

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## BEIJING BOUND FRASER VALLEY ATHLETES TO BE RECOGNIZED IN PUBLIC CELEBRATION

June 26, 2008, ABBOTSFORD - A region-wide celebration of Olympic and Paralympic athletes bound for the summer Games in Beijing, China, is coming to Abbotsford. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, community members from throughout the Fraser Valley area will gather at Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford to celebrate their hometown heroes who have earned the right to represent Canada. This event is being coordinated by PacificSport Fraser Valley, in partnership with Canadian Sport Centre Pacific, the City of Abbotsford and neighbouring municipalities.

"The Fraser Valley area is home to a large contingent of elite athletes heading to the Beijing Games," says Linda Palm, General Manager, PacificSport Fraser Valley. "We're delighted to create this opportunity for the regional communities to recognize and celebrate these worthy athletes. Years of training, hard work and dedication are all part of the formula for athletes to get to this point in their career. To see what these athletes have accomplished is very inspiring. I encourage families and community members young and old to come out and give our Fraser Valley athletes a grand send-off!"

More than twenty athletes from Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Mission, Maple Ridge, Langley and Surrey will compete in the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic games this summer. Equally impressive is the vast range of sports represented – from modern pentathlon, swimming and para equestrian to field hockey, softball, whitewater kayaking and BMX which is making its first appearance at the Olympic Games.

The Beijing Bound Rally is open to the general public. The event will take place at Abbotsford's Mill Lake Park near the Centennial Pool. The festivities will kick off with a pancake breakfast at 9:00 am, followed by the official ceremony at 10:00 am. The event will also include entertainment, sport demonstrations, sport information booths, free giveaways and autograph opportunities with the athletes. Partial proceeds from the pancake breakfast and t-shirt sales will go towards the Fraser Valley Sport Fund, a fund created to assist local athletes in their pursuit of excellence.

For a complete listing of BC athletes heading to the Olympic and Paralympic summer games visit [www.cscpacific.ca](http://www.cscpacific.ca).

### **PacificSport – Powering Sport Performance**

*The network of PacificSport Centres, in partnership with Canadian Sport Centre Pacific, delivers sport performance programs to help athletes and coaches win medals for Canada. Working in support of our national, provincial and regional sport partners PacificSport is creating a stronger system for the development of athletes, coaches, performance enhancement teams and sport performance facilities.*

[www.pacificsport.com](http://www.pacificsport.com)

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