



The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

2013 Inductees

Raymond Cohen (posthumously), Builder

Founder of the Canadian Abilities Foundation and publisher and editor of Abilities, “Canada’s lifestyle magazine for people with disabilities”, Raymond Cohen was one of this country’s most outspoken and influential advocates of disability rights and accessibility. Launched in 1986, Abilities today has some 80,000 readers among Canadians with disabilities, their families, friends and supporters of the disability movement.

Stephanie Dixon, Athlete

Multiple medal winning Paralympian and world record holder Stephanie Dixon is one of Canada’s most accomplished competitive swimmers. Born with one leg, the Brampton, Ontario, native started swimming when she was two and by the age of 14 she had earned a berth on Canada’s Paralympic team. In three trips to the Games she won 19 Paralympic medals and holds three world records in the S9 Para category.

Ramesh Ferris, Achiever

Born in India in 1979, Ramesh Ferris lost the use of his legs to polio as an infant and was adopted by a Canadian family in Whitehorse, Yukon. Returning to India in 2002 to meet his biological mother, he was appalled by the tragic circumstances of polio survivors there and he returned home determined to find a way to alleviate their suffering. In 2008 Ramesh hand-cycled 7,120 kms across Canada raising \$318,000 for polio eradication, education and rehabilitation.

Jerry and Annie Johnston, Builders

Kimberley, British Columbia, husband and wife team Jerry and Annie Johnston played a profoundly influential role in the growth and development of the sport of skiing for people with a disability. As a young ski instructor in Alberta in 1963, Jerry introduced the first program for disabled skiers in Canada and in 1976 he founded the Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing where he served for nearly 30 years as executive director with Annie’s dedicated administrative support.

David Crombie, Life Time Achiever

David Crombie became so popular after he was elected Toronto mayor in 1972, a columnist called him Tiny Perfect Mayor, a famous nickname he wore with distinction as an urban reformer, compassionate Conservative, university educator and consultant in a remarkable career in municipal and federal politics and as waterfront commissioner and negotiator in difficult issues. As a gifted speaker, there have been incredible demands on him, but he always has time for disability issues, beginning with his Mayor’s Task Force on the Disabled, and then, for 20 years, selection committee chair for the Hall of Fame and gifted MC for the presentations.

