Christmas Eve Services
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St. Albert United Church Wednesday December 24th Christmas Eve services are:
5:00 pm PJ (Pajama) Service, "The Gift of Words" Especially for families with small children. Everyone is encouraged to wear pajamas.
7:00 pm Traditional Service, "The Original Love Story"
9:00 pm Communion Service, "And So This is Christmas"

Ransom completes Olympic torch run in Florence

KEVIN MA
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A St. Albert man wore the hopes of his hometown on his chest last week as he carried the Olympic flame through the streets of Italy.

St. Albert resident Kevin Ransom completed his leg of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games Torch Relay in Italy on Dec. 11.

Ransom was one of the 10,001 people selected to take part in the relay. The relay, which started Dec. 5, sees runners carry the Olympic torch 12,000 kilometres throughout Italy in the lead-up to the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Ransom was part of the sixth leg of the relay and carried the torch about 200 metres through Florence, Italy.

"It was amazing," said Ransom, speaking to the *Gazette* by Zoom about two hours after his run.

"I'm super proud, not only to have done it and completed it, but to have had my family there."

The big run

Ransom said he spent the last few months preparing for the run by working out on a rowing machine. He and his family touched down in Florence on Dec. 7 to get in some sightseeing before the relay.

Ransom said his leg of the relay was at 6:45 p.m. on Dec. 11. Earlier in the day, he and about 15 other relay members met with organizers for a briefing. He was the only Canadian in the group, with the others hailing from Germany, South Africa, and other regions.

"Most of them were just regular people," he said.

Among the group were an Italian man in a wheelchair and Al Bano, a famous Italian actor/singer.

Organizers briefed the runners on how to hold their torches and look good for the public. Everyone then piled into a van which dropped them off at their designated start points.

> "Try and slow everything down. This is a moment you don't want to forget.".
>
> KEVIN RANSOM
> ST. ALBERT RESIDENT

Ransom said relay organizers were surprised to see him wear a T-shirt under his uniform, given that it was about 6 C out. (The shirt was signed by students at Kinosayo Elementary, which his daughter attends.)

"I told them, 'I'm from Canada,' and they understood immediately."

Ransom said his run started outside a café on Via Curtatone (likely the Bistrò Gamberini, Google Maps suggests) just north of the Arno River. All around him were white three- or four-storey buildings with window shutters. The streets were lined with police barricades and cheering onlookers. Several people asked him to pose for pictures as they waited for the Olympic flame to arrive.

After about five minutes, Ransom said he saw a woman round the corner bearing a lit torch. She jogged up to him, and they tapped the tips of their torches together to transfer the flame.

Ransom said he took a deep breath and started walking the flame northeast down Via di Santa Lucia. It was dark, but the police lights behind him and the camera flashes in front of him lit the way.

"Try and slow everything down," Ransom recalled thinking at the time. "This is a moment you don't want to forget."

After a few moments, he turned to one of the nearby relay attendants, jokingly said, "OK, time to make you guys work out a little bit," and started jogging.

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Welcome Christmas Home
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KAYLA RANSOM/Photo

St. Albert resident Kevin Ransom runs the Olympic torch through the streets of Florence, Italy, on Dec. 11. Ransom was one of the roughly 10,000 torchbearers participating in the torch run for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

Ransom said many people in the crowd ran alongside him on the sidewalk, including his two daughters, who shouted, "Go dad!" as they did so. In no time at all, he was at the finish line near the Orti Oricellari walled garden. He kissed his torch and passed the flame to an Italian man named Leo.

Attendants took Ransom aside and turned off his torch. His run was done.

Ransom said he celebrated with his fellow runners afterwards with a Coca-Cola (a sponsor of the relay). He got to keep his pin and uniform as a souvenir, and (through his employer Airbnb) purchased one of the 1,500 torches used in the relay.

Ransom encouraged Canadian athletes headed to next year's Winter Games to enjoy every moment.

"It may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Visit www.olympics.com/en/milano-cortina-2026/olympic-torch-relay for more on the relay. ■



SALE PROCESS - WHITECOURT VILLAGE COMMUNITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*, RSC 1985, c C-36, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTENSON EQUITIES LTD., CHRISTENSON COMMUNITIES LTD., DEVONSHIRE VILLAGE LTD., DEVONSHIRE MEWS LTD., DEVONSHIRE MANOR LTD., ROYAL OAK DEV. LACOMBE LTD., CITADEL MEWS LTD., BEDFORD VILLAGE LTD., GLASTONBURY MEWS LTD., GLASTONBURY VILLAGE LTD., CHRISTENSON VILLAGE AT WESTMOUNT LTD., TIMBERSTONE COMMUNITIES LTD., PARK AVENUE AT CREEKSIDE LTD., WHITECOURT VILLAGE LTD., CHRISTENSON DEVELOPMENTS LTD., WESTMOUNT SECURITY CORP., TIMBERSTONE MEWS SECURITY CORP., SOUTHWOODS SECURITY CORP., ROYAL OAK MORTGAGE SECURITY SERVICES INC., GLASTONBURY SECURITY CORP., DEVONSHIRE SECURITY CORP., PARK AVENUE SECURITY CORP., BEDFORD SECURITY CORP., NETWORK CONSULTING CORPORATION, 585436 ALBERTA LTD. and 1831993 ALBERTA LTD

("the Companies" or "Christenson Group")

On October 17, 2025, the Companies were granted an Order (the "**Initial Order**") by the Alberta Court of King's Bench (the "Court") and obtained creditor protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (the "CCAA"). Ernst & Young Inc. was appointed as monitor (the "**Monitor**") of the Companies as part of the CCAA proceedings.

On November 17, 2025, the Court issued an Order approving a Sale Process (the "**SISP Order**") within which the Applicants were authorized to engage N.R.E. Newmark Real Estate Canada Limited (the "**Selling Agents**") to act as the exclusive Selling Agents to market certain properties of the Christenson Group in accordance with the SISP Order.

Pursuant to the SISP Order, the Selling Agents (with the assistance of the Monitor as required) are conducting a sale process (the "SP") for certain Christenson Group assets, namely the Whitecourt Village Community. Bidders are invited to submit a proposal to purchase the Whitecourt Village Community through this SP.

A Non-Confidential Teaser Letter ("**Teaser**") has been prepared by the Selling Agents and is being delivered to those parties that have expressed a wish to participate in the SP. The Teaser, along with other information about the Christenson Group's CCAA proceedings, is available at the Monitor's website, located at: **www.ey.com/ca/christenson**.

The Phase I bid deadline for non-binding letters of intent is 5:00 PM (M.S.T time) on February 9, 2026. Potential bidders are requested to direct all inquiries to the Selling Agent or the Monitor representative, Evan MacKinnon.

Ernst & Young Inc.,
Licensed Insolvency Trustee
acting solely in its capacity as Monitor of the Christenson Group and not in its personal or corporate capacity

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