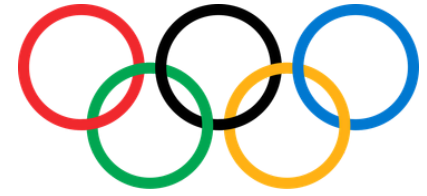


PRESCOTT
EST 1784
THE FORT TOWN



Did You Know...

Canada hosted its first Olympic event in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 1976. Being the first, the event drew fanfare from Canadians everywhere. In anticipation of large crowds, it was decided by the IOC (International Olympic Committee), and the COC (Canadian Olympic Committee) to create two torch bearing celebrations, the first in Olympic History.

The torch relay was divided into three sections. The first started on July 13th, 1976, and went from Mount Olympus to Athens arriving on July 15th. Unlike other events which saw the Olympic touch be transported by ship to the destination of that year's Olympics, an invention was created using satellite sensors to light the urn stationed at Ottawa.

The second relay was held on July 15th, 1976, immediately following the lighting of the urn in Ottawa. It spanned from Parliament Hill, Ottawa, to Mount Royal, Montreal. The final portion of the second relay saw track athletes Sandra Henderson and Stephane Prefontaine carry the Olympic torch to the Olympic Cauldron at Mount Royal. This would be the first time in Olympic history that two torch bearers carried the torch to the Olympic Cauldron, which was done to represent the two official languages spoken in Canada.

The torch had a day's rest before being transported by car to start the third relay to cap off the Olympic celebrations. Starting at Cornwall the Olympic torch traveled an additional 200 KM from Cornwall, Ontario, to Kingston Ontario, on the Number 2 Highway. In anticipation of the torch passing through Prescott, many residents and visitors from both sides of the border numbering around 5000 gathered at Fort Wellington. In the early afternoon of July 17th, the torch officially reached Prescott, being carried by local resident Tom Campbell. As he arrived at the Fort, he was greeted by a volley from one of the Fort's cannons, which was followed by a trumpet fanfare by the Chaparrelle Brass of Ogdensburg and musket volley of the Fort Wellington Guard.



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Open 11 - 5, Wednesday to Saturday**





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Did You Know...

On reaching the stage, set on the field at Fort Wellington, he first lit a ceremonial torch that was presented to Mayor Pat Kingston, which is now on display at the Prescott Museum and Visitor Center. Made from aluminum, there were only 1250 torches manufactured for the Summer Games. Tom Campbell then touched his torch to the Olympic urn.

An official ceremony took then place, which included a short address by Pat Kingston, after which he was presented with a piece of stone from Mount Olympus on behalf of the mayors of Greece. This rock is also on display at the museum. After the conclusion of the ten-minute ceremony, runner Geof LeClair of Prescott lit his torch from the urn and was serenaded out of the fort field by the brass band and a volley of muskets. Mr. LeClair then proceeded on the next leg of the relay westward.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, a barbeque for the visitors was held on the fort field. Special guests at the ceremony included the mayor of Ogdensburg, Joseph Denny, Canadian MP Walker Baker, and Ontario MPP Don Irvine. The third relay concluded on the evening of July 17th, in Kingston which was the venue for the Olympic sailing events.

Across Ontario and Quebec, the story of the Olympic Torch Relay of 1976 was a major event in the history of sporting events within Canada as well as being one of the first major events since Expo 67 to present the culture and history of Canada on a global scale



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