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A SALUTE
TO OUR CHAIRMAN

DAVID
CROMBIE



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Telephone (416) 760-7351
Fax (416) 760-9405
E-Mail: whynot@sympatico.ca
Web: www.cfpdp.com

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Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, a charitable organization founded in 1985, assists people with physical disabilities to live fuller lives. Its mission is to create awareness in the public, business communities and government of the abilities of persons with disabilities and their needs in the areas of housing, employment, education, accessibility, sports and recreation and research. In the past 29 years, the Foundation has raised substantial funds, which it has distributed to a wide variety of organizations and events. These include the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, the Eternal Flame of Hope, the Rotary Cheshire Home, the annual Great Valentine Gala (in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley), the King Clancy Awards, the Corporate Awards, the WhyNot Marathon, the first Canadian Marathon for the Paralympics and the Rolling Rampage.

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MESSAGES

Message from Hon. David C. Onley

As Honorary Patron, it is a pleasure to extend greetings to the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons as you host your Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon.

Since 1985 your organization has supported individuals with physical disabilities in many ways, including raising awareness of their contributions to society and recognizing their achievements.

As well, you have published educational materials, championed seminars and conferences that address relevant issues, assisted other organizations dedicated to similar causes, as well as directly supporting individuals. Today's event recognizes Canadians who have made an extraordinary contribution to enriching the quality of life for people with physical disabilities.

As The Queen's representative in Ontario, I applaud the remarkable achievements of this organization and those outstanding individuals who are being inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame. I send my congratulations as well as my best wishes for a most enjoyable luncheon.

Message from Hon. David Crombie

As Chairman of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame it gives me great pleasure to announce our remarkable 2013 Hall of Fame inductees. I know everyone will agree Stephanie Dixon, Ramesh Ferris, Jerry and Annie Johnston and posthumous inductee Raymond Cohen are truly deserving candidates. Today we pay tribute to their outstanding contributions and add their names to the Hall of Fame's distinguished record of achievement.

The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame is a unique and very special place. Its members come from many different walks of life and their personal stories are as varied as their achievements. What unites this diverse group of exceptional Canadians is their inspiring commitment and desire to succeed even in the face of sometimes overwhelming obstacles. They are the kind of everyday heroes who really make our world a better place and it's a wonderful thing to have this forum where we can recognize their achievements.

I want to thank the members of the Hall of Fame Selection Board for their insightful input and dedication. I also want to acknowledge the tireless work of Vim Kochhar and his team at the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons. As always, it's been a pleasure working with you. Thank you.

Message from Hon. Vim Kochhar

Greetings and welcome to our annual induction celebrations for the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame.

This year marks a special milestone in the life of our beloved Hall of Fame: 20 years of celebrating the inspirational and historic achievements of Canadians who live with disability. And what an extraordinary history it is!

We founded this great institution because the story of people with disabilities in our country deserved to be told and we wanted to create a worthy national platform where we could showcase their achievements and highlight the many important issues they so ably espouse. If our dream was to have a lasting impact, however, the Hall of Fame had to acquire real stature in the community and that was a tall order. Today, as well as recognizing our 2013 Hall of Fame inductees, we are presenting a Life Time Achievement Award to the man who helped us make that dream a reality, our Hall of Fame Chairman, David Crombie. Thank you David, you have served this great cause with honour and distinction.

I want to thank our loyal patrons and sponsors and all of you who support the CFPDP's long running campaign to create a world of meaningful opportunity for Canadians who live with disability. We all share in the disability community's ambitions for a better world. Together, we will make it happen.



Hon. David C. Onley
*The Lieutenant Governor
of Ontario*



Hon. David Crombie
*Chairperson
The Canadian Disability
Hall of Fame*



Hon. Vim Kochhar
*Chairperson
Canadian Foundation for
Physically Disabled Persons*



**Proud to support the
Twentieth Annual Hall
of Fame Induction.**

**We are working together with
The Canadian Disability Hall
of Fame to make a difference
in our communities.**



CANADA'S DISABILITY MOVEMENT has amassed an exceptional record of achievement over the course of its dogged and inspired history. Canadians with disabilities have captured the hearts and minds of people around the world with their galvanizing advocacy, athletic prowess, leadership and creativity. And that wealth of talent and energy has wrought far-ranging transformations, not just in the lives of those who live with disability, but across the whole spectrum of our constantly evolving conception of civil society. The design and function of our physical environment, our institutions, politics and public policy, culture, all bear the stamp of the disability community's determined crusade for a world

of greater opportunity – a world where people with disabilities are recognized for their ability.

The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame is a tribute to the life and times of the remarkable individuals who have played a part in that historic campaign to change the way we think about physical disability. This year the Hall of Fame marks a bit of history of its own. On Tuesday, November 5, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons will celebrate its 20th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremonies and it's an event that the Hall of Fame's founder, the Honourable Vim Kochhar, has been anticipating with both pride and a certain measure of incredulity.

"It's hard to believe we've been at this for 20

On November 5th the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame celebrates its 20th anniversary with a special tribute to its tiny, perfect Chairman, the Honourable David Crombie.



The 2012 Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies: CFPDP Chair Vim Kochhar joins 2012 inductees Tracey Ferguson, Robert Hampson, Jim Thompson on behalf of Joyce Thompson (posthumous) and Ann Caine with Lt. Governor David C. Onley and Hall of Fame Chair David Crombie.

Photography by Steve Blackburn

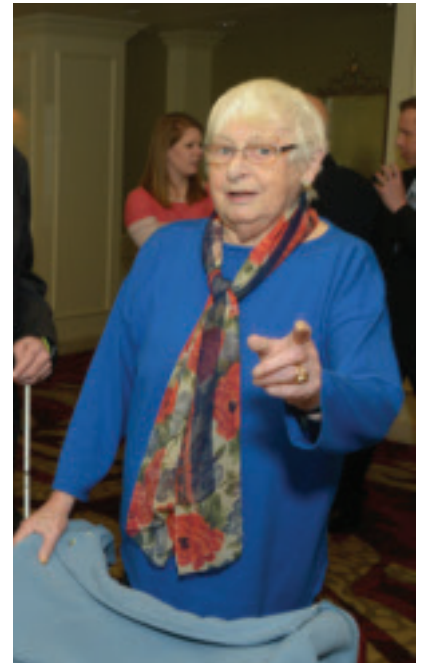


Top left to right
Hon. Con Di Nino (*middle*)
presents Rev. Stephanie McClellan
and Robert Hampson with the
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond
Jubilee Medal.

LCol. (Hon.) Hari Panday,
32 Service Battalion, presenting
gift print to guest speaker
Lindsay Gordon, President
& CEO, HSBC Bank Canada.

Middle left
Sabi Marwah, Vice-Chair & COO,
Scotiabank joins Vim Kochhar,
Sriram Iyer, President & CEO ICICI
Bank Canada, and Hari Panday.

Middle right
Canadian Disability Hall of Fame
Selection Board member Anne
Johnston.



years,” says the CFPDP Chairman and retired Member of the Senate of Canada. “When we first started working on this project back in 1993 I would never have dared imagine we might come this far. It’s been a very gratifying and humbling experience.” Professions of his lack of daring aside, Kochhar’s dream of creating a Hall of Fame from thin air was nothing if not audacious. “Maybe it was a little ambitious,” chuckles Kochhar, “but I’ve always been a great believer in the old adage that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We just took things one step at a time.”

The first step was to find a point man (or

woman), a respected community figure who was willing to step forward as the Hall of Fame’s public face and spokesman. Kochhar had one name in mind: former Toronto Mayor and Member of Parliament David Crombie, very possibly the most popular politician and civic leader Toronto has ever known. “David is a natural leader who has dedicated his life to public service. And he had a long and distinguished involvement in disability issues too. He was the perfect fit but it’s an awful lot to ask of someone, to stand up front like that. It’s a real credit to David’s generosity and personal character that he agreed. In fact, he barely hesitated. All



Top left to right
 2012 Inductee Tracey Ferguson
 2012 Inductee Ann Caine
 2012 Inductee Robert Hampson

Middle left
 David Crombie with
 the Honourable Trevor Eyton.

Middle right
 Canadian Disability Hall of Fame
 Selection Board members
 Janice Martin and Cindy Accardi.

he asked was, “What do you want me to do?”
 It was Crombie who recruited the Hall of Fame’s longstanding and dedicated Selection Board and together they worked out the hall’s selection criteria and formal guidelines. The next step in making Kochhar’s dream a reality was to find the Hall of Fame a home. For this, he turned to then Metro Chairman Alan Tonks who offered a space in Metro Hall at 55 John Street, right in the heart of downtown Toronto. The public exhibit was officially opened February 11, 1994. A rededication ceremony was held on November 20, 1996 when the Hall of Fame moved to a more visible location in

Metro Hall’s ground floor rotunda where it still resides today.
 On November 5th, five new members will be inducted in the Hall of Fame, alongside its long-serving and genial Chairman, the Honourable David Crombie, who is receiving the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Life Time Achievement Award. “It’s going to be a very special day,” enthuses Kochhar. “I can’t think of a more fitting choice for Hall of Fame induction. David Crombie has been a great friend to this country’s disability movement and he’s certainly going to find himself in worthy company.”



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MEET THE CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME 2013 INDUCTEES

THE TRADITION CONTINUES

This year's Hall of Fame inductees continue a great tradition of athletic excellence, advocacy and leadership

RAYMOND D. COHEN *Builder*

"People with disabilities are tenacious, they're innovative, because they have to be, and they're compassionate because they understand. That's true of many people, but because of the cards they've been dealt, people with disabilities have these qualities more finely developed." —Raymond Cohen

Raymond Cohen was a passionate and brilliant advocate for Canadians who live with disability. Founder, publisher, editor and guiding spirit of Abilities, "Canada's lifestyle magazine for people with disabilities", Cohen made it his life's work to empower people in the disability community with the information, inspiration and opportunities they require to engage the world on their own terms and pursue their dreams and aspirations.

"That was Ray's mantra: information, inspiration and opportunity," says Cameron Graham, Chair of the Canadian Abilities Foundation, the umbrella organization Cohen founded to help support the magazine and facilitate his many ingenious and resourceful ideas for expanding the disability community's horizons. "Everything he undertook had to meet those three criteria: give people the necessary information, provide inspiration, and offer some real, tangible opportunity."

Cohen's mantra was clearly the product of his own experience as an inventive and energetic self-starter with an eye for opportunity. The son of struggling post-war emigrant parents (his mother Margaret was a Holocaust survivor) who moved their young family to Montreal in 1958, Cohen quit school in Grade 7. Despite this lack of formal education, he would later launch one of that city's first drug rehabilitation programs, before moving on to a position in Vancouver as director of the Alcohol and Drug



Commission of B.C. Next stop on Cohen's peripatetic career arc was Calgary, in the child care department of the Alberta Children's Hospital. It was here that Cohen had a flash of insight that would change the course of his life. He was working with young people with disabilities and was jolted by the realization of their appallingly limited prospects for the future. "I was leading a parents' support group," he later

Drawings by
Shannon Parks



STEPHANIE DIXON *Athlete*

Three-time Paralympic swimmer and multiple world record holder Stephanie Dixon was the first Canadian woman in history to win five gold medals in a single Paralympic Games. It's a feat that has yet to be surpassed, although it has since been matched by two of her fellow Canadian superstars, skier Lauren Woolstencroft and athletics' Chantal Petitclerc. Both, however, were seasoned athletes in the prime of their careers when they mounted their record sharing tallies. Stephanie Dixon was a 16 year-old high school student from Brampton Ontario when she was making history.

In three trips to the Paralympics – Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 – Dixon would rack up 19 medals in all. Although she retired from competition in 2010, she still holds world records in the 50m, 100m and 200m S9 Para backstroke. It's an amazing achievement, especially for someone who remembers embarking on her para-swimming career with some ambivalence. "The whole idea of special categories didn't sit well with me when I was younger. I didn't want to feel like I had a label on my forehead," says Dixon.

Born with only one leg, Dixon started swimming lessons when she was two and took a keen interest in many sports growing up, including baseball, gymnastics, diving, skiing and horseback riding. She credits her parents for always encouraging her to try new things and not to worry about being different from the other kids. "Nothing was off limits, we just had to figure out sometimes another way to go about it. My parents were really supportive. They made me feel like I could do anything." In fact, adds Dixon, she was so busy having fun and making friends there was no time to worry about being different.

It wasn't until high school and the first inklings of adolescent self-awareness that her disability became, for a while, a more complicated issue – and her first forays into para-sport seemed to thrust the issue front and centre. Dixon began competitive swimming when she was 12 in able-bodied competition and was a little alarmed at her first meet when an official suggested she look into getting para-classification and competing with swimmers in her own ability level. "I didn't want to be separated from my friends," says Dixon. Once she understood that para and able-bodied competition weren't mutually exclusive, she began to appreciate the paralympic ideal of leveling the playing field.

wrote, "and the anxiety which surrounded each participating family as graduation day grew closer was palpable." Abilities magazine was Cohen's response to what he believed was a grave and wholly correctible social injustice and he would devote the next 25 years of his life to redressing the imbalance.

"Ray was a visionary and he had an incredible gift for recognizing what might be. He could see the whole picture," says Graham of Cohen's farsighted expectations for a more equitable and inclusive society. Abilities would become, and continues to be, a mainstay of Canada's disability movement, connecting its 80,000 readers across the country with the issues, stories and people that matter and fearlessly pushing the agenda for change. "Ray loved connecting people and he wanted everybody to be included. He knew how to overcome barriers," says Graham.

Later, at the University of Victoria, Dixon swam national varsity and paralympic and was twice voted Female Athlete of the Year.

It would take a while, however, for the wider world to realize what was going on. "It's hard to celebrate your accomplishments in a world that doesn't recognize or understand them. But I don't have any regrets. We were making history and look at the Paralympics today."

RAMESH FERRIS *Achiever*

A global leader in the battle to end polio, Ramesh Ferris is well armed for the fight. Born in southern India in 1979, Ferris was six months old when he contracted polio, a disease virtually eradicated in the western world with the introduction of the first polio vaccine in 1955. The ravages of the affliction left both legs permanently paralyzed and compromised his respiratory system. Unable to provide the necessary support and medical care, his birth mother Lakshmi made the heart-wrenching decision to give up her son for adoption and in 1982 he was adopted by Canadians Ron and Jan Ferris of Whitehorse, becoming in the process the first international adoption in Yukon history. Following corrective surgery and extensive rehabilitation, Ferris learned to walk at the age of three-and-a-half with leg braces and crutches.

From his earliest steps, says Ferris, his adoptive parents instilled in him the confidence to keep trying and never give up on himself. He remembers the first time he fell on the ice with his crutches and his mother lovingly coached him to get up and try again. It was a lesson he would never forget. "I learned I've got to live my own life and you have to learn to get up when you fall," recalls Ferris.

In 2002, after graduating in the Social Service program at Confederation College and moving back to Whitehorse to work with at-risk youth, Ferris returned for the first time to his native India. The trip was a profound awakening. "I was shocked and horrified when I saw how polio survivors were living in India. I mean, I had no idea there were people who had to crawl in the dirt and beg with sandals on their hands and shreds of car tire for their knees. What I saw disgusted me," says Ferris of the polio survivors' wholly preventable condition. "I just decided I had to do everything I could to make sure this never happened to anyone again."

In 2008 he would demonstrate that deeply



personal conviction by hand-cycling more than 7,000 kilometres across Canada to raise money and awareness for global polio eradication, education and rehabilitation. Ferris's Cycle to Walk Canada campaign would raise over \$300,000. Along the way, he gave some 350 media interviews and more than 200 presentations to schools, Rotary clubs, churches and agents of local, provincial and federal governments. In the intervening years, Ferris has expanded the scope of his heroic campaign, meeting with international leaders around the globe to forge a concerted public commitment to end polio and provide humane, essential support and rehabilitation for its survivors.

"We are so close to eradicating the disease but people need to know how important it is to finish the job," says Ferris. "If we don't end polio now it's estimated there will be another 10 million children paralyzed in the next forty years."



ANNIE AND JERRY JOHNSTON *Builders*

Annie and Jerry Johnston obviously know a thing or two about how to make a winning partnership. Last month the Kimberley B.C. couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and it's a marriage that has brought a lot of happiness, both for the Johnston family and countless skiers and other athletes with a disability.

The Johnstons' involvement in adaptive skiing stretches back to the earliest days of the movement when adaptive sport was virtually unheard of. Recognized today as a visionary and guiding force behind the growth and development of para-skiing, Jerry remembers

feeling a little at sea the first time he tried teaching someone with a disability to ski. It was in the early 1960s when the Johnstons ran the Sunshine Village Ski School. A friend asked if he could teach his young daughter, a polio survivor. The girl had restricted mobility and a brace on one leg but Jerry agreed to give it a try. The experience proved instructive – for Jerry and his enthusiastic young pupil.

“In those days it was all new. We just experimented but she always had a smile on her face and that encouraged us to keep trying,” says Jerry. The experience convinced him that where there's a will there's always a way and in 1963 he launched Canada's first program for disabled skiers. The career ski instructor especially appreciated the spirit and determination his new students demonstrated – “A lot of times they had a better attitude than some of the spoiled brats we used to teach,” the retiree observes wryly – and the realization of their tremendous hidden potential would become what Annie describes as a kind of guiding rule of their life's work. “It's all about your attitude, how you look at disability. You have to forget about the disability and learn to see the ability,” says Annie. “There's nothing you can do about the disability, you just work with the ability.”

In 1970 Jerry founded the Alberta Amputee Ski Association (later renamed the Alberta Association for Disabled Skiers) and then, in 1976, was instrumental in launching the Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing, serving as founding President and, subsequently, Executive Director. For nearly 30 years, until their retirement in 2004, Annie and Jerry worked together to build the fledgling operation into a truly national organization for the promotion of recreational and competitive snow sports. Under their leadership, CADS became a world leader and driving force behind the development of modern teaching standards and certification, elite competitive standards, the evolution of adaptive aids and equipment, as well as overseeing volunteer recruitment, fundraising, numerous events and public promotions.

It wasn't always smooth sledding, admits Annie. Like all innovators, they encountered plenty of resistance along the way but the Johnstons have had a joyful and rewarding ride working with the disability community. “Just to see their success... it's been a wonderful career,” says Annie.

CDHF

CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons invites you to learn more about the inspirational leadership and achievements of Canadians who are changing the way we think about physical disability

The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame is a national public awareness project of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

Launched in 1993, the Hall of Fame is the flagship of the CFPDP's long-running campaign to create a world of greater opportunity for Canadians who live with disability.

"Above all this is a tribute to ability," says Hall of Fame Chairman David Crombie. "For many people in the disability community, the greatest barrier is other people's preoccupation with disability. We need to look beyond the disability. When you visit the Hall of Fame the message that really strikes home is the disability community's extraordinary history of achievement."

Located in downtown Toronto on the ground floor of Metro Hall, 55 John Street, the Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding achievement in sports, health and rehabilitation, science and medical research, advocacy, public policy, volunteerism and community service.

Members of the Hall of Fame include:

BENOÎT HUOT, a triple world record holder and winner of 16 Paralympic medals in swimming, including eight golds and four silvers.

ARCHIE ALLISON, influential accessibility advocate and coach, teacher, friend and mentor to generations of young people with disabilities.

CELIA SOUTHWARD, founder of the Windsor Classic Games and a lifelong advocate of adaptive sports and recreation for seniors and people with a disability.

COLETTE BOURGONJE, nine-time Paralympian and multi-medalist in both the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games.

DAVID SHANNON, founding chair of the Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario and the first quadriplegic to reach the geographic North Pole.

LAUREN WOOLSTENCROFT, known as the Paralympic Winter Games' "Golden Girl" for her eight gold medals in three Winter Games.

JEFF HEALEY, the legendary blues, rock and jazz musician who left an indelible mark on popular music despite losing his sight to cancer.

War amputee **H. CLIFFORD CHADDERTON**, the internationally respected advocate for veteran, civilian and child amputees.

ANN CAINE, whose leadership and dedication to the sport of therapeutic riding created new opportunities for social growth and active living for children and adults who live with disability.

JOYCE THOMPSON, the pioneering advocate and service provider for Canada's deaf-blind community.

Short biographies of all members of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame can be found on the CFPDP's website: www.cfpdp.com

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Saluting Our Tiny Perfect Chairman

by John Downing



David Edward Crombie

is a worthy inductee into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame because he has been there from the start, chairing the selection committee as it chose, among others, Rick Hansen and Edwin Baker in 1993, and then on through the pantheon of greatness, from the humble Mona Winberg and the charismatic Linc Alexander, to Chantal Petitcher and Joanne Smith.

Crombie came to the disability battlefield early. As the mayor who led the reformers like a spring breeze into Toronto City Hall in 1972, he quickly established the first mayor's task force to deal with disability issues. And this has always been a crusade for him.

Our Chairman has been gifted with a way for words. He can be a word warrior or a troubadour. To watch him chair a meeting is to watch a master on cruise control. When Alexander used his prestige as a former lieutenant-governor to nominate more men and women than CFPDP Chairman and Hall of Fame founder Vim Kochhar thought was reasonable that year, it was Crombie who gently prodded us all, even a laughing Alexander, to a happy conclusion.

No wonder he's greeted with smiles as he strolls through his beloved city. I have walked in

Toronto with premiers and prime ministers and movie stars, and Crombie tops them all in friendly recognition.

The regard of his city for the mayor who opened the shutters and let in a new way of doing business, especially with developers, is reflected in that nickname of Tiny Perfect Mayor. It was coined by Gary Dunford who in the Toronto Sun had his staff losing the mayor in the shag office carpet. Everyone from Premier William Davis to dour opposition aldermen said it was one of the most hilarious columns they had read. Ironically, Crombie was so perceptive when picking his aides that they became city department heads, major politicians, and one, Bill Marshall, founded the world's largest film festival, with Crombie, of course, an early supporter, arranging the first grant to TIFF.

Crombie is a Conservative but very much a Red Tory because of his parents' CCF roots. He began an overflowing public life after two universities as a political lecturer and student director at Ryerson. The university never forgot him, making him chancellor decades later. Few know that he probably would have become university president if he hadn't won as mayor after only one term of alderman. (I know as a member of that presidential selection committee.)

As mayor he was famous for red tape called the 45-foot-by-law which is generally misunderstood. It gave council increased powers over developers wanting to build higher. It didn't ban all tall buildings, as rumoured. As a charismatic urban leader, he was famous in North America and media such as Time magazine paid attention. Even major developers came to like him.

When he became an MP by defeating a Liberal that the party saw as a future leader, he held a number of portfolios but never was as comfortable in Ottawa as in his home city. He was Health Minister and Minister of State for Multiculturalism but made a major impact, now forgotten, as the Indian and Northern Affairs minister where he expanded the numbers covered under the act.

Among his countless tasks back in Toronto was head of the royal commission on the waterfront which made such an impact for walkers and cyclists along much of the north shore of giant Lake Ontario. He consulted widely, ran the Canadian Urban Institute, and was often pressed into service by councils, school boards and various governments as a negotiator on everything from how many swimming pools should stay open in Toronto schools to the running of Ontario Place.

Yet when you get into an argument with David Edward Crombie, this skilled guerilla operative familiar with the

backrooms of power, you never are faced by an avalanche of words but by a courteous listener. What a rare gift!

He says he learned it from the Quakers, that gentle but stubborn religion. He says the Quakers knew that it is only by talking things out, by real dialogue, "that you figure out where you're going. It's not just listening to the other guy. It's to find the new space that you can go to, that everyone can share. The wider the circle, the more that will work. It's not just a nice thing to do. It's vital."

That colloquial wisdom, rooted in a wise past, should be painted on the walls of every meeting room where neighbourhood groups fermented in NIMBY worries



storm at their elected representatives, where councillors and MPPs and MPs clash with partisan fervour, where the best goal should be to slide by the grandstanding to an honourable compromise.

David Crombie has spent a lifetime of setting an example of how we should listen to others, from planning better ramps for public buildings to giving a helping hand up to those who have to overcome more obstacles than the rest of us. He really has made a difference, which is the nicest thing you can say about any leader.

John Downing is a former Editor of the Toronto Sun and has served as a member of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Selection Board since its inception.

Building a World of Opportunity

After almost 30 years, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons remains a loyal friend and supporter of the deaf-blind community

by Cindy Accardi

AS YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE, the population of people without hearing and sight is small. Thank goodness for that. Thank goodness also for the many service providers across the province of Ontario that work to offer opportunities and quality of life experiences for those born with the disability, and those who have acquired the losses later in life. This is done through government funding provided by the Ministry of Community and Social Services as well as through the groundbreaking work of families, service clubs and charitable organizations.

For the acquired population in Ontario, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) has been on the scene for close to 30 years, and their presence has ensured choice for persons who bravely live without the benefit of full hearing and sight.

In 1983 the Cheshire Homes Foundation identified the lack of appropriate housing available to those who were differently-abled. Vim Kochhar's involvement with

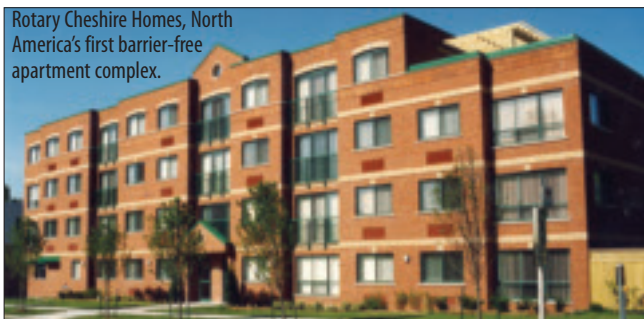


The Hon. Vim Kochhar with Joyce Thompson, founding Executive Director of Rotary Cheshire Homes.

Cheshire Homes and the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley inspired the founding of the Great Valentine Gala in 1984. It was an extremely successful event, raising \$239,000! A portion of the proceeds were

earmarked for the development of housing for an unknown disability group, and the seeds were planted for the creation of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

As fate would have it, the Rotary Club was looking to support a worthy housing project at the same time that a group of deaf-blind people were dreaming about their own



Rotary Cheshire Homes, North America's first barrier-free apartment complex.

place to live. With only 24-hours notice, Kerry Wadman – then President of the Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind and deaf-blind himself – and his CNIB case manager Joyce Thompson put together a proposal so profound that Rotarians decided immediately and unanimously to build an



The Founding Board of Rotary Cheshire Homes.

apartment complex for people who are deaf-blind.

On May 1, 1992, after years of perseverance by deaf-blind people, Rotarians and the CFPDP, Rotary Cheshire Apartments opened its 16-unit apartment building offering its tenants affordable housing and access to intervenors 24/7. To this day it remains a model for independent living – one that has not been replicated to the same degree anywhere in the world.

In 2001 Rotary Cheshire Homes opened the Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) to provide training to deaf-blind individuals so that they could acquire and maintain the skills necessary to live independently. CFPDP was instrumental in CHKC receiving a five-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, used for the development, set-up and operation of training programs. A critical component of the grant was CFPDP's provision of more than \$150,000 throughout the life of the grant.



The Canadian Helen Keller Centre.

Farewell to a Great Friend



It is with great sadness that the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons notes the passing of loyal friend and long-standing CFPDP Board member Doug Richardson.

"We were very sorry to hear of Doug's passing. He was a classy man with great common sense and he was an invaluable

resource when it came to the Foundation and our events," remembers fellow Board member Mark Lecker.

Richardson, an active Toronto-Don Valley Rotary Club member and Paul Harris Fellow, joined the CFPDP Board in 1994 and served in that capacity for 19 years until his death in May, 2013. "Doug was always there one hundred percent, from day one," says the CFPDP's Chairman, Vim Kochhar. "He was quick to take on any assignment and he chaired many committees over the years. One job that really stands out in my memory was the tremendous work he did on behalf of the WhyNot Marathon in 1996."

Richardson spearheaded the committee work for the CFPDP's ambitious national marathon in support of the Paralympic Games. It was an especially daunting undertaking, notes Kochhar, grappling with the logistics of an 11,000 kilometre event involving some 700 communities, 300 Rotary Clubs, sponsorships and fundraising, and many thousands of volunteers across the country. "That was just the kind of task that Doug loved to tackle. He really had an eye for details and he made sure everything ran smoothly. And then he chaired the Foundation for the two months that I was away with the marathon. I trusted him completely," says Kochhar.

After taking an HBA at Western in 1956, Richardson joined IBM where he spent his entire career in a variety of executive positions, retiring as Director of the Caribbean. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Mary Lou, and sons: Michael, and wife Monica; David, and wife Amy; and daughter Susan, and Doug. He was also a much loved and proud Grandpa of Matthew, Stephanie, Emily, Andrew and Sydney.

With the end of the Trillium grant approaching, CFPDP founded in 2005 the "Canadian Helen Keller Centre Award", where pioneers and leaders in the fields of deaf-blindness, deafness and visual impairment would be recognized at an annual fundraising event. CHKC's annual award is the key fundraising event for the agency. The funds raised are used for the maintenance of the building and programming not covered under other sources. For certain, CHKC would not be where it is today without the support and dedication of

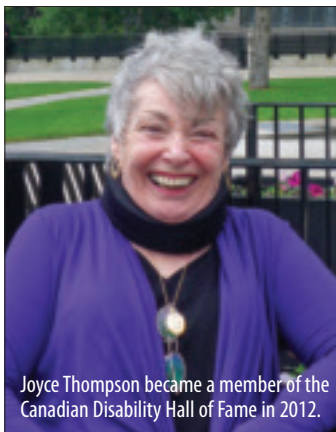


Vim Kochhar with Joan Mactavish, pioneering provider of deaf-blind services in Canada.

the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

The role of the CFPDP's Canadian Disability Hall of Fame is to promote awareness and highlight the achievements of people who have made a lasting difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. For the deaf-blind community, raising the public's awareness of the disability is critical. CFPDP's induction of Pier Morten, a deaf-blind Paralympian, into the Hall of Fame in 1999 further endorsed the reality that even without hearing and sight great things can be achieved.

Additionally, the visionary achievements of Mae Brown, Canada's first deaf-blind university graduate, and her pioneering intervenor Joan



Joyce Thompson became a member of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mactavish were honoured with induction to the Hall of Fame in 2002. And most recently, the induction of Joyce Thompson to the hall in 2012 highlighted her work in setting up Rotary Cheshire Homes, the Canadian Helen Keller Centre and JuneFest.

For those who are not born deaf-blind there has

been no greater contributor than the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons. Their presence in the last three decades has significantly impacted the landscape of services and opportunities available. The future can only look brighter with the ongoing support of CFPDP.

Cindy Accardi is the Executive Director of Rotary Cheshire Homes and a member of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Selection Board.



The Student Race



The 10K Race



The Parliamentary Team

Showcasing the world's fastest wheelchair athletes on Parliament Hill has become a highlight on the Parliament Hill calendar.

The 2013 Rolling Rampaige on the Hill brought together 18 world-class wheelchair racers from 9 countries to compete for a \$30,000.00 prize purse. Ernst Van Dyk from South Africa in the men's category and Madison DeRozario from Australia in the women's category won first prizes.

The event was witnessed by 2500 elementary school students from Ottawa and Gatineau and hundreds of Parliamentarians and their staff. 16 Wheelchair relay teams participated to test their skills in wheelchairs as well as with 3 relay runs by elementary school students.

The event was co-chaired by Senators Yonah Martin and Jim Munson. The Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State for Sport was the chief guest and honorary patron. The event is sponsored by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.



The Torch



The Students



Ernst Van Dyk (South Africa)
Winner of the Men's Race



Madison DeRozario (Australia)
Winner of the Women's Race

2013

CDHF
CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME
S U P P O R T E R S



RUN, ROLL, SWIM, SLAM DUNK

Athletic achievement is only part of the story at Scarborough's world renowned Variety Village

by Christine Smith

FIRST TIME VISITORS TO VARIETY VILLAGE are often astonished to discover what this modest building in Southwest Scarborough houses. Among its many surprises, the complex features a 76,000-square foot gym with three full-size basketball courts, a 200-metre indoor track, three indoor pools and a 3,000-square foot conditioning space with separate weight training area.

In an average week, almost 6,000 members and visitors pass through Variety Village's doors. Nearly half of its members are persons living with a disability. These members initially gravitate toward this award-winning fitness facility because it's one of only a handful of similar facilities worldwide that are fully integrated. They stay because Variety Village promotes an active lifestyle and social interaction that stimulates and motivates.

The Variety Village Athletic Club is home to eight inclusive teams. Since 1981, Variety has provided the perfect training ground for athletes who have gone on to compete at Paralympic, Special Olympic and Olympic games. Variety Village athletes also attend regular competitions both at the Village and sites across Ontario, Canada and North America.

So, it's little wonder that these top notch facilities, coupled with an underlying philosophy of "improving the quality of life and integration into society of all people regardless of abilities," Variety Village has produced some of Canada's top paralympic athletes.

Below, we focus on just five of our award-winning athletes who have run, rolled, swum, and slam dunked at the Village and beyond.

JEFF TIESSEN

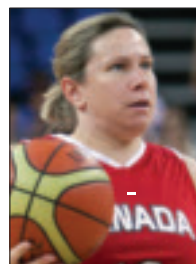


He's been referred to as one of Canada's best known Paralympic athletes, having won three medals at the 1988 Summer Paralympic Games, including a still current world record-setting performance in 400m track in Seoul, South Korea. A double-arm amputee, he continued to

compete, earning a bronze medal at the Games in 1992 in Barcelona, Spain. Jeff was inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2010.

Today, this Essex County native and communications graduate from the University of Windsor is the publisher of Play to Podium, Disability Today Network and owner of DT Publishing. He's also an inspiring motivational speaker and recent recipient of the Variety Village Spirit Award, presented in October.

TRACEY FERGUSON



Tracey hails from Holland Landing and has been a member of six Paralympic teams. She was a key member of Canada's Paralympic gold medal-winning wheelchair basketball teams in 1992, 1996, 2000, and of the bronze medal-winning team in 2004. In 1998 and 2002 she was named to the World All-Star Team.

While her accomplishments in wheelchair basketball are impressive, Tracey opted for a new challenge in 2008 when she qualified for the Paralympic Team for wheelchair athletics in Beijing. Prior to this, in 2006 she competed at the Paralympic National Championships, placing second in the 200m and third in the 400m and qualified for the finals in the 800m at the Commonwealth Games.

And it all began at Variety Village as a member of Variety's Rolling Rebels Wheelchair Basketball Team. Head Coach Steve Bialowas coordinates the program and has been involved in the ongoing coaching and development of the team for the past 25 years. The Rebels won gold at the Ontario Parasport Winter Games in 2012 and, that same year, they were champs again at the Canadian Wheelchair League finals in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

This impressive athlete is a winner off the track as well as outside the gym. In addition to being a four-time recipient of the Ontario Wheelchair Association's Female Athlete of the Year award, Tracey has been honoured as one of the YMCA's Young Women of Distinction, received the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award and was inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2012.

VICKI KEITH-MUNRO



In 1998, in a span of just 61 days, swimmer Vicki Keith-Munro conquered lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, Superior and Ontario and raised \$548,000 to help fund a new pool at Variety Village. Today, that pool is home to the Flames Swim Team, a fully inclusive swim team for swimmers of all abilities, the Variety Village Synchro Team and the Sunshine Swim Team, for swimmers with developmental disabilities. (Two other pools offer lessons and recreational and rehabilitative swimming for thousands of enthusiastic swimmers.)

The Canadian Encyclopedia describes Vicki as “the most successful marathon swimmer in the history of the sport, currently holding an unprecedented 14 world records.”

Its website lists several other achievements. “In recognition of her outstanding achievements and service, she was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 1992. Other awards include the Order of Ontario (1990), the Variety Club Heart Award (1989), B’Nai Brith Woman of the Year (1989), Provincial Athlete of the Year (1988 and 1989), and the Vanier Award (1988). In 1996 she was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame.”

Now living in Kingston, ON, in 2001 Vicki started the Y Knot Abilities Penguins Swim Team at Kingston’s YMCA. This team, composed of children with disabilities and able-body friends and siblings, benefited from the \$260,000 Vicki has raised through her marathon swims. In her lifetime, she’s raised more than one million dollars.

ROBERT HAMPSON



An active competitive swimmer with the Variety Village Flames, Robert competed at the Paralympic Winter Championships where he won a gold medal in the 50-metre backstroke.

But this fact hardly captures Robert’s belief that “blind need not be boring.” “I will never forget the moment he walked on the pool deck (at Variety Village) with Coach Vicki Keith. That was the day his life changed forever,” says Cheryl Hampson, Robert’s mother. (From an interview in *Glowing Hearts III*, 2012.)

His life and achievements are a testament to the determination and stamina that have sustained him following the diagnosis of a brain tumor at age four, and his subsequent blindness. Today, he’s the founder of the Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund which collects soft drink can tabs and uses the proceeds to purchase wheelchairs and related equipment for children with

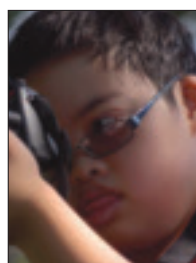
disabilities. To date, more than 13 million tabs have been sent to a recycler for cash.

Since 2008, Robert has been an Ambassador for Variety Village and conducts speaking engagements and workshops to increase awareness about the role Variety Village plays in fostering the potential of people with disabilities.

He also teaches with Archie Allison, Director of Access and Awareness at Variety Village. They instruct adapted physical activity classes at the University of Toronto, OISE, and Centennial and Humber colleges. Robert was inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame last year and is the recipient of numerous awards including Variety’s Athlete of the Year and Variety’s Robert T. Hall Achievement Award in 2001-2002.

Now a student at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario, Robert continues to train and swim, once again with his mentor, Vicki Keith-Munro at the “Y.”

KATHLEEN WOO



High school graduate Kathleen Woo is a self-described sports fanatic and huge fan of Justin Bieber. In other words, a typical teenager with just one small difference: she was diagnosed with Down syndrome a few days after birth.

That hasn’t stopped her from participating on Variety Village’s Sunshine Team and taking part in Special Olympics swimming, earning a black belt in taekwondo, and learning to play the drums and piano.

Kathleen’s mother, Marilyn Jang, and father Arthur Woo, have been bringing Kathleen to Variety Village since age six. Often, Marilyn and Kathleen visit the facility three or four times a week, taking part in taekwondo and swimming. Not surprisingly, family members are big supporters of the Village. Last year, Kathleen was the top fundraiser in its Walk Roll Run event, raising \$2,300 after completing the 5 km neighbourhood walk.

A budding star who has recently taken up photography as a hobby, Kathleen and her mother are featured in a new promotional video, *Invest in Hope. Invest in Variety Village*, produced by Phanta Media.

Variety Village’s unique spirit is embodied by the staff, volunteers, athletes, members and families who come through its doors every day. That spirit is one of inclusion and ability and it permeates every activity, program and event at Variety Village. By supporting Variety Village you invest in the belief that every person deserves to feel confident and capable, regardless of his or her abilities.

For more information on how you can support

Variety Village visit www.varietylvillage.ca.

Or, come visit us at 3701 Danforth Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario.



THOMPSON PRINTING



Thompson Printing had its early beginnings in the backyard garage of the late founders John and Mary Thompson. Sixty years later the company, now in its current location and still family owned and operated, occupies 45,000 square feet. We utilize state-of-the-art computer technology throughout the facility beginning with design, through to press, bindery, product finishing, packaging, kitting, delivery and distribution across North America and beyond.

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- ✓ Labels

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- ✓ Plastics, metallized paper & other unique substrates
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John Gibbons Counsel
Lieutenant Colonel Edwin A. Baker
Rick Hansen

Robert Wilson Jackson, M.D.
André Viger

Arnold Boldt
William Cameron
Beryl Potter
Rev. Robert L. Rumball

Bruce Halliday, M.D.
Albin Théophile Jousse, M.D.
Jeremy Rempel
Mona Winberg

Arlette Lefebvre, M.D.
Joanne Mucz
Vicki Keith-Munro
Walter Wu

Jeff Adams
Alice Laine/Audrey Morrice
David Onley

William John (Whipper Billy) Watson

Edmund Henry (Harry) Botterell M.D.
The Honourable Lincoln Alexander
Gary Birch, Ph.D.
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H. Clifford Chadderton
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Patrick Jarvis

Jeneece Edroff
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Brian McKeever
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Ann Caine
Tracey Ferguson
Robert Hampson
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

CD HF

CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME

SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FOUNDATION
FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

2014

THE CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME recognizes distinguished Canadians who have made significant contributions assisting or enhancing the lives of physically disabled persons. Both physically disabled and non-disabled persons may be inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame. Individuals are inducted into one of three categories: Builder, Achiever or Athlete. Nominations are considered on the basis of information provided. Please submit as detailed an account of the individual's background as possible, including a résumé or biography and any additional material, such as newspaper clippings, testimonial letters, etc., to:

Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, 6 Garamond Court, Suite 265, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1Z5
Telephone: (416) 760-7351 Fax: (416) 760-9405 E-Mail: whynot@sympatico.ca Website: www.cfmdp.com
Please include your name, address and phone number. Nominations to be submitted no later than May 9, 2014.

FUTURE EVENTS

**CANADIAN HELEN KELLER CENTRE
AWARD LUNCHEON - APRIL 2014**



The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons presents

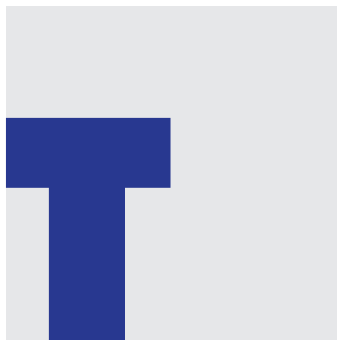
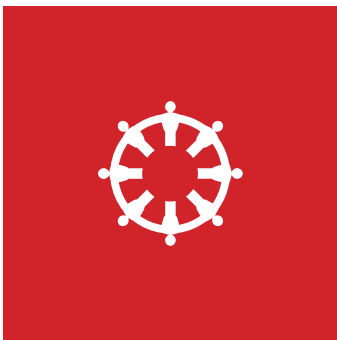
The 30th Great Valentine Gala

Starring André-Philippe Gagnon

Saturday, February 8, 2014, The Westin Harbour Castle



Contact:
The Canadian
Foundation
for Physically
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