



FLASHING BACK TO 1969 FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAMES

"Look Out World!" was the rallying cry splashed across front pages and echoed by thousands who gathered to celebrate the first Canada Summer Games held in 1969 in Halifax-Dartmouth.

Most remember August 1969 as the Summer of Love, but for the people of Halifax-Dartmouth and our country's best young athletes, it was all about sport, as records were set, goals were realized and new dreams took flight. The impact is still felt in the '69 Games venues, like Centennial Pool, Huskies Stadium and Beazley Field.

This past August marked the 40th anniversary of the 1969 Games. In honour of the milestone, the Halifax 2011 Canada Games Host Society, in partnership with The Chronicle Herald, NewCap Radio and the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, celebrated the past and heralded the future by hosting events at the Halifax and Dartmouth Ferry Terminals on August 13th. Visitors to the Halifax terminal were sent on a trip back in time through archival video and photo exhibits, memorabilia displays, and classic 1969 tunes that paid tribute to the legacies of the 1969 Games. On the Dartmouth side, music, videos and our friendly 2011 staff and volunteers were on site to greet commuters and passers-by, spreading the word and the excitement about the upcoming 2011 Games. Photos from the event have been posted on our flickr site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/canadagames2011/>.

Jean Paul Deveau, chair of the 2011 Games Board of Directors, recalled a childhood dream that took shape at those Games: "In 1969, I was an 11-year-old boy watching Nova Scotia win the men's war canoe final from the shores of Lake Banook, Ever since then, I've been looking forward to seeing the excitement of the Games return to my hometown. That dream will finally be realized in 2011 when Halifax hosts the Canada Winter Games."

1969 Games participant, Judi Rice, who was one of over 20 1969 alumni to attend the event along with hundreds of visitors of all ages, recalled the moment when she entered Saint Mary's Huskies Stadium for the opening ceremonies with Team Nova Scotia.

"It was surreal," she said. "I remember Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Premier Robert Stanfield were there. Team Nova Scotia was introduced and the crowds were cheering so loudly. We were all so proud to host and be part of the first Summer Games."

Ms. Rice is one of several former athletes whose 1969 Games stories is featured in a special 1969 section of 2011 Games website, which can be found at www.canadagames2011.ca/1969games. The site also features a "virtual flashback" of archival photos and videos from the historic event.

The Halifax Regional Municipality marked the special occasion by proclaiming Aug. 15th-22nd and 23rd-29th Canada Games Weeks and flying the Canada Games flag outside City Hall, paying tribute to the history of 1969 Games and heralding the city's next Games in 2011.