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# Thousands catch Beijing's Olympic fever at Richmond mall

Last Updated: Friday, August 8, 2008 | 8:20 PM ET Comments 12 Recommend 3  
 CBC News



An estimated 5,000 people turned up early Friday morning at the Aberdeen mall in Richmond to watch the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing broadcast on a giant screen. (CBC)

Olympic fever hit Metro Vancouver on Friday morning as the 2008 Summer Games opened in Beijing.

Five thousand people filled the Aberdeen mall in Richmond to watch as what some have called the most elaborate launch in the history of the Olympic Games was broadcast live during the early morning hours on a giant screen.



The crowd for the Olympic opening ceremony filled all floors of the Aberdeen mall in Richmond, a popular shopping spot for the city's large Chinese-Canadian community. (CBC)

In Vancouver, hundreds of people lined up at 4 a.m. for a place to catch the show at the Rio movie theatre, an event organized by a coalition of Chinese community groups.

Michelle Liu, who got her family up early to join the crowd and watch the event.

"I'm very proud my country has ability to hold these Games. Everyone is very excited," said Liu.

Her 10-year-old son, Howell, who was born in China but has lived most of his life in Vancouver, was equally impressed.

"I've seen a lot about my country. Now I know more. I'm really impressed by what they can do," said Howell.

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