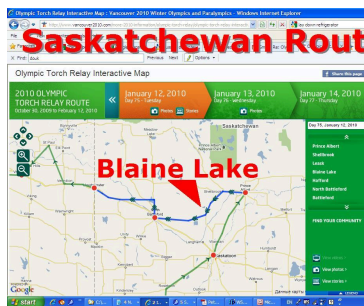


Doukhobors greet Olympic torch runners

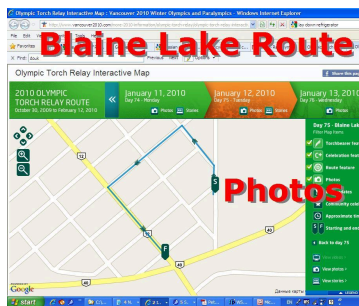
Doukhobors in [Blaine Lake](#), Saskatchewan, and [Grand Forks](#), British Columbia, are on the official list of greeters for the longest Olympic torch relay in history — the [2010 Vancouver Olympics](#).

Here are some of the posted news excerpts mentioning Doukhobors, with photos and maps. Click on images to enlarge.

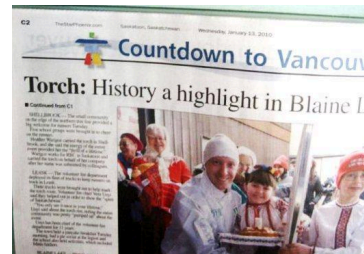
Jan 14 — Blaine Lake, SK



Jan 14 route



Photos taken in front of [Blaine Lake Composite School](#)



Headlines: The **Saskatoon StarPhoenix**. Mae Popoff on left.



Left: Mae Popoff in red holding Doukhobor "[bread, salt and water](#)". Torch runner Brian Edy poses with Chloe and Garrett Woytiuk in Blaine Lake Tuesday. The two presented him with Ukrainian kolach [bread] and salt, which is presented to visitors to wish them good health and prosperity. Photograph by: Richard Marjan, *The StarPhoenix*

Doukhobors, First Nations celebrate torch in Saskatchewan,

Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* —January 12, 2010

Torch brings 'unity' to first nations, *Vancouver Sun* — January 13, 2010

Doukhobors, First Nations celebrate torch in Saskatchewan,

Canwest News Service — January 13, 2010

BLAINE LAKE, Sask. — Saskatchewan Doukhobors and first nations residents celebrated Tuesday as the Olympic torch continued its journey across Canada.

In Blaine Lake, a small community about 85 kilometres north of Saskatoon, the Doukhobor descendants of early 1900s Russian migrants dressed in traditional costume to greet the relay runners.



Many Doukhobors settled in the rural area, said Mae Popoff [photo right], who was dressed in a long traditional dress and a head scarf and carried a plate with [bread, salt and water](#), which represents "toil and a peaceful life."

The Doukhobors were joined by first nations leader Cliff Tawpisin, who wore his traditional feathered bonnet to the Olympic celebration



L to R: Mila Riben, Alex Streliaff, Doreen Konkin presenting "Bread, salt and water".

Leda Kabaroff, Marion Riben Burak

Doreen Konkin, Marion Riben Burak

Report from Mae Popoff: Doreen Konkin and I carried the [bread](#).

[salt, water](#). Alex Strelieff did the welcome, Mila Riben (about 7, niece of Marion Riben Burak who also had Doukhobor dress) presented flowers to the Torch carrier. Mabel Androsoff, with her son Michael and grandson [Ryan](#) was interviewed on CTV. The meal at the high school was borshch, bannock, buns. The January 13 *StarPhoenix* had a section with 3 pages dedicated to "Opportunity of a Lifetime". I took the 3 photos of us shown above in front of the [Blaine Lake Composite School](#) before the start of the run.

Torch: History a Highlight in Blaine Lake. *Saskatoon StarPhoenix*
— January 13, 2010

Saskatchewan Doukhobors and First Nations residents celebrated on tuesday as the torch continued its journey across Canada.

Organizers paid tribute to the history of the community with an appearance of Doukhobor people in traditional dress.

The Doukhobors were an ethnic group that came from Russia in the early 1900's to settle the West, enticed by the promise of free land. They settled in the Blaine Lake area and today there are about 80 Doukhobors still left in the community, said Mae Popoff who now lives in Saskatoon.

The group believes in peace, said Popoff, who was dressed in traditional dress and a head scarf and carried a plate with bread, salt and water which represents "toil and peaceful life."

Opportunity of a lifetime for torchbearers: Family cheers on Saskatoon mother as she carries torch, *The StarPhoenix*

BLAINE LAKE — History was a highlight at the torch celebrations in Blaine Lake.

Organizers paid tribute to the history of the community with an appearance by Doukhobor people in traditional dress.

The Doukhobors were an ethnic group that came from Russia in the early 1900s to settle the West, enticed by the promise of free land. They settled in the Blaine Lake area, and today there are about 80 Doukhobors still left in the community, said Mae Popoff, who now lives in Saskatoon. The group believes in peace, said Popoff, who was dressed in a long traditional dress and a head scarf and carried a

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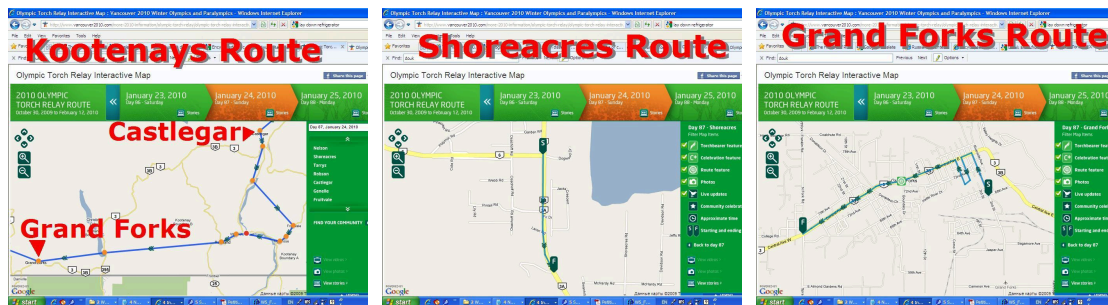
[Olympic torch enters Alberta in Lloydminster](#), *Edmonton Journal*, Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* — January 13

[Olympic torch enters Alberta in Lloydminster](#), Canwest News Service — January 12, 2010

LLOYDMINSTER, Alta. — ... In Blaine Lake, a small community about 85 kilometres north of Saskatoon, the Doukhobor descendants of early 1900s Russian migrants dressed in traditional costume to greet the relay runners. Many Doukhobors settled in the rural area, said Mae Popoff, who was dressed in a long traditional dress and a head scarf and carried a plate with bread, salt and water, which represents "toil and a peaceful life".

The Doukhobors were joined by First Nations leader Cliff Tawpisin, who wore his traditional feathered bonnet to the Olympic celebration.

Jan 23 — British Columbia: Nelson, Shoreacres, Glade-Tarrys, Robson, Castlegar, Genelle, Fruitvale, Beaver Falls, Montrose, Trail, Warfield, Rossland, Christina Lake, **Grand Forks**, Greenwood, Midway, Rock Creek, Osoyoos



Jan 22, 23 route

[Bearing the torch for the Olympics](#), *Boundary Sentinel* — 8 Jan 2010

When the Olympic Flame arrives in **Grand Forks** on Jan. 24, to celebrate the arrival of the flame, the community is planning a celebration at city park from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. including entertainment provided by The Sopranos & Co. choir under the

direction of Joan Thompson, Irish and Folklore dancers from the Granby Dance Studio, Les Folles Jambettes CanCan dancers, [USCC Doukhobor Choir](#), **authentic Borshch prepared and served by the [USCC Doukhobor ladies](#)**, the Grand Forks Pipes & Drums.

The day before the torch arrives, a snow sculpture contest will be held.

[Olympic Torch Relay, Grand Forks, Schedule of Activities](#),

What's Up Grand Forks — 29 Jan 2010

- 2:15 pm — FREE Hot Chocolate and authentic **Doukhobor Borshch** served until 4:00 pm in the Seniors Centre Hall in City Park
 - 2:15 pm — **USCC Russian Doukhobor Choir**
 - The Olympic Torch Relay arrives in Grand Forks on Sunday January 24 for a 45-minute rest stop. The Torchbearer's ETA is 2:45 pm
-

Jan 24 — Penticton, Kelowna

Spirit-Wrestlers.com

