

WEEKEND EDITION

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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FINAL EDITION 3 SERIOUSLY WESTCOAST SINCE 1912 SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2008

BEIJING OPENS WITH A BANG

Beijing Games Sun team's full coverage of the first day

OLYMPICS TODAY

CHINA'S FRIENDLY FACE
The forbidding veil slips as Games open in Beijing. Cam Cole, A4

IT WAS SIMPLY AMAZING
Photo gallery of opening ceremonies a visual feast. News, A12-13

GAMES A FAMILY AFFAIR
Large contingent of relatives on hand to support our athletes. Olympics, F1

WELCOME THE WORLD
Miro Cerretini has video from the celebrations in Tiananmen Square.

ONLINE See today's developments along with this local edition and photo galleries at photos.vancouver.sun.com

Video from Hong Kong: Olympic torch is on site at the home of Olympic events.
Olympic venues: New video has video from the venues that surround the Olympic Green.
Photo gallery: The images from Beijing in our online photo gallery will launch your social off.

BLOODSHED IN ASIA
Hundreds die as Russia invades Georgian province. A15

SKY SHOTS
Another great aerial photo of Vancouver. A7

EDWARDS ADMITS TO AFFAIR
Former U.S. presidential hopeful John Edwards says he had an affair while his wife was being treated for cancer. A20

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LIONS 40, ESKIMOS 34
The B.C. Lions improved to 4-1 by beating Edmonton at home Friday night.
SPORTS, F6

Just in time for the weekend! Fall report, G2

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World News ... C2	Comics ... B1, F3	Star Trek Project ... L1
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THE VANCOUVER SUN

August 9, 2008

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WESTCOAST NEWS

Mall offers TV for viewing

From B1

McNulty said the event, which was put on by the mall and the Spirit of B.C. community group and included nearly 300 volunteers, was an opportunity for the city and local companies to prove they can mobilize for the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010.

"Children are coming out, families. This shows us what we can do," he said.

Cheers and applause broke out in the mall as the Chinese flag was carried across the Birds Nest Stadium in Beijing. Team Canada's appearance got the other big round of applause.

Once the Beijing ceremonies were finished, dragon dancers and martial arts demonstrations took over centre stage, followed by speakers in English and Cantonese.

Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie declared Friday "08/08/08 Day." "Our residents will join the world in cheering," he said.

In the crowd, Helen Fung who moved to Richmond 10 years ago from Hong Kong, said she was surprised to see the mixture of faces.

"There's not only Chinese people but many Caucasians," she observed.

Dave Semple, director of public works for Richmond, has lived there since he was

born in 1954, and said he loves how the city's cultural diversity has changed over the years.

Semple, a 2010 Olympic volunteer, said public events like Friday's help to further integrate the city's large Asian population with other communities.

"There are so many events going on all the time. I've developed relationships with lots of cool people," he said.

Paul Evans, co-CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, said the crowd's enthusiasm for the Beijing Games was driven by more than social identity.

"Some Chinese people are deeply concerned about the negative messages in the (Canadian) media," he said.

Evans said publicity about issues such as pollution, human rights and oppression in China is prompting some Chinese-Canadians to "say some positive things."

"In some quarters it's becoming a political issue," he said, adding that this phenomenon should be noted by Vancouver's 2010 Winter Games organizers.

"Media coverage has ranged from very good to just dreadful; this should be a lesson to Vancouver," he said.

"[Reporters] will be covering our social, political and economic issues, and know very little about them."

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Thousands cheer Games opening

Chinese-Canadians line up to watch Olympic opening ceremonies at Aberdeen Centre

BY NICOLE TOMLINSON
VANCOUVER SUN

RICHMOND | It looked like a Boxing Day sale at Aberdeen Centre on Friday: hundreds of people who had lined up early ran into the mall the moment the doors opened at 5 a.m.

They weren't vying for door-crasher bargains, but to get the best spots to watch the Beijing Olympics' opening ceremonies on the mall's 28-foot-wide TV screen.

Two thousand spectators had been expected but as many as 5,000 showed up, Aberdeen Centre representative Joey



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Kwan said.

Once the show began, they weren't disappointed.

"It was great and amazing. I didn't expect such a good performance," said accountant Mandy Lee.

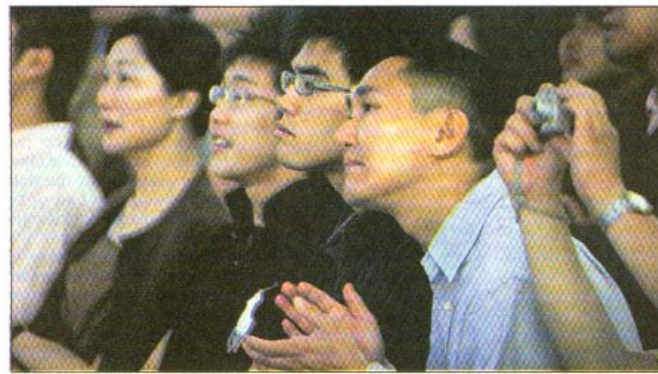
Lee said she wasn't looking forward to

starting a long day of work at 9 a.m., but said the early rise was worth it to be around other Chinese-Canadians during the ceremonies. "This community is great. They share in everything," she said.

About 10 volunteers who cooked up a free pancake breakfast were rushed off their feet.

"I'm pretty sure there will not be enough pancakes for the crowd," said an apron-wearing Richmond City Coun. Bill McNulty, who was there serving breakfast.

See **MALL OFFERS** B6



Local spectators vied for prime seats to watch Olympic ceremonies.

BILL KEAY/VANCOUVER SUN