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FEBRUARY 2012

MAGAZINE

GREAT VALENTINE GALA ISSUE



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THE GREAT VALENTINE GALA ISSUE
FEBRUARY, 2012

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6 Garamond Court, Suite 265,
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Telephone (416) 760-7351
Fax (416) 760-9405
E-Mail: whynot@sympatico.ca
www.cfpdp.com

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Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons

The 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 twenty-eight 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 Canadian Helen Keller Awards Luncheon, 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, Jeff Adams' CN Tower climb and Rolling Rampage Wheelchair 10K Road Race.

Cover Photo: Hadaball Inc.

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Frustrated... excluded... undervalued.

Workplace barriers can shut people with disabilities out of paid employment. They often end up poor, and society as a whole is impoverished.



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I am pleased to send greetings to all those in attendance at the Great Valentine Gala, in support of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

Philanthropy – one of the pillars of my mandate as governor general – is defined both as an act of giving and as a love of humankind. When we give what we can, whether on a grand scale or through small acts of kindness, we are, at heart, philanthropists.

I believe that, together, we can define our identity by what we show the world and how we treat those in need. It is up to us to take an active role in improving the human condition for all – in Canada and around the globe.

I commend the organizers and volunteers on their efforts to make this event happen, and I thank everyone for their contributions to such an important cause.

David Johnston
Governor General of Canada



It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings to the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) as you host your 28th Great Valentine Gala.

Since 1985, you have been dedicated to providing programs and services for people with physical disabilities in order for them to fulfill their potential. You also have been recognizing their achievements and contributions to the community through the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, the Canadian Helen Keller Award, and more. You are committed to raising public awareness, supporting other organizations with similar goals, and to developing educational materials that promote your credo.

As your Honorary Patron and The Queen's representative in Ontario, I laud the many accomplishments of the CFPDP, congratulate the athletes going to the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, and send my very best wishes for a most enjoyable evening.

David C. Onley
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario



It gives me great pleasure to join you in celebrating the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' 28th annual Great Valentine Gala.

I am proud to support the CFPDP's long-running campaign to create a world of greater opportunity for the more than two million Canadians who live with physical disability. Proceeds from the Gala play a vital part in supporting the CFPDP's ongoing public awareness initiatives. They also provide substantial and much-needed funding for our Paralympians, accessible housing and outreach programs for Canada's deaf-blind community and other essential community services.

What makes the Great Valentine Gala truly special, however, is the very real sense of community the evening promotes. In celebrating the achievements of people with disabilities and the dedicated individuals and organizations who work on their behalf, the Gala drives home the value and importance of diversity in our communities and that's a message we can all endorse.

I want to thank the CFPDP and all the Gala patrons and volunteers whose generous support and assistance make this wonderful evening possible. I wish you every success for the year ahead. Thank you.

Michael Wilson
Chairman,
Barclays Capital Canada





It gives me great pleasure to join you as Honorary Co-Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' 28th Annual Great Valentine Gala.

I am honoured to be a part of this very worthwhile endeavour. For 28 years the generosity of Gala supporters has been an invaluable source of support for the CFPDP and its efforts on behalf of Canadians who live with disability.

In addition to raising much needed financial assistance, the Gala has been a lively and entertaining venue for promoting awareness of the tremendous potential of people with disabilities and their important contribution to the life of our country.

IBM has also been committed to this cause for many years; creating technology and innovative business practices that allow people with disabilities to reach their full potential.

On behalf of IBM Canada, I want to thank the many dedicated volunteers whose generosity and hard work play such a vital part in the Great Valentine Gala's continuing success. To all of you, and everyone who supports this great cause, thank you.

John Lutz
President,
IBM Canada Ltd.



Greetings and welcome to our 28th annual Great Valentine Gala in support of Canadians who live with disability.

As you might expect, the Gala is always a special night for the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons. It's an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends who share our dream of a better world, and join together in celebration of the heroic progress of Canadians with disabilities. As always, this year's Gala pays tribute to some of the influential individuals and organizations whose leadership and dedication have played vital supporting roles in the service of the disability community's ongoing struggle for greater recognition. We are also paying tribute to our nation's remarkable Paralympians as they prepare to compete this summer in London's 2012 Paralympic Games. I know all of you join me in wishing them every success at the Games and I want to assure them they have already made us all very proud.

On behalf of the CFPDP, I want to thank our dedicated patrons and volunteers, our many talented partners in the disability community, and each and every one of you who contributes to making this special night so memorable. It is a great gift to find common cause in such wonderful company and I thank you one and all.

Vim Kochhar
Chairman,
Canadian Foundation for
Physically Disabled Persons



It is with great pleasure that I join you tonight in celebrating the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' 28th Annual Great Valentine Gala.

As a longstanding supporter and board member of the CFPDP, I know the indispensable role this evening plays in the Foundation's nearly thirty-year campaign on behalf of Canadians who live with disability. From the beginning the CFPDP has been dedicated to the pursuit of one principal objective: a better world for everyone who lives with disability. It is Gala supporters like yourselves who make that great work possible. And the results are there for all to see. Since 1985 the generosity of Gala supporters has contributed to a long list of services dedicated to eliminating systemic barriers and opening new doors of opportunity. Whether in the areas of sports and recreation, essential community services or the CFPDP's many national awareness campaigns, Gala funds have played a vital role in helping to make this country a place where everyone has an opportunity to play their part.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to each and every one of you on this very special evening. Your continuing generosity and support have made a real difference in the lives of a great many deserving Canadians and I thank you.

George Przybylowski
Chair,
The Great Valentine Gala

ages



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A portrait of Rick Mercer, a man with dark curly hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background is a blurred green and blue studio setting with the word 'MERCER' visible in large, faint letters.

Congratulations
to our very own Rick Mercer
for receiving the King Clancy Award.



CBC

Great Valentine Gala 2012

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Friends and supporters of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons offer up a Gala sendoff for our nation's Paralympians as they prepare to depart for London's 2012 Summer Paralympics

It's become a time-honoured Toronto tradition for friends and supporters of Canada's disability movement, an annual rite of community partnership and celebration in support of a world of greater opportunity for Canadians who live with disability. On February 11th, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons will play host to its 28th annual Great Valentine Gala, gathering some 800 enthusiastic supporters for a

rousing tribute to our nation's Paralympic heroes and community leaders whose vision and exemplary achievements have helped to redefine Canadians' ideas about ability. That sense of common cause, and the real feeling of community that comes with it, always make the Great Valentine Gala a night to remember, says the CFPDP's chairman, the Honourable Vim Kochhar. "We have made so many great friends

2011 Gala Corporate Awards presentation, left to right: **Sabi Marwah**, Vice-Chairman & COO, Scotiabank; **Yezdi Pavri**, Managing Partner, Deloitte & Touche; **Mark Agro**, President & CEO, Otto Bock Healthcare Canada; **Sriram Iyer**, President & CEO, ICICI Bank Canada with the **Honourable Vim Kochhar**, Chair, CFPDP



PHOTOGRAPHS BY Hadabell Inc.

from across this country. That sense of shared commitment is what makes Gala night so special. You just get the feeling that together we can really change the world.”

Since 1985, when Kochhar and friends staged the first Gala evening in support of the disability community’s historic struggle for equality, the Great Valentine Gala has formed the cornerstone of the CFPDP’s annual campaign, reaching out to the wider community and building public awareness of the need for real change. “Changing the way people think takes time. Change comes slowly but there’s a momentum that starts to take over and at a certain point, change becomes inevitable,” enthuses Kochhar. “All you have to do is look at the amazing growth of the Paralympic Games or all the important inroads people with disabilities are making in the workplace. Our society is changing. This is one cause where you know you’re on the winning side.”

This year’s Gala lineup includes a stirring sendoff for our nation’s Paralympians as they gear

up for London’s 2012 Summer Paralympics, August 29–September 9. Canada’s Paralympic athletes have played an inspirational role in the disability community’s ongoing battle for equal recognition, notes Kochhar. Their dedication, athleticism and winning spirit have captured the imagination of sports fans around the world and shifted public perceptions about the limits of possibility. “This isn’t the first time we’ve paid tribute to our Paralympic athletes. And it won’t be the last. Paralympic sport has always been one of our core initiatives. Our athletes have been inspired standard-bearers for the cause – we want to let them know that we’re behind them all the way,” says the Gala founder, who also serves as Chairman of the Canadian Paralympic Foundation, the national fundraising body of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the CFPDP’s 2011 King Clancy Awards for personal achievement and outstanding leadership in the service of a more inclusive world. This year’s King Clancy winners have each,



Canada’s 2010 Paralympic medal winners receive the CFPDP’s 2011 King Clancy Award

KING CLANCY AWARD WINNERS

- Richard Beecroft
Carl Hiebert
Ron Turcott
- Robert Wilson Jackson
Beryl Potter
Mona Winberg
- Rick Hansen
Jackie Rodger
Kerry Grant Wadman
- John Black Aird
Arnold Boldt
Vicki Keith
- Barbara Turnbull
Terry Fox
André Viger
- David Onley
Dick Loiselle
- Gary McPherson
Jeff Tiessen
Karl Hilzinger
- Reverend Robert Rumball
Joanne Bouw
- Rob Snoek
Spencer Bevan-John
Jack Donohue
- Kurt Browning
Betty and Rolly Fox
Rhona Winifred Mickelson
Robert Steadward
- Jeff Adams
John and Jesse Davidson
Henry N.R. Jackman
- Joan Mactavish
Amy Doofenbaker
Dave Shannon
- Jim Knox
Kelly Klassen
Frank MacIntyre
- Terry Kelly
Stephanie McClellan
Walter Gretzky
- Stephanie Dixon
Lisa Franks
Patrick Jarvis
- Jim Sanders
Joyce Fairbairn
Chantal Petitclerc
- Henry Wohler
Diane Dupuy
Daniel Wesley
- Linda Crabtree
David Crombie
Gord Paynter
- Canadian medal winners
at the 2004 Athens
Summer Paralympics
- Steven Fletcher
Tom Jeary
Joanne Smith
- Canadian medal winners
at the 2006 Torino
Winter Paralympics
- Robert Hampson
Andrew McLean
Shirley Shelby
- Canadian medal winners
at the 2008 Beijing
Summer Paralympics
- Frank Bruno
Debbie Low
Julian Fantino
- Canadian medal winners
at the Vancouver/Whistler
2011 Winter Paralympics



Singer-songwriter **Chantal Kreviazuk**



Australian vocalist **Tim McCallum**

in their own way, played a profoundly influential role in the growing success and popularity of Paralympic sport, says CFPDP Executive Director Dorothy Price. They are: professor, adapted sports scholar and Canadian Paralympic Committee President David Legg; Canadian Champion hurdler and career Paralympic track and field coach Faye Blackwood; and Canadian topical comedy superstar Rick Mercer, host and creative force behind CBC Television's Gemini Award winning *The Rick Mercer Report*. "Rick Mercer has probably done as much as anyone to help our Paralympians find a wider audience. He's been a tremendous supporter of the Paralympic movement. And, of course, David Legg and Faye Blackwood have dedicated their lives to the Paralympic movement. So we're very pleased with this year's King Clancy Award winners. I can't think of three more deserving candidates. And I can't wait to hear what Rick Mercer has to say about it," adds Price, already laughing in anticipation of Mercer's moment in the Gala spotlight.

Also on the Gala program is the presentation of the CFPDP's 2012 Corporate Awards, in recognition of commendable corporate contributions

on behalf of the disability community. This year's recipients are the Royal Ontario Museum, Canada's world renowned museum of natural history and world cultures; and Shoppers Home Health Care, a division of Shoppers Drug Mart, the nation's largest pharmacy chain. One of North America's great museums, the ROM has been an early and innovative proponent of accessibility, guaranteeing access to its collections for everyone, regardless of their disability. A longstanding and committed community partner in Canada's disability movement, Shoppers Home Health Care has made substantial contributions to adaptive sports programs, spinal cord research, Variety Village, the Rick Hansen Foundation and numerous other disability organizations and initiatives.

As always, the Great Valentine Gala will also be serving up an evening of topflight musical entertainment. This year's Gala headliner is Grammy-winning vocalist Debby Boone, rounding out what Gala Chair George Przybylowski promises is sure to be another memorable evening in the service of the cause. "It's always a great time. It's an entertaining and inspirational night out in support of a wonderful cause. How can you miss?"

The 2011 Gala organizing team take a bow



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEVON DUNBAR



2012 Great Valentine Gala Committee Members

GALA CHAIR
George Przybylowski

FOUNDATION CHAIR
Hon Vim Kochhar

ADMINISTRATION
Dorothy Price

**EVENTS
COORDINATION**
City Events

**COMPUTER
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Suhana Meharchand

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Richard Rotman

FINANCE
David Ford

SALES
Roy Ashforth
Bill Jack

KING CLANCY AWARDS
Doug Richardson
Barry Coke
Dorothy Price

CORPORATE AWARDS
Stan Lewis
Hon Vim Kochhar
Roy Ashforth

V.I.P. RECEPTION
Beverly Ivany
Richard Rotman
Barry Coke
Rob Snoek
Mark Lecker
Stan Lewis

TOMBOLA
Ava Paulin
Larry Paulin
Cindy Accardi
Jennifer Robbins
Julie Price
Jan Verboom

Presenting the 2012 King Clancy Awards

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' King Clancy Awards are presented annually in recognition of personal achievement and important contributions in support of Canadians who live with disability.

THERE IS NO WAY to measure the profound influence of Paralympic athletics coach and administrator **Faye Blackwood** in the lives of Canada's elite athletes with a disability. In a volunteer career spanning more than two decades, Blackwood has trained literally hundreds of track and field athletes across the country, specializing in ambulatory events for athletes with cerebral palsy, amputees and athletes with intellectual disabilities. A former elite athlete in her own right – she holds a national indoor record in the 60 metre hurdles and won the 1986 Indoor and Outdoor Canadian Championships – Blackwood's technical expertise, self-sacrifice and passion for sport have earned the respect and admiration of fellow coaches and athletes throughout the world of Paralympic sport.

Even when she was competing as a nationally ranked able-bodied athlete, Blackwood was already deeply involved in adapted sport. After taking an Honours degree in Kinesiology from the University of Waterloo in 1981, she went to work at Toronto's renowned Variety Village where she taught adaptive physical education to young people and adults with physical, social and intellectual disabilities. In the late 80s, when Variety Village launched a program for elite athletes, Blackwood began working after hours with a core group of ambulatory sprinters and jumpers, four of whom would go on to make the national team and compete in



Faye Blackwood

the 1992 Summer Paralympics. One of those athletes was Frank Bruno, destined to become one of Canada's greatest Paralympians. Bruno won three gold medals and set two world records at the '92 Games and credits Blackwood's dedication and technical knowledge with helping to change the face of Paralympic competition.

"The CP (cerebral palsy) class of Paralympic sport used to be pretty laid back. We really pushed hard. If you want to be competitive you

have to be committed and Faye always gave 100 percent,” says Bruno, who, like many of Blackwood’s athletes, remains good friends with his former coach. Blackwood was incredibly patient and understanding, notes Bruno, and always took great pains to tailor her workouts to the athletes’ personal needs. Her extensive knowledge of the science of disability, in combination with her experience in elite track and field, made her a trusted and much sought after advisor, agrees amputee sprinter and three-time Paralympian Rob Snoek. “And it was all on her own time, all those years of coaching. It was all volunteer. That level of commitment was just amazing,” recalls the admiring Snoek.

Now a sport consultant with Ontario’s Ministry of Health Promotion, Blackwood continues to coach in her spare time, and she wouldn’t have it any other way. “I just love it. I absolutely love it. If you can say you helped somebody be the best that they can be it’s a great feeling,” says Blackwood. “Just being a part of that, helping someone believe in themselves. What could be better than that?”

FOR CANADIAN PARALYMPIC Committee President **David Legg**, promoting the abilities of people who live with disability isn’t just a great cause, it’s a lifelong calling and vocation. An Associate Professor at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Legg specializes in sport management and adapted physical activity, or para-sport, and he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Alberta under the supervision of one of the acknowledged pioneers of the international Paralympic movement, Dr. Robert Steadward. Despite the considerable demands of his academic career, Legg juggles a dauntingly long list of volunteer commitments. In addition to his voluntary post as president of the CPC, where he has served on the board since 1999, Legg sits on the boards of the Toronto 2015 Pan American Parapan American Games, the Alberta Youth Olympic Symposium, Sport Alberta, the Alberta Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Alliance and the Alberta Paraplegic Foundation, to name only a few. Asked if this hectic schedule ever gets the better of him, Legg laughs.

“Sure, but what’s the old saying? ‘Choose a job you love and you will never have to work

a day in your life.’ I love what I do and, yes, sometimes it’s hard to distinguish where my professional life leaves off and my volunteer work begins.”

The CPC president’s first exposure to disability issues came early in life when his father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. As a young boy he remembers his father using a cane, and later, when the progressive disease began to take a greater physical toll, he remembers his father’s courage and determination to continue working. The family was lucky, says Legg, because his father managed a small farm insurance company that took steps to physically accommodate his disability. It was an era when the concept of workplace accommodation was still in its infancy and the importance of those concessions to accessibility left an indelible impression on the future disability advocate.



As an undergraduate studying physical education, Legg discovered adapted sports and was hooked. When he did his M.A. at the University of Windsor, Canadian Disability Hall of Famer Celia Southward invited him to check out wheelchair rugby. “I just showed up one night and they gave me a whistle and told me to referee,” recalls Legg with amusement. When he graduated, he went to work for the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association.

As president of the CPC, Legg’s first order

of business is supporting Canada's Paralympians in their quest for athletic excellence and promoting the development of a sustainable Paralympic sport system that can compete with the best in the world. It's a tall order and it all begins at the grassroots, says Legg. "We're at a bit of a crossroads since the 2010 Games. Awareness of Paralympic sport has never been higher but we have to create more opportunities for athletes to develop and we need to do a better job of getting corporate Canada to understand what a great resource our Paralympic athletes are."



Rick Mercer

FOR A GUY WHO BECAME a household name on the strength of his wicked sense of humour, Gemini Award winning Canadian icon **Rick Mercer** sure has a great big soft spot for the people and the country where he makes his home. Aptly dubbed Parliament's "unofficial opposition" – Remember the national petition calling on Stockwell Day to change his name to Doris? – Mercer's gift for savaging over-inflated egos in the corridors of power has won over some of the largest audiences in the history of Canadian T.V. But it's the acerbic Newfoundlander's lighthearted, downhome snapshots of so-called ordinary Canadians that reveal the real breadth of his passion for the country. As the

host of CBC Television's *The Rick Mercer Report*, Mercer has made a personal mission of finding new and entertaining ways to reflect Canadians back to themselves. If there's one identifiable group beyond the often remote confines of the nation's capital that has figured prominently in his magnum opus, it's Canadians who live with disability.

As you might expect from someone who happily describes his professional relationship with politicians as "mutually parasitic," Mercer is quick to deflect any suggestion he's a social advocate. "I've never had anybody on the show for anything even closely resembling altruistic reasons. Ultimately it's a comedy show, it has to be entertaining and it has to be fun. I think, really, I just stumbled on this amazing group of people who happen to make great television." In fact, says Mercer, it never really occurred to him he might be seen as someone with a special attachment to the disability movement until he was invited to be a Paralympic torch bearer in 2010 and somebody pointed out his show has run an awful lot of stories about people who have disabilities. The show's guest list has featured many prominent public figures from the disability community, including the *Man in Motion*, Rick Hansen, former Vancouver mayor Sam Sullivan, writer Ryan Knighton, and Lieutenant Governor of Ontario David Onley. And then there's Mercer's almost fanatical love affair with Canada's Paralympians. Over the years *The Rick Mercer Report* has featured spots on just about every sport on the Paralympic calendar: alpine skiing, nordic skiing, sledge hockey, wheelchair rugby, swimming, goal ball, wheelchair basketball, powerchair football; along with many of the athletes whose distinguished careers are finally beginning to attract the national attention they deserve: the amazing McKeever brothers, track star Chantal Petitclerc, sit-skier Josh Dueck, cross country skier Colette Bourgonje.

"I just love the whole idea of Paralympic sport and I have a lot of respect for the people who do it. They're people who have gone through personal crisis and come through the other side. And they're used to competing at an elite level, so nothing ever throws them," observes Mercer, like any other admiring fan.



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BRING ON THE RAMPAGE

by Cassandra Federbusz

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons invites everyone to come to the nation's capital for the 2nd Rolling Rampage on the Hill, April 26, 2012

AFTER THE OVERWHELMING SUCCESS of the first Rolling Rampage on the Hill, wheelchair athletes from across the globe are finding their way back to Parliament Hill for a bigger and better performance. In the spring of 2012, five additional athletes are expected to be joining a dozen others in a competitive 10K Wheelchair race for a chance at this year's prize purse. The 2011 event concluded with Josh Cassidy and Diane Roy winning the gold medals in Men's and Women's Open competition, besting other elite competitors in a very close road race.

There was no better way to support those competing athletes than to have Ottawa-Gatineau elementary school students cheering on the athletes and getting the chance to witness the first wheelchair race on Parliament Hill. Elementary schools were delighted to discover they are invited to participate in the second Rolling Rampage on the Hill. Fifty schools from four different school boards will be chosen to participate in the Elementary School Relay. Four students from each school will not only get a chance to race, but also meet the world-class wheelchair athletes they admire and look up to.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is pleased to continue as an honorary patron of this unique event. "The Rolling Rampage is a wonderfully innovative way to raise awareness of the challenges faced by disabled athletes," Harper said. With the unforeseen Federal election last May, Mr. Harper and many Parliamentarians were unavailable to attend the event, but were delighted to learn they will have another opportunity to participate in the Rolling Rampage this spring, on April 26.

Several thousand students and members of the Ottawa community are expected to attend the second Rolling Rampage on the Hill and this



Denmark Paralympian **Marianne Maiboll** pulls out all the stops at the 2011 Rolling Rampage on the Hill



Rolling Rumpage Men's 10K winners (from left) Kurt Fearnley, Denis Lemeunier and Josh Cassidy are congratulated by Honourable Vim Kochhar, Senator Con Di Nino, Senator Jim Munson and Senator Joyce Fairbairn



Men's and Women's 10K wheelers take their mark



An exciting start to the Rolling Rumpage Junior Elementary School Relay

year they will have the opportunity to watch Parliamentarians put their wheelchair skills to the test in a competitive but fun wheelchair relay. The race will no doubt have everyone laughing and cheering on the teams, while also promoting a heightened awareness of the strength and skill required of wheelchair users.

The Honourable Vim Kochhar, founder of the Canadian Foundation of Disabled Persons, says, “Wheelchair road racing really sends a powerful message to Canadians by not only

focusing on the difficulties of the disabled community, but also the many strengths they display on a daily basis.”

Bringing this event to Ottawa and having it unfold on Parliament Hill is truly a special gift to Canadians, especially Canadian youth. Youth are preparing to become the leaders of tomorrow and enriching events like the Rolling Rampage give them the knowledge and experience they can use to inspire others to learn more about the disability community in Canada and elsewhere.

Left to right:
Senator Patrick Brazeau,
Gilles Duguay, and
Senator Yonah Martin
prepare to join their
teammates for the 1K
Wheelchair Relay



It was a great day for the
Junior Elementary Relay





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Teck is proud to support the 28th Great Valentine Gala for the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

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GUNNING FOR GOLD

by Alison Korn

Paralympic gold medallist Michelle Stilwell will be one of Canada's top medal hopefuls in London 2012

All systems are go as Canada's Paralympic team prepares to lift off for the London 2012 Paralympic Summer Games, Aug. 29 to Sept. 9

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY that Canada hosted the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, where our athletes dazzled the world in wheelchair curling, sledge hockey, para-alpine and Nordic skiing – placing third in both the gold medal count and overall medal tally.

Yet in just a few short months, the approximately 300 members of Team Canada will be off to London, England, where our athletes will vie for medals in 16 highly-competitive summer sports. The London 2012 Paralympic Summer Games takes place Aug. 29 to Sept. 9, 2012.

“This is a great time to be a Canadian Paralympic athlete,” said Rob Needham, the Canadian Paralympic Committee's Executive Director, Sport. “Now more than ever, Paralympic sport is a key component of the Canadian sport system. For Canadian Paralympic athletes and coaches to continue to build upon the success they experienced in Vancouver, it's essential to equip them with leading-edge strategies and practical skills to complement their day-to-day training as they prepare for upcoming Games. The Canadian Paralympic Committee is continuing to develop innovative approaches to enhance the preparation of the Canadian Paralympic Team.”

Innovative, indeed. Following the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games, the Canadian Paralympic Committee sets a bold new vision: to become the world's leading Paralympic nation.



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHELLE STILWELL



Community is the foundation of our business

Deloitte is proud to sponsor the 28th Great Valentine Gala in support of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

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Team Canada enters the stadium for the Opening Ceremony at the Guadalajara 2011 Parapan American Games in Mexico in November 2011. Many of the Canadian athletes shown here are now working to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympic Summer Games.

That includes pre-Games site visits to London, a Mission Staff orientation, support for Friends & Family and an inaugural “Excellence Series” last May that brought together more than 100 top medal potential athletes, coaches, support staff and specialists to learn from each other and enhance preparation for future Games. Under the theme of “Team Canada: Performing at Games,” speakers addressed topics such as team building, sports psychology, career planning and motivation.

“It was amazing to hear other athletes' stories and strategies that will make future Paralympians stronger competitors,” said Michelle Stilwell, a world record holder and Paralympic gold medalist in wheelchair racing. “I think it brought many of the sports together, so we have a team vision when we go to the Games.”

The CPC's goal of enhancing podium performances at Paralympic Games also means continuing to ensure that standards to make the Canadian Paralympic Team are rigorous and elite.

“Only our top medal-potential athletes and future contenders will qualify for the Paralympic

Games,” notes Needham. “Nobody is going there just to participate. They all have full intentions of bringing home the Gold for Canada. However, that means that sacrifices have to be made along the way to live the life and follow the dream of an amateur athlete. The majority of our athletes are training full-time and don't have a lot of time to commit to a professional career.”

And following the dream doesn't come cheaply. The price tag to send the Canadian team to London – including athletes, coaches, team leaders, medical and mission staff – is in the neighbourhood of some \$4 million. That's why the Canadian Paralympic Committee is fortunate to benefit from a committed fundraising charity, the Canadian Paralympic Foundation. And the Foundation has recently hired Terrance Slobodian, a progressive leader and professional fundraiser, which will allow it to reach new financial goals. Mr. Slobodian says he is thrilled to be selected as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Canadian Paralympic Foundation.

“For me, making sport more accessible is critical, not only to ensure physical activity but to act as a catalyst for individuals to reach their

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW WORNAGHAN/CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

full potential,” says Mr. Slobodian. “Combining my experience in helping organizations reach their fundraising targets along with my passion for sport creates a powerful combination that will help me to make a substantial difference in the Paralympic Movement.”

Mr. Slobodian, based in Toronto, brings a wealth of experience in building foundations and fundraising teams. Most recently, he was Chief, Corporate Partnerships and Private Fundraising, of UNICEF in Geneva and Moscow. In this position, he increased the organization’s income by 240 percent through strategic alliances with major global corporations. Previous to this position, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Bridgepoint Health Foundation, Canada’s leading hospital in Complex Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation, where he designed and led innovative fundraising campaigns to support a \$400-million redevelopment project. He also spearheaded several community hospital and university campaigns, which either met or surpassed their \$100-million goals.

In addition, Mr. Slobodian founded an organization in Eastern Europe, Good Sports International, that provides the opportunity for thousands of economically-challenged youth to experience the joy of sport, regardless of physical or financial ability.

“The Canadian Paralympic Foundation is delighted to have Terrance join the Paralympic Family and assist us in achieving our mandate of raising funds for athletes with a disability,” says the Honourable Vim Kochhar, Chair of the Canadian Paralympic Foundation. “His leadership skills, extensive fundraising experience and personal commitment to enabling disadvantaged youth to play sport make Terrance a perfect fit for our organization. His demonstrated ability to build strategic relationships and use effective fundraising techniques makes us confident that he will play an instrumental role in taking the Canadian Paralympic Foundation to a new level.”

Within five years, the Canadian Paralympic Foundation’s goal is to increase fundraising revenues to \$2-3 million a year.

Financial support from fundraising initiatives will, in turn, enable the Canadian Paralympic Committee to diversify its funding base, continue to build a world-class Paralympic system and help increasing numbers of Canadians with a disability experience the thrills and benefits of sport, at all levels. Every dollar makes a difference!

For more information on the Canadian Paralympic Foundation or to make a donation, please see www.paralympicfoundation.ca. And be sure to follow Team Canada en route to London 2012 at Paralympic.ca/london2012!



is proud to support the
Canadian Paralympic Team
on their outstanding achievements

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FOR THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS CANADIAN DISABILITY HALL OF FAME

SPONSORED BY

THE CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

The Hall of Fame recognizes distinguished Canadians who have made a significant contribution in assisting, or enhancing the lives of persons with physical disabilities.

Both physically disabled and non-disabled persons may be inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame.

*Individuals are inducted in one of three categories:
Builder, Achiever, Athlete.*

Please submit a detailed account of the individual’s background to:

The 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 Web: www.cfpdp.com

Please include your name, address and phone number.

NOMINATIONS TO BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MAY 18, 2012

2012 Great Valentine Gala

Presented each year at the Great Valentine Gala, the CFPDP Corporate Awards recognize the exemplary

Royal Ontario Museum

Long regarded as one of North America's great museums and an internationally respected research institution, the Royal Ontario Museum is Canada's largest museum of natural history and world cultures. As one of Canada's most prized educational and cultural destinations, the ROM is also wholly committed to creating a learning experience that can be shared by everyone, regardless of disability.

experience," says Johanna Contreras, the ROM's access program manager.

The ROM's accessibility initiatives embrace visual, auditory and mobility concerns. They include:

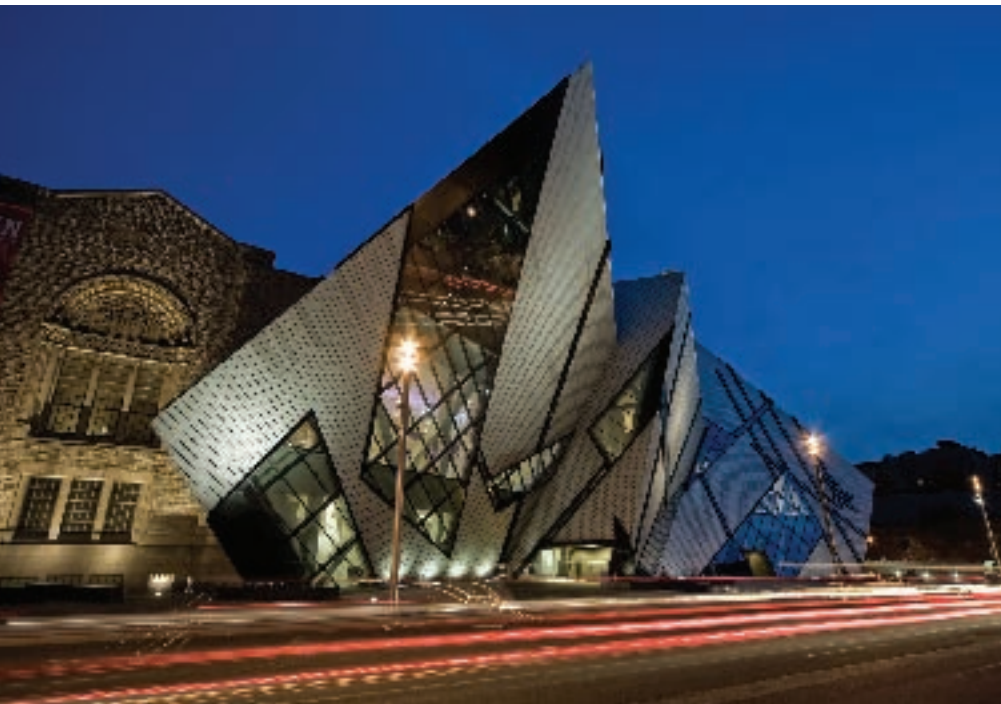
- Tactile tours. Every third Thursday of the month, guided tactile tours are offered to allow visitors who are blind or who have vision loss to explore objects through touch. Tactile booklets featuring

Braille and raised-line drawings also supplement the tour.

- Self-guided tours: The ROM also offers a self-guided audio tour, narrated by retired CBC radio host Andy Barrie. The accompanying objects are mounted in stands with Braille, large print and raised font labels. There is also a texture change on the floor as spatial recognition for those who use cane detectors.

- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreted Tours: On the first Thursday of the month the ROM facilitates ASL-interpreted tours for visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing. All lectures, courses and events at the ROM offer hearing loop technology and ASL interpretation upon request.

- In addition to these accessibility initiatives, the ROM's entrance is stair-free and the main foyer is gradually sloped for smooth entry. All floors are accessible by elevator or platform lift and the Museum's wayfinding system includes Braille and tactile elements. The ROM also offers visitors complimentary wheelchairs, large-format floor plans, captioning of the digital donor wall, tactile elements in the galleries and increased seating.



Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum is wholly committed to creating an accessible, stimulating learning experience that can be shared by everyone, regardless of disability.

"We truly believe that people with disabilities are capable of doing whatever they want to do but society places barriers in their way that prevent them from accomplishing those things. We want to remove those barriers so that everyone who comes to the ROM can explore all of our galleries and have a truly meaningful

experience," says Johanna Contreras, the ROM's access program manager.

Corporate Award Winners

contributions of Canadian companies and organizations in support of people with physical disabilities.

Shoppers Home Health Care

Shoppers Home Health Care is a division of Shoppers Drug Mart, Canada's largest pharmacy chain. As a leading provider of assisted-living devices and mobility equipment, home-care products and medical equipment, SHHC is a committed partner of Canada's disability community. SHHC also works with other divisions of Shoppers Drug Mart to provide infusion services and innovative distribution models to help make life healthier and a little more convenient for their clients. The Shoppers brand guarantees quality and their culture embraces responsiveness in sourcing innovative products and leadership in creating solutions for the Health Care, Home Care, Independent Living and Long Term Care industries.

That responsiveness extends to supporting the organizations and charities that work so hard to provide opportunities that enrich the lives of their customers. Shoppers has been a significant partner with the Canadian MS Society and the MS Clinic at Baycrest. Their support of programs for persons with ALS and for the wonderful work of March of Dimes has helped those organizations improve the lives of thousands of Canadians who require a little assistance to improve their health and enjoy the greatest independence possible. For six years Shoppers has also been a Provincial partner with ParaSport Ontario, sponsoring the

Ready, Willing & Able program, Summer and Winter Games and the Concert for Inclusion.

SHHC has also been a valued partner of Toronto's renowned Variety Village. "Shoppers Home Health Care is far more than a store. Their knowledge of mobility solutions, custom fitting, equipment rental and service have helped build the Variety Village mobility resources for our outreach programs," says Archie Allison, the Village's Director of Access and Awareness.

Other organizations benefiting from SHHC's support include: the Abilities Centre; Canadian Disabled Sailing; Canadian Junior Wheelchair

Basketball; Canadian Power Hockey Association; Canadian Spinal Cord Research Association; and Humanitarian Mobility International.

Recently Shoppers Home Health Care opened the most current resource in Canada for the demonstration of Modified Vehicles, Lifts and Elevating devices. It is a very strong statement of their culture of community support and involvement, building capacity in business and opportunities for everyone they serve.

Shoppers Home Health Care is a proud supporter of ParaSport Ontario's Ready, Willing & Able program promoting adapted sport in communities across the province.



2012 Canadian Wishing you success in your

PLATINUM PATRONS



GOLD PATRONS



SILVER PATRONS



BRONZE PATRONS



HEIDRICK & STRUGGLES



Paralympic Team

Quest for Gold in London



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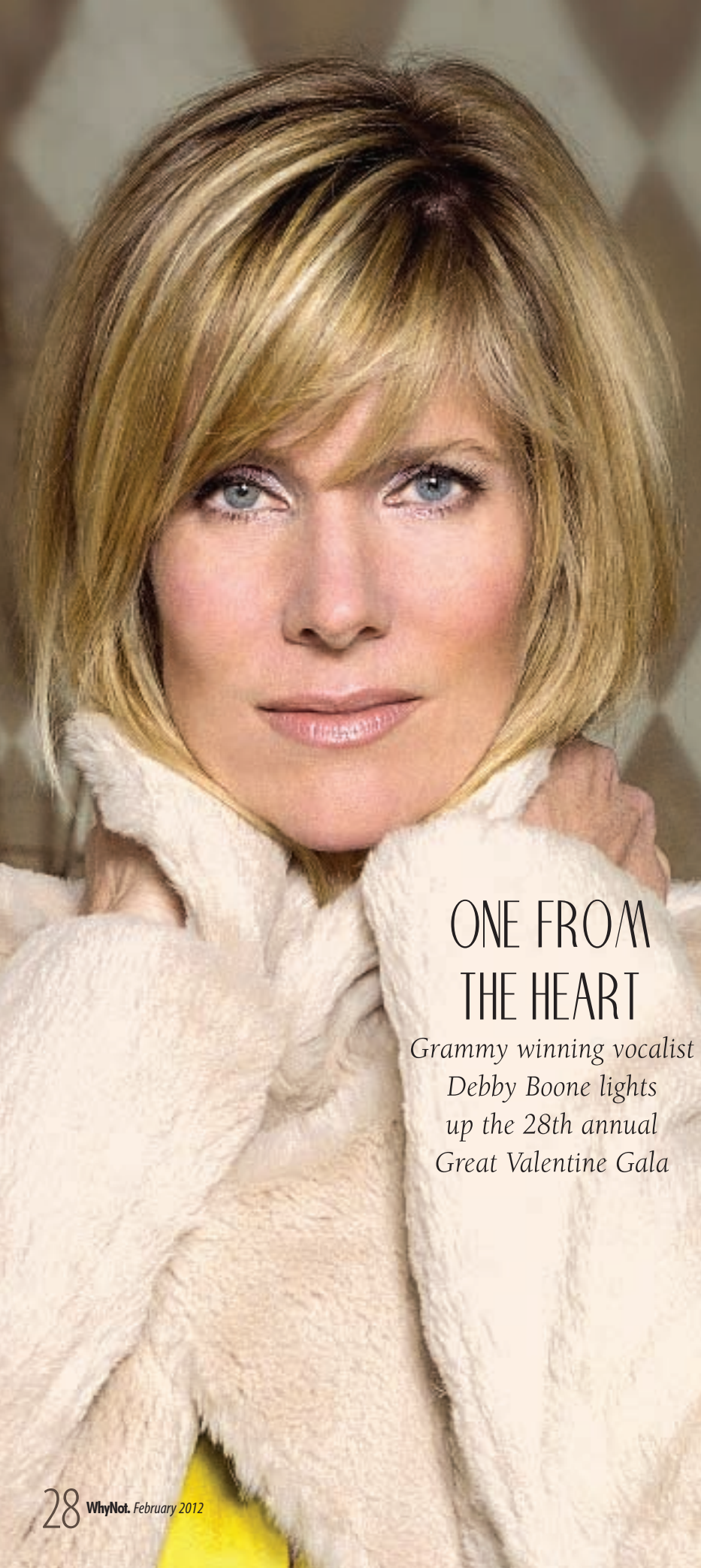


SHOPPERS HomeHealthCare



BBDO





ONE FROM THE HEART

*Grammy winning vocalist
Debby Boone lights
up the 28th annual
Great Valentine Gala*

CHART-TOPPING singer and stage actress Debby Boone's breakout 1977 recording of "You Light Up My Life" shot to the top of Billboard Magazine's Hot 100 where it resided at No. 1 for a then-unprecedented 10 straight weeks. Boone's stunning debut would go on to become the best selling record of the decade, eclipsing even the Beatles, and garnered the young vocalist a Grammy Award for Best New Artist and an American Music Award for Favourite Pop Single.

The daughter of pop entertainment icon Pat Boone and the daughter-in-law of legendary vocalist Rosemary Clooney, Debby Boone's rich and varied career has also included successful forays into country and Christian contemporary music. In 1980, she was one of five women to share top five status on the Billboard Country chart, sharing the historic honour with the likes of Emmylou Harris and Tammy Wynette. Throughout most of the 1980s, Boone dedicated herself to Christian contemporary music, releasing six albums and winning two GMA Dove Awards and two more Grammys. In 1989 she released her popular Christmas album, *Home for Christmas*, on which she and her mother-in-law reprised Clooney's classic version of *White Christmas*.

Boone's successful stage career has included acclaimed touring performances in the stage adaptation of the film *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Camelot*, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, *Mississippi Love*, *South Pacific*, *The Human Comedy* and *The King And I*. She has also made noteworthy turns on the New York stage. In 1990 she starred as Maria in the Lincoln Center production of *The Sound Of Music* which was nominated as Outstanding Musical Revival by the Drama Desk Awards, and in 1996 she played Rizzo in the Broadway revival of *Grease*.

More recently, Boone has been touring her *Reflections of Rosemary Tribute*, an intimate musical portrait of her late mother-in-law, based on her 2005 release, *Reflections of Rosemary*, a collection of 14 standards led by she and Clooney's Musical Director, John Oddo. "I wanted to select songs that would give an insight into Rosemary from a family perspective, and from the more than 30 years that I spent with her," says Boone.



Diverse people lead to diverse ideas.

IBM commends The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons for their commitment to diversity.



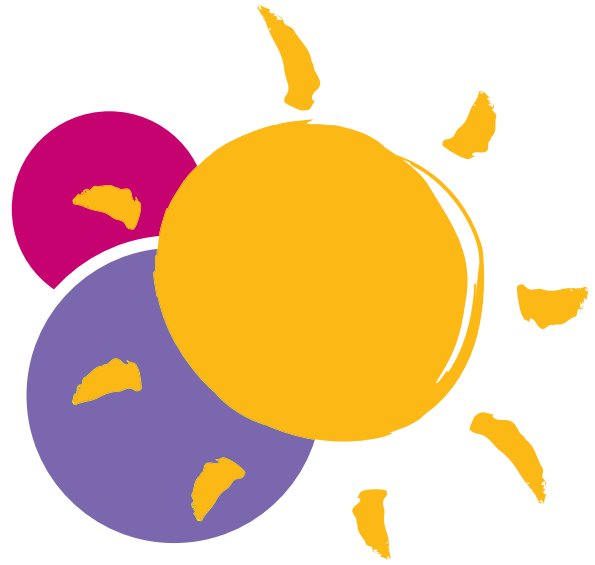
As we move towards a globally integrated economy and society, we find ourselves at a moment of enormous challenge - and of great opportunity. The world is getting smarter. And diversity everywhere is vital to a Smarter Planet. The skills arising from individual differences are invaluable to a Smarter Planet. IBM celebrates and leverages diverse perspectives and, through its progressive workforce policy creates a culture of inclusion and equal opportunity.



Let's build a Smarter Planet.



ibm.com/diversity



Building a Bright Future, together.

Scotiabank Group supports the Great Valentine Gala
in support of the Canadian Foundation for
Physically Disabled Persons.

We're bringing together the passion of our employees, the insight of our partners and the spirit of our communities. Through the Scotiabank Bright Future program, our global charitable efforts are aimed at being actively responsive to the needs of local communities, at a grassroots level.

**Help out, follow, or apply for funding at scotiabank.com/brightfuture
Together, we can build a bright future for everyone.**

