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Thornbury resident brings home gold x World Winter Masters Games in ... x

## World Winter Masters Games in Bled, Slovenia

February 17, 2010

*The inaugural World Winter Masters Games were held 25 Jan through 31 Jan 2010 in Bled, Slovenia. Approved by the FIS, IBU and IOC, it supports the world wide masters movement in sport.*

*The games went well. The Julian Alps of Slovenia are located on the south eastern end of the Alps, south of Austria, east of Italy, and northwest of Croatia. The strong Euro/weak Dollar made the trip pricey, but Slovenia tends to be less expensive and it was off season. Team USA had 9 members in Biathlon, and 4 in XC. In way of comparison, Finland had seven 3 person relay teams.*

The **results are based on 5 year age groups.**

Full Biathlon results may be found at:

Individual classes [http://www.2010mastersgames.com/WWMG2010\\_en,,results,27\\_january.htm](http://www.2010mastersgames.com/WWMG2010_en,,results,27_january.htm)

Sprint  
[http://www.2010mastersgames.com/WWMG2010\\_en,,results,29\\_january.htm](http://www.2010mastersgames.com/WWMG2010_en,,results,29_january.htm)

Relay  
[http://www.2010mastersgames.com/WWMG2010\\_en,,results,30\\_january.htm](http://www.2010mastersgames.com/WWMG2010_en,,results,30_january.htm)

XC and Biathlon competitions alternated days, with the XC and Biathlon relays on the same day.




Team USA Biathlon consisted of

*Atheletes*


David Anana, Washington  
Kyle Boschen, Colorado  
Mary Boschen, Colorado  
Ted Hulbert, California  
Sean Kato, Washington  
Bill Quinlan, Colorado  
Walter Warwick, Colorado  
Allen Takahashi, California

*Coaching Support Staff*










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Thornbury resident Denyse Houde takes the podium after winning gold at the World Winter Masters Games in Slovenia last week.

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Thornbury resident Denyse Houde was one of several members of the Ontario Masters ski

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CAN		0		1		0



Ontario Masters shine at World Winter Masters Games in Slovenia

Posted By

Posted 1 day ago

Ontario Master, Rolf Hauge, 90 (top photo), won two golds and a silver at the World Winter Masters Games in Slovenia last week.

In the Super G, Rolf beat his 20-year rival, Swiss racer, Ernst Berger of Switzerland also 90 years of age with a decisive victory after being edged out by Berger two days previously in the GS. The last race was a two-run slalom on the final day of competition and it came down to hundredths of seconds in one of the closest races of the day for any age category.

Hauge prevailed and won the slalom gold by .08 seconds combined time. Along with his medals, he also came away from the games with many fans.

Other Ontario Masters bringing home hardware were Denyse Houde, who won a gold in the SuperG (bottom photo) and a bronze in the GS in a very hotly contested age category, and Doreen Davenport, who brought home three golds.

Three other Ontario Masters, Hannele Sundberg, Barb Fydell, and Wendy Fursey participated in the first ever World Winter Masters Games, and although they didn't come home with medals, they all enjoyed the high level of competition which included former World Cup racers and ex-national racers from many European countries scattered across the age categories of both the men and women.

The entire Canadian contingent of 13 Masters enjoyed themselves and represented Canada well garnering invitations to attend Masters races in numerous other countries. It was an experience second to none and one which all the Canadians agreed they wanted to repeat in four years time.

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## ALPINE CANADA ALPIN CANADIAN MASTERS MAÎTRES CANADIENS

**Nat'l e-mail, Feb 4/10**

**Subject: World Winter Masters Games, Jan 25-31, 2010**

**Canada Report, by Lloyd Sevak (le francais ci-bas)**

The first ever World Winter Masters Games were held in Slovenia from January 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Over 3,000 athletes from 42 countries participated; more than 400 in the alpine skiing events, 13 from Canada (6 from Alberta, 6 from Ontario, and 1 from Quebec), with a near even male/female split.

The game's opening ceremonies took place on Monday in beautiful Bled. Dignitaries from the International Masters Games Association, the World Winter Masters Games organizing committee, and other Slovenian local and state government representatives all spoke to welcome the athletes and proclaim these inaugural games open. 42 children wound their way up to the stage, each bearing a participating country flag. This was followed by demonstrations of Slovenian dance, sword fighting, and fire breathers, as well as the beginning of countless international friendships.

The Canadians returned to Kranjska Gora that night, anxious for the first alpine event the next day, the GS. Conditions were hard and fast, with Team Canada grabbing 3 medals; gold for Doreen Davenport in class C-9, bronze for Denyse Houde in class C-8, and silver for veteran Rolf Hauge in class B-13, only to be edged by his lone 90(!) year old competitor from Switzerland, Ernst Berger. It seems that Rolf must race internationally to have competition in his class, against Ernst whom he has known and raced against for many years. Both were wildly cheered as they podiumed.

The next day, Wednesday was a day off, allowing racers to explore Kranjska Gora and it's beautiful surroundings (or having massages there), with some visiting Bled, others the world famous Postojna Caves, while others making the 1 hour trip to Nassfeld, Austria for some big, open skiing on a stunning sunny day.

Thursday was the Super G, with Team Canada grabbing another 3 medals; gold for Doreen Davenport in class C-9, gold this time for Denyse Houde in class C-8, as well as for veteran Rolf Hauge in class B-13. Upon athletes return to hotels, it was evident that the men's World Cup racers, their coaches, servicemen, physiotherapists; the full entourage had arrived for three days of racing. This was the icing on the cake for all masters athletes; to have the opportunity to see world cup racing live; a GS on Friday as a make up race to the weather cancelled GS at Alpeboden, another GS on Saturday, and a slalom on Sunday. Kranjska Gora was truly buzzing.

Friday was another day off for alpine racers. Some took a much needed rest, while others saw more of Slovenia and neighbouring countries, or skiing at Tarvisio, Italy and Nassfeld, Austria.

Saturday morning athletes woke up to roughly 15 cm of fresh light powder... for the slalom. With the equivalent of over 1000 course slips from racer inspection, the courses were ready. Once again, Team Canada grabbed another 2 medals; a third gold for Doreen Davenport in class C-9, and a second gold for Rolf Hauge in class B-13.

Overall, Mira Sandrik was the fastest Canadian female in all three disciplines,. On the men's side, Hugh Geiger was the fastest Canadian in the GS, Lloyd Sevak in the Super G, and Rob Duncan in the slalom. Full results as well as other newsworthy games stories and video can be found at <http://www.2010mastersgames.com/>. The compilation of Canadian racer results can also be found at [http://www.acamastersmail.com/docs/WWMG10\\_Cdn\\_Results.pdf](http://www.acamastersmail.com/docs/WWMG10_Cdn_Results.pdf).

Athletes from all events descended upon Kranjska Gora Saturday evening for the closing ceremonies. An outdoor stage was set against a continuous light snow and mild temperatures that only required somewhat mild quantities of gluewein to keep warm! Live music played well into the evening with most



athletes dancing, interrupted only by the bib draw for the following day's world cup slalom, with each racer coming up on stage to claim their number. With the light snow falling and sparkling under the spotlights, it was a picture perfect evening.

Though the games were over, most athletes went to see the men's World Cup slalom. With over 10,000 spectators, a blue sky, hot air balloons, countless fans dressed in their particular racer fan club uniform making as much noise as they can when their racer charged down, the atmosphere was a mix between a hockey game and a rock concert. Unforgettable.

And so most racers began their long journeys home, having met fellow racers from a myriad of countries. All came to race, but left with so much more, having seen a new land, forged countless friendships, and a weeks worth of indelible memories. Participating in the first ever World Winter Masters Games was truly an incredibly unique and memorable event. Being the first, this can never be repeated. However, word is that that due, in part to the success of these games, the next are in the planning stages for 2014. Plan on attending these games which are almost certain to be another unforgettable event.

Should this strike a chord, provoking anyone who is not currently into masters racing to want to give it a try, visit [www.acamasters.com](http://www.acamasters.com) , and contact your provincial masters rep. He or she would be pleased to let you know more about masters racing, from your regional level, right up to international!

Lloyd Sevack



Front Row/Rangée avant: Mira Sandrik, Barb Fydell, Hannele Sundberg, Wendy Fursey, Denyse Houde, Doreen Davenport  
Back Row/ Rangée arrière: Lloyd Sevack, Rob Duncan, Tom Hadway, Vlad Eliseev, Hugues Geiger, Fred Hughes, Rolf Hauge



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## **Performance Canadienne aux jeux d'hiver mondiaux des Maîtres par Lloyd Sevak**

Les tous premier Jeux d'hiver mondiaux des Maîtres ont eu lieu en Slovénie du 25 au 31 janvier 2010. Plus de 3000 athlètes provenant de 42 pays y ont participé, dont plus de 400 dans les épreuves de ski alpin, incluant une délégation Canadienne de 13 coureurs (6 de l'Alberta, 6 de l'Ontario, et 1 du Québec), composée de presque autant de femmes que d'hommes

Les cérémonies d'ouverture ont eu lieu le lundi dans la belle ville de Bled. Des dignitaires de l'association internationale des jeux des Maîtres, les membres du comité organisateur, et autres représentants locaux et du gouvernement Slovène souhaitèrent tous la bienvenue aux athlètes et proclamèrent l'ouverture des jeux. 42 enfants se présentèrent ensuite sur la scène, chacun portant le drapeau d'un des pays participants. Suivirent des démonstrations de danse slovène, de combat à l'épée, et de cracheurs de feu, ainsi que le début d'innombrables amitiés internationales.

Les Canadiens sont revenus à Kranjska Gora, cette nuit là, fébriles à la pensée de participer à l'événement alpin du lendemain, le GS. Les conditions étaient dures et rapides, et l'Équipe Canada s'appropriä 3 médailles, soit l'or pour Doreen Davenport dans la classe C-9, le bronze pour Denyse Houde dans la classe C-8, et l'argent pour Hauge Rolf dans la classe B-13, surclassé seulement par son concurrent de 90 ans, Ernst Berger, originaire de Suisse. Il semble que Rolf doive participer aux courses internationales pour trouver de la compétition dans sa classe, et affronter Ernst qu'il connaît bien et contre lequel il coure depuis de nombreuses années. Tous les deux ont été fortement acclamés sur le podium.

Le lendemain, jour de reläche, a permis aux coureurs soit d'explorer Kranjska Gora qui est magnifique ou d'y avoir des massages, de visiter Bled, ou les célèbres grottes de Postojna, tandis que d'autres se sont rendus ä une heure d'auto ä Nassfeld, en Autriche pour skier sous une magnifique journée ensoleillée.

Jeudi, jour du super-G, l'Équipe Canada remporta encore 3 médailles, soit l'or pour Doreen Davenport dans la classe C-9, l'or cette fois pour Denyse Houde dans la classe C-8, ainsi que pour le vétéran Rolf Hauge dans la classe B-13. Au retour ä l'hôtel, il était évident que la Coupe du Monde venait de débarquer ä Kranjska Gora pour 3 jours avec l'arrivée des coureurs, de leurs entraîneurs, techniciens, physiothérapeutes et tout leur entourage. Ce fut la cerise sur le gâteau pour les athlètes maîtres, d'avoir l'occasion de voir des courses de coupe du monde en direct, soit un GS, le vendredi en remplacement du GS annulé ä Alteboden, un autre GS le samedi et un slalom le dimanche. Tout un spectacle ä Kranjska Gora.

Le vendredi a été une autre journée de congé pour les coureurs alpins. Certains ont pris un repos bien nécessaire, tandis que d'autres ont continués ä visiter la Slovénie et les pays voisins, ou ont fait du ski ä Tarvisio, en Italie ou ä Nassfeld, en Autriche.

Les athlètes se sont réveillés samedi matin avec environ 15 cm de poudreuse légère fraîche pour le slalom.... Avec plus de 1000 dérapages par les coureurs lors de l'inspection, le parcours était fin prêt. Encore une fois, Équipe Canada a remporté deux autres médailles, une troisième médaille d'or pour Doreen Davenport dans la classe C-9, et une deuxième médaille d'or pour Rolf Hauge dans la classe B-13.

Hors tout, Mira Sandrik a été la plus rapide de l'équipe féminine canadienne dans les trois disciplines, Du côté des hommes, Hugues Geiger a été le plus rapide du Canada lors du GS, Lloyd Sevak dans le Super G, et Rob Duncan dans le slalom. Les résultats complets ainsi que d'autres histoires dignes d'intérêt et des vidéos peuvent être consultés au <http://www.2010mastersgames.com/> . La compilation des résultats de courses de l'Équipe Canadienne se trouvent au [http://www.acamastersmail.com/docs/WWMG10\\_Cdn\\_Results.pdf](http://www.acamastersmail.com/docs/WWMG10_Cdn_Results.pdf) .

Des athlètes de toutes les disciplines se sont retrouvés ä Kranjska Gora le samedi soir pour les

cérémonies de clôture. La scène en plein air était saupoudrée d'une neige légère continue, et la température clémente n'a nécessité qu'un peu gluewein pour se garder bien au chaud! La plupart des athlètes ont dansé toute la soirée au son de musique "live", interrompue seulement par le tirage au sort de l'ordre des départs pour le slalom de la Coupe du Monde du lendemain, voyant chaque coureur venir sur la scène pour réclamer leur dossard. Ce fut une soirée parfaite parsemée de légers flocons de neige étincelants sous les feux des projecteurs.

Bien que les jeux fussent terminés, la plupart des athlètes sont restés pour voir le slalom des hommes de la coupe du monde. Sous un ciel bleu, l'atmosphère ressemblait à un mélange de match de hockey et de concert rock, avec plus de 10.000 spectateurs, des montgolfières, d'innombrables amateurs vêtus au couleur de leur fan club qui faisaient un maximum de bruit lorsque leur coureur s'élançait sur la piste. Inoubliable.

La plupart des coureurs ont commencé leur long voyage de retour à la maison, heureux d'avoir rencontré des coureurs collègues provenant d'une multitude de pays. Tous étaient venus pour courir, mais sont repartis après avoir vu de nouveaux pays, noué des amitiés innombrables, et une multitude de souvenirs indélébiles. Participer aux **premiers** jeux d'hiver mondiaux des Maîtres était vraiment un événement incroyable, unique et mémorable qui ne pourra jamais être répété. Cependant, et en partie grâce à la réussite de ces jeux, les prochains jeux sont déjà planifiés pour 2014. Prévoyez de participer à ces jeux qui devraient encore constituer un autre événement inoubliable.

Si tout cela vous incite à vous joindre aux Maîtres et à participer à des courses excitantes, à vouloir faire un essai, consultez le [www.acamasters.com](http://www.acamasters.com), et contactez votre représentant des Maîtres provincial. Il ou elle se fera un plaisir de vous informer davantage sur les courses des Maîtres, du niveau régional jusqu'aux courses internationales telles les jeux mondiaux des Maîtres.

Lloyd Sevak

Traduit par Pierre Bégin, représentant Québec.



## World Winter Masters Games

## The Challenge Never Ends

Almost every athlete who has taken part in Olympic Games will tell you that the Olympic spirit is not just a phrase but also something that can even compensate for sporting disappointments. To open the door to this experience to anyone, the International Masters Games Association (IMGA) created the Masters Games. There has been much progress since their beginning in 1985 in Toronto, Canada. After seven summer editions, Bled will host the inaugural World Winter Masters Games (WWMG), held between 25th and 31st January.

By Simon Demšar

The idea behind the Masters Games is to bring together people from around the world for the joy of competing with their peers. Their motto is "sport for life," which suggests that there is much more to sport than just competing at the highest level. It also provides retired professional athletes with an opportunity to continue to satisfy their competitive spirits. The WWMG and one from Israel, Canada and Australian skiers, one from Brazil.

"Among others, we will see 20 Slovenian skiers, one from Brazil and one from Israel. Canada and the USA will have strong ice-hockey teams, there will probably be an indoor football team from Ghana and similar," says Farčnik.

One important difference from regular competitions is that teams are not necessarily composed on a national basis and the number of teams from one country is not limited. Athletes compete as individuals and not as members of national teams. One ice-hockey team,

"The winter edition will be on a smaller scale but will still attract between 3,000 and 4,000 participants from all five continents; something we are particularly proud of," says Petra Farčnik of the organizing committee.

A few former Olympic medal-

## Some Like it Cold

Just before the WWMG, between 22nd and 24th January, another event will take place in the ice-cold waters of Lake Bled – the 3rd Winter Swimming World Championships. There are already 660 registered competitors, mostly from Scandinavia and Russia, but also two Slovenes. There are three main categories: 25, 50 and 400 metres. Besides an ordinary swimsuit, a woollen cap is the only allowed piece of protective gear. Absolute beginners can try a "dip in the pool" – simply getting into and out of the water. For spectators, group performance will likely be one of the top attractions to see. "It is really interesting to see these people when they come out of the water they don't shiver and run for blankets but they behave as if this was the most normal thing in the world," says Farčnik.

WWMG: Everyone can participate.



for example, will consist of players from Canada, the USA and Serbia. The highest number of competitors, 500, will take part in Alpine skiing. Other sports include biathlon, ice-hockey, ski jumping, cross country skiing and indoor football (called "futsal"). The host town will be Bled while the events will take place in Kranjska Gora (Alpine skiing), Kranj (ski jumping, ice-hockey, futsal), Pokljuka (cross country and biathlon), Jesenice and Bled (ice-hockey). Organisers promise "an Olympic-style atmosphere" that will include opening and closing ceremonies. In cooperation with local tourist organisations, the participants will have a chance to see the country as tourists.

To illustrate the significance of the Masters Games, it is enough to look at the structure of the IMGA. Its membership includes the most important international sporting federations, such as international football, basketball, skiing, biathlon and other federations. It is also recognised by the International Olympic Committee and the official organisers of the Masters Games are the national Olympic committees. Being the first winter edition, WWMG organisers faced the tough task of promoting the games throughout the world but, according to Farčnik, they managed to do so via contacts provided by the sporting federations that make up the IMGA.



## ***A dream came true***



The inaugural World Winter Masters Games took place from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010 in Bled, Slovenia and its surrounding Winter Resorts. 2'800 athletes from 42 different countries competed during a week in 6 different sports and 17 disciplines.

The International Masters Games Association (IMGA) is behind the event and the President Kai Holm, said, during the Opening Ceremony: *"It has since the beginning of the IMGA always been our dream to establish a World Winter Masters Event. Bled did a wonderful job in helping us make our dream come true."*

Despite being the inaugural event, more athletes gathered around during a week than during the Winter Olympic Games. Indeed in Alpine Skiing, 1'050 skiers took part in the Giant Slalom in the famous Kranskja Gora. This race was the biggest one ever seen in the Masters competitions.

FUTSAL, as a demonstration, was the only traditional summer sport on the Games Programme. The success was such that 30 teams from around the World competed against each other in the tournament, during the whole week. One of the players said: *"It is really good to have Futsal on the Programme, because we share the same goals. Football, like skiing, helps us stay fit and in good shape."*

Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon were held in the new Biathlon Center up in Pokljuka. The optimal conditions during the races and the diversity of the disciplines made these competitions a great accomplishment according to the participants.

Ice Hockey brought together 28 teams from across the Globe. A Canadian Ice Hockey player mentioned that: *"These Games were great, because they promoted friendship regardless of age, or sport status."*

Ski Jumping was a spectacular sport. Thanks to the organizers, the jump conditions were perfect. A German ski jumper said: *"The weather is beautiful and the tracks were prepared perfectly. It was a real pleasure to jump here."*

Since 25 years, the IMGA has been successfully hosting the World Masters Summer Games. During the last edition held in Sydney in October 2009, nearly 30'000 athletes participated. The philosophy behind the Masters Games is helping to grow and strengthen the Masters movement in collaboration with the International Federations.

The next big Masters Events will be the European Summer Masters Games in Lignano, Italy in September 2011.