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FALL 2011

Rick Hansen: Moving the World to Action



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# WhyNot. FALL 2011

## MAGAZINE

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Cover: Rick Hansen wheels the Great Wall of China on the Man In Motion World Tour, April 13, 1986.

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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 27 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 David C. Onley

It is with pleasure that I extend greetings to the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons as you host a luncheon in honour of this year's Hall of Fame recipients. Since 1985, this respected organization has been committed to assisting people with physical disabilities to live their lives to their fullest potential. Your devotion to raising awareness of the accomplishments of persons with disabilities to government, the business community, and the public at large has made a difference for so many. From supporting a variety of initiatives and organizations, you have fostered a greater sense of understanding, celebration, and recognition of the many achievements of those to whom you are dedicated. As The Queen's representative in Ontario and your Honorary Patron, I applaud the ongoing success of this tireless organization, congratulate this afternoon's honourees, and send my best wishes for a most enjoyable gathering.

## Message from David Crombie

As Chair of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame it gives me great pleasure to announce our 2011 Hall of Fame inductees. Brian and Robin McKeever, Benoît Huot, Archie Allison and Celia Southward are an exceptional group of truly great Canadians. They are athletes and visionary community leaders who made a real difference and I know their achievements will inspire future visitors to the Hall of Fame just as they have inspired us.

Our 2011 inductees will find themselves in worthy company. Members of the Hall of Fame have founded national disability organizations, been eloquent and influential advocates for change, fostered medical, scientific and technological innovation, been tireless and compassionate healers and volunteers, and amazed the world with their athletic and artistic prowess. What unites this disparate group of remarkable individuals is their inspirational example. To my mind, you will find no finer record of achievement.

I want to thank the members of the Hall of Fame Selection Board whose deliberations play such an important role in the Hall of Fame's continued success. I also want to acknowledge the tremendous dedication and support of Vim Kochhar and his team at the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons. As always, it's been a pleasure working with all of you. Thank you.

## Message from Vim Kochhar

Greetings and welcome to our 18th Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame induction celebrations. This year's inductees continue the Hall of Fame's great legacy of leadership, service to the community and inspirational achievement. I hope everyone will take this opportunity to acquaint themselves with their remarkable accomplishments, they are truly an exceptional group of individuals.

Today the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons is especially delighted to welcome back to the Hall of Fame the great Canadian social activist and disability advocate Rick Hansen. Rick's heroic service in the cause of people who live with disability needs no introduction. As one of our original six inductees back in 1993, Rick in many ways epitomizes the exemplary leadership and inspiration the Hall of Fame commemorates. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Rick's historic Man in Motion marathon and I know you all join me in offering a heartfelt welcome and appreciation for his contribution to the cause we hold so dear. One thing I can promise you, Rick Hansen will make this year's Hall of Fame celebrations an occasion to remember.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our many loyal sponsors, patrons and volunteers, and everyone who shares the Foundation's vision of a better world for Canadians who live with disability. To paraphrase the Man in Motion, together we can change the world.



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



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



**Vim Kochhar**  
*Chairperson,  
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# CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME

## Welcome to the Hall of Fame

AS CANADA'S OFFICIAL AMBASSADOR for the 2010 Winter Paralympics, former Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan liked to invoke the inspirational personal stories of the athletes. He knew people would connect with Paralympic sport in a more meaningful way if they knew something about the athletes' personal struggles and their powerful desire to engage the world. In terms of the Games' social message, Sullivan noted, this was the Paralympic movement's whole point, breaking down the barriers between people and building a shared sense of citizenship in the recognition that everyone has a part to play in the larger community.

Generating a broader awareness of the personal triumphs and tribulations of the disability community is the only way to foster real social change, agrees the Honourable Vim Kochhar, founder of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame. Although the disability movement in Canada has made great strides in recent decades, argues Kochhar, there are still a lot of people who have been consigned to the margins of society. And the greatest bar to participation remains a simple lack of understanding. "It all comes down to empathy. Understanding someone with a disability is a person just like you and me eliminates all the misconceptions that get in the way of a realistic assessment of what they can really do," says Kochhar.



Visitors to the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame will find its members have played distinguished and inspired roles in the life of their country. They are people like Sullivan, the first quadriplegic mayor of a major North American

city; Johanna Johnson, a quadriplegic on a ventilator who had to fight a human rights challenge in order to embark on her chosen career as a respected educator; and David Lepofsky, the visually impaired lawyer, writer, activist and lecturer. While members of the Hall of Fame come from many different walks of life, observes Kochhar, a lot of them have also been powerfully persuasive advocates on behalf of people with disabilities. Survey

the history of the movement and you discover it is members of the disability community who have been the driving force behind the decades-old struggle for civil rights and greater opportunity. Handicapped, in some cases, by profound physical limitations, they have founded and run national health and service organizations, been innovative and influential research and rehabilitation pioneers, advanced sweeping legislative change, and moved public opinion to action with their passionate and outspoken leadership.

On November 2nd, at the 18th Annual Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies, five new members will join this remarkable honour roll. They are: visually impaired cross-country skier Brian

*The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame's 2011 inductees carry on an inspired tradition of advocacy and personal achievement*

Lt. Governor of Ontario David C. Onley and his Aide de Camp preparing to present the Canadian Disability Award at the 2010 Hall of Fame luncheon.



left: Hall of Fame founder Vim Kochhar greets Hall of Fame Chairman David Crombie.



right: 2010 keynote speaker Gordon M. Nixon, President and CEO of Royal Bank.

McKeever, who made history in 2010 when he was named to Canada's Paralympic and Olympic teams and his guide and brother, Robin McKeever, former Olympian and eleven-time national champion; Archie Allison, a passionate and innovative teacher and advocate who has served as coach, friend and mentor to generations of young people with disabilities; triple world record holder and multiple Paralympic medal winning swimmer Benoît Huot; and Celia Southward whose dedication and energetic advocacy as an administrator have opened new worlds of opportunity in sport and recreation for seniors and Canadians who live with disability.

As always, the 2011 induction ceremonies will be hosted by the Hall of Fame's Chairman, the Honourable David Crombie. This year's guest speaker is Rick Hansen, the great Canadian disability advocate, whose 1984 *Man In Motion* World Tour launched an international movement that has generated more than \$200 million for spinal cord injury research and rehabilitation and other worthy initiatives on behalf of the broader disability community.

"Rick Hansen was one of our original Hall of Fame inductees in 1993 so it's a real honour to have him back," says Kochhar. "I can't think of another individual who has made such a huge

impact on the prospects of the disability community. Rick's vision and leadership have influenced the course of progress in so many ways. He's going to be an inspirational guest speaker."

In a unique departure from the Hall of Fame's regular program, this year's luncheon will also feature a special presentation of the CFPDP's 2011 King Clancy Awards. Presented every February at the Foundation's Great Valentine Gala, the 2011 awards honoured the inspirational medal winning performance of Canada's athletes at the 2010 Paralympics. Three athletes who were unable to attend those presentations will be honoured at the Hall of Fame luncheon: Lauren Woolstencroft, dubbed the 2010 Games' "Golden Girl" after winning five gold medals in para-alpine skiing, para-alpine skier Karolina Wisniewska, winner of two bronze medals, and 2011 Hall of Fame inductee Robin McKeever. In addition to their King Clancy Awards, the honourees will also receive a financial award in recognition of their winning performance.

"The Foundation has always been a big supporter of our Paralympians," says CFPDP executive director Dorothy Price. "The 2010 Games set a whole new standard for the Winter Paralympics and our athletes played an unforgettable role in that success. We're just delighted to be able to pay them tribute."



*Photography by Devon Dunbar*

top:

Lt. Governor David C. Onley  
and CFPDP Chairman  
Vim Kochhar join 2010  
Hall of Fame inductees  
Jeff Tiessen, Alan Dean  
and Colette Bourgonje.

bottom:

2010 Hall of Fame inductee  
David Shannon.



I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

*Christopher Reeve*



Archie Allison  
Benoît Huot  
Brian and Robin McKeever  
Celia Southward

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# THE TRADITION CONTINUES

BUILDERS, ACHIEVERS AND ATHLETES

## MEET THE CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME 2011 INDUCTEES

Drawings by Shannon Parks

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

### ARCHIE ALLISON *Builder*

Archie Allison just might be the most popular guy in Toronto's diverse and far-flung disability community. Over the course of almost 30 years as a stalwart in the ranks of the city's world-renowned Variety Village, Allison's unfailing thoughtfulness and cheerful dedication have touched the lives of literally thousands of people young and old who live with disability. And, like the proverbial pebble in the pond, the ripple effect of Allison's attentions reaches far beyond the confines of 'The Village', giving heart and hope to parents and families, and spreading his message of inclusion and accommodation to thousands more students, educators and public spirited organizations across the province.

But this is the thing about Archie Allison, it all begins in the magic spark of personal connection. Archie Allison cares about people, and people respond. Beginning his career in 1984 as a kind of all-around sports and recreation instructor, coach, life-skills counselor and mentor, Allison's first order of business at Variety Village was helping people, many of whom encounter a lot of barriers in the wider community, find new and rewarding ways to feel active, involved and included. "Inclusion is so important," says Allison. "When I first came to Variety Village what I noticed was the ability of people here and their tremendous desire to get involved and be active. Variety Village offered them opportunities that were hard to find in the larger community."

Allison specialized in accommodation, making participation in Variety Village programs



available to everyone who wanted to get involved. An early and ardent proponent of the concept of reverse integration, he worked from the premise that you make provisions for disability first, then integrate the rest of the community. "We all have varied skills and abilities and experience. When you provide a venue that



## **BENOÎT HUOT** *Athlete*

**M**ultiple world record setting swimmer and three-time Paralympian Benoît Huot was born with a club foot. When he was seven days old, he underwent corrective surgery and spent the next year-and-a-half in a series of casts designed to realign his leg and foot. It would be another three years before Huot began to walk and he wore a special orthopaedic shoe until the age of six. Like other kids his age, he also desperately wanted to play sports.

“I was a huge hockey fan and I told my mother I wanted to learn to play and be a goalie like Patrick Roy and play for the Montreal Canadiens,” remembers the Longueuil Quebec native with a laugh. His mother worried he was setting himself up for disappointment. Huot’s right leg has a permanently underdeveloped calf and the foot is smaller with limited ankle flexibility. Despite his mother’s fears he headed off to the rink and gave it his best shot but the dream of hockey immortality was short-lived. Huot realized he was never going to learn to skate like the other kids. The next year he tried baseball and it was the same story. He just couldn’t run fast enough.

“Team sports were very difficult for me,” says Huot. “The fact that I wasn’t as good as the other players was hard. It was difficult to integrate myself in team sports – I didn’t want the other kids to laugh at me.”

It was in the swimming pool where Huot finally discovered an outlet for his frustrated athletic ambitions. Water proved to be the great equalizer. “In the pool I felt free, like a fish. I just felt better in the water,” remembers Huot. He joined the local swim club and, with the support and encouragement of his coach and teammates, learned quickly. “After a couple of months swimming I really started to get better and I realized I had found my passion,” says Huot.

For two years the young swimmer competed with able-bodied athletes, travelling twice to the Quebec Games and winning a silver medal in 1997. Then one night when he was 13, he was watching the Canada Games on television and caught an interview with Paralympic swimmer Philippe Gagnon, who was also born with a club foot. It was a revelation, recalls Huot, realizing for the first time that his disability had a Paralympic classification. The following spring he attended

encompasses and understands these differences it creates access for everybody,” says Allison.

Today, as Variety Village’s Director of Access and Awareness, Archie Allison spends a lot of his time sharing this message of access and inclusion with the wider world. He also teaches courses in adapted sports and disability issues at the University of Toronto and local community colleges, reaching out to the next generation of educators and sports and recreation professionals. But don’t worry, he’s still an active and much loved presence around ‘The Village’. In the words of one of his many devoted fans, “Mostly what I like about Archie is his personality. Archie seems to always be smiling and happy... It seems he always has time for us even though we know how incredibly busy he is and how much he accomplishes every day. When Archie walks down the halls of Variety Village, members of the village gravitate toward him. By the time he reaches the front doors he has gathered a small crowd. He’s a bit like the Pied Piper of Hamelin.”

the national trials and made the Paralympic team. Five months later, at the International Paralympic Committee World Championships, the 14-year-old made his stunning international debut, taking two gold and four silver medals.

Recognized today as one of the most decorated athletes in Paralympic sport, Benoît Huot has won 16 medals in three successive trips to the Paralympic Summer Games: eight gold, four silver and four bronze.

## **BRIAN MCKEEVER AND ROBIN MCKEEVER *Athletes***

**W**hen seven-time Paralympic gold medalist Brian McKeever earned a berth on Canada's Olympic cross-country ski team in 2010, the news quickly became one of the great feel-good stories of the Vancouver-Whistler Winter Games. McKeever, who is legally blind with only 10 percent vision, was the first Winter Paralympian in history to make his nation's Olympic squad and the amazing achievement captured the imaginations of sports fans around the world. Since 2006, McKeever had been totally focused on his dream of skiing in the Olympics, like his brother Robin in Nagano in 1998. Then three days before his anticipated start in the Olympic 50k, the Canadian coaches informed McKeever he was being sidelined in favour of the team's top four starters. If the announcement was disappointing news for an awful lot of excited sports fans, it was a devastating personal blow for the aspiring Olympian.

"It's emotional, for sure," a tearful McKeever admitted the next day to a throng of reporters. "It was not something I ever wanted to hear. I'm very, very crushed by the decision, but I understand the decision. Our boys are racing so fast. They deserve everything they've got. I stand behind them 100 percent." It was a forthright and gracious performance from an athlete who had just suffered a brutal leveling. However, if McKeever was still labouring under the effects of his Olympic disappointment when he returned to Whistler three weeks later for the Paralympics, he found a way to put it all behind him. Brian and Robin, who serves as his sighted guide in Paralympic competition, would earn three gold medals in Whistler, turning in their best Winter Games in a career that has garnered nine Paralympic medals.



"Everybody has something they have to overcome before they get to the starting line," says Brian. "The second you take the starting line and you don't have all the tools you know you need to win then you're giving away a big advantage." Facing down adversity is nothing new for McKeever. A promising young cross-country skier who represented Canada at the 1997 Junior World Championships, McKeever was diagnosed a year later with Stargardt's disease, an inherited condition he shares with his father that causes the loss of central vision. Within two years he was legally blind and joined Canada's para-nordic program. Robin, an Olympian and 11-time national champion, retired from competition to serve as Brian's guide.

Focused, as always, on the challenges ahead, Brian McKeever's big goal is qualifying for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. "Hopefully this time I'll get a chance to compete. I'll just have to try harder, make sure I'm in better shape and maybe I can eliminate whatever doubts the coaches have about my ability to compete."



**CELIA SOUTHWARD** *Achiever*

**A**one-woman powerhouse behind the growth and delivery of adapted sports and community accessibility in Windsor and across the province of Ontario and beyond, sports and recreation administrator Celia Southward has played a profoundly influential role in reshaping the range of opportunities available to Canadians who live with disability. When Southward joined the City of Windsor's sports and recreation department in 1976, consideration for adapted sports and recreational opportunities played virtually no part in the civic business of Canadian cities. The whole idea of civic responsibility for accommodating so-called special populations was built incrementally from the ground up by driven individuals with the courage and clarity of vision to press the case for change. People like Celia Southward.

“Back in the day when people just didn't get it, I'd tell them, Look, is it sport in a wheelchair? Or is it sport and the wheelchair is just another piece of equipment? And they'd look at me and say, What? And I'd try to explain, I'm talking about SPORT,” says Southward, biting into SPORT with the kind of emphasis that leaves no doubt in the listener's mind they want to pay close attention to what she has to say.

Advocacy, of course, is only half the battle. Southward also walks the walk. A perennially unflagging volunteer, it's hard to tell where Southward's job description leaves off and her personal contributions begin. Over the course of 35 years of public service her unstinting ministrations have made their mark on so many diverse areas of community life it is impossible to offer anything more than a glancing overview. If you need a ramp for wheelchair bowling in Windsor, you call Celia Southward. She also founded the league that uses the ramps. She planned and implemented the City's first day camps for kids with disabilities and later expanded the program to include adults. She made it her mission to integrate people with special needs in all City programs and in the workplace. She founded and ran Seniors Fun Field Day, a corporate challenge cup between the local nursing homes, retirement homes and chronic care wards. She is the founder of the Ontario Seniors Games and past president of the Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association and the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association. A certified coach in hockey, track and field, and swimming, she has founded, managed and/or coached numerous sports organizations and established rigorous training and certification standards for all coaches and officials working with athletes in adapted sport.

Asked to identify one accomplishment of which she is especially proud, Southward singles out the Windsor Classic Indoor Games, which she founded in 1982. Bringing together young athletes from around the world for four days of competition in all five Paralympic disability groups, the annual Games have become the largest indoor showcase for adapted sport in North America.

# CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME



*The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons invites you to learn more about the inspirational achievements of Canadians who live with 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 change the way Canadians think about physical disability.

"The greatest barrier to people with disabilities is other people's misconceptions about their abilities. If there's one message we want people to take home with them it's never underestimate what people with disabilities can really do," says the CFPDP's Chairman and Hall of Fame founder, the Honourable Vim Kochhar.

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:

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

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

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

**DAVID HINGSBURGER**, outspoken author, lecturer and therapist, who fearlessly spearheaded a thirty-year campaign to end the sexual victimization of people with developmental disabilities.

**DR. GEOFF FERNIE**, a respected biomedical engineer, whose innovative and practical assistive technologies have helped more people with disabilities pursue a life of greater hope and opportunity.

**STEVEN FLETCHER**, Member of Parliament for Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia, the first quadriplegic to serve as a Cabinet Minister and Member of Canada's House of Commons. He currently serves as Minister of State for Transport.

**VICKI KEITH MUNRO**, the legendary marathon swimmer who parlayed her international reputation into a hugely successful fundraising and public awareness campaign on behalf of children with disabilities.

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

## HONORARY PATRONS

**The Honourable David C. Onley**  
*Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario*

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*Former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario*

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Short biographies of all members of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame can be found on the CFPDP's website: [www.cfpdp.com](http://www.cfpdp.com)

# Moving the World to Action

*Twenty-five years ago Rick Hansen's historic Man in Motion Tour launched a movement that still reverberates around the world*

**RECOGNIZED AROUND THE WORLD** as the *Man in Motion*, a pillar of enlightened leadership in the cause of people who live with disability, Rick Hansen admits he wasn't always very sensitive to the issues he espouses with such passionate conviction. His education in the niceties of disability issues was a cruel one. Thrown from the back of a pickup coming home from fishing when he was 15, Hansen sustained a spinal cord injury and was paralyzed from the waist down. Young and athletic and physically driven, the loss of his legs was a devastating reversal.

"When it happened I have to say my attitude was pretty bad," recalls Hansen matter-of-factly. "In fact, my attitude was probably a reflection of mainstream perceptions of disability at the time. I had no idea what it was

like to be a person with a disability. I thought it was a condition to be pitied and I suppose I thought I should be pitied too."

Although the road to recovery was steep, Hansen eventually pulled out of his downward spiral with the support and encouragement of some great mentors. Getting back into the old routines of school and discovering adaptive sports played a big part in his recovery. Hansen

credits Stan Stronge, the legendary coach and founder of the Vancouver Cable Cars, B.C.'s first wheelchair basketball team, with planting the first seeds of a life-long social conscience. It was on the Cable Cars where Hansen and Terry Fox became good friends and Stronge's generous passion for sports and devotion to community service emboldened the two young athletes with a real sense of social



Rick Hansen and the people of Vancouver celebrate the conclusion of his historic *Man in Motion* World Tour in 1987.

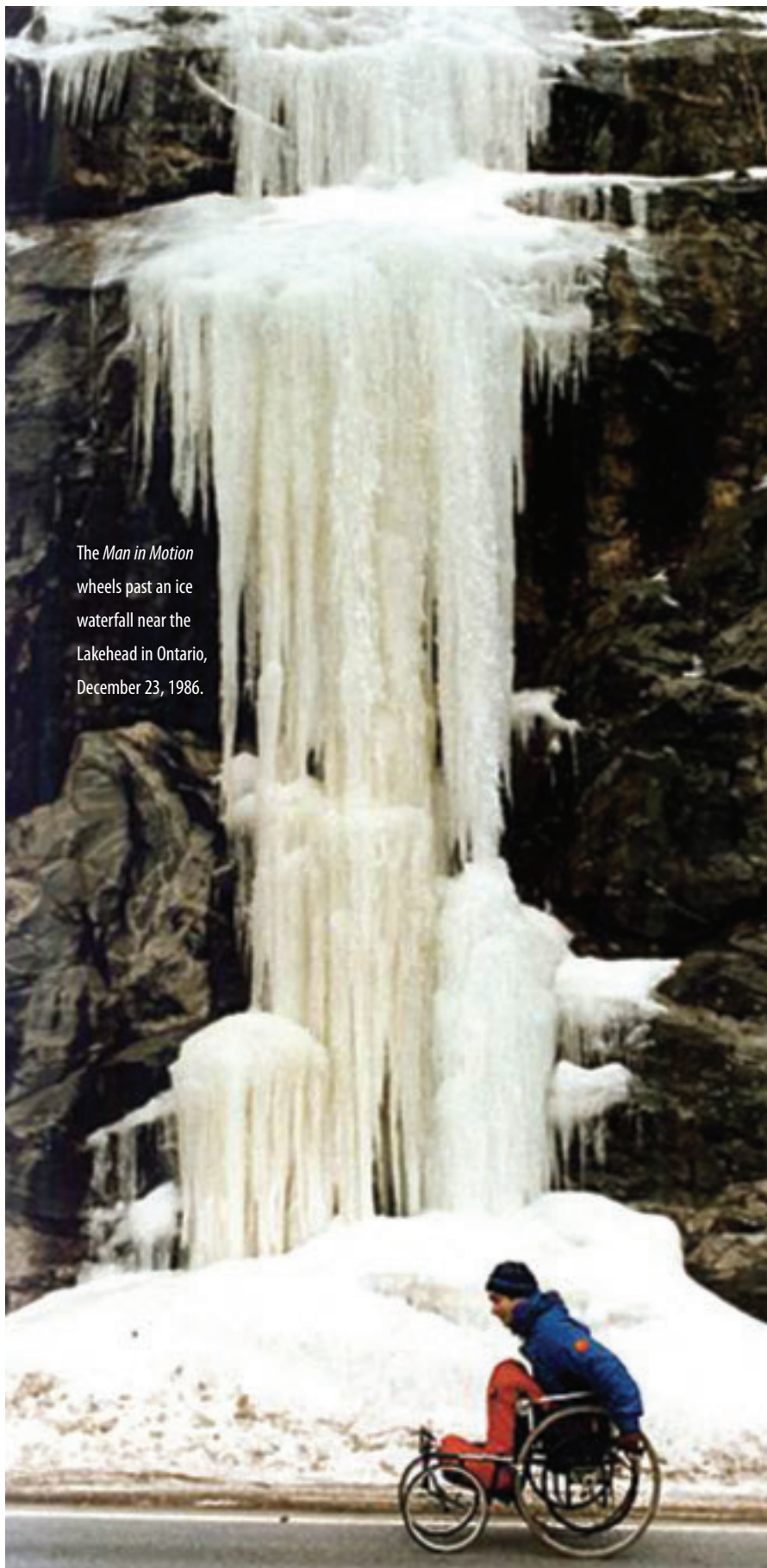


responsibility and a powerful desire to give something back to the community. Hansen emerged from the experience with a new and profound sense of purpose.

“I realized life isn’t about physical ability. It’s about what’s in your heart,” says Hansen. “I was still Rick. I was still an athlete and I could continue to express myself. All of my hopes and dreams were still ahead of me. I just had to make some adjustments in order to make them happen.”

Hansen took to wheelchair sports with a vengeance and before hitting the road in 1985 on his historic *Man in Motion* World Tour, racked-up one of the most formidable records in elite sport, winning 19 international wheelchair marathons; four world titles; nine gold medals at the 1982 Pan American Wheelchair Games; and representing Canada at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. In 1979, 1980 and 1982, he was named Canadian Disabled Athlete of the Year. For all of that, however, it was Hansen’s unprecedented around-the-world marathon that would permanently engrave his name and ideas on the popular consciousness. Launched on March 22, 1985, when Hansen was 27, the *Man in Motion* Tour was a truly audacious exercise in social activism. Fueled by the dream of a cure for spinal cord injury and a better world for everyone who lives with disability, Hansen and his crew would spend more than two years traversing 34 countries around the globe, surmounting along the way a mind-bending array of bureaucratic, logistical and punishing physical challenges. Through it all, the *Man in Motion* wheeled the equivalent of two marathons every day, grinding out some 40,000 kilometres in the epic service of his heroic proposition that the world should take a good hard look at what people with disabilities can really do.

Arriving home in Vancouver to a hero’s welcome, Hansen and his *Man in Motion* Tour raised \$26 million for spinal cord injury research and rehabilitation, sport and other quality of life initiatives in the disability community. It was, by any measure, an extraordinary achievement, but the real measure of the Tour’s legacy is that it was only the beginning. The *Man in Motion* never quit. In 1988, Hansen launched the Rick Hansen Foundation, an innovative and far-sighted organization that has compounded the original proceeds from



The *Man in Motion* wheels past an ice waterfall near the Lakehead in Ontario, December 23, 1986.



the *Man in Motion* Tour into more than \$245 million worth of leveraged investments in the science and treatment of spinal cord injuries and a more inclusive world for people who live with disability.

Clearly it has been a long and incredible journey since he set out 25 years ago to conquer the world, and while the rest of the planet hasn't always kept pace with the visionary advocate's expectations, Hansen believes the disability movement has made significant strides in the intervening years. While noting that progress in things like public attitudes and social outcomes can be difficult to measure, looking back over the span of the years Hansen sees a big improvement in the quality of life and opportunities many people with disabilities enjoy.

"If you think back, 25 years ago just having a conversation with people about disability was difficult," says Hansen. "People were embarrassed or found the subject troubling. Today you see more leaders in business and education and politics who also happen to have a disability. People with disabilities are engaged in society and participating in ways few of us could have imagined 25 years ago." He points to prominently placed political leaders with a disability like former Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan, Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley, and federal M.P. and Cabinet Minister Steven Fletcher, and the much touted official Paralympic-Olympic partnership in Vancouver in 2010 as beacons of an increasingly enlightened world. He's also impressed by the growing accessibility evident in many communities, not just in Canada but around the globe. Increasingly commonplace adjustments in our built environment like curb cuts, ramps and audible crossing signals, and the growing public investment in accessible transportation are real, tangible symbols of this social evolution. They are all signs, says Hansen, of a major shift in public perceptions about disability, signals that the old timeworn stereotypes are breaking down and people with disabilities are being recognized as equal community partners.

"Around the world there's just amazing work that's being done but we still have a long way to go. It will probably take us another 25 years to get where we want to go. But we can get there," says Hansen with trademark confi-

dence. “We just need to think better and work a little harder. If we share knowledge and stay connected and unified in our goals, we can accelerate the progress and get there even sooner.”

In 2010, Hansen and his Foundation launched a two-year program of events to celebrate the inspired progress of people with disabilities and mark the 25th anniversary of the *Man in Motion* World Tour. The opening celebrations also provided a timely launching pad for the advocate’s latest initiative, the Rick Hansen Institute, a kind of international clearinghouse for coordinating and linking the best minds in spinal cord research and treatment with a long-range view to accelerating the search for a cure. Between December, 2010 and June, 2011, Hansen and his team visited key stops on the original Tour in Jordan, Israel, Australia, China, and the United States to celebrate people who are making a real difference in the lives of others and to further international partnerships in the quest for a cure for spinal cord injuries. In August, Hansen kicked off the Canadian leg of the celebrations in Cape Spear, Newfoundland, with

the launch of the Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay which will retrace the Canadian segment of the *Man in Motion* Tour, wrapping up in Vancouver May 22nd. This time around, instead of grinding out the miles himself, Hansen has enlisted the services of 7,000 relay partners from across the country, all of them people Hansen and his organization are recognizing for their significant contributions to the life of their communities.

On November 2nd, Hansen and his relay will make a stop in Toronto where he will be the guest speaker at the 18th Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. An original Hall of Fame inductee in 1993, Hansen anticipates it will be a great opportunity to catch up with fellow compatriots in the cause of his life. “I’m really looking forward to the Hall of Fame luncheon,” says Hansen. “I want to extend my congratulations to this year’s inductees and everybody associated with the event. By your actions you are helping to shift the culture toward a more inclusive society. Let’s all keep working together and we can really move the cause ahead.”

Previous page top:  
Hansen leads the 25th Anniversary *Man in Motion* Relay into St. Peters, P.E.I., September 22, 2011.

Previous page middle:  
Hansen and friends participate in the Relay’s signature Medal-Bearer warm up at Brookfield Elementary School in Brookfield, Nova Scotia.

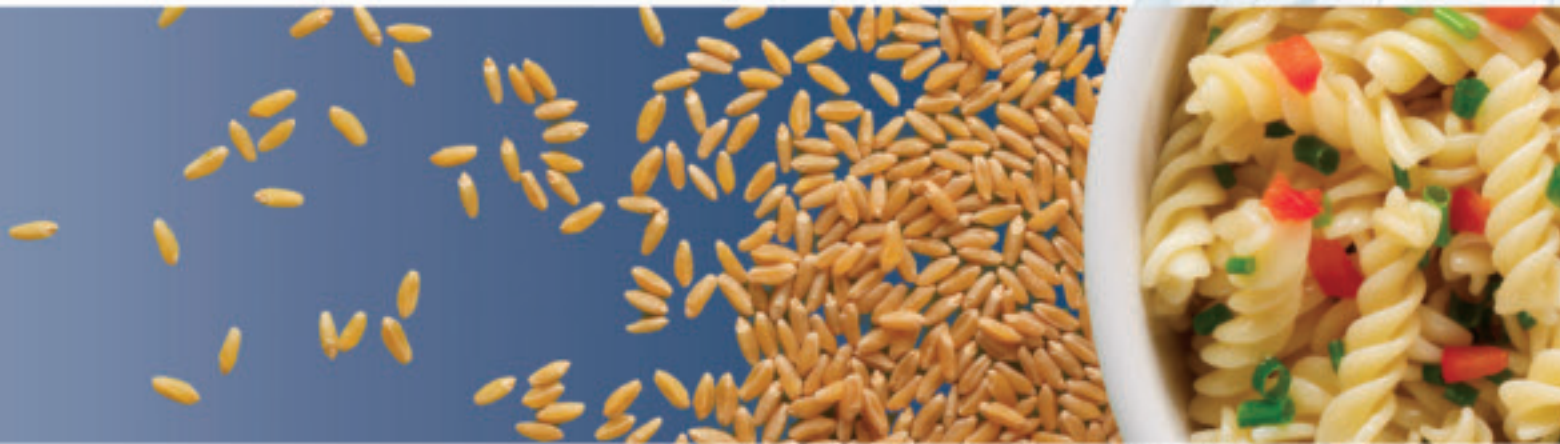
Previous page bottom:  
The *Man in Motion* meets with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in NYC, June 22, 2011.



Hansen meets a young supporter of the *Man in Motion* Tour near Sudbury, Ontario, December 11, 1986.

# Quality ingredients, start to finish.

Congratulations to all of the eighteenth annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame inductees!



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# Making Possibilities Come True

*Toronto's Variety Village is one of only a handful of barrier-free recreational facilities in the world where people of all ages and abilities can play and learn and pursue their full potential*

FOR ALMOST 65 YEARS, Variety Village has worked with people with physical disabilities and those who face developmental barriers to achieve their life potential. We are a world recognized facility providing integrated sports, fitness, education and life skills programs that change lives and strengthen communities.

Our commitment is to support projects and programs that have a real impact on the everyday life of people with disabilities and their families. We want to ensure they have opportunities to:

- Play, learn, grow and develop to the best of their abilities;
- Obtain the support and resources needed to succeed;
- Achieve and maintain good health and well-being;
- Have their physical, emotional, social and economic needs met and;
- Be fully included in active, healthy lifestyles within their community

Living a healthy, active lifestyle can be particularly challenging for people with disabilities. And yet it's of the utmost importance. Being active when young helps combat childhood obesity, a much discussed issue these days. Physical education is also a cost-effective means of preventing secondary health conditions such as diabetes. And having opportunities for socialization improves mental health.

At Variety, we include everyone in sports and recreational activities and the results are well



worth it. By participating in one of our programs, people with disabilities discover:

- Exercising is fun and promotes good health.
- Teamwork is important and everyone can contribute.
- Everyone may face challenges but no barrier is too great to overcome.

The Village offers eight team sports, holiday and summer camps and outreach education classes for schools, businesses, organizations and community groups. The Village is the only facility in Ontario, and one of only a handful worldwide,

where all ability levels are integrated.

Variety's programs are a catalyst for the development of self-esteem and positive thinking. Being active becomes a lifestyle choice – and while the physical benefits seem obvious, it's the social interaction that stimulates, motivates and makes everyone feel better. People feel more confident, maintain better health, and become contributing members of their community.

It's here, amidst a 76,000-square-foot gym and a 200-metre indoor track; three indoor pools for lessons, swimming, family swim and competitive swimming; and a 3,000-square-foot conditioning and separate weight training area, that people of all abilities can choose from many programs promoting inclusion and a healthy, active lifestyle.

"There's a willingness here never to hit the wall, and say 'well, we can't do that.' We always find a way," says Archie Allison. As the director

of Access and Awareness for Variety Village, Allison - 2011 inductee into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame - knows a lot about finding a way around obstacles. He and his colleagues work each day to make sure their programs and services are accessible to everyone and that people with disabilities are fully integrated.

Our work falls into the following three areas of expertise:

**1. Integrated sports, fitness and life skills programs.** We deliver sports, fitness and life skills programs at Variety Village and throughout Ontario, allowing young people to progress from play to sports to competition, from grassroots right up to podium level.

**2. Health.** As the children originally served by Variety Village have grown older, their need for specialized programs and facilitated physical activity has continued. As a logical progression, the integration of adults with disabilities has expanded. Variety now serves a broader section of the population that includes individuals with acquired conditions such as brain injury, stroke, and a wide range of challenges related to aging and increased lifespan. We are working with health care providers to develop rehabilitation programs to meet the increasing needs of an aging population.

**3. Learning and Outreach programs.** Reflecting our philosophy of inclusion and integration, we develop equipment, games and teaching methods and plans that promote access, awareness and adapted activities. We offer academic and professional certification programs and a popular co-op program. Our programs attract students and teachers from around the world to learn and study our best practices and approaches.

For years, Variety Village has made a profound difference in the spirit and lives of children and young people with disabilities and their families in the greater Toronto area and across Ontario. Our goal has been to improve the quality of life and integration into society of all children, regardless of ability.

By offering specialized programs and services, we create a level playing field without barriers, intimidation or other obstacles. This encourages all children to reach for their goals so they can feel comfortable enough to participate in a game of wheelchair basketball, give a motivational speech in front of hundreds

of business people, or apply for their first job.

We're inspiring children and their families to see their potential and become active and proud of their accomplishments. We believe in our kids. And when you believe, children believe in themselves. We are fortunate to see this every single day at the Village.

When you enter Variety Village for the first time, you will be struck by its size and how busy it is. On most days, it's buzzing with activity. You will observe a school group playing Pilo Polo, an adapted version of field hockey, on one of our three courts in the field house including

top:

Variety Village offers opportunities for everyone to get involved.

bottom:

Working-out on VV's adapted cardio equipment.





from the pool where they are learning how to swim.

Variety Village is more than just a great facility. What makes the Village a truly magical place is the inspiration found and the dreams realized here. Every day, hundreds of people push themselves to the limits of their individual abilities, finding support from those around them who do the same. Some may simply want to improve their fitness level or learn to lead a more active lifestyle – goals to which we can all relate. Whatever goals our members have, it is here at the Village that they first dream about them and are encouraged to strive for them. It is here that they find acceptance and, ultimately, success.

This is the inherent magic of Variety Village – it turns fear into confidence and a mindset of limitations into one of possibilities and opportunities. The transformation that takes place in children or adults when they learn how much they're truly capable of is priceless.

Variety Village has a unique spirit, embodied by the staff, volunteers, athletes, members and families who come through the doors every day. That spirit is one of inclusion and ability, and it permeates every activity, program and event at the Village.

By supporting Variety Village, you will help change the lives of more than 20,000 people every year. Whether you make a one-time donation of \$100, become a monthly donor or volunteer at one of our events, you will be helping us deliver specialized programs and services to people with physical and intellectual disabilities in the greater

Toronto area and across Ontario.

By supporting Variety Village you will be investing 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.varietyvillage.ca](http://www.varietyvillage.ca).

**top:** Wheelchair basketball is one of many adapted activities on offer at Variety Village.

**bottom:** It's never too early to take the big plunge.

a brand new refurbished FIBA regulation court donated by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment and the TeamUP Foundation, seniors working out on stationary bikes, and a group of friends lifting weights in our conditioning room. Walking through the corridor to the aquatics wing, you'll hear the laughter of kids

# Canadian Disability Hall of Fame



## FORMER INDUCTEES

Margaret McLeod  
John Gibbons Counsell  
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.  
Frank Bruno  
H. Clifford Chadderton  
Leslie Lam  
Pier Morten  
Allan Simpson  
Sarah Thompson  
Sam Sullivan  
Eugene Reimer  
Morris Milner, Ph.D.  
Amy Doofenbaker, DVM  
Tom Hainey  
Ivy Granstrom  
Jamie MacDougall, Ph.D.  
Rev. Stephanie McClellan  
Jo-Anne Robinson  
Robert Steadward, Ph.D.  
Mae Brown and Joan Mactavish  
Joanne (Bouw) Berdan  
Jack Donohue  
Brian Keown  
Dr. Charles Tator, M.D.  
Carlos Costa  
Johanna Johnson  
David Lepofsky, LL.B., LL.M.  
Henry Wohler  
Peter Eriksson  
Lucy and Robert Fletcher  
Chantal Petitclerc  
Patrick Jarvis  
Jeneece Edroff  
Michael Edgson  
June Hooper  
Steven Fletcher  
Elizabeth Grandbois  
Joanne Smith  
Lauren Woolstencroft  
Adrian Anantawan  
Linda Crabtree  
Dr. Geoff Fernie  
Daniel Westley  
Jeff Healey  
David Hingsburger  
Diane Roy  
Gary and Jill Taylor  
Colette Bourgonje  
Alan Dean  
David Shannon  
Jeff Tiessen

# Call FOR Nominations

## CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME 2012

*Sponsored by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons*

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](mailto:whynot@sympatico.ca) Website: [www.cfpdp.com](http://www.cfpdp.com)  
Please include your name, address and phone number. Nominations to be submitted no later than May 14, 2012.

*The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons in  
cooperation with the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley presents*

*The 28th  
Great  
Valentine Gala*



Saturday, February 11, 2012

The Canadian Room,  
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto

Contact: *The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons* (416) 760-7351 [whynot@sympatico.ca](mailto:whynot@sympatico.ca)



Archie Allison (top row, far right) - early days teaching at Variety Village



Archie Allison and Tracey Ferguson (Board of Directors) taken at Rolling Rampage, Ottawa

Variety Village Congratulates the  
Canadian Disability Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees:  
Brian McKeever and Robin McKeever, Benoît Huot, Celia Southward  
and a very special mention to Archie Allison, Director of Access and  
Awareness at Variety Village on being inducted as a Builder.

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*Variety Village promotes appreciation, interaction, empowerment and inclusion. We facilitate the achievement of life goals for people with disabilities through sports, fitness, wellness; awareness; education; training and skills development.*

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