



**MULTIPLEX NEWS**  
**Release #14 - First Opportunity**

For weeks the Russell Regional Multiplex Fundraising Campaign Committee has been writing articles about the potential of the Multiplex to attract events to our community and region. The Committee has claimed that the facility could become the catalyst in a variety of proposals developed to attract significant events; ones that would have an extensive and long term economic impact on the Town and Region. Well, the opportunity has arrived.

Recently Sport Manitoba provided an information package to communities throughout the Province asking them about their interest in hosting the 2014 Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games. In the past the Town has toyed with the possibility of submitting a proposal to host the games and came very close to doing so in 2002 after the Asessippi Ski Hill was built. Unfortunately at that time it was felt that other facilities in the community specifically the Arena were not adequate to meet the needs of the Games.

Fast forward to 2011 and the Regional Multiplex is on the verge of completion. The Asessippi Ski Hill is operating and has established a reputation as one of the finest ski hills and winter parks on the prairies and the community and region are excited about new opportunities that are available to us. The result, a Letter of Intent was submitted to Sport Manitoba on May 18, 2011 indicating that Russell and its partners from the RM of Russell, RM of Shellmouth-Boulton, RM of Silver Creek and the Village of Binscarth are interested in bidding on the Games.

It will be no small task for our region to host the Games if we are selected. It is projected that over 1800 athletes would come here to participate in ten events over a 1 week period. We would need to recruit and train some 1200 volunteers as well as deal with spectators and media who would be in addition to the numbers identified. A little daunting, maybe, a significant opportunity, definitely, can we do it, absolutely.

With the Asessippi Ski Hill, the new Multiplex and the pool of volunteers that pulled off one of the greatest celebrations in Manitoba history, Jon Montgomery's "Mission Accomplished", the Games are definitely something our community and region can do. Only seven other communities in all of Manitoba have ever hosted a Manitoba Winter Games, privileged company if we could be successful in attracting the 2014 Games to our area.

The Multiplex is a facility that will help to put our community and region on the map, just like Asessippi and the Montgomery Event. The opportunities are vast and the benefits enormous, all we need is the vision to dream and the spirit to make them happen.

For further information on the progress of the Russell Regional Multiplex please visit the Town of Russell website at [www.russellmb.com](http://www.russellmb.com). If you have any questions or comments regarding the facility please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Multiplex Funding Campaign Committee. The Committee members are Chris Radford, Bruce Christopher, Alan Stanchuk, Symantha Dunn, Keith Popp, Eldon Montgomery, Gerald Keating and Terry Rolfe.