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# Hello Lillehammer!

BY RAYMOND GAFNER  
*Editor-in-Chief*

In the Foreword I wrote for the “Olympic Message” devoted to the Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, I said that “the Games in Lillehammer will be particularly special to me because they take me back to my Olympic roots”. There are two main reasons for this.

The first is that I came to Olympism through a winter sport, ice hockey, being largely responsible for the organization of the Olympic tournament in this sport at St Moritz in 1948. The second reason is that, four years later in 1952, having put down my Olympic roots, I was there to experience the Winter Games held in Norway.

Memories thus come flooding back. What strikes me most, going beyond the innovations resulting from the tremendous changes within society in general and sport in particular, are the similarities. These similarities are due both to the IOC which, by choosing Lillehammer, sought a return to basics, and to the desire of our Norwegian friends themselves to remain true to that which they hold most dear: concern for their national traditions, simplicity, endurance, ingenuity, respect for the environment, human warmth and hospitality.

They are preparing to prove that a small, local community with imagination, a cool head, sound footing and a strong heart can, if it enjoys the effective support of the whole national community, accept a challenge which others, seemingly better equipped? have timidly refused. It will also be very interesting, once there, to “take the temperature” of the Olympic family. suddenly immersed in a truly rejuvenating environment.

As an introduction to the centennial year, the “Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal”, one cannot ask for more.

So, even if the sun’s appearances will be brief up near the Arctic Circle,

***Hello Lillehammer!***