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Community torchbearer announced for Pan Am Games Torch Relay

Shelburne residents Leonard Guchardi and Aynsley Whitehouse have been selected as community torchbearers for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games Torch Relay. The torch will pass through Shelburne on June 12th, although the route has not yet been announced.

These torchbearers were selected from an application process that included details on their involvement with community and local sports.

?(These town representatives) will proudly carry the Pan Am flame as Shelburne's community torchbearers,? said Shelburne Mayor Ken Bennington. ?Shelburne is excited to be a part of this historic journey and we look forward to showing our community to the world.?

The Torch will pass through 3000 hands before reaching its ultimate destination in Toronto to kick-off the Pan Am Games. It will pass through communities large and small for 41 days prior to reaching this ultimate destination.

?The torch is a unique symbol of the Pan Am Games and carries a powerful energy that will unite Canadians,? said Saåd Rafi, chief executive officer, TO2015. ?The torchbearer will proudly carry the flame through more than 130 communities, igniting the Pan Am spirit as they go.?

The torch itself features United We Play! images of athletes in motion, as well as symbols representing sports and culture.

The torch weighs 1.2 kilograms (the weight of a baseball bat). It's flame has a burn time of 10?12 minutes and is bright enough to be seen in any weather condition.

The Shelburne Free Press would like to extend its congratulations to these lucky torchbearers and wish them the best of luck in their leg of the Relay!

By Wendy Gabrek