

The 2015 Pan Am Games are coming!

From July 10 to 26, 2015 the Pan Am Games are coming to Toronto. The Pan Am Games are the 3rd largest international multi-sport games after the Olympics and the Asian games and takes place every four years. Athletes from across Latin America, South America, the Caribbean and North America participate.

The first Pan Am Games took place in 1951 in Buenos Aires and included 2513 participants from 14 nations. Today with over 41 participating nations, it is expected to have over 7000 participants. All of the sports in the Pan Am Games are also in the Olympics, as it serves as a qualifying tournament to them. The Parapan Am Games are held immediately following their respective Pan Am Games.

Three-thousand torchbearers will proudly carry the flame on a 41-day journey towards lighting the cauldron on July 10, 2015 to officially open the Games. The Pan Am flame represents the history and spirit of the Games and is traditionally lit outside Mexico City in Teotihuacan at the Pyramid of the Sun, in a ceremony led by native Aztecs. Following the lighting, the flame will be handed over to a representative from the Host City, then it is flown back to Canada to begin its nationwide journey. Although the flame comes as close as Alliston and Orangeville it does not travel directly through Shelburne.

With over 20,000 volunteers involved during the event it is anticipated to generate \$150 million in business revenue in the Greater Golden Horseshoe area of Ontario. Venues are located in municipalities across southern Ontario from Oshawa to Welland. Close to home the Pan Am Cross-Country Center is located at the Will O' Wind Farm in Mono, ON, and will serve as the Pan Am Cross-Country Centre for the thrilling one-day equestrian cross-country event. The world-class Caledon Pan Am Equestrian Park will welcome competitors in the disciplines of Jumping and Dressage.

Some of the most in-demand tickets for the Pan Am Games are going fast, while tickets to key events such as the Opening Ceremony have already been snapped up. Make sure you've got your tickets to the top events before they're gone! For more information on the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games go to www.toronto2015.org

By Michelle Austen