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Carly Thorp will represent B.C. at Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse

by AARON ORLANDO

Arrow Lakes News

2006 NSS grad and current Thompson Rivers University (TRU) first-year business student Carly Thorp is headed to the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse to represent B.C. in the parallel giant slalom event.

Thorp was the TRU Ambassador Entrance Award winner for being a top scholar-athlete since high school, where she won athletic achievement and sportsmanship blocks for soccer as well as snowboarding, as well as

the Principal's Award for grade twelve academics.

Thorp has also been selected for the B.C. Snowboard Cross team and will be training at Sun Peaks and Big White and then attending B.C. and Alberta races, including Nor-Am Cup events.

Thorp, who got her start training at the Summit Lake Ski Area, is looking forward to the opportunity to represent B.C. "I'm really excited. It's an awesome opportunity for someone from such a small town," she said.

Thorp is currently

preparing herself for the upcoming season with a daily dry-land training regimen that involves weightlifting, strength

training and mental conditioning, on top of judging courses in micro and macro economics, math, computing, management and information systems.

She says the academics have been a challenge, saying that she's glad she chose business, but, "Some of the courses -- they're not going to be my specialty."

Thorp credits the Nancy Greene Racers program at Summit Lake Ski

Area for laying the foundation for her snowboard racing career. "The ski hill is very important ...

Grand Slalom is the race that happens at Nancy Greene as well as at high school," she says.

Thorp has already travelled extensively for snowboarding, noting a trip to the Snowboard Cross Nationals in Quebec last year as a member of the B.C. team.

Admittedly more of a Snowboard Cross racer, Thorp is hoping to get in as much training before Whitehorse in the hard boots and thinner board

of the Giant Slalom event.

The head-to-head races last about a minute and a half, and require intense concentration and top physical conditioning to deal with varying course conditions. "It's really fast. You have to be on your toes," she said.

Thorp received \$12,000 for the TRU Ambassador Entrance Award, which is paid out at \$1500 per semester.

Thorp credits community service as a key to receiving the award. While in Nakusp, she volunteered as a director of the Arrow Lakes

Youth Society where she took part in establishing or maintaining programs like the Summer Youth Drama program, the annual Skateboard/BMX competition on Canada Day, polar bear swims at other youth activities.

She says her volunteer work has really paid off, and advises current NSS students to get involved with the community.

"Talk to a lot of people, you want to get involved they'd be happy to help you."