Briefs

Olympic torch relay team holds training

VANCOUVER—With just over a month to go before the Olympic Torch will be ignited, the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay team conducted a training event on Wednesday in preparation for the real thing.

To get ready for the 106-day journey across Canada, some of the torch relay team members carried out a trial run in order to familiarize themselves with the roles they will play while on the road.

The training event, which caused brief road closures, took place in several B.C. communities including Hope, Chilliwack, and Abbotsford during business hours.

Although the torch was not lit, around 150 torchbearers, a large number of torch relay crew members, Olympic partners, and observers participated in the one-day training.

VANOC, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Games, did not encourage street spectator participation for the training. However, the organizers hoped that residents will turn out "to show their Olympic Spirit and Canadian pride when the Olympic Flame visits on February 7, 2010."

The torch relay will kick off in Victoria, B.C., on October 30, embarking on a 45,000-kilometre coast-to-coast-to-coast trip through 1,000 communities and places of interest. About 12,000 torchbearers will take part.

Ford Canada labour talks continue, key issue not met

TORONTO (Reuters)—Cost-savings talks between Ford Motor Co's Canadian subsidiary and the Canadian Auto Workers union continued on Wednesday, but the union said Ford had so far failed to address its key issue.

"We're having some detailed back and forth and some exchange of views regarding costs, future investment plans and that sort of thing," said Jim Stanford, the CAW's economist.

Stanford said, however, that Ford has still not addressed the CAW's main concern: that Ford guarantee a certain amount of its North American manufacturing footprint stay in Canada, as General Motors Co and Chrysler did in deals reached with the CAW in the spring.

"Ford has not remotely addressed this issue of the footprint," he said.

Chrysler said it would keep 20 percent of future North American production in Canada in return for union concessions that lowered its costs to around those of nonunionized Toyota and Honda plants in Canada.

The deals those companies struck with the union helped GM and Chrysler qualify for about \$14 billion in loans from the governments of Canada and the province of Ontario to help them survive the sharp industry downturn.



The Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, D.C. According to the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, the intended purpose of the memorial is "that the history of communist tyranny will be taught to future generations." PETER ALUNANS/VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Government agency wants name change for 'victims of communism' monument

By JOAN DELANEY
Epoch Times Staff

Plans for a monument in Ottawa to honour the millions who died at the hands of communist regimes around the world have run up against a roadblock.

Worried that a "Memorial to the Victims of Totalitarian Communism" might offend Canadian communists, the National Capital Commission (NCC) wants the name of the monument changed.

NCC board members were unhappy with the initial name of "Victims of Communism," says Alide Forstmanis of Tribute to Liberty, one of the groups working to bring the project to fruition.

"So we changed that to 'Victims of Totalitarian Communism' and they didn't accept that either."

The NCC, a government agency that oversees the use and development of national capital region land, has already approved the monument. But at a public meeting recently in Ottawa, several board members suggested changing the name to omit any mention of communism.

"I was unsettled by this name, and other members of the committee agreed with me," said Helene Grand-Maitre. "We should make sure that we are politically correct in this designation."

Adel Ayad said Canada has a communist party and communists might "not like" the memorial. "It's not communism itself that we should be fighting here. It is rather totalitarianism we should be against in any form."

However, in a teleconference with Tribute to Liberty last week, the NCC suggested "Canada: A Place of Refuge for Victims of Communism and Oppressive Regimes," saying this would better reflect the experience of all Canadians who have fled different forms of oppressive regimes.

"They wanted something broader," Forstmanis says. "But we don't like the addition of oppressive regimes—we want it to be specifically to victims of communism."

The NCC did not respond to a request for comment. Charlie Coffey, honorary chair of the memorial initiative, said in a press release that it's important to keep the focus of the monument solely on the crimes against humanity wrought by communism. "We often lose sight of the need to address particular historic

incidents because in doing so we might not address others. This is a mistake. The experience of people under oppressive communist regimes is of global import and has had profound implications for many, many Canadians. This needs to be highlighted."

As well as honouring the estimated 100 million people who died under communism around the world, the monument will serve as a thank-you to Canada for giving refuge to those escaping communist regimes since the first Mennonites fled Russia and came to Canada in the 1920s.

"We hope that a monument, as such, will create interest in learning about the nature of communism... maybe then people will understand how evil communism is," says Forstmanis.

The memorial has received support from a number of dignitaries including Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney. Kenney reaffirmed his support last Thursday during question period in the House, saying, "we stand in full solidarity with the coalition of over two dozen cultural communities in Canada who came to this country as refugees from totalitarian communist states."

"We take seriously these crimes. We believe their victims must be remembered and we must teach future generations so that these crimes are never again repeated."

The \$1.5 million needed to build the monument will be raised by private donations. "We aren't going after any government funds," says Forstmanis.

The details for a national competition to design the monument will be worked out between the NCC and the groups involved, with the unveiling expected to take place sometime in 2011.

A public announcement about the project will be made on Nov. 9, the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Forstmanis is optimistic that by then the NCC and the groups involved can agree on a name that accurately depicts what the memorial represents.

"We will get back to [the NCC] early next week and hopefully come to a very positive conclusion, because we can't lump communism in with something else. It's not that we say the others weren't bad, it's just that communism has lasted so long—it's still around, it's unique, it differs—and that's why it needs to be on its own."



Children release juvenile cutthroat trout into Guichon Creek on the BCIT Burnaby Campus on World Rivers Day. SCOTT MCALPINE, BCIT PHOTOGRAPHER

World Rivers Day: A B.C. initiative grows into a global event

By SANDY WU
Epoch Times Staff

VANCOUVER—Rivers and streams around the world will get some extra special attention on Sept. 27 when millions of people and thousands of organizations take part in World Rivers Day (WRD).

From Canada to Cameroon, England to South Africa, and Taiwan to Serbia, WRD participants will do their bit to dole out some TLC to their local waterways.

Now in its fifth year, WRD grew from B.C. Rivers Day which was founded in 1980 by Mark Angelo, WRD chair and chair of the Rivers Institute at British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Thanks to some extensive lobbying on Angelo's part, WRD has become an international grassroots event that is recognized by and receives support from UN agencies and other organizations involved in caring for and managing river eco-systems.

"I just think it's wonderful to see this event that started out as a B.C. event blossoming into this incredibly successful international celebration," Angelo says.

WRD activities include extreme clean ups, habitat enhancement programs, stream restoration initiatives, educational programs, and community riverside festivals and celebrations.

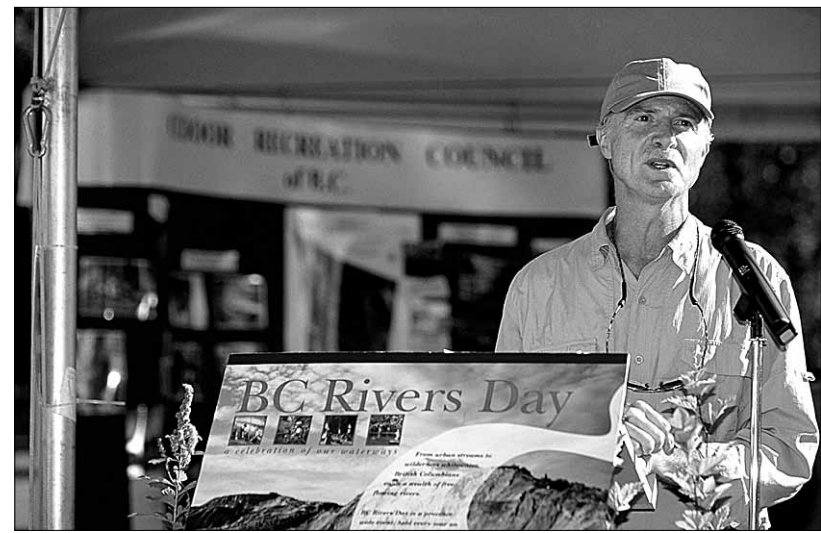
While the event provides an opportunity for people to get out and enjoy

their local waterways, it also helps raise awareness of the need to take better care of river ecosystems, Angelo says.

"It focuses on the many values of our rivers; it also creates greater awareness of some of the threats facing our rivers and helps encourage people to get more involved as river stewards."

The world's rivers, Angelo explains, face "an array of pressures—things like pollution, urbanization, a loss of streamside or riparian habitat, the excessive extraction of water, and the building of dams."

Angelo is also involved in compiling an annual "most endangered rivers list" for rivers in B.C. Topping that list this year is the Flathead River due to concerns about a controversial pro-



B.C. Rivers Day founder Mark Angelo speaks at World Rivers Day in Burnaby, B.C. SCOTT MCALPINE, BCIT PHOTOGRAPHER



2007 WRD participants haul off junk, including car parts and lawn chairs, they pulled from the Chilliwack River in B.C. SCOTT MCALPINE, BCIT PHOTOGRAPHER

posed open pit coal mine slated for the region.

The Flathead flows through southeastern B.C. into Montana and is considered one of North America's wildest and most beautiful waterways. The river supports important trans-boundary fish populations while also sustaining the highest density of inland grizzly bears anywhere in North America, Angelo says.

"The Flathead River is an amazing waterway worthy of protection. No other region along the Canada/U.S. border sustains such a diversity of wildlife and ecosystems."

World Rivers Day complements the United Nations Water for Life Decade, launched in 2005. The 10-year initiative aims to raise awareness of water

issues around the world and, by 2015, reduce by half the number of people who are unable to access or afford safe drinking water.

Angelo, who in 2001 received the Order of Canada for his environmental work, says the popularity and growth of WRD and the fact that activities are taking place in about three dozen countries bodes well for the future.

But there is much work to be done. "We still have a long way to go," he says.

"We have to look at our water resources as something that we have to do a better job of managing and caring for. I think we have to treat water with a greater amount of respect than we have in the past."

Mosquito-borne virus poses new health threat

CONTINUED FROM P1

Although native to the Southeast Asian tropics, the Asian tiger mosquito has adapted to cooler temperatures which allows it to live year-round in moderate climates. Currently the pest exists on every continent except Antarctica.

B.C.'s first indigenous human cases of West Nile occurred in British Columbia in August

when two people became infected. And last week, B.C. also confirmed its first locally acquired cases of West Nile virus in horses.

"This is not a surprising development," said Dr. Paul Kitching, chief veterinarian and branch director at B.C.'s Animal Health Centre. "British Columbia has long anticipated the arrival of West Nile virus, and now

it's in multiple regions of the province."

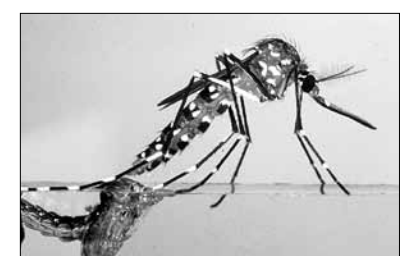
Kitching said in a press release that of all large land mammals, horses are particularly susceptible to West Nile.

"There are West Nile virus vaccines for horses, and horse owners should talk to their vets about getting their animals immunized."

There is no vaccine, treatment,

medication, or cure for either Chikungunya or West Nile in humans. In serious cases, doctors focus on relieving the symptoms and preventing secondary infections.

In Canada, 42 people have died from West Nile since 2002. West Nile in humans has been documented in every province in the country except for the Territories and the Atlantic provinces.



The Chikungunya virus, carried by the Asian tiger mosquito, has spread beyond Africa, and since 2005 has caused outbreaks and numerous fatalities in India and the French island of Reunion. It has also surfaced in France and Italy. JACK LEONARD/NEW ORLEANS MOSQUITO AND TERMITE CONTROL BOARD/GETTY IMAGES

4 PUZZLES IN PEACE
Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the graphic below

VOLUNTEER
Baltic
Mediterranean
Caspian
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SOLUTION ON P7