



### **Arthur Biyarlanov**

My name is Arthur, I was born in 1995 and came to Canada around 2004-2005. I've lived at 260 Wellesley Street East in St. Jamestown since I moved to Canada. I love sports and I feel I am very athletic; my favourite sports are boxing and soccer. The Olympic Torch Relay means a lot to me because I really enjoy running and I am very good at it. I feel honoured to represent the CYC Boxing Club in the Olympic Torch Relay.



### **Farhan Hassain**

My name is Farhan and I moved to Canada four years ago from Bangladesh. When my family first moved to Canada we lived in the St. Jamestown community and now we live in Regent Park. I participate in the boxing program at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre with two great coaches, Johnny Kahlbenn and Lance ??? Boxing is my favourite sport. I consider running in the Olympic Torch Relay to be a big honour, I've dreamed of taking part in the Olympics since I was a child.



### **Ayoub Bahri**

My name is Ayoub and I came to Canada in 2002. I first lived in the Lawrence West area and then moved to Cabbagetown and I've lived here for the past two years. I participate in the boxing program at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre and have achieved many goals. I have won many medals competing in tournaments in St. Catherine's, Pickering, and the United States. I feel boxing has made me more disciplined and I feel a sense of respect as a person. I feel very excited to be part of the Olympic Torch Relay.



### **Carli Yim**

My name is Carli, I'm nineteen years old and I grew up participating in programs at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre. I began dancing eight years ago and I've been playing basketball and volleyball competitively for the last six years. I've played in the Ontario Volleyball Association and have captained my high school teams, which has given me opportunities to develop leadership qualities. Currently I attend Ryerson University and play on the Varsity Volleyball team. I look forward to graduating in 2012 and entering the workforce with the qualities I've developed through team play.



### **Amekala Kanapathippillai**

I am living in Toronto for the past ten years and I was born in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. I am the youngest and only daughter in my family. I am a first year student at Seneca College and I am taking Early Childhood Education. I love to work with children. I am so happy to have the chance to carry the Olympic torch and I am excited about the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. I was given the chance to work at the CYC two years ago through the TDSB Focus on Youth program and because of my strong values and commitment to hard work; I was hired again last summer. I love to play basketball and volleyball.



### **Shaquille Baptiste**

Hi, my name is Shaquille Baptiste and I have been playing basketball at the CYC for four years. Last summer I had the amazing opportunity to work at the CYC in the Sports Day Camp. Playing basketball motivates me to stay fit. By staying active participating in CYC programs, I feel well-respected and I have helped develop teamwork skills in other youth in the community.



### **Youdon Tszamtshang**

My name is Youdon Tenzin Tszamtshang and I am a Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torchbearer. I have had the opportunity to use the leadership skills I developed at the CYC for the past two summers as a volunteer. I am a proud Canadian and extremely excited to carry the flame. I stay active by swimming and being part of a cheerleading team. I cannot wait to be a part of this historic moment.

### **Jamiyla Bodkyn-Bryce**

My name is Jamiyla Bodkyn-Bryce and I live in North York, Toronto. I'm sixteen years old and participate in a lot of sporting activities such as basketball, volleyball and running. I've been a part of CYC since the age of ten as a camper and at the age of thirteen I became a volunteer. As a volunteer I helped out with the CYC's Performing Arts Program for two years and the March Break Camp. At the age of sixteen, I applied for a job during the summer. My experience at CYC as a participant, volunteer and employee I have learned the Olympic values: fairness, teamwork, respect and experienced personal growth. CYC has helped me grow and now be part of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.



### **Alexandra Howe**

I am from Toronto. I have been working at CYC for three years in the Summer Sports Camp and After-Four program. In the past, I have been on my high school basketball team and swim teams. The Olympics are an amazing opportunity to demonstrate athletic abilities and values and I am so blessed to have the chance to participate in them for Coca-Cola and the CYC.



### **Damien Higgins**

Hello! My name is Damien Higgins and I am nineteen years old. I have been attending the Cabbagetown Youth Centre since the age of five. I also have been employed at CYC as a sports camp instructor for two years. CYC is a safe environment and that is why I consider this place my second home.



### **Azad Nassar**

My name is Azad Nassar and I am 17 years old and I play basketball at CYC. My favourite sport is basketball and I enjoy playing it. I have been playing basketball since I was three years old.



### **Eddie Savaia**

I have participated with the Cabbage Town Youth Centre for the past 3 years at the summer camps. My favorite sport is hockey and I enjoy motocross too. I am a member of the Willowdale Black Hawks AA hockey team. I am very excited and proud to represent the CYC Club as a torchbearer. It is a moment I will cherish all of my life.



### **Laveda Sobieraj**

I love being a part of my community through the Cabbagetown Youth Centre. I started dancing at CYC when I was seven and now I teach hip hop dance lessons here. I also coordinate the We Read literacy program. I love all sports but my favourites are volleyball, basketball and soccer. I also have a large interest in fashion and study at George Brown College in the Fashion Management program which I will be graduating from this spring.



### **Nina Tablon**

My name is Nina Tablon. I am currently a second year student at York University, and I am majoring in chemistry. I am involved in the Co-ed and Women's basketball intra-mural at York. I have been a part of CYC for a long time. I used to attend the summer camp program when I was little, and I worked for 2 years as a camp counselor during the summer and in the afterschool program. It is my pleasure to be a part of this torch relay team to represent CYC, and Canada in the Olympics.



### **Paula Tablon**

I am 18 years old and an undergraduate student attending York University majoring in Psychology. I enjoy participating in various outdoor and indoor activities that challenge my physical abilities and are enjoyable, like basketball. I became a part of Cabbagetown Youth Centre as a young girl going to the All Day Sports Camp and the past Sailing program. After, I volunteered for CYC junior playgroup and also the All Day Sports camp. I have gained many experiences through this community.



### **Christina de la Cruz**

Christina has attended the CYC since she was an infant, participating in our Performing Arts Program, Evening Soccer League and Summer Programs. She exemplifies the CYC success story, growing up in Cabbagetown, participating in programs and now showing her leadership abilities as an instructor in our Performing Arts program. In her own words, "I instruct dance to youth in our community, helping not only instill the love of dance, but also an interest in physical activity, participating in competitions across the province and in the US, the youth have to learn to work together as a team and improve together."



### **Lindsay Marshall**

I have lived in Cabbagetown since the age of seven, and have been involved with the Cabbagetown Youth Centre since the age of 11. I was apart of the after school program, the basketball program, and was a member of the CYC dance group for 8 years, which helped me stay very active. I have worked as a summer camp counselor for three years, and am now doing my first year in the after school program. I am very excited to be a part of the Olympic Torch Relay, and will always remember it as another moment that was shared thanks to the Cabbagetown Youth Centre.



### **Mithuran Manogaran**

Mithuran Manogaran is the youngest child of four children in his family. Currently he is in Grade 10 at Jarvis Collegiate Institute. He is an Honour Roll student and is a very active member in his school sports teams. He loves playing volleyball, basketball, baseball, and hockey. Mithuran is also a very talented violin player (South Indian style). He is very thrilled at having the chance to carry the Olympic torch and is extremely excited for the upcoming Winter Olympics.

## **Michael Parise**

It would be an honour and privilege for me, Michael Parise, to carry the Olympic Torch on behalf of the Cabbagetown Youth Centre. My experience with the Cabbagetown Budokan Dojo has been the most fulfilling challenge I have embarked on thus far in my life. This experience has made me very self-aware and has helped me grow stronger both mentally and physically.

Learning Martial Arts has made me connect with a part of myself that has brought me inner peace and tranquility. I now am learning to master self-discipline and the important life skills I'll need to set and reach my goals, and this is an empowering feeling. Understanding the lineage and history of the art and how it traveled from Okinawa to Canada has been very enlightening and educational.

The challenging intensive training has taught me the intricacies of Aiki Jujitsu and the meticulous footwork of Karate, both have taught me the fast, effective and effortless display of self-defense and competitive skills, which have given me the opportunity to compete in tournaments. Since beginning my training in September 2009, I have won a 2nd (silver) and a 3rd (bronze) place medal in Kumite (sparring). This exciting opportunity would not have come my way without the teachings of my Sensei Randy Horton and others at the Cabbagetown Budokan Dojo, as well as the support of community organizations such as the Cabbagetown Youth Centre, which gives young people like me the chance to develop the life skills needed to begin to reach toward their dreams. It would be a real privilege to carry the torch on their behalf.