

## Games Gypsies – Script

HOST: Just when you thought it was safe to turn on your radio, our intrepid Smells Like Yukon reporters have sniffed out one more story about the Canada Winter Games. This week, Mark Koepke and Jesse Devost try to have the last word about a ~~team~~ of high performers who came to town and gave it their all.

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Clips: 2 minutes 15 seconds  
V/O: 475 words (less than 3 minutes 30 seconds)

The airport is quiet. Those mascots have gone to Disneyland. And everyone's orange volunteer jacket has been stashed away in a basement corner or garage.

It's all quiet after the Canada Winter Games - you can almost hear the tumbleweed rolling down the unplowed streets.

[SFX: whistling wind]

Most Yukoners are happy to take a much-deserved breather, savouring the memory but quietly reassuring ourselves "Never again." We might not be aware that there are people among us - a strange, alien breed - who are getting restless ~~with all this quiet~~.

[SFX: drum beats; "Ramblin' Man" ?]

We call them Games Gypsies.

By the end of it all, the Canada Winter Games had about 85 employees - most of them from here. There were also others who came from afar and decided to stay.

And, y' know, we're happy that it worked out for them.

But Mark and I were more interested in the very small contingent of staffers who rode into town with a love 'em and leave 'em attitude.

Like nomads, these ~~people-hired guns~~ travel from games to games and can never seem to get enough.

~~They're the ringers, the specialists, the hired guns,~~ Now they're in the process of packing up their huuge tent and looking down the road. This part "They're the ringers..." could also be just cut.

To learn more ~~about them~~, we paid a visit to the Games headquarters ~~or what was left of it.~~

"This is my sixth multisport event..."  
[Chris Morrissey CLIP... 7 seconds: Track 27: 1:09-1:16]

That was Chris Morrissey, general manager ~~of the 2007 Canada Winter Games~~ and unofficial Gypsy King. For years, this ~~former~~ Newfoundlander and his wife have been ~~orphans of the road on the move~~. But some of his staff keeps him in good company.

"There's about five of them who've got multi-games experience..." [Chris Morrissey CLIP... 9 seconds Track 25: 1:13-1:22]

Take Kim Stanton. He traveled a long way to offer his expertise for six months—with no illusions about where he was ultimately headed.

"I've done Olympics, Commonwealth games...  
Want to go to Olympics in Vancouver..."

[Kim Stanton CLIP... 23 seconds Track 29  
0:50-0:59 + 1:06-1:20]

As we came face to face with real Games gypsies ~~in their own domain~~, Mark started to worry that we may have offended ~~our hoststhem~~. ~~We wanted to make sure we were showing proper respect for these unusual people.~~

"We've been calling you games gypsies... Is that the right term? Crackheads or circus people? *Probably just junkies...*" [MK and Kim Stanton CLIP 16 seconds Track 0:05-0:13 + 0:19-0:27]

~~Clearing that up, we wanted to know a bit more about the gypsy — or junkie lifestyle. Naturally, we also wondered what attracted these gypsies — or junkies — to their chosen lifestyle. Why weren't these people they interested in mortgages, the 9-5 paper shuffle, or the neighborhood community association? Basically, what was wrong with their sense of normality?~~

"It's exciting. It's always a different challenge... Other continents as well." [Chris Morrissey CLIP 21 seconds Track 27 1:24-1:45; **could be shortened?**]

Whitehorse was the longest gig ever for Chris - at three years. But now he's feeling the lure of family and strange thing called "home" on east coast. He might settle down, but it's obvious to us that the gypsy attitude will never totally disappear.

"We don't have any fixed address...there will be events in the future..." [Chris Morrissey CLIP 9 seconds Track 27 2:02-2:11]

Like a true gypsy, he also gathers things as he travels, and he won't be leaving here empty handed.

First, he's taking that warm, fuzzy feeling.

"I take from Yukon, it's going to be a very special spot in my heart... one of the best contracts I've ever been involved with..."

[Chris Morrissey CLIP 10 seconds Track 28 1:27-1:37]

Second, a souvenir...

"My wife and I, our little boy Nate was born in June of last summer... Nate will always have a Yukon birth certificate... when he grows up he'll want to come back and visit..."

[Chris Morrissey CLIP 15 seconds Track 27 1:54-2:01 + 3:02-3:10]

~~And third finally, he'll have some newbies like Andrew Greenlaw gypsies in training—a new generation following in his footsteps.~~

~~At the office, Chris introduced us to Andrew Greenlaw, who was attracted to Games job because he wanted to experience the North. And now he~~  
This fresh-faced gypsy recruit finds himself is already headed to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and after that, who knows...

"I said I would do another Games after Whitehorse... Watching my mentor Chris Morrissey jump from games to games, you never know what I might be up to next..."

[Andrew Greenlaw CLIPS 25 seconds Track 26 1:36-1:53 + 2:19-2:27]

[NEW 7-second clip, track 27 0:57-1:04... "Canada definitely puts out a breed of professional event managers probably a better word than gypsies]

~~[CLIP Jackson Browne: "Stay" ?]~~

~~Well, he definitely *sounds* like a Games gypsy in the making. Which means it's just a matter of time until he *smells* like a gypsy. And maybe, just maybe, when Andrew, Chris, Kim and other gypsies move on to their next gigs in far-flung places, some of the great things they do will probably smell just a bit like Yukon.~~

Whatever you call them, Chris, Kim, Andrew and other games gypsies smell adventure in a life on the road. And maybe, just maybe, when they move on to their next gigs, the time they spent here will make some of the great things they do smell, well, just a bit like Yukon.

Now *there's* a legacy.