

# Olympic Oval —

## A Site for All Seasons

**N**estled on the campus of the University of Calgary, the Olympic Oval is a sparkling jewel in Calgary's Olympic crown.

Outside, the geometric glass roof of North America's first fully enclosed 400-m speed-skating oval glistens in the autumn sun. Inside, the skate blades of Canada's national speed-skating squad bite into the oval's mirror-smooth ice. All else is silent inside the cool, massive building.

But come February 1988, the spectacular concrete and glass oval will come alive with the sounds of excited spectators cheering on the world's best speed skaters as they race for Olympic gold.

Built over 27 months at a cost of \$40 million, the Olympic Oval is one of the main contributions of the Government of Canada towards the Games.

For Canada's speed skaters it marks the first time they have been able to train indoors on a 400-m oval in their own country. Gone are the days of expensive training sojourns to other countries.

Canadian and international visitors alike are overwhelmed by the oval's size and beauty. Roughly the length of two football fields,

the oval covers an area of 26 000 m<sup>2</sup> (279 870 sq. ft.). Its blue and purple colour scheme and abundance of overhead glass give the building a warm feeling.

Current plans for post-Games use call for the ice on all three surfaces to be in place for seven months of the year. For the remainder of the year the oval will take on a decidedly summer look. Artificial turf will allow for a variety of uses — the most likely being a football field and two soccer pitches — and a 435-m jogging track around the perimeter of the speed-skating track will be available year-round.

Still, the ice makes the Olympic Oval such a remarkable facility. At its heart is a state-of-the-art refrigeration plant. "The object is to have perfect ice for each sport," says John Tewnion, co-ordinator of Olympic projects. "Our refrigeration plant enables us to create fast ice for speed skating, soft ice for figure skating and hard ice for ice hockey."

**The Olympic Oval is a fully enclosed, 400-m facility. Clear-spanned concrete arches give spectators an unobstructed view of world speed skaters competing for Olympic medals.**

# The Spirit

## of the Flame



**T**he spirit of the XV Olympic Winter Games is almost upon us.

Beginning November 17, 1987, the Olympic Torch Relay leaves the east coast from St. John's, Newfoundland, for an 88-day journey to the west coast. From historic Signal Hill, where Marconi sent the first trans-Atlantic radio signal in 1901, the first of more than 6 000 torch bearers will begin the 18 000-km (11 000-mile) journey westward.

Passing through every provincial and territorial capital in the country — and reaching as far north as Inuvik in the Northwest Territories — torch bearers will proudly hold the 1.5-kg torch aloft as they run 1-km sections of the torch relay route.

**Six million Canadians have applied to be among the 7 000 who will relay the Olympic flame for 88 days across Canada to the opening ceremonies of the Winter Games on February 13, 1988.**

Earlier in November, Calgary's Olympic Torch will be lit in a sacred ceremony in ancient Olympia. The flame, symbolic of the Olympic spirit, will then be flown across the Atlantic to St. John's for day one of the torch relay.

Although first conceived for the 1936 Olympic Summer Games in Berlin, the Olympic Torch Relay has become one of the most symbolic and spectacular of Olympic traditions. With the carrying of the sacred flame from Olympia to Calgary, the spirit of the ancient Olympics is united with that of the 1988 Winter Games.

