

2010 Olympics—Vancouver village polyclinic

By Sharron Lyons

The story begins just over a year ago when Landon James and Dr. Bob Chamberlain (aka Dr. Bob), the polyclinic managers, leapt to work to set up and populate the polyclinic. Not only did they have to obtain, on loan, virtually every kind of medical equipment known to human kind (including a most impressive portable MRI and CT scan!), but they also had to pick up these tools and create space for all that equipment, find staff and then set it all up!

The clinic's mission is: To supply all Olympic family members (athletes, coaches, and officials) with full medical services and to provide village workforce with First Aid in the case of injuries through accidents.

What does this mean? It means that the polyclinic can provide relatively quick service from scans to lab work onsite!

With 400 medical volunteers, every field is covered from two dentists to all medical specialties: such as cardiology, orthopaedic surgery, ophthalmology and dermatology!

Many nurses volunteered, all of whom have come from an emergency background and are currently proving their skills not only in that area, but also in other areas like administration.

Interestingly, the huge part of the polyclinic dedicated to “therapy” is also very popular with athletes! Although

chiropractors and massages rate highly, the really “cool” therapy, so to speak, is the “regeneration-contrasting bath”. This means going from two minutes in a 10-degree Celsius tub to a 60-degree Celsius tub—wearing mainly goose bumps for some!

All supervisors say this experience has been an incredible journey; all disciplines have worked well together. It's been wonderful for knowledge sharing across all groups and we haven't had a question or situation for which we couldn't find an answer!



Raising the Olympic flag in the Vancouver athletes' village.



Our trauma bay.



Some staff from across Canada.



Sherry Uribe, B.C. Director, Landon James, NENA President, and Sharron Lyons on a very windy day in front of Canada house with moose.