



The world's best speed skaters are coming to Richmond in March. Tickets for the World Single Distance Championships are selling fast. Visit tickets.com to buy tickets.

World's best speed skaters on way to Richmond

The best speed skaters in the world are coming to Richmond in March for the 2009 World Single Distance Championships, the premier event on the speed skating circuit leading to the 2010 Winter Games.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.tickets.com. Tickets are selling fast and the final day's competition is already sold out, so don't delay.

The championships feature men's and ladies' 500m, 1000m, 1,500m 5,000m and Team Pursuit, plus men's 10,000m events.

Canada took home nine medals in the 2008 World Single Distance Championships held in Nagano, Japan in March, four of them gold, placing the home team second in the world only to Holland. For more information on the 2009 World Single Distance Championships, check www.speedskatingrichmond2009.com.

In the meantime, for more top-flight speed skating action, check out the 2nd Masters International Canadian Open Speed Skating Races on Saturday, February 21 and Sunday, February 22 at the Oval, beginning at 11 a.m. each day.

Last chance to skate until June

In order to host the 2009 World Single Distance Championships, the Oval's regular public programming will be suspended from February 26 to March 19. Access during this period will be restricted to event participants and ticket holders. Public skating, fitness programs, gymnasium access and tours will be unavailable during this period.

Check the Richmond Olympic Oval website at www.richmondoval.ca or call 778-296-1400 for times and dates of remaining public skates before the closure.

February 25 is also the deadline to take advantage of the Oval's introductory 60 days for \$60 membership offer, which allows members broad access to Oval programming.

After the championships, the Oval ice will be removed until June 1 in order for staff to make technical adjustments to provide the best ice possible for the 2010 Games and to hold dry-floor events.

The Oval ice will re-open June 1, 2009 for national and international athlete training, public skates and summer programs.

Panasonic presents TV to lucky winner

Benny Chew was the lucky winner of a brand new 42-inch Plasma high definition television and Blu-ray DVD player in a prize draw following the official opening of the Richmond Olympic Oval on December 12 and 13, 2008.

On hand to present the television were John Mills, General Manager of the Richmond Olympic Oval and Tor Henderson, Manager of Olympic Services for Panasonic Canada.

Community Update

Richmond Oval Update is a monthly report to the community on City initiatives related to the Richmond Oval project and to the community's preparations for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. For more information visit the City's website at www.richmond.ca and click on the Olympic Oval link under the Popular Topics tab on the home page.



Benny Chew (middle) won a new big screen TV and DVD player at the Richmond Olympic Oval opening, courtesy of Panasonic Canada.