

- Utah State Legislature – planning to be in recess in order to, as they say, “better host our world guests.”

Our preparation will continue in earnest so that we can achieve an excellent and memorable winter encore to the recently successful Sydney Games. Our goals of showcasing the world’s best winter athletes and creating warm and special memories for all who experience the Games can, as we believe, be achieved.

We thank the IOC, the NOCs the IFs and others who have and will greatly assist us in achieving this goal of hosting wonderful Games.

Of course, a key element to hosting successful Games are the Games volunteers. The first wave of service training to 11,000 volunteers will start in

two weeks. Every leader of previous Olympic Games has said the same regarding the one-to-one correlation between great volunteers and great Games.

In Los Angeles, Peter Uberroth, head of the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1984, said to volunteers, “The success of the Games rests on your shoulders. You will never duplicate this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The Games cannot go on without you.”

From Lillehammer, President Gerhard Heiberg said that, “No other function is more critical to the success of the Games than the volunteer function. The Games cannot be great without an excellent corp of volunteers.”

Yet another leader, Jean-Claude Killy,

President of Albertville’s Winter Games accurately predicted that as SLOC got closer to hosting the Games, the importance of the volunteer would become more evident to the SLOC leadership. In fact, Mitt Romney, SLOC’s President and CEO, recently made Killy’s words seem prophetic. After he observed the Sydney Games, an NBC anchorwoman, Katie Couric, asked Mitt what one thing he learned most about the Sydney Games. Mitt’s answer was – “How important the volunteers are to the success of the Games.”

We are thrilled you are coming to Salt Lake City. See you in a year.

* SLOC vice-president responsible for human resources.

A wonderful human adventure

As a volunteer from the very beginning, I was lucky enough to participate in the organization of these Games, recruit team members, organize their training and light the Olympic flame in the heart of each one, the flame that generates passions and ensures success.

We witnessed the gathering of 8,000 volunteers from Savoie, the four corners of France and also neighbouring countries. An immense crowd, united by the same ideal, happy and overflowing with enthusiasm, ready to participate in an adventure in which each person became completely involved.

by Roger Loyet



So let the great Olympic celebration begin!

And what a celebration it was! A celebration of sport and of feats, a celebration of hosting and making friends, a

celebration of sharing the same passion and friendship.

A success?... How could it have been anything else!

Today, we are still carrying this flame which will never die. It will remain synonymous of strength, sharing and excelling oneself.

This adventure changed our view of the world and of our fellow human beings, these XV Olympic Winter Games in Albertville and the Savoie region will always remain in each and every one of us. It was an experience which had to be lived and will leave an indelible mark upon our lives.