

"A Summerhill Resident's Olympic Tale"

Women's Olympic Hockey, Russia vs. Finland

February 14th, 2010.

A great day at the Olympics, at Thunderbird Arena, UBC in Vancouver, thanks to Pacific Arbour Retirement Communities.

Russia was the favourites. They came out tall, fast and confident. Within minutes they scored the first goal.

But...Finland. Who was the underdog, only took three more minutes, and tied it up. In the second period they got another, and in the last period, they got two more. So that made it a 5 to 1 finish. Both teams had speed but the "Fins" followed the puck all the time. There were penalties but no blood was spilled. The Russians were in the penalty box a lot. Once they had two women warming the sin bin.

In the end...David surely slew Goliath...and the crowd loved it. At the end corner where we sat, just opposite the goal, there were hundreds of "Fin" supporters. They were always on their feet cheering. Later, as we left the rink we noticed two big busses called "Finland" and the crowd outside roared again.

The relatively new rink was superbly decorated. Even the two ice cleaners between periods were a show with beautiful decorations and a Cadillac driver's seat.

Refreshments were sold on the main floor, even beer and wine. My daughter and I celebrated the occasion with a glass of wine as we watched the game (first time ever for us).

My conspicuous cane was my only support (no place for walkers at a game). A fine looking mature volunteer (in uniform) spotted us as we approached the venue. He then personally walked us all around the long line of hundreds of people and delivered us to the front door of the rink. Then another young lady volunteer, in uniform, took over and gave us personal service. Even an inside chair was brought out. We were first in the door. Somewhat taken aback with a long flight of stairs to reach the main floor, the volunteer quietly led us over to the side into an elevator. Royal treatment...no less. (Much like at home, did I hear you say?)

After it all, we went home with a thoughtful "Thank You" in our minds for the goodness of the gifted tickets from The Summerhill.

Jack...*a 96 year old Summerhill Resident*