

DAN'S TORCH RUN

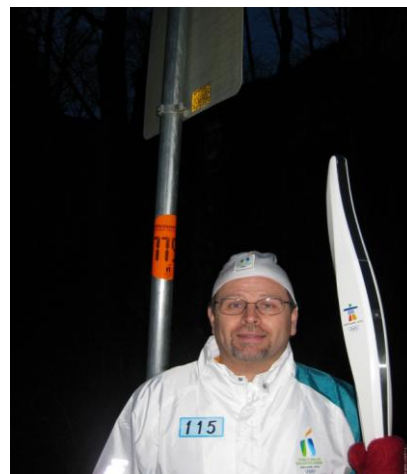
By Wendy Bruce



On a cloudy late morning of February 4, 2010, we drove up on Hwy 99 to Squamish, where Dan LeCours, my partner, was going to run a 300 m with the Olympics torch at around 5:45 pm. It was his second time to run with a torch which is a feat few people did.

Dan's mother, sister, two nephews, along with his aunt, came along. We stopped at the famous B.C. Museum of Mining at Britannia Beach for lunch. Afterwards, we went to see the famous Railway Heritage Park train site in Squamish as well.

We first went to see Dan's sign (#115) on Stawamus road. Then, we went up to the meeting place at Brennan Park where all the torchbearers gathered and met other Deaf people. Dan learned about the torch and the techniques of how to hold it with an interpreter. Once the meeting was over, I had to drive Dan's SUV back to the street. We were ready to cheer him on. We waited for an hour or so, and finally we saw the vehicles.



Dan got out of the bus and he was so excited. We took some pictures before the torchbearer (#114) came. The interpreter, Jane, was there to interpret what the man with the bicycle was saying. He turned the ignition on. The #114's torch passed the flame to Dan's torch then Dan started to run.



I took some pictures then I had to run along him (whoa.... hey, not too fast!) Click! Click! Breathing fast! He was so goose bumped. He smiled and waved to crowds on the sidewalk. Gee... already over??? It was way shorter than his 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics torch run. He passed the flame to #116 and they made a circle.



The man had to turn the torch off then Dan had to return to the bus. I had to drive the family back to the community celebration at Brennan Park. I was very proud of Dan as his girlfriend and his number one fan. It was so special and I was elated that I did not miss this opportunity because I had to take some time off work to see him carrying the torch.

We got so hungry at around 8 pm then we went to a restaurant where Jane's friend works. Gulp! Gulp! Ahhh -- felt good.



Time to go home so I drove back to Vancouver for Dan as he was overwhelmed. During some of the highway, there are stacks of yellow sticks and it was annoying to steer through. When approaching to the city, we could see beams of lights glowing up. Beautiful to see at the end of the journey.

Overall, it was so magnificent and exhilarating seeing the Olympics flame and Dan being a two-time torchbearer.