



Comox Valley Minor Hockey Assn.



Comox Valley Economic Development  
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**Nǐ hǎo! Hej! Women's Hockey Teams Faceoff in Comox**

***China and Sweden National Teams Schedule Final Vancouver 2010 Warm Up Exhibition Game in the Comox Valley***

**Comox Valley, Vancouver Island** – On February 7, 2010, Comox Valley will play host to two of the top women's hockey teams that will face-off during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Currently ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the world according to the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), Sweden will take on 7<sup>th</sup> ranked China at the Comox Valley Regional District's Sports Centre. Tickets go on sale today at the Sid Williams Theatre box office and will cost \$20.10. The game will be played under IIHF rules and the puck will drop at 12:30 pm, doors open at 11 am.

The 2006 Swedish team won Silver at the Olympics in Torino, and placed fourth at the 2009 Women's World Ice Hockey Championships in Finland. China's best finish at an Olympic competition was fourth in 1998; in that same tournament Sweden placed fifth.

"We are very excited to showcase Olympic-calibre hockey in our own backyard as part of our Spirit of BC Week celebrations," said Susan Kelsey, Chair, Comox Valley Spirit of BC Community Committee. "It's another terrific opportunity for our community to be a part of the Olympics."

Comox Valley Minor Hockey Association President Simon Morgan said the hosting of the two teams allows them to further their mandate, "By hosting these two teams our members see these elite players perform, as well as it provides an opportunity to hold coaching clinics which is incredible for both our players and coaches."

Additionally, an open public practice will be held at the sports centre by the two teams on February 6, 5:30 pm, tickets \$5 at the Sid, doors open at 5 pm. "We've always know we have excellent recreation facilities like the CVRD's sports centre, and it's gratifying to see that the international athletic community is recognizing that too," said Paul Ives, Chair of the Comox Valley Sports Commission, Mayor Town of Comox.

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SPORT

Peter Elander, head coach for the Sweden Women's Olympic Hockey team described the decision to bring his team to the Comox Valley over other BC training destinations as the clear choice, "Susan Kelsey and Darryl Pippin provided an excellent, in-depth tour of the area's sport facilities and accommodation options. With our team staying at Crown Isle Resort and playing Team China, we know we'll have a productive training experience in the Comox Valley before competing at Vancouver 2010."

Crown Isle Resort and Golf Community is one of several event Gold Sponsors. Another is the Kingfisher Oceanside Resort and Spa, who will be welcoming the Sweden Women's Team to the resort for a spa and dining experience, "It's not often we have the opportunity to welcome International athletes to our property. We are thrilled to be able to provide them some rest and relaxation before they compete at Vancouver 2010," said Mike O'Hara, General Manager, Kingfisher Oceanside Resort and Spa. The China Women's team will be enjoying a stay at the Old House Village Hotel and Spa.

The Exhibition Game is one of several facets of the 2010 Comox Valley Spirit of BC Week events. Game day will also see bobsled races, a pancake breakfast and entertainment provided by Vancouver Island MusicFest and KidsFest.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses looking to affiliate themselves with this high calibre sporting event. For details contact Geoff Crawford, Comox Valley Economic Development, (250) 334-2427 x 225.

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#### **BACKGROUNDER:**

Leveraging Olympic opportunities has been one of the key areas of focus for the Comox Valley in partnership with Comox Valley Economic Development, the Comox Valley Spirit of BC Community Committee, Mount Washington Alpine Resort and other destination and community partners.

The announcement of the game is the latest of several from the Comox Valley's Olympic efforts, which continues to attract International sporting organizations to the Valley to train, and now compete, during the lead up to the 2010 Games. Thirty-three different teams, from fourteen nations, have already chosen the Comox Valley as their Olympic training site.

The mandate of the Comox Valley Spirit of BC Community Committee is to ensure that the whole of the Comox Valley work together to leverage Olympic and non-Olympic community opportunities in the areas of sport & recreation, arts & culture, tourism, trade & investment, procurement, literacy and volunteerism.

The Committee was the only Vancouver Island committee to send representatives to the 2006 Torino Winter Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. Lead by former Olympian Susan Kelsey, the committee has held several Spirit of BC Week events and was instrumental in the development of the initial support and plans around the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre. The Committee has also played an instrumental role in National Olympic Committee Teams attraction, and on November 2 hosted the Olympic Torch Relay as it visited the entire Comox Valley region.

The Comox Valley Minor Hockey Associations mandate is promote amateur ice hockey , provide its members with opportunities and training for self development, leadership and sportsmanship and to stimulate inter club competition and competition with other communities.

#### **For media opportunities:**

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#### **For tickets:**

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