

## Tilbury's Christopher Beausoleil turns Olympic dream into reality, see video

Posted By [Editorial](#) On November 27, 2009 @ 3:35 pm In [CK Local News](#), [Featured Stories](#) | [No Comments](#)



Christopher Beausoleil, Chatham-Kent's Final Olympic Torchbearer - Aaron Hall Photo

By CKDP Staff

Mayor Randy Hope and members of the Chatham-Kent Olympic Torch Relay Task Force today revealed the name of the Final Torchbearer who will light the cauldron at the CK Celebrates the Torch event in Chatham on December 22.

In a news conference at the Civic Centre, the task force named Christopher Beausoleil of Tilbury.

Christopher Beausoleil, 22, is an inspiring local youth, dedicated to his humanitarian and philanthropic passion. Recognized for over 15 years of volunteer work and fundraising, Beausoleil was awarded the 2004 Top 20 Under 20 Award. This honour recognized his level of innovation, leadership and achievement through his work in increasing awareness about Cystic Fibrosis, and for raising over \$30 000 for the CF campaign.

Growing up with Cystic Fibrosis, Beausoleil wanted to be able to fight the disease and help others overcome adversity. He began speaking at public events when he was just ten years old, and now continues as a motivational speaker, and national spokesperson for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In 2005 he was awarded the Bill Eansor Award from the University of Windsor Alumni Association, and in 2006, the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award in recognition of having demonstrated the highest ideals and qualities of citizenship and humanitarian service while in pursuit of excellence in academic, amateur sport, fitness, health and voluntary community service. In 2008, he was awarded the Celine Award from the CCFE for raising over \$75 000 for CF through his annual community Yard Sale event that has been on-going for over a decade. He currently studies Kinesiology at the University of Windsor, and continues to coach youth hockey as he is a firm believer in healthy and active living.

"Christopher Beausoleil's story is one of courage and dedication to his community," said Hope. "It will be a proud moment for all of us when he lights the cauldron at the CK celebrates the Torch Ceremony."

Overall, Torchbearers applied for the honour through a nation-wide contest sponsored by RBC and Coca Cola in conjunction with Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee. The members of the community-based Chatham-Kent Olympic Torch Relay Task Force had the opportunity to nominate one representative of Chatham-Kent who they believed embodied the vision and values of the community.

"I am very honoured," said Beausoleil today. "When I found out, I jumped on the opportunity. Holding the Olympic Torch is a dream... and now it's a reality."

The community of Tilbury will be celebrating tonight by placing Beausoleil in a place of honour in the Santa Clause parade, which starts at 7 p.m.

"Of course, there are other Chatham-Kent residents who will also carry the Torch in the Olympic Torch Relay," said Ashley White, coordinator of the task force.

"We hope that they will identify themes to their local communities ahead of time to help with the celebrations. The overall list of torchbearers is not something that the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee makes public, and so it is up to the individuals to make themselves known."

White says Torchbearers can contact her through the municipal website at [www.chatham-kent.ca/cktorch](http://www.chatham-kent.ca/cktorch) <sup>[1]</sup>, e-mail [cktorch@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:cktorch@chatham-kent.ca), or by leaving a telephone message for her with the municipality at 519-360-1998.

Local communities are decorating their main streets and will be lining the relay route to cheer the torchbearers along, while official sponsors Coca-Cola and RBC have organized a variety of local promotions.

In addition, approximately 300 volunteers will be needed to ensure the torch run and celebration event run smoothly. Interested volunteers can visit any local library, municipal centre, the Chatham Cultural Centre, or any Royal Bank branch to pick up a volunteer application package. More information and application forms are also available at [www.chatham-kent.ca/cktorch](http://www.chatham-kent.ca/cktorch).

Volunteer forms can be

- dropped off at any municipal centre or public library
- mailed or dropped off to:

Ashley White  
Chatham Cultural Centre  
75 William Street N  
Chatham, ON  
N7M 4L4

- faxed to 519-354-4170
- e-mailed to [cktorch@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:cktorch@chatham-kent.ca)

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will begin its 106-day Canadian journey on October 30, 2009. The Flame's pan-Canadian journey will culminate on February 12, 2010 when it arrives in Vancouver for the Opening Ceremony before a global viewing audience of billions. It will be the longest domestic Torch Relay in Olympic history, stretching over 45,000 kilometres throughout Canada. Upon its conclusion, the Olympic Flame will have been welcomed in over 1,000 communities and passed close to more than 90 per cent of the entire Canadian population.

Check out the video below featuring Beausoleil at the news conference.

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