

Accessibility paramount for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games

March 12, 2009 marked the one-year countdown to the start of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games where 600 athletes with a disability from 40 countries will compete in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, biathlon, wheelchair curling and sledge hockey.

“Canada is a leader in accessibility and inclusion and we have fully reflected that in the venue management and design,” said Dena Coward, head of Paralympic Planning for VANOC. “We want everyone to have the opportunity to enjoy the Games first hand and leave a legacy of facilities for more persons with a disability to get involved in sport.”

The cross-country skiing, and alpine skiing are being contested in Whistler. In March the IPC Alpine World Cup Finals gave para-alpine skiers their first-chance to test one of the fastest and most technical courses in the world. Thanks to meticulous planning and well-trained volunteers, athletes and spectators enjoyed accessibility despite the challenges of an alpine environment. Carla Qualtrough, president of the Canadian Paralympic Committee who is visually impaired commented, “I was able to follow a runner along the ground to the stands, rather than find my own way on the

snow. It is hard to accommodate for every disability; however, that doesn't mean you shouldn't try. We are seeing significant improvements in accessibility at sport facilities and throughout the communities of Vancouver and Whistler. As a result spectators with a disability will be able to fully enjoy these games.”

Canada currently has world champions in every paralympic sport. With 12 months to train in the venues and support from home crowds, we can expect 2010 paralympic Winter Games to be the most exciting ever for Canada.

Total Access, *Spring 2009*, p24

Crackers - In Memory Never another “Crackers”

His face was angelic, disposition was supreme, could not have been a better companion to an individual who needed his help. This was “Crackers” who at the ripe age of 16 said goodbye.

Our thoughts go out to Dennis and his family. Crackers will be missed by all who new him.



Lonna Nash

A big thanks to Lonna Nash for providing her artistic skills to our Active Living Program members. She was the Craft Instructor for the Adult, Youth and Summer Youth programs. The members will miss her enthusiasm and fun that she brought with her. Best of luck with her career as an artist.

Staff Bios

Hello, my name is **Lorrinda James**. I am the STEP (Shuswap Training Employment Program) worker. My title is Office Assistant to help out the reception to maintain front office duties. I have attended Sprott-Shaw Community College for training in Business Office Concepts. Also as part of my STEP career development program is; On-Line Business Training, getting to know the membership, support and assist with any other general office tasks. I am content to gain more experience into starting my

own business as a photographer. I am pleased to be part of the People In Motion organization to open doors today to create a better tomorrow for people with disabilities.

Josie Gambaretto. Hello again everyone! I am so very excited to have returned to People in Motion. As some of you may recall, I previously completed my third year social

work practicum here this past winter. At current, I am working as the Summer Student Activities Worker. I have been working closely with Joyce in order to prepare for the Summer Youth Recreation Program (SYRP). I have also accompanied both the youth and social clubs on a variety of outings. It's really great to be back and I am looking forward working with the youth this summer!