HSBC Bank Canada is proud to support the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame’s 19th Annual Hall of Fame Induction.

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Greetings from Lieutenant Governor of Ontario David C. Onley, The Honourable David Crombie and The Honourable Vim Kochhar

Celebrating the 19th Annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame inductions

Meet the Hall of Fame’s 2012 inductees

2002 Hall of Fame inductee Reverend Stephanie McClellan takes on the world one act of kindness at a time

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons bids farewell to a truly great Canadian

Rotary Cheshire Homes’ unique environment and specialized services offer its deaf-blind residents a whole new world of opportunity

The CFPDP remembers a stalwart friend and supporter

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 28 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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Let’s build a Smarter Planet.
Message from Hon. David C. Onley

It is with pleasure that I extend greetings to the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons as you welcome four inductees into The Canadian Disability Hall of Fame.

For nearly three decades, your organization has advanced accessibility by helping Canadians with disabilities achieve their full potential. Your efforts to raise awareness of the challenges facing these citizens have not only broadened our understanding, but shaped our action.

Today, you recognize four individuals whose leadership and determination have helped so many. By honouring them, you are inspiring others to equally impressive feats.

As The Queen’s representative in Ontario, and as the Foundation’s Honorary Patron, I applaud your many achievements, and send my best wishes to you, the honourees, and all in attendance today.

Message from Hon. David Crombie

As Chair of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame it gives me great pleasure to announce our 2012 Hall of Fame inductees. Ann Caine, Tracey Ferguson, Robert Hampson and posthumous inductee Joyce Thompson are role models and visionary leaders whose inspiring accomplishments have truly made a difference. Today we pay tribute to their remarkable 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. Members of the Hall of Fame come from many different walks of life and their personal stories are as varied as their achievements. What unites this diverse group of exemplary individuals is their inspirational commitment and desire to succeed even in the face of sometimes cruel and overwhelming obstacles. They are the kind of everyday heroes who really make this world a better place and it’s a wonderful thing to be able to recognize their achievements.

I want to thank the members of the Hall of Fame Selection Board for their vital input and dedication. I also want to acknowledge the tremendous work 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 Hon. Vim Kochhar

Greetings and welcome to our 19th annual Canadian Disability Hall of Fame induction celebrations. And welcome and congratulations to our 2012 Hall of Fame inductees: Ann Caine, Tracey Ferguson, Robert Hampson and Joyce Thompson.

Here at the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons we’ve never drawn much of a distinction between the terms ‘disability movement’ and ‘disability community’. Everyone who shares this cause is a member of the disability community. And the disability family is far bigger than many Canadians seem to recognize. All of us are vulnerable to the ravages of age or physical impairment and all of us have a stake in the disability community’s continuing struggle for equal access and due consideration. Today, in celebrating our 2012 Hall of Fame inductees, you are showing your support for this great cause and I thank you. It’s nice to know we’re all in this together.

I’d also like to take this opportunity to thank our many loyal supporters, patrons and volunteers. Together, I know we can make this country the kind of place where everyone has an opportunity to play their part. And one last thing, I hope you will all come out and join us next year when we celebrate the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame’s 20th anniversary. It’s sure to be another great day in the service of the cause!
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Sometimes it’s hard to believe people with disabilities still struggle to find an equal footing in Canadian society. Canada’s disability movement has never suffered for a lack of charismatic and visionary leadership. The nation has a long and exemplary history of achievement in the disability community and members of that community have played defining and prominent roles in building the kind of country in which all Canadians take pride. The history of the disability movement in Canada is full of larger than life figures who wowed the world with the force of their vision or abilities: Terry Fox, Rick Hansen, Arnold Boldt, Chantal Petitclerc, Jeff Healey, Lauren Woolstencroft… Closer to home, members of the disability community have helped to shape or administer legislative protections enshrining equal rights and opportunity: activist lawyers David Lepofsky and David Shannon; they have been elected to public office: former Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan and Manitoba M.P. Steven Fletcher; founded and run some of the nation’s most respected health care and service organizations: John Gibbons Counsell, Lieutenant Colonel Edwin A. Baker and Clifford Chadderton; and been persuasive and articulate advocates for a better world: Whipper Billy Watson, Beryl Potter, Mona Winberg, Allan Simpson, Stephanie McClellan, Johanna Johnson and Patrick Jarvis. And this is just a short list of Canadians with disabilities who have played formative roles in the life of their country. Choose any pastime or avocation in life and you will discover people with disabilities have proven themselves time and time again, says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, founder of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame. The only...
question about people with disabilities that remains unanswered, says Kochhar, is when people finally wake up and give them their due.

“Don’t get me wrong, disability issues have made tremendous progress in our country. The real issue now is one of perceptions and sometimes that’s a hard one to swallow. Here you have a community that has built this tremendous record of accomplishment and still some people wonder if they’re up to the job,” says Kochhar. “It all comes down to public awareness and that’s what the Hall of Fame is all about. People need to know what a vibrant and active community this is. These aren’t just stories about the past, they are stories about what is possible, what is happening all around us every day in communities across the country. People with disabilities are a force to be reckoned with. We just need to get the message out there.”

On Thursday, November 29, at Toronto’s Fairmont Royal York Hotel, the CFPDP will host the 19th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. This year’s inductees are:

• Ann Caine, a pioneering leader in the growth and development of therapeutic riding and Paralympic equestrian sport;
• 20-year-old Robert Hampson, whose passion
for life and helping others has never flagged, even in the face of his own lifelong contest with illness and disability;

Joyce Thompson, outspoken advocate and dauntless service provider for Canada’s deaf-blind community;

and athlete Tracey Ferguson, a rare multi-sport Paralympian and three-time gold medalist with Canada’s historic women’s wheelchair basketball team.

As always, the 2012 luncheon and induction ceremonies will be hosted by the Hall of Fame’s perennial Chairman and former Mayor of Toronto, the Honourable David Crombie. This year’s guest speaker will be HSBC Bank Canada President and CEO Lindsay Gordon.

“I think our 2012 inductees are quite a remarkable group. They personify all the qualities that make the Hall of Fame such a worthwhile endeavour,” says Kochhar. Although membership is predicated on achievement, he notes it is also a tribute to the kind of personal virtues that make Hall of Fame members such terrific role models. In this respect, says Kochhar, the Hall of Fame’s message transcends the issues of disability and speaks to more universal values like honour, charity and community. “All you have to do is look at how these people live their lives: their energy, compassion and commitment, the things they believe are important. When we recognize someone in the Hall of Fame, we’re not just celebrating achievement, we’re celebrating exemplary character and we’re betting others will want to follow in their footsteps. We can all learn something from a young man like Robert Hampson,” says Kochhar.
Caring for a cause. Caring for change.

ICICI Bank Canada extends its heartfelt support to the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

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WhyNot.

Ann Caine Builder

Canadian therapeutic riding pioneer Ann Caine is a great believer in the magical connection that we share with animals. As the founder of Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre near Guelph, Ontario, Caine has seen that magic at work in the lives of thousands of young people and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional challenges who come to Sunrise for riding therapy and discovered a new world of improved fitness, independence and acceptance. And it all begins, says Caine, with acceptance. “Animals are very accepting and that feeling of acceptance is something we all want. But for many people with special needs, especially the children, it’s such a struggle to be accepted. It’s just one more barrier they have to overcome and animals don’t recognize those barriers. If you bring a child in a wheelchair into our barn for the first time, our horses will just put their head right in their lap.”

It was a devastating family tragedy that first impressed on Caine the very real benefits of animal therapy. She and her husband Christopher emigrated to Canada from Britain in 1973 with their four children. Eighteen months after settling into their new home, Christopher was diagnosed with cancer. Eighteen months later, at the age of 39, he died. It was an overwhelming loss, remembers Caine, particularly for their children. As the family struggled to come to terms with their grief, she noticed her kids were spending more and more time with their two ponies. The trauma of losing their father amounted to a kind of emotional disability, explains Caine and the ponies offered real consolation and companionship at a time in their lives when they really needed it. For Christopher’s 37 year-old widow, the only way forward was to find a new sense of purpose in her life and that experience with the ponies became the germ of an idea that would grow to become the work of a lifetime. “When you suffer a tragedy like this you can really go under, or you can look to find what you can make of it,” she says now, matter-of-factly. In fact, what...
Caine has accomplished in the service of that humble dictum has been a truly remarkable achievement.

Ann Caine is credited with playing a defining role in the growth and practice of therapeutic riding, here in Canada and around the world. A founding member and past president of the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association and the Ontario Therapeutic Riding Association, she was a leader in the push to raise certification standards for instructors, the incorporation of medical professionals in therapeutic riding programs and the development of the highest standards of service delivery. She also played a formative role in the development of Paralympic equestrian sport, and was a founding member and Canadian representative on the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee. In the eyes of an awful lot of people around Guelph and Cambridge, however, Caine’s greatest achievement will always be the Sunrise Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre, a registered charity that owes a great deal to the heroic 30-year fundraising work of its tireless and compassionate founder.

TRACEY FERGUSON Athlete

Even as a young girl, it was obvious Tracey Ferguson was endowed with special gifts, says Joe Millage. One of Ferguson’s first coaches at Variety Village, Toronto’s renowned accessible sports and recreation complex, Millage remembers his young charge was mature beyond her years, smart as a whip and totally focused. But the thing that really set Ferguson apart, according to Millage, was the passion she invested in everything she did. A disciplined and enthusiastic student, she would become the first female with a disability to be accepted in the Scarborough Board of Education’s Elite Athlete Program. That combination of brains, ability, and determination made for a formidable package, says Millage, and Ferguson soaked up everything her coaches had to teach her. “Athletes get into sport for different reasons,” says Millage. “Some of them do it for the glory, just to see all those trophies on their shelf. But with Tracey, it was always about pursuing excellence. She just found this great joy in trying to be the best that she could be.”

One of Canada’s most accomplished Paralympians, Ferguson was inspired to pursue her athletic dreams after watching Alex Baumann win two gold medals at the 1984 Summer Olympics. Only a matter of months later, while undergoing back surgery, the nine year-old suffered permanent partial paralysis in both legs. Ferguson doesn’t talk about the dark days that must have followed. She prefers to focus on the new opportunities that presented themselves. “When I found Variety Village, my whole world just opened up again,” says Ferguson. She credits Millage and fellow Village coach Stephen Bialowas with igniting the spark that would put her on the fast track to her storied career in Paralympic sport. The youngest person ever selected to the Canadian women’s wheelchair basketball team, Ferguson was only 16 when she joined the legendary squad in 1990. As it happened, she was about to embark on the ride of a lifetime. Between 1992 and 2002, the Canadian women would win three successive Paralympic gold medals and three World Championships, amassing in the process one of the most remarkable winning streaks in the history of sports: 10 years in official international competition without a single defeat.

Now 38, Ferguson is one of the grande dames of her beloved basketball team. She has competed in six Paralympic Games, including a bronze medal win in 2004 and a remarkable two sport appearance in Beijing in track and basketball. Among her many public distinctions, she has
received the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award and is a four-time recipient of the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association’s Female Athlete of the Year award. While she’s honoured by all the public recognition, Ferguson is quick to share the credit. “I’m always mindful I didn’t get here by myself,” says Ferguson. “I’ve had a lot of amazing support from my coaches and friends, the people at Variety Village, and, of course, my family. I have a great family, my mom especially. She has always been a great believer in all of us and she showed us the way.”

**ROBERT HAMPSON Achiever**

When he was four years old, Robert Hampson learned he had a brain tumor and that doctors would have to operate on his head to remove it. When he awoke from surgery, Hampson was blind and didn’t understand why he couldn’t see. He remembers asking his mother when the night would turn to day, and wondering why, every time he entered a room, all the lights were out. When he returned home, he discovered he had to learn how to do everything all over again, in the dark. It was a learning curve that presented a lot of bumps and bruises, bumping into walls and doors, falling down stairs and tripping over things. Then his tumor started growing back. In the years to come, Hampson would undergo three more brain operations; the last one landing him in Toronto’s Sick Kids Hospital for nine months. Now 20, he has spent close to a quarter of his life in chemotherapy and estimates he has had some 3,000 needles, 45,000 pills, 100 scans, 10 operations and 10 trips to the emergency room.

Hampson’s resilience in the teeth of this harrowing medical history certainly distinguishes him as a survivor but the real story of Robert Hampson is the remarkable life he’s managed to pack into his seesawing schedule of illness and recovery and the amazing impact he has made in the lives of others along the way. As far as his visual disability goes, Hampson seems to treat it like a call to arms. “When somebody tells me I can’t do something, that usually makes me all the more determined to try it,” he says with a laugh. A passionate athlete, he loves to test himself and the more challenging or improbable the exercise the better. Sky diving, rock climbing, skiing, kayaking, scuba diving, Hampson is game for just about anything. He’s also an accomplished competitive swimmer who has won medals in three trips to the Ontario Paralympic Winter Championships. Last year he went to the national Paralympic team trials.

It all makes for a busy life, but that hasn’t prevented Hampson from pursuing his growing schedule of commitments as a Variety Village Ambassador and passionate advocate of accessibility and inclusion – to say nothing of his inspired charitable endeavours! When he was five years old, Hampson’s babysitter told him she was collecting pop can tabs to buy wheelchairs for kids with disabilities. It troubled him that there were people who couldn’t walk and he was captivated by the idea he could do something to help. In the intervening years, Hampson has collected millions of pop tabs, establishing a network of collectors from Newfoundland to Vancouver. He then converts the aluminium tabs into cash at the metal recyclers. To date his efforts have purchased four wheelchairs, a retrofit for an accessible van and modifications for an accessible bathroom. Now administered under the umbrella of the President’s Choice Children’s Charity, the Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund has a shot at generating the kind of attention that buys a lot of wheelchairs – or will if Robert Hampson has his way.
When Joyce Thompson got it in her head to do something, remembers fellow Hall of Fame member Joan Mactavish, you were well advised to get out of the way. Mactavish was Thompson's supervisor at the CNIB and provided her first instruction in tactile sign language. However, notes Mactavish, Thompson was soon seeking every possible opportunity to further her training and learn all of the specialized skills required to be an effective intervenor, the all-important interpreter, guide and facilitator who is a deaf-blind person’s most essential link with other people and the community at large.

Thompson began working full-time as an intervenor, almost around the clock, whenever and wherever her clients needed her. Working one-on-one with as many as 50 clients and interacting with the deaf-blind community on so many levels gave Thompson a profound insight into their extreme vulnerability and their desperate need for public programs and assistance. It was this deep personal concern for the welfare of her clients that compelled her into the role of fervent public advocate. “Joyce was very passionate about getting services for deaf-blind people,” says Cindy Accardi, Executive Director of Rotary Cheshire Homes. “If she saw an area that needed work, she said, ‘Let’s fix it!’ She single-handedly changed the landscape of intervenor services and programs for people who are deaf and blind.”

Here are just a few of the initiatives that bear the stamp of Joyce Thompson’s tireless 30-year campaign to create a world of greater opportunity and independence for deaf-blind Canadians.

• Housing: Rotary Cheshire Homes, North America’s first fully accessible apartment complex built exclusively for the deaf-blind.
• Education: The Canadian Helen Keller Centre, providing training for deaf-blind clients in independent living skills, communication and assistive technologies.
• Intervenor services: Significantly increased access to publicly funded intervenor services. Thompson was also instrumental in developing George Brown College’s two-year intervenor diploma program.
• Public awareness: JuneFest, and the official designation of June as Deaf-Blind Awareness Month in Ontario.
The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons invites you to learn more about the inspirational achievements of 86 remarkable Canadians who have changed 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.

“The greatest barrier for 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 is 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:

BENOÎT HUOT, a triple world record holder, the Quebec-born swimmer has won 16 Paralympic medals, including eight golds and four silvers.

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

CELLA 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, of BC, 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.

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.

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

Short biographies of all members of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame can be found on the CFPDP’s website: www.cfpdp.com
It seems there has almost never been a time in her life when Reverend Stephanie McClellan wasn't reaching out to try and lend someone a helping hand. She was four years old when she started learning sign language, just in case she met someone who was deaf. She can't remember now where the initial impulse even came from, she thinks it may have been Sesame Street, but it was no idle childish whim. When she was ten she started taking formal instruction in American Sign Language and she took night courses in signing throughout her teens. Growing up in St. Catharines, Ontario, there weren't a lot of opportunities to practice her precocious skill but it would prove to be a profound blessing in the life of Aileen Leyte in Gander, Newfoundland.

McClellan graduated with her Masters in Divinity in 2002 and moved to Gander to take on her first pastoral charge at Fraser Road United Church. At her first Sunday service, she learned there was a woman in her congregation who was deaf and so she started signing portions of the service. "It's a neat story," says McClellan, with a hint of her adopted home's distinctive, lilting accent. "Aileen came to Gander from Saskatchewan with her husband in the '70s and there was no one in the community who could sign. She led a very isolated life. She used to come to church just to be with other people and read her bible and sit alone with her thoughts. And here one day out of the blue was someone she could finally communicate with. She just came alive again." McClellan and Leyte even launched a weekly sign language class at the church, sharing deaf language and culture with other adults and children in Gander and neighbouring communities.

Helping others find a meaningful sense of community in their lives has been a lifelong calling for McClellan but there was a time in her life when it was everything she could do just to try and help herself. In her first year of undergraduate studies at the University of Guelph, McClellan was very active in intramural sports but towards the end of term she started experiencing a lot of inexplicable pain and weakness. She presented herself at the doctor's with swollen hands and feet and was eventually diagnosed with sudden onset fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis. Within weeks, she says she couldn't even roll over in bed by herself. She was seven months on bed rest and five months in rehabilitation, rebuilding her strength and relearning basic motor skills but her mobility remained significantly impaired and she needed a power scooter to get around. McClellan returned to university with a whole new insight into the challenges of living with a disability – and a new sense of mission as a passionate advocate for access and inclusion.

During her remaining undergraduate years in Guelph, and later at U.B.C.'s Regent College where she undertook her Divinity studies, McClellan worked as an advisor on disability issues, consulting with students, staff and faculty to reduce the many barriers that prevent or hinder integration in university life. And she learned a valuable lesson about how open people are to the issues surrounding disability, if given half the chance. "People are really amazing, how willing they are to be welcoming and try to meet people's needs. Once they are aware what those needs are, they will do anything they can to be welcoming and acces-
sible,” says McClellan. That experience got the Divinity student thinking about ways in which she might bring the message of inclusion to a wider audience. Inspired in part by the heroic exploits of Terry Fox and Rick Hansen and a dream of making a real difference in the lives of Canadians who live with disability, the self-confessed adventure seeker hit upon the idea of cycling across the country. Launched from Vancouver in 1999, McClellan’s On Wings Like Eagles tour took its name from the passage in Isaiah, 40:31: “They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Every day she pedalled her specially designed three-wheel hand-cycle 100 kilometres. In the evenings she and her support team conducted interactive disability workshops in communities spanning every province in the country. The first woman to hand-cycle across Canada, McClellan’s 9,000 kilometre odyssey would earn her induction in the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 2002. It also introduced her to the rugged beauty and wonderful people of Newfoundland.

“I was really blessed on the tour to see so much of Canada and I met a lot of wonderful people along the way but I just decided Newfoundland was where I wanted to come back to.” Now based in St. Anthony, a small town on the northernmost tip of the island, she can watch moose and seals and caribou out the window and icebergs floating on the inlet a few hundred feet from her front door. It’s a beautiful world, says McClellan, and the best part is, every morning when she wakes up presents a new opportunity to try and make a difference. The trick, she’s learned, is thinking small. “If we all work together I really believe we can soar above all the barriers and lift each other up,” says the Reverend McClellan. All you have to do is think of one small act of kindness. She believes big things grow from small acts of kindness. And why not? Just think of that little girl back in St. Catharines, Ontario.

If you’d like to learn more about the Reverend Stephanie McClellan’s remarkable ministry, visit her website: www.pocketsizedministry.com
In the flood of memorial tributes that marked his passing October 19th, the Hon. Lincoln Alexander was remembered as an unflinching champion of civil rights. A black man who grew up in a predominantly white country that still harboured a lot of wrong-headed ideas about race and equal opportunity, Alexander fought a lifelong battle against social inequity and his leadership and remarkable personal accomplishments have been duly recognized. What many Canadians may not know is that the much-loved former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario was also a devoted and active advocate of people who live with disability. Inducted in the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame in 1998, Alexander took a special interest in the disability community’s longstanding struggle for equal access and inclusion, says the Hall of Fame’s founder, the Hon. Vim Kochhar.

“Lincoln understood the struggle of people with disabilities and he really took their cause to heart. He knew what it was like to have to always fight to prove yourself. He absolutely refused to accept that anyone should be treated like a second class citizen,” says Kochhar. “Lincoln always stood up for the underdog, it didn’t matter who it was: people of colour, new Canadians, young people, seniors. But after he left public office he seemed to take a particular interest in disability issues. He was a big supporter of Easter Seals and Variety Village and he was certainly a great friend and supporter of the CFPDP.”

Alexander became a Patron of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons upon its founding in 1987 and remained a Patron until his death. While serving as Ontario’s vice-regal representative, he regularly attended CFPDP events like the Great Valentine Gala and the annual Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, a tradition that continued after he returned to private life. That loyalty, however, sometimes occasioned a little nervousness on the part of the Foundation’s event planners, remembers Kochhar with a laugh. “When Lincoln was there you were always worried about falling behind schedule. We couldn’t proceed with the program until everyone was seated at the head table and Lincoln would want to stop and talk to everybody on the way. He took a real interest in people and it didn’t matter what their station was in life. He was genuinely curious, wanted to know who people were, where they came from, how their day was going. He was always asking questions. And it was like that everywhere he went. He had to stop and talk to everybody,” says Kochhar with equal parts admiration and amusement.

Alexander’s involvement in the CFPDP, however, went far beyond that of your typical honorary functionary, says the Foundation’s Executive Director Dorothy Price. He also served for 12 years as a member of the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame Selection Board. Charged with vetting the annual nominations and making final selections under the direction of Hall of Fame Chairman David Crombie, members of the selection board are required to make a serious commitment of their time and energies, says Price. Alexander clearly relished the job and he took his responsibilities very seriously. “We receive a lot of worthy nominations and there’s a lot of supporting material that has to be read and considered,” says Price. “It’s never easy narrowing the field but Lincoln always came to the final selection meeting with informed and very clear ideas about who he thought were the most deserving candidates. And when Lincoln Alexander made up his mind, that was pretty much the end of the discussion.”

In his final years, Alexander struggled with failing health but he still made the effort to come out and show his support for the cause, says Kochhar. “The last couple of years Lincoln was a little unsteady on his feet but that didn’t seem to slow him down. He just went out and got himself a wheelchair. He still talked to everybody in the room.”
DundeeWealth Investment Counsel proudly supports the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.
Rotary Cheshire Homes & the Canadian Helen Keller Centre proudly celebrate the induction of Joyce Thompson into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame. Her legacy will live on in the lives of Canadians who are deaf-blind.

Call for Nominations for the 3rd Annual “JT Award”

The “JT Award” recognizes significant contributions to the Canadian deaf-blind community by a deserving individual, consumer group or service provider who has demonstrated excellence in at least one of the categories of: Awareness, Expansion and/or Involvement.

The “JT Award” honours the tremendous achievements of Joyce “JT” Thompson who brought Awareness to the disability of deaf-blindness, Expansion to available services and programs, and ensured consumer Involvement at all levels.

Nominations must specify the category of the nomination, describe how the nominee demonstrates the spirit of the award, and include two letters of support.

Please ensure that all documentation and letters sent by mail are in large print, and all documentation and letters sent by email are in WORD format only.

Nominees must be current members of the Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind.

Nominees from last year will automatically be considered for this year’s award. Additional letters of support are encouraged.

The award recipient will be officially recognized at JuneFest 2013, but does not need to be present to win/accept the award.

Please submit nominations by: Monday April 15, 2013 to: JT Award, Rotary Cheshire Homes 101-422 Willowdale Avenue Toronto, ON M2N 5B1 Fax (416) 730-1350
IT IS MY PLEASURE to have worked with Nazar Strejko over the last fifteen years. We recently sat down for a chat, and it is my distinct pleasure to share his story.

In his own words, he claims to be an “old fart like Santa, totally blind and totally deaf and totally crazy too.”

Born in Poland, as a young child he had good vision and hearing. Living conditions in Poland were very poor and job earnings meager, to say the least. It wasn’t until after immigrating to Canada as a young man in 1965 that his vision and hearing started to decrease. Achieving citizenship wasn’t easy, remembers Nazar, but he says, “I am happy to be a Canadian citizen, and have found Canada a good country for people who want a better life.”

He lived with family and worked at a local family run bakery. In 1976, he moved into his own apartment at Bloor and High Park. His family was helpful, but couldn’t always be there. Changes in his hearing and then his vision brought him to the Canadian National Institute of the Blind (CNIB). He proudly worked at CNIB workshop for 27 years. Joyce Thompson, a 2012 Canadian Disability Hall of Fame inductee, was one of his first intervenors, and later became his case worker. But with limited funding, he was only entitled to six hours a week with an intervenor, the specially trained interpreter, guide and facilitator who is a deaf-blind person’s essential link with the outside world. Joyce was instrumental in helping to find volunteers to fill the gap. She also volunteered and introduced Nazar, and many others, to what was then the Hand Highway Club, now known as the Deaf-Blind Association of Toronto.

It was also through Joyce’s influence and dedication, in concert with the Canadian Foundation of Physically Disabled Persons and Toronto-Don Valley Rotary Club, that Rotary Cheshire Homes was born. With 16 fully accessible individual apartment units, RCH was the first accessible housing complex in North America built and designed exclusively for members of the deaf-blind community. Nazar remembers, “I was very excited when I heard I could move here. I moved in May 1992, and we are lucky to have a clean safe place to live. Losing my vision and hearing later in life meant I lost my independence. It was hard to accept my life as a deaf-blind person.” Living at RCH also meant that Nazar could receive 24 hours a week of the all-important intervenor services. “It improved my life a lot,” says Nazar. “With good intervention service my life is now acceptable.” He says his intervenors are his eyes and ears. Jokingly, Nazar adds that he uses his own tongue!
Nazar says without intervenor services his life would be very hard and isolated. Being deaf-blind means living in a different world, a small world. Intervenors, he explains, “help me communicate and have contact with the normal world. Now I can do lots of things that sighted hearing people can do.” For example, he doesn’t have to wait for the sports scores the next morning, he can ‘watch’ the game and live through the experience with his intervenor. He is a regular at the local YMCA, takes drumming lessons and eagerly anticipates his monthly casino trips. Intervenors also make everyday outings in the community, such as shopping and appointments, readily accessible.

“I would like more intervenor services hours, yes, for special events, but I don’t want to be demanding. I know there are other people who are deaf-blind who don’t get as much as they want.”

Nazar is thankful to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, MCSS, which funds this much needed service. He has met with MCSS and pleaded his case many times over the years. Nazar also wanted to thank RCH’s board of directors for their many volunteer hours making sure RCH is a great place to live. He says, “management here are always trying to make me and other tenants happy.”

“I will always be grateful for the help and understanding about my personal frustrations as a deaf-blind person. I am happy here at RCH. Where else could I find such a nice clean place?”
I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

Christopher Reeve

The Canadian Association for Prosthetics and Orthotics, and the Canadian Board for the Certification of Prosthetists and Orthotists congratulate this year’s inductees into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame.
1993
Margaret McLeod
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.
Frank Bruno

1994
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

1995
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
Archie Allison
Benoit Huot
Brian McKeever
Robin McKeever
Celia Southward

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000

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2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

Call for Nominations

Canadian Disability Hall of Fame 2013
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 Website: www.cfpdp.com
Please include your name, address and phone number. Nominations to be submitted no later than May 7, 2013.

Future Events

ROLLING RAMPAGE ON THE HILL
Thursday May 9, 2013
Parliament Hill, Ottawa

Canadian Helen Keller Centre Awards Luncheon
Thursday April 25, 2013
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto

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

The 29th Great Valentine Gala
Saturday, February 9, 2013
The Canadian Room, Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto

Contact: The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (416) 760-7351  whynot@sympatico.ca
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Together, we can build a bright future for everyone.

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