

CLA Celebrates a Season of Excellence at Annual General Meeting in Whistler



Athletes, coaches, volunteers, race officials, sponsors and potential corporate partners gathered in Whistler, June 11-12, to celebrate a season of excellence while launching a new era for the Canadian Luge Association on Canada's West Coast.

During the official annual meeting, the Board of Directors elected World Cup medallist and Olympian, Tyler Seitz, as the new vice-president of Olympic luge. The Canadian Luge Association was also proud to welcome back Ron Stitt (Treasurer); Rick McMurray (Director of Events); and Fiona Sutton (Director of Officials), who were all re-elected for another term. Other

The weekend-event was capped off with a private gala dinner with the luge community, along with potential corporate partners and government representatives on the West Coast to celebrate a historic season where Alex Gough became the first Canadian luge athlete to win a World Cup race, win a World Championship medal and to win multiple medals on the World Cup.

Canadian Luge Association president, Ed Moffatt, announced the Whistler Sliding Centre will play host to a World Cup event in 2011-12 season, and will welcome the top athletes in the world for the 2012-13 World Championships.

Innsbruck to Host Inaugural Youth Olympic Winter Games - Team Relay Event for the first time on Olympic stage

A total of 1,058 young Olympians from more than 70 countries, 63 medal events, 15 disciplines in seven sports - these bare facts will be injected with life at the inaugural Youth Olympic Winter Games to take place in Innsbruck (AUT) on January 13-22, 2012. It will also mark the Olympic debut for a luge team relay event.

The Youth Winter Olympic Games introduce a new concept within the spirit of Olympic Games. They are intended for young athletes ages 14-18. In addition to the sporting events the International Olympic Committee has created a so-called "Cultural and Educational Programme" (CEP) that is themed on the needs and interests of young athletes and shall guarantee intercultural learning. The mixture of sports and culture shall promote the young athletes in their sports career as well as encourage their interest in Olympic values.

A total of 70 young luge athletes are eligible (20 girls, 20 boys and 15 doubles) to compete. A maximum of six young talents (two girls, two boys, two doubles) per federation are allowed to compete. The luge events will presumably take place in Innsbruck-Igls, January 15-17, 2012.

Alexander Resch of Germany, 2002 Olympic champion in the doubles' together with his partner Patric Leitner, will represent the FIL and thus act as "role model" in luge.

Two-time Olympic medallist in cross-country skiing, Beckie Scott, will serve as Canada's Chef de Mission.

www.innsbruck2012.com

Alex Gough Addresses Class of 2011 at National Sport School



photograph by Eric Mackenzie

Alex Gough returned to where it all began at the National Sport School where she addressed the Class of 2011 as they prepared for the next stage of their career.

An honour student at the National Sport School, Gough reflected on the critical role the school played in providing her the tools to balance the complexities of life - let alone that of being a high-performance athlete and academic.

Recognizing the stressful and scary time a Grade 12 graduation brings for young people, Gough said this is not the end. If you look at her story - you will see it is just the beginning, and a big amazing world awaits you.

It is a story that is now well-documented. Since graduation she has climbed from the bottom of the international rankings to the most accomplished slider Canada has ever had. Last year she became the first Canadian to win a World Cup luge race, the first Canadian to win a World Championship medal, and the first Canuck to reach the World Cup podium on multiple occasions.

Always a talented student, Gough said it was the risk she took to chase her Olympic dream and strive for excellence in the sport rather than do what came natural to her in her studies that made her a better athlete.

Reflecting on her path, Gough told the Class she is proof we are all capable of success in whatever path you choose. To set your goals big, and exceed them!

But the path to the top is not easy. Gough encouraged the Class of 2011 to not be afraid to put themselves in some of the best and toughest environment. To continue to dream and use the tools you have learned at the National Sport School to meet the significant challenges that you will face.

Afterall, it is clear Gough has learned taking on the tougher road in life has become much more valuable.

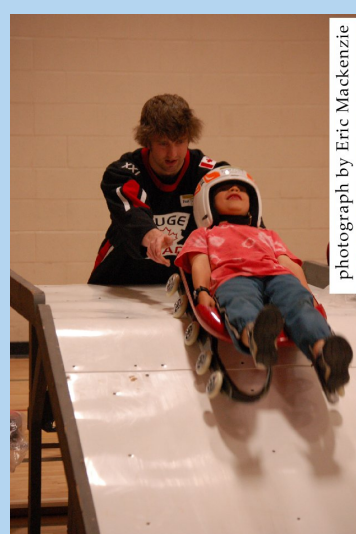
National Luge Team Slides into Whistler Schools



Canada's national team athletes kicked off the Canadian Luge Association's Annual General Meeting weekend extravaganza by sliding into the community to introduce nearly 600 youth at Whistler-based schools to the sport of luge.

In the presentation coined "The Legacy is in your Backyard - Don't Miss the Opportunity," Canada's Olympians urged the next generation of sport heroes to get involved and live healthier and more active lives through sport.

In addition to getting photos and autographs, the kids had the opportunity to learn about the luge equipment while taking their first run down the start ramp on a wheel sled.



photograph by Eric Mackenzie

"This is where luge starts - by hopping on a sled and going down one of these little ramps that we bring to the schools," said two-time Olympian Jeff Christie. "It is about having fun, learning to enjoy the sport. We really just want to get the message across to the kids to just come out, have fun and give it a try."

The Whistler Sliding Centre will host two luge recruitment camps this summer, while the Canadian squad will return the world-leading venue in the fall for training.

Searching for the Next Canadian Luger



The Canadian Luge Association is targeting its next generation of luge athletes with Recruitment Camps in Calgary and Whistler over the spring and summer months.

Athletes will receive an introduction to the sport of luge, and its equipment, prior to participating in a series of dry-land physical testing exercises to showcase agility, flexibility and all-around athletic ability. The day will culminate with a wheel luge sliding session to build a familiarity on the luge sled.

Camp coaches will be looking for athletes ages 8-14, with strong overall fitness, and who demonstrate a keen interest in sport and a willingness to learn.

Cost: \$30/person

Register at www.luge.ca

Summer 2011 Recruitment Camp Dates:

Calgary:
 August 13 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 August 27 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 September 10 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Whistler:
 July 16 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 August 27 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 September 17 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Grant Albrecht Returns to Guide Next Generation of Luge Athletes



The Canadian Luge Association has recruited three-time Olympian, Grant Albrecht, back to the national program where he will take on the role of Alberta Development Coach.

Albrecht, whose best Olympic finish was 10th in men's doubles, was coaching the World Cup and Olympic Team in Norway over the last three years.

Albrecht will now concentrate his efforts on grooming Canada's next generation of Olympians in elite competition while working with kids ages 12-to-16.