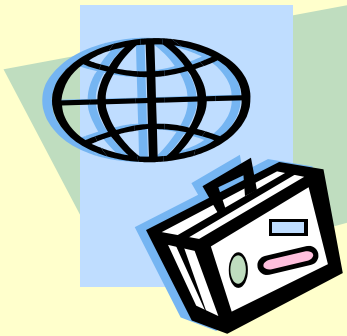




What Travel Writers Say Newsletter

www.whattravelwriterssay.com

Outward Bound: Mike Keenan



Two months ago, I returned from The Travel Media Association of Canada's AGM/Conference in Richmond, B.C. Richmond boasts an attractive international airport, complete with beautiful pieces of indigenous art that will be the first items that athletes encounter when arriving for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The trip was not only pleasurable but profitable. I was fortunate to win the travel writing award sponsored by London, Ontario, netting me \$3000 which I quickly applied to my good friend, Mr. Nikon, to bolster a collection of camera lenses for picture taking.

While in B.C., I toured all of the Olympic facilities; you may find published articles at www.whattravelwriterssay.com featuring Richmond's oval skating rink, Vancouver's new hockey rink, and Whistler's Nordic and Alpine events both at Whistler and in the nearby drop-dead gorgeous Callaghan Valley.

The 2010 Olympics will be a test of the "own the podium" initiative Canadians have employed since the 1988 Calgary Olympics (Wow; were did the time go?), and judging by

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*Travel is fatal to
prejudice, bigotry, and
narrow-mindedness.*

Mark Twain

Focus on Toronto

While at the TMAC Board of Directors meetings in Toronto, delegates stayed at Toronto's eye-catching Sheraton Centre Hotel in the heart of the city with access to the Club Lounge with continental breakfast in the morning and evening hors d'oeuvres...and of course spectacular north and south views of the city! The board room view was so exquisite, it was hard to keep one's mind on business.

The Sheraton Centre is mere steps away from the Eaton (indoor shopping) Centre, close to opera, theatre and baseball. From Union Station, one may walk completely underground to the Sheraton. The hotel features a 25-metre indoor/outdoor pool connected to a 24-hour fitness centre, sauna and whirlpool, 25 acres of beautiful waterfall gardens, full-service Senses Spa, exclusive access to the 43rd floor Club Lounge with a beautiful panoramic view and a well-equipped gym and several choices for meals.

With the Blue Jays on a roll this year, (currently in first place leading both mighty Boston and high-priced New York, it may be an appropriate time to take in a series or a single

Please see *Free Weekend in Toronto?* on page 3

Featured Tip

Worried about deep-vein thrombosis on long plane flights? Check:

<http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/tipsthrombosis.html> for the latest information.

Also for your consideration, do you want to:

- Read camera reviews?
- Take a canal cruise?
- Offset your carbon footprint?
- Rent a car?
- Find a specific castle?
- Try spelunking or visit a cavern?
- Find a specific cemetery?
- Discover antidotes to specific diseases?
- Create a handy checklist for travel?
- Determine climate stats for any country?
- Compare international clothing & shoe sizes?
- Discover what country holds the largest coastline?
- Know the country coffee consumption per capita?
- Find tips on cold weather photography?
- Make a list of Commonwealth countries?
- Read information about computer laptops?
- Take a cosmetic vacation?
- Find the largest or smallest country in the world?
- Discover country facts?
- Take a cruise?
- Convert currency?

Well, that's just the "B" list of travel tips at www.whattravelwriterssay.com where there

Please see *Featured Tip* on page 4

People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home.

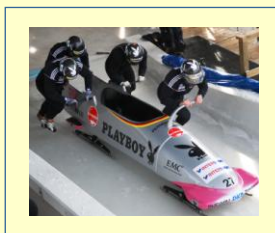
Dagobert D. Runes

Outward Bound from page 1

results in 2009 World Cup events, it's looking rosy for our athletes who will be engaged in tough battles for gold, silver and bronze with perennially strong American, German and Nordic countries. While at Whistler, I was fortunate to watch the bobsled practices prior to the World Cup. I have newfound respect for what I used to envision as the weirder events such as luge and Biathlon! They are great athletes all.

2006:

A record 80 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) entered athletes at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. This was an increase of three from the 77 represented in 2002. A total of 15 countries sent just 1 athlete. It was the first appearance for Albania, Ethiopia, and Madagascar. It was also the only appearance at the Winter Olympics for Serbia and Montenegro, coming between their change of name in 2003 and Montenegro's vote for independence in May.



German Team Start

Travel website of the month: Earth Cam

EarthCam.com (<http://www.earthcam.com/>) is the leading network of live webcams and, as the premier webcam portal, offers the most comprehensive search engine of webcams from around the world. EarthCam delivers real time live images of some of the world's most interesting and unique views and events. The portal offers the most extensive database allowing users to search by keyword or simply browse through the categories and subcategories. Users can see what is happening around the world right now, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Whistler, BC



Pictures (left to right): Bobsled contestant performing visualization exercise, Peak 2 Peak gondola & tower, Whistler's Inukshuk and Village at night. (Photos by Mike Keenan)

Toronto from page 1

game. Here are some handy contacts for you to access:

Blue Jays website:

http://toronto.bluejays.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=tor

Blue Jays tickets:

http://toronto.bluejays.mlb.com/ticketing/index.jsp?c_id=tor

Major League Baseball:

<http://mlb.mlb.com/index.jsp>

Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel:

123 Queen Street West,

Toronto, Ontario

M5H 2M9 Canada;

Phone: (416) 361-1000

Fax: (416) 947-4854

www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/



Earth in the palm of your hand

The Sheraton Centre is mere steps away from the Eaton (indoor shopping) Centre, close to opera, theatre and Blue Jay baseball.

A hot dog at the ballgame beats roast beef at the Ritz.

Humphrey Bogart

Featured Tip from page 2

are 389 more links to every travel question that you might have. Bookmark the site to assist you in the future.

If you have additional travel tips that you would like to share with others, please send them to us for inclusion on our site.

A journey is like marriage. The certain way to be wrong is to think you control it.

[John Steinbeck](#)

Industry News

For the latest travel industry news, visit: <http://www.whattravelwriterssay.com/indexnews.html>

In Vancouver, I stayed at The St. Regis Hotel, (602 Dunsmuir St., Ph: 604.681.1135; www.stregishotel.com) a downtown, newly renovated heritage hotel, boutique in size with attractive art displayed on every floor. The St. Regis was secure and classy with a Tim Horton's conveniently located right across the street.

In Whistler, I stayed at the Delta Whistler Village Suites (4308 Main Street, Phone: 604-905-3987; www.deltahotels.com) The comfortable and family-friendly Delta Whistler Village Suites is conveniently located across from the Whistler Conference Centre and close to three championship golf courses, and surrounded by some of Whistler's best shopping and restaurants.

I enjoyed a delicious supper with Jackie Fulton, Director of Sales and Marketing, a short walk away at Trattoria di Umberto, (4417 Sundial Place Ph: 604-932-5858; www.umberto.com)

It's a sister restaurant to Il Caminetto and only one block apart from each other, a relaxed restaurant that specializes in such Tuscan countryside dishes as veal scaloppini with marsala and cioppino in a saffron, tomato and fennel broth.

What Travel Writers Say

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Transportation was provided by **Vancouver All Terrain Adventures Ltd. & EXTREME Limousine** (#652 - 1755 Robson St., Ph: 778.371.7830 www.all-terrain.com Toll Free: 1-888-754-5601) in a 7-passenger luxury 4x4 Suburban.

EXTREME Limousine provides: city sightseeing, corporate incentives & meetings, business & personal travel, special events, groups & individuals and is a great way to take the Sea to Sky highway to Whistler.

In Vancouver, I enjoyed the Sandbar Seafood Restaurant (1535 Johnston St., Ph: 604.669.9030; www.mysandbar.com) Located on Granville Island, it serves fresh seafood in a warm, sophisticated atmosphere, overlooking False Creek. Fresh oyster bar, tapas, Hoshi's Sushi Bar, dinner and dancing.

And in Steveston, (Richmond), I highly recommend **Papi's Ristorante Italiano** (12551 No. 1 Rd. Ph: 604-275-8355) Chef Ken Iaci is truly worth the price of admission and runs the cozy restaurant with his entire family including his ex-wife who is, of course, the pastry chef!

B.C. Contacts:

- Ange Chew, Director of Marketing, Tourism Richmond, achew@tourismrichmond.com
- Emily Armstrong, Travel & Trade Media Relations, Tourism Vancouver, earmstrong@tourismvancouver.com
- Vanessa Murphy, Destination Media Relations, Tourism Whistler, vmurphy@tourismwhistler.com