



HELLO FROM VIDY

Here we are once again, back on the shores of Lake Geneva, at the threshold of a spring which will perhaps be harsher than the past winter has been.

To be able to analyse both clearly and lucidly the kind of adventure we have just lived through in Calgary, a certain amount of time needs to have elapsed. I shall attempt such an assessment in the next few issues of our Olympic Review; a large part of what is written within the following pages is, moreover, already devoted to these Winter Games, the memory of which is still very much fresh in our minds.

For today then, I wish to extend a warm and sincerely appreciative greeting to Virginia and Ron, who to my mind personify all the ten thousand or so volunteers who have spent weeks, months and years engaged in manifold, often thankless, tasks in the service of the Olympic family and whose smiling efficiency and ever-willingness to help seemed to know no bounds.

Virginia, wife of the president of the Alberta Lawyers Association, herself president of the Calgary "Alliance française", played her role as hostess for my wife and myself with all the hallmarks of a true hostess : grace, elegance and modesty, striving to smooth out obstacles on the often unforeseen path we had to tread under her attentive eye.

Ron, a helicopter pilot and instructor for 25 years in the Canadian Armed Forces, of imposing stature, and whose booming laugh reflected his inexhaustible good humour, was our impeccable driver, whose all-round resourcefulness nothing, it seemed, could catch out.

When we had to take our leave of them at the airport, Virginia and Ron accompanied us as far as they could before, with a final affectionate wave, they went off side by side, she small and slender, he reassuringly strong. Between the four of us a bond of friendship grew, which — I sincerely hope — time will never sunder.

Through Virginia and Ron, it is to their fellow volunteers whom I did not have the privilege of meeting, to those working for the OCOG, to the authorities of Calgary, to the ubiquitous but unseen security forces, to the inhabitants of Alberta, to the huge Canadian crowd, enthusiastic but without ignominious chauvinism, restrained in their exuberance and amongst whom it was possible to mingle without any quaims, it is to all those people that I feel impelled to pay an unashamedly heartfelt tribute. The welcome they gave us was of such a quality as to make the Calgary Games, on that all-important level of human contact, an unforgettable occasion, a truly significant event in Olympic history.

So then, "Howdy" to all the Rons, "Hidy" to all the Virginias! The group of us from Vidy and the Olympic community present in Calgary bid you farewell and thank you with all our heart ! Each and everyone of you fully deserves the title of true Olympian !

Raymond Gafner
Editor in chief

