

## **Olympic Torch Relay Penticton Celebrations Committee**

### **Susie Welch Local Torchbearer Biography**



A student from Okanagan College and graduate of Princess Margaret Secondary School in Penticton has been selected by the Olympic Torch Relay Penticton Celebrations Committee as the local torchbearer for the January 25<sup>th</sup> (Day 88) Celebrations of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

Susie Welch is an active young woman who contributes to her community through her involvement in sports and volunteerism. As a youth, she represents the best of what we would hope for our future and an example for other young people to emulate. Susie demonstrates a positive and caring attitude for those around her in her everyday activities. Her commitment to helping others is impressive, and also genuine. It is part of who she is. The alignment between how Susie views the world and how she lives her life bespeaks the integrity within her.

Susie also treats others with trust and respect. She is always kind, considerate and encouraging, helping individuals realize their full potential. As one of her high school teachers describes, "Susie is helpful, enthusiastic and friendly to everyone she meets. She gives back to the community through service." Her nominees have recognized her passion for school, her commitment to her community and her spirit of citizenship. She doesn't just witness what is taking place around her, she gets involved.

She is a living example of the philosophy of "paying it forward" within the youth of our community. Susie says that by helping others, she is thanking those who have helped her. She is an inspiration in her school and her community. She has been actively engaged within the community, volunteering with Ironman Canada, the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life, 10 Thousand Villages, West Bench Elementary School events, the Rotary Okanagan International Children's Festival and so much more.

Ms. Welch demonstrates many of the core values of 2010 Legacies Now. She acts with integrity in her daily life; she treats those around her with trust and respect; and she practices teamwork and collaboration in achieving her goals.

Welch is currently participating in the kinetics program at Okanagan College – Penticton Campus.

The Olympic flame arrives in Penticton January 25<sup>th</sup> on day 88 of the Torch Relay. As a designated Celebration Community, Penticton is one of 189 communities who will be hosting a large scale special event in celebration of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games when the torch arrives in our city.

Penticton will be host to a 4-hour celebration event, starting at 12 noon, which will feature and highlight the connections between sport, culture, heritage, and the arts which showcases the best that Penticton has to offer. The theme of the event is Penticton's Olympic Opening Ceremonies and Cultural Olympiad Celebrations.

Susie will be handed the torch about 300-metres from the South Okanagan Events Centre and will be on stage to light the portable cauldron at about 1:15 pm – plan to be at the South Okanagan Events Centre by 12 noon to be part of all of the excitement!

For more local information, please contact:  
**Lori Mullin - City of Penticton Recreation Supervisor**  
**Tel: 250-490-2432**

**Lorraine Renyard – Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce Manager**  
**Tel: 250-492-4103**

**Barb Sheppard – Olympic Torch Relay – Penticton Celebrations Coordinator**  
**Tel: 250-490-8316**