



TORONTO 2015
Pan Am/Parapan Am

PACHI'S STORY



PACHI is a young porcupine who grew up just west of Toronto in a forested area of the Niagara Escarpment. PACHI isn't your typical porcupine; he's outgoing and loves to explore new places and meet new friends. And while there are some prickly challenges in being accepted as a porcupine, PACHI is out to prove otherwise.

PACHI has 41 brightly coloured quills—one for each of the Pan American countries participating in the Games. His quills are five brilliant colours and represent qualities that he holds: **fuchsia is passion**, **green is youth**, **blue is collaboration**, **orange is determination** and **purple is creativity**. PACHI, like other porcupines, has a visual impairment and difficulty seeing people and objects that are far away.

One day, PACHI noticed lights and noise coming from the east. Always an adventure seeker, he quickly headed in that direction. His journey ended in Toronto and when he arrived, he noticed that everyone was diverse and unique like him. PACHI's dream is for everyone to celebrate their differences and be proud of their individuality, like him.

Everyone was welcoming and this made it fun and easy for PACHI to meet new friends, explore the cool neighbourhoods and attend tons of great events. The city was so inviting that PACHI made Toronto his new home.

PACHI quickly learned that Toronto is hosting the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games during the summer of 2015. He heard that thousands of athletes, spectators and volunteers would be coming to the city. What a perfect opportunity to get involved and play host to the Americas and the Caribbean, he thought!

DID YOU KNOW?

Porcupines are found throughout North America and South America, including in more than 20 of the Pan American countries competing at the Games.

The Niagara Escarpment is a massive forested limestone ridge that extends from the Niagara River north to Georgian Bay. The escarpment is known for its waterfalls, river systems, forests and beautiful vistas.

The name "PACHI" was provided by the winning team's entry in the Mascot Creation Challenge. Its origin is from Japanese comic books with "PACHI PACHI" meaning "clapping with joy."

MASCOT CREATION CHALLENGE

The Mascot Creation Challenge was a nationwide contest that invited kids from across Canada to design the official mascot for the TORONTO 2015 Games. More than 4,000 entries were submitted to the contest and the top 6 were voted on by Canadians. After receiving more than 33,000 votes, PACHI proved to be the fan favourite.

The winning design team includes Jenny Lee, Fiona Hong, Paige Kunihuro and Michelle Ing — a group of Grade 8 friends from Buttonville Public School in Markham, Ontario. Their group leader, physical education teacher and coach Mari Ellery, used the contest as part of a school assignment.

The original design for PACHI was professionally illustrated by James Caswell.