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GOING FOR GOLD: BRITISH COLUMBIA WINTER OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

British Columbians have a history of success in Winter Olympic competition. This brief lists the medal achievements of BC athletes at Winter Olympic Games.

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BRITISH COLUMBIANS AT THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The achievements of British Columbian athletes at Winter Olympic Games include medal victories in many events. The province will look to extend its record of Olympic achievement when athletes and spectators from around the world gather in Vancouver to take part in the 2010 Winter Games. This brief highlights the accomplishments of British Columbians in the history of Winter Olympic sport. Athletes have been selected by province of birth and residence from a bibliography of appended sources.

CURLING

Kelley Law, Julie Skinner, Georgina Wheatcroft; Diane Nelson, and Cheryl Noble

2002 Salt Lake City, USA	Curling	Team - W	Bronze
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British Columbian women have been competitive curlers at the Olympics since the sport was officially added to Olympic competition in 1998. At the 2002 Winter Games held in Salt Lake City, Coquitlam's Kelley Law, Victoria's Julie Skinner, Cloverdale's Georgina Wheatcroft, Pitt Meadows' Diane Dezura, and Victoria's Cheryl Noble represented Canada. After suffering a bitter semi-final loss to Great Britain, the team rebounded to defeat the USA and take bronze.



Sandra Jenkins and Christine Keshen

2006 Turin, Italy	Curling	Team - W	Bronze
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BC's women curlers were again well represented at the 2006 Turin Games in Italy. Skipped by Shannon Kleibrink, Canada's squad included Salmon Arm's Sandra Jenkins and Invermere's Christine Keshen. Jenkins and Keshen helped lift Team Kleibrink to another bronze medal finish.

FIGURE SKATING

Karen Magnussen

1972 Sapporo, Japan	Figure Skating	Singles - W	Silver
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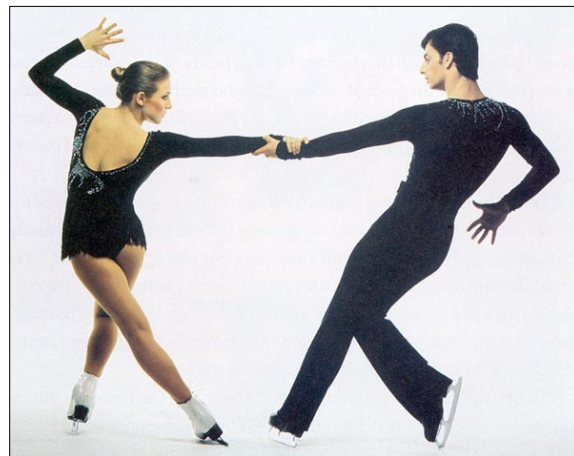


Vancouver-born and raised, Karen Magnussen already was an accomplished figure skater when she entered the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo Japan. Magnussen won the Canadian Junior Ladies Championship in 1965; three years later she claimed the first of several senior national skating titles. In Sapporo, Magnussen delivered another stellar performance, bringing home Canada's only medal at the Games: a silver in the women's singles skate.

Tracy Wilson

1988 Calgary, Canada	Figure Skating	Dance - Mixed	Bronze
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Port Moody's Tracy Wilson began figure skating at the age of six at the Coquitlam Skating Club. Initially trained as a singles skater, Wilson shifted to ice dance at the age of fifteen after suffering a debilitating knee injury. Alongside Nova Scotian dance partner Robert McCall, Wilson won seven National Championships from 1982 to 1988 and three consecutive bronze medals at World Championships between 1986 and 1988. The pair continued their success at the 1988 Calgary Olympics. Wilson and McCall came in third, claiming Canada's first medal in ice dance.



ICE HOCKEY

Roy Forbes

1948 St. Moritz, Switzerland	Ice Hockey	Team - M	Gold
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When men's ice hockey became an Olympic sport in 1920, Canada was the team to beat. Canada went without a loss for almost two decades of Olympic competition, winning four consecutive gold medals.

At the 1948 St. Moritz Games, Canada was represented by the Royal Canadian Air Force Flyers. Winfield's Roy Forbes (front row, far left) helped the Canadian team beat hosts Switzerland in the final to take gold.



Gordon Robertson, Louis Secco, and Francis Sullivan

1952 Oslo, Norway	Ice Hockey	Team - M	Gold
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Canada continued its domination in men's ice hockey at the 1952 Games held in Oslo Norway. Three members of the 1952 squad hailed from the Kootenays: Trail's Gordon Robertson and Louis Secco, and Kimberley's Francis Sullivan.

David Archibald

1992 Albertville, France	Ice Hockey	Team - M	Silver
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Born in Vancouver, David Archibald was BC's sole representative in ice hockey at the 1992 Albertville Games in France. Archibald helped Team Canada finish with a silver medal, the first podium finish for Canada in men's Olympic ice hockey since the 1968 Grenoble Games in France.

Paul Kariya

1994 Lillehammer, Norway	Ice Hockey	Team - M	Silver
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2002 Salt Lake City, USA	Ice Hockey	Team - M	Gold
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Another Vancouverite, Paul Kariya has represented Canada in two Winter Olympic Games. At the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games, Kariya helped Canada win a silver medal in ice hockey; eight years later, he assisted Canada to a gold medal placing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

Eric Brewer, Scott Niedermayer, Joe Sakic, and Steve Yzerman

2002 Salt Lake City, USA	Ice Hockey	Team - M	Gold
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Canada's gold medal victory in men's ice hockey at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games was the first in five decades. Several BC players were there to help Canada break the half-century gold drought. Eric Brewer, Scott Niedermayer, Joe Sakic, and captain Steve Yzerman (pictured right) helped lift Canada to a 5-2 victory in the final match over the host United States team.



SKIING

Nancy Greene

1968 Grenoble, France	Alpine Skiing	Slalom - W	Silver
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1968 Grenoble, France	Alpine Skiing	Giant Slalom - W	Gold
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Rosland's Nancy Greene was a dominant force in women's alpine skiing in the late 1960s. In 1967 and 1968, Greene amassed fourteen individual World Cup wins and the title of overall World Cup Champion. She did not disappoint at the 1968 Olympic Games held in Grenoble. Greene won silver in the slalom and gold in the giant slalom. Upon her return to Vancouver, she was welcomed home by more than 100,000 fans dressed in various shades of green.



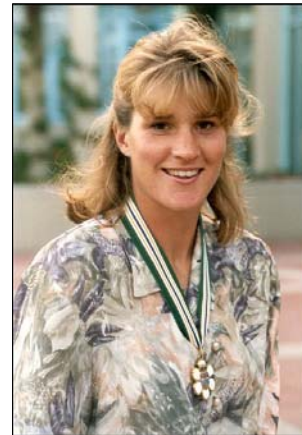
Greene's achievements in the sport extended well beyond her amateur career. After her retirement, Greene coached the Canadian national ski team and worked to develop the Whistler/Blackcomb and Sun Peaks Resorts into world-class ski destinations.

Kerrin Lee-Gartner

1992 Albertville, France	Alpine Skiing	Downhill - W	Gold
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Kerrin Lee-Gartner, another skier originating from BC's Kootenay region, also led a successful career that included Olympic gold. Born in Trail, Lee-Gartner began racing with the Rossland Red Mountain Racers Ski Club before moving into international competition as a member of the Canadian national ski team. Lee-Gartner competed in three Olympic Games, four World Championships, and numerous World Cup events.

The climax of Lee-Gartner's career came in 1992 at the Albertville Winter Olympic Games. Lee-Gartner overcame multiple knee surgeries to finish first in the women's downhill event.



SNOWBOARDING

Ross Rebagliati

1998 Nagano, Japan	Snowboarding	Parallel Giant Slalom - M	Gold
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Snowboarding made its Winter Olympics debut in 1998. At the Games held that year in Nagano, Japan, Whistler's Ross Rebagliati won the first ever gold medal awarded in men's parallel giant slalom. Despite almost missing the Olympics due to a shin injury, Rebagliati finished ahead of the field with the best overall combined time.

Controversy, however, followed the win. Rebagliati's drug test revealed trace amounts of marijuana and his medal was temporarily stripped. However, since only small amounts were found and the drug was not listed as a banned substance by the International Olympic Committee, the gold medal was reinstated.

SPEED SKATING

Alanna Kraus

2002 Salt Lake City, USA	Speed Skating - ST	3,000m Relay - W	Bronze
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2006 Turin, Italy	Speed Skating - ST	3,000m Relay - W	Silver
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Abbotsford's Alanna Kraus is one of Canada's most successful short track speed skaters. In addition to winning several medals in World Cup and World Championship competitions, Kraus delivered Olympic medal performances at two consecutive Olympic Games. At the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, Kraus won a bronze in the 3,000 meter women's relay; four years later in Turin, she improved to silver in the same event.



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