

## Winter Games a family affair

### Each member of Sinclairs to take part

**Martin Cleary**

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Graham Sinclair stood behind the rostrum, looked at the full house of elite athletes, politicians and parents, and immediately let his emotions come to the surface.

"I tell you ... I'm the proudest father in the world," he said, breaking the silence with a heart-felt statement. "There's no greater satisfaction than to see your children achieve their dreams. It's a significant honour for our entire family to represent Ontario at one of Canada's premier sports events."

Yes, the entire family.

When the Canada Winter Games begin Friday in Whitehorse, Yukon, the first time the multi-sport festival has ever travelled north of the 60th parallel, the Sinclairs will have representation in four major aspects of the Games -- athletic competition, coaching, the arts and volunteerism.

There are five members in the Sinclair family from Manotick and each one will play a vital role for Ontario at the Games, which rotate every two years between Winter and Summer.

"This means the world to me because it's such a unique opportunity," Graham, a provincial-level curler as a junior in 1980, said in an interview. "I told my wife I'm living out a childhood dream."

Jamie, 14, will play lead on the Rachel Homan women's curling team during the first week of the Games.

"It definitely brings our family together," she said. "We're all in this together."

Neil, 16, is the skip of the boys' curling team, which plays in the second week.

Graham coaches Neil's team, which won the Ontario boys' bantam curling title last week.

All three qualified for the Canadian Winter Games by winning gold medals at the 2006 Ontario Winter Games last March in Collingwood.






Alex, 18, was selected in December to be part of the National Arts Program for his skills in visual arts and music. He'll be involved in a major arts presentation with youth from all provinces, and will play music during Team Ontario athlete pep rallies with Joe



CREDIT: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen

The Sinclair family, of Manotick, includes Graham, Jamie, 14, Neil, 16, Alex, 18, and Suzanne. All five of them will be attending the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon.

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Sargant of Greely.

Suzanne will be a volunteer. She'll spend most of her time at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre as an environmental services volunteer and as a spectator for Jamie's matches.

"It's really exciting. It's a blessing the way it has all worked out," Suzanne said in an interview yesterday at a reception for Ottawa and area athletes attending the Games. "It's almost surreal."

There will be 58 Ottawa and area athletes and two in the arts program wearing Ontario colours at the Games. The Quebec team includes 12 from Gatineau.

While all five Sinclairs are going to the Games, it won't seem like a family holiday.

Suzanne and Jamie will see each other during the day, but will have different sleeping accommodations. Jamie will stay with the Ontario athletes and Suzanne will be billeted by a woman in Whitehorse. Alex will work at a different site and live somewhere else.

Suzanne and Jamie return home after the first week of the Games, while Graham and Neil are scheduled for competition in the second week. Alex is the only family member in Whitehorse for two weeks.

As Neil, Jamie and Graham modelled the red and white Ontario team jackets, Suzanne was thrilled "to see all of them excelling in their own passions."

"That's all you want for your kids. Even Graham. His passion is coaching. I wish I could clone him for my daughter's team."

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