



ALBERTA SKI JUMPING
& NORDIC COMBINED



Update – January 18

January 20 - The Olympic Flame Arrives in Calgary!

- 8:00 – Our own Erik Neilsen will carry the Olympic Torch, representing Ski Jumping Canada. Erik is a well-loved part of our community, having volunteered – usually as an excellent hill marker - since the 1988 Olympics.
- Eric will carry the torch down 17 Avenue SW between 26 and 28 Street for approximately 300 meters
- Look for Eric's torchbearer number (OTR083-007) on a bright orange route marker that will be placed at the start of his relay segment. This is the best place for us to come and cheer him on!
- 7:30 to 8:55 a.m. - \$2 Pancake breakfast and live band (Matt Blais Band) at COP to welcome the torch
- 8:55 to 9:45 a.m. - Olympic Flame arrives at COP
- The Flame will begin its visit to the Park at the top of the Olympic Track and be carried down in a bobsleigh reaching speeds surpassing 120 km/hr.
- From the bobsleigh finish line, the Flame will be carried to the main ski hill and ride up the Legacy Express Chairlift where it will then be passed on to a snowboarding athlete who will criss-cross down COP's 22-foot half pipe back to the base of the hill.
- The Flame will then journey to the Frank King Olympic Visitors Centre where it will light COP's Olympic Cauldron and stay lit through a brief formal presentation, after which the Flame will then be carried out of the Park and on its way out of Calgary.
- 10:00 a.m. to noon - Picture station with torch, interactive activities including outdoor curling, hockey, ice sculpting and giant card signing at COP
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Free access to Olympic Hall of Fame and Museum
- 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. - COP discounts on programs and hill tickets
- Around 4:30 pm on Wednesday, January 20, the Olympic Torch will have made its way to the Canmore Nordic Centre.
- There, Yukon de Leeuw, Alex Barton and Matt Rowley will cross-country ski with the torch so head out to Canmore to cheer them on!

January 21 – Canadian Olympic Ski Jumping Team will be Announced!

- The Official Announcement of Canada's Ski Jumping Team competing in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games will take place at The Olympic Hall of Fame on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 1 p.m. (Located to the left as you walk in the main foyer at COP)
- All are encouraged to attend to show your support for Canada's Ski Jumping Team!

January 23 – Go a See Ski Jumping Film Starring Katie Willis

- Katie was involved in the making of an animated short film about ski jumping; it is called "Fight for Flight". It is being screened along with 6 other short films in a show called "Athletes in Motion" at the One Yellow Rabbit High Performance Rodeo Jan. 23 at 2pm.
- ***Fight For Flight***
"In this animated short film, filmmakers Cam Christensen and Nicole Mion explore the question, "How does it feel to fly?" capturing the remarkable world of 18-year-old Calgary ski jumper Katie Willis, known for her fight against the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the right for women to compete at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games."
- One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo Festival will present the screening. It will take place at The Uptown Stage and Screen, 612-8th Avenue. SW, Calgary on **Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 2:00 pm**. The event will be followed by an informal reception with Bravo! FACT executive director, **Judy Gladstone**.
If you would like to purchase tickets, please go to <http://tickets.epcorcentre.org/single/selectSeating.aspx?p=954> or <http://www.hprodeo.ca/lineup>

January 31 - Reminder to all: The Altius Open was postponed because of poor snow conditions last weekend and has been rescheduled to Sunday, January 31, 2010.

Katie Willis Retires

Dear Ski Jumping Canada Board,

This letter is to inform you that I will be retiring from the sport of ski jumping. In my ten years in this sport I have grown as a person and developed many life lessons from meeting new people and encountering new experiences. Right from the beginning with my first leap into the air, I was hooked; and I've never looked back. I have dedicated my life to this sport and sacrificed much to become a great athlete. I have put many hours into becoming a ski jumper but every one I cherish. I am leaving this sport with no regrets. I am only grateful for all of the experiences I was able to have and the accomplishments I was able to achieve. The coaches, team-mates, friends and volunteers I have met in this sport will forever impact who I am and who I will become. I will always be able to look back on the amazing memories of traveling the world and competing internationally for the rest of my life.

I am thankful to Ski Jumping Canada for their support on giving me the opportunity to make a presence in the ski jumping world and travel and train. I am highly appreciative of their continuous support and I am proud of what we built our Women's team to be. I hope we can sustain this momentum for future women.

I participated in the effort to get Women's Ski Jumping into the Olympics because I believed in it so passionately. I hope I was able to represent ski jumping in a positive manner.

I have now come to a point in my life where I wish to pursue a different life path. I am planning to go to school in the fall and I look forward to new possibilities in my life. I am immensely grateful for my time in this sport and I wish you the best of luck in the coming years.

Sincerely,
Katie Willis

Hi Katie,

On behalf of the Altius Nordic Ski club, I would like to thank you for all you have done in the advancement of the sport of women's ski jumping in our club. You are a pioneer in our sport by being one of the first ladies to lead us into the international arena. Your hard work and courage has opened the door for the next generation of girls that will represent our club and country into the future. You must be proud of what you have accomplished in the sport of ski jumping by getting to the highest level that is available to women. As you move your focus away from the sport to the future I believe you will continue to be very successful.

I invite you to stay involved with the sport by volunteering in our local competitions and supporting the young ladies in our club that walk down the path you opened up for them.

The Altius ski club also wants to thank your parents Jan and Ken for the support they have given to you and the sport of ski jumping. They have been deeply involved with competition, boards, etc and done what ever had to be done to support you and our wonderful sport of ski jumping in Canada. I welcome them to both stay involved with the club as much as they feel possible.

Ian Mitchell
President
Altius Nordic Ski Club

Olympic Updates

- From February 10 to 24, I will be in Whistler, where I will attend ski jumping and nordic combined competitions, take photos, interview members of our community and send Updates to this email list.
- If you are at home or at the games and have anything you would like to share with our community, send it to me and I will publish it. During the last Olympics in Torino, athletes, parents and spectators sent in their observations and stories and, for all of us at home, it made us feel like part of the experience.

Olympic Cell-phone list

- During the games there may be activities/events that you could be invited to or information you have that others need.
- Though I'm sure the VANOC volunteers will have a cell phone list, there will be many of us there who are not on the volunteer list. If you wish to be included, please send me your cell phone number including area code and whether you would like to be on a list for general distribution or only on a master list.

DISPATCH

In Praise of Female Athletes Who Were Told No

BRAD CRAN

For the fifteen female ski jumpers petitioning to be included
<http://www.geist.com/dispatch/praise-female-athletes-who-were-told-no>