



It's great to be Canadian / Soyons fiers d'être Canadiens!

From the President...

Now that we are back home, and recovering from the late working sessions in Canmore, we can look back and reflect on the great time we had: the opportunity to renew friendship, the sharing of ideas in both educational seminars and informal sessions, and a great AGM that was both informational and fun!



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Many thanks to the Calgary Bow River Club for a well-run, super-organized convention. My thanks also to Denise from whom I received a huge photo review of the convention. Through her efforts, I even got to enjoy events I didn't get to see first-hand because of meetings.

My congratulations go out to all the award winners at the convention. These awards recognize the special efforts of all Clubs in helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Of special note would be National Progression of the Year, Drew Hooke; National President's Award (Club of the Year), Halifax; and Hall of Fame inductee, Paul Hoganson. Finally, it has been a long time since we've acknowledged a "New Club of the Year" award, and Greater Moncton truly deserved this recognition. Their outstanding efforts have been an inspiration to many.

With the many discussions I had in Canmore, a message I heard time and again, was the need for improved communication. This will be our prime focus over the coming months, and in future articles, we will continue to update you with our progress.

I believe that by sharing our endeavours and successes between ourselves, and the general public, we can attract new members. (Ask the members of Greater Moncton.)

I will also use this article to update you of my activities throughout the coming year.

My intention is to visit every Zone in the country, and as many clubs as possible. Right now, I have been invited to St. John's for a membership meeting November 7th, and to the Pickering-Ajax club for their "Festival of Trees" on November 20th. I am looking forward to both and hopefully getting the opportunity of visiting other clubs during the same trip. I will be sending out to each club president an "offer to visit", and I will work with each of the Zone Governors to

help coordinate visits at the most opportune times. Reality may be that I won't be able to visit all clubs, but it will not be from a lack of trying.

I would like to see every club publish, on the National Web site, their regular meeting dates and locations, with contact numbers. This would give all Progressions, who may be traveling across Canada, the opportunity of attending a Club meeting.

I look forward to the coming year, and the challenges it will bring. I am hoping to see most of you at your club meetings and/or your special events. Sharing ideas, and working together, we can build a stronger club.

Yours for Progress,



CJ MacMullin

AWARDS

National Awards Report

The setting was magnificent. The camaraderie excellent. The awards—surprising?

I am not sure what everyone thought about the variance in the award recipients this year. I did, however, have a number of convention attendees remark that there seemed to be a good cross section of clubs receiving the awards. I really hope that Glenn Montgomery will receive a huge pile of submissions next year!

If you weren't at the convention, you missed a good one. The men of the Bow River club were excellent hosts. My thanks go out to Terry Clarke, Tom Kohl, Tim Casey and Gary McGowan for all their help. Many thanks to Gerry Parcels of Unicom Graphics for the beautiful presentation folders and to Matt Bitze for helping run the Power Point presentation.

Award submissions were received from: Brampton, Calgary Bow River, Calgary City Centre, Calgary Downtown, Calgary Eves, Durham Region Ladies, Halifax, Halifax Cornwallis, Regina Assiniboine, Regina Wascana, Saskatoon Meewasin, Sherwood Park and Toronto Trillium.

Here are the recipients of this year's awards – **Congratulations to all of you!**

Outstanding Presidents:

John Holman – Brampton
Brian Spilchen – Calgary Bow River
Barbara Ennis – Calgary City Centre
Robin Brittner – Calgary Downtown
Carolyn Krahn – Calgary Eves

Alex Rowe – Halifax
Carolyn Bragg – Halifax Cornwallis
Sandy Tufts – Regina Wascana
Brenda McBain – Saskatoon Meewasin
Trina Burden – Toronto Trillium

Outstanding Zone Governor:

Juanita Soutar – Ontario West & Toronto Metro Zone

Mentor Awards:

Brampton – Bob Conway, Joseph Capobianco, Mal Simms, Rick Phillips

Calgary Bow River – Dr. Art Piercy

Edmonton Downtown – Drew Hooke

Halifax – Doug Baker, Todd Barnard, Greg Cole, Bob Crozier, Dave Edgecombe, Gunther Foerster, Jonathon Hunter, Jamie Keating, Mark MacMillan, CJ MacMullin, Rob Maingot, Tony Mancini, Bruce Mansour, Jeff Milbury, Ken Robinson, Alex Rowe, Dave Stevenson, Brian Toole

Halifax Cornwallis – Patty Baxter, Michelle Bourgeois, Pat Bowes, Carolyn Bragg, Nancy Bussey, Michelle Callaghan, Karen Cooke, Rosalie Courage, Allison Edwards, Linda Elliott, Colleen Forward, Cynthia Fox, Kathy Grose, Amber Harkins, Maura Holmes, Dana Landry, Judy Lavers, Bonita Lewis, Margo MacFarlane, Lorna MacMillan, Arlene MacMullin, Suzzanne Morrison, Janet Press, Lisa Taylor, Chris Ward, Sharon Ward, Robin Waugh

Toronto Trillium – Mary Kutarna

Pride in Progress

(Each brought three new members into Progress this year)

Edmonton Downtown – Drew Hooke

Halifax Cornwallis – Pat Bowes, Carolyn Bragg, Michelle Callaghan

Regina Wascana – Charlotte Hnatiuk

Club Awards:

Attendance Award – Calgary Bow River

Communication Award – Regina Wascana

Community Service Award – Halifax

Ways & Means Award – Calgary Downtown

Fellowship Award – Saskatoon Meewasin

Membership Award – Halifax, Halifax Cornwallis

Publicity Award – Calgary Bow River, Halifax, Halifax Cornwallis, Regina Wascana

Outstanding New Club – Greater Moncton

Distinguished Club Award – Calgary Bow River, Halifax, Halifax Cornwallis, Regina Wascana

Hall of Fame – Paul Hoganson, Halifax

National Progressian of the Year – Drew Hooke, Edmonton Downtown

National President's Award – Club of the Year – Halifax



I have enjoyed my involvement with the National Awards for the past two years. Thanks to Molly and Leigh Anne for all their help with the awards. Good luck to all clubs for a successful year. Remember—deadline is June 30, 2003.

Jean Scott
National Awards Chair

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Paul Hoganson – Halifax

Paul Hoganson is an educator with a 30-year career—half of them as a Junior High Vice-Principal—and retired in June of 2001.

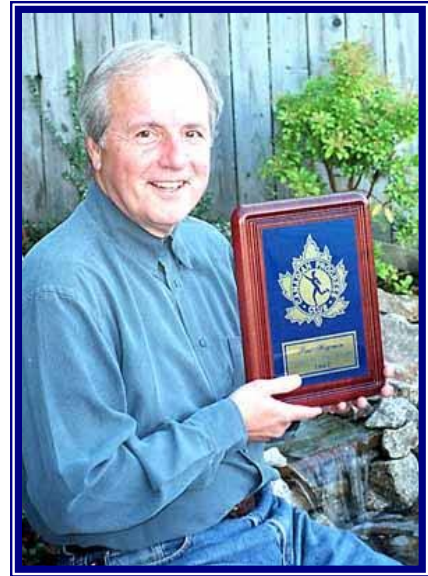
Paul joined the Halifax Progress Club in 1983 and was an active member for 17 years, moving to Associate Membership in 2000. He has been very active in Progress, both locally and nationally. Paul was the Halifax Club Progressian of the Year in 1988-89 and Club President in 1990-91. He was very involved as Chair in the Progress Centre for Early Intervention Capital Campaign, which raised \$185,000 to buy a new facility.

Paul served on the National Board for five years, two as Vice-President Atlantic Region, then as President-Elect, National President in 1994-95 and Past National President.

Paul joins two other Associate Members from the Halifax Club in the Hall of Fame—Laddie Farquhar and Ken Mounce.

Paul, who reached “Freedom 55” this year, lives in Dartmouth, NS with his wife of 31 years, Carolyn (Morash). They have a daughter, Crystal, who is 22. Paul now has more time to follow his other interests, which include golf, traveling, volunteering and sports—particularly NASCAR racing.

In his first year of retirement, Paul volunteered with the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority and with the Halifax and Halifax-Cornwallis Clubs at the 2001 Convention in Halifax. This year, Paul has been giving his Thursday mornings back to his old school, Eric Graves Junior High, in Dartmouth.



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November 1, 2002

Dear Fellow Progressians,

Well, here it is a month since convention and I am still feeling the infusion of the **“Power of Progress”** that I received there. It’s just like an injection of enthusiasm that reminds one of all the good that we do for our communities and Canada. To all of you who were a part of this revival, I thank you. A big thank you to Calgary Bow River for a fantastic convention. You guys did a great job of educating, entertaining and feeding all of us for the weekend.



I am very pleased to inform you of the wonderful success, once again, of the Canadian Progress Charitable Foundation silent auction. We managed to raise, through your very generous contributions of auction items and of course purchasing the items, a whopping \$6,483.00. The pin program at convention raised \$3,555.00 and miscellaneous donations and collections \$2,092.29. The grand total being **\$12,130.29**. WOW! Thank you, thank you, thank you. Remember, you are making dreams come true.

As you know, these funds were raised in support of Canadian Special Olympics. Which brings us all back to the concerns and questions raised at convention. I hope the CPCF handbook you received helped to answer these questions. As stated in the CPCF brochure that has been in circulation for some time, a copy of which was included in the CPCF handbook:

“In the fall of 1987, a proposal ratified by the membership included the recommendation that the Foundation support Canadian Special Olympics.... Funds raised by the Foundation are endowed with only the interest being disbursed on a regular basis to Canadian Special Olympics. This endowment will be a legacy to future generations of Progressians and Special Olympians.”

In undertaking our research for the CPCF handbook we were surprised to find no clearly written unambiguous statements about how the endowment would be implemented. I feel that this reinforces the need for a document that spells out how CPCF will fulfill our current mandate and manage the money that has been raised for CSO. The proposed agreement between CPCF and CSO was written to serve this purpose. Before we proceed with such an important commitment I would like to ask the following:

1. Have any funds raised by you or your club and donated to CPCF since 1987 been intended for a purpose other than support of CSO?
2. Do you agree that we should fulfill our commitment to Canadian Special Olympics by way of a written agreement that clearly states we will continue to have control of the endowment fund and will disburse funds by way of biennial payments to them? The draft agreement is included in the CPCF handbook. (Please note it states bi-annual World Games in the contract and that is incorrect and will be corrected to state biennial - once every two years.)

Please keep in mind that we have been using the name of Canadian Special Olympics to raise this money for nearly 15 years.

1. Do you have any comments on the draft agreement provided in the CPCF handbook provided at the 2002 National Convention?
2. Does your Club agree in principle that the Foundation should seek a new mandate from Progressions to identify a new beneficiary, which could include Canadian Special Olympics at a different level (i.e. National level)?

Should this new mandate be to create a new pool of money to be:

- given to a charity when the goal is reached, or
- held by the Foundation with some part of the income to be contributed to the selected charity?

Please take the time to consider all the options offered with your fellow club members and PLEASE send me your answers to these questions. I am asking for replies to be sent to my e-mail address j.davies@sk.sympatico.ca no later than **February 15th, 2003**.

If you have any questions, please contact me either through e-mail or call my home or invite your CPCF Governor out to a club meeting to discuss any questions you may have.

We very much want input from all across Canada. I will be sending this letter out to all club Presidents and I look forward to getting feedback. Please remember, I am available if you wish to speak with me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board of Governors for their invaluable service always, but especially at convention. Your hard work and long hours certainly paid off. Thank you.

I would like to close by saying how very exciting it was sitting up at that head table at the CPCF luncheon (thanks Joan & Bob), watching the looks on the faces of each and every one of you that attended the luncheon. The smiles and tears as you watched Stan Foster sing to the Special Olympic Athletes says it all.

I extend my best wishes to all clubs for a fun-filled, prosperous year ahead.

Yours for Progress,
Janey Davies
CPCF Chair

Special Feature

Chairing a New Event Valuable Insight from Carrie Paproski (Calgary City Centre)

My "learnings" on chairing an event for the first time are significant and encompass all aspects of leadership. I am definitely not afraid of trying something new but being keen does not

necessarily mean everything will fall into place naturally. I found that to be a good leader I needed the support of the club and their confidence that I could do the job. Getting members to agree to the overall objectives of the event, as well as the approach, was also important to me. Being given the opportunity to try new ground, by experienced members especially, is probably the most important confidence builder and critical to the success of the Chair. This is where experienced members can serve as mentors. It boils down to hard work, commitment, leadership, and keeping positive. I also found that putting knowledge into practice is not as easy as one may think. The rigour in creating enthusiasm and a forward thrust which involves the community and the club members, can be fun and exhausting at the same time – as you well know. Hopefully, this article will give food for thought to potential first-time event Chairs, and for members who support the event Chair.

In December of last year, I volunteered to Chair our first Christmas fundraiser in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, AB/NWT – “The Reindeer Doo”. I found that one of the most important aspects of my position (besides coordinating the activities of the various committees) was maintaining an ongoing momentum for committee work, promotion and sales - a challenging position for a first time event Chair who is learning the ropes at the same time. My overall goal being that all the efforts of our members would translate into community awareness about the event and thus sales.



Last year Calgary City Centre worked hard to remodel our approach to new membership, charity support, and membership involvement such that each aspect of being part of our club was to resemble closely what was in the hearts and minds of our members. Subsequently, we were challenged at the start of 2002 with proving our commitment to the new approach. In January, we formed the committee for our first Reindeer Doo event and the objective was and still is, to have one major fund-raising event per year whereby every member of our club plays a role in bringing about the success of the event – no matter how small or large their role. The Reindeer Doo committee has a very strong and dynamic group of women who know what they are doing. These women have thrown themselves into the event and have made this event their business in terms of marketing strategy, budgeting, promotion, a sale’s plan, a sponsorship plan, and creative event activities and displays. With this in mind, my thoughts throughout the year were centered on identifying how I could add value in my role and be a good leader.

The development of leadership skills is challenging and continual. I realize good leadership qualities are not usually innate and that when put in a leadership role I need to change my focus from a “doing role” to that of one who directs, guides, encourages, facilitates, and resolves roadblocks so that the team can be successful. A leader needs to instill confidence and stay on track. In order to become a good leader I find that it is beneficial to have a good role model, someone who has demonstrated effective leadership qualities and hence has received the respect of others.

There are many questions that enter one’s mind as you go through the process of organizing an event and these are important to address as soon as possible. If I had prepared a list of questions prior to assuming the role and worked through some of the solutions with my committee members, this would have given the team a good solid start. However, in my typical fashion I found it easy to just “jump in” – guess that’s my nature. Albeit, I thought at the time that I had planned well for the event, in hindsight I needed to plan some areas more thoroughly. During my reflections, on the past year, I made a list of questions that I suggest would be beneficial for the Chair to address – the earlier the better. Although, I can say that I did

address each question in one way or another, I realize now that some questions have much more impact as you go through the plan than I expected. The following have been some of the most significant questions for me, this past year.

1. How should we structure the Reindeer Doo committee so it will help us achieve the biggest success possible?
2. Who are the members that are most interested and well suited for each of the committee chair positions? Also, who would be interested in training for the various committee chair positions – for the next year? It's important not to overlook interest – it goes a long way.
3. What is the first and second set of priorities in organizing the event? What tasks need to be filled for each level – from Chair, to Committee Chairs, to committee members? What are our deadlines and who will be responsible to fulfill each task?
4. How do I keep things on track with our objectives, especially for volunteers who often live busy lives?
5. What is the most effective way to facilitate a meeting to achieve required results? What should the meeting agenda be? Should directions be set for each committee?
6. What is the best way to handle changes to the original plans that each respective committee sets? This could include the theme of the event, the promotion and sales plan, position changes, any committee changes, etc.
7. What are the first signs of members losing momentum? At what point and in what way, could I become more involved without taking on each specific role?
8. To what degree should I contribute to the committee tasks and to the creation of ideas and plans, especially considering I am a hands-on participative type individual?
9. How far should I push to implement my ideas (which may take parts of the event in a different direction) compared to organizing the event according to members with past experience?

If you are organizing a “first time” event (as is our Reindeer Doo event) there are additional things to consider. It is important to ensure that all members agree with the event plan, most especially if it is different from what has been done in the past. A new event may entail changes that include a very new concept, a different committee structure from previous events, a new target market, a new focus and approach to selling, a requirement for all members to participate, a different communication plan for club members, a different plan for obtaining sponsors, a requirement for additional skill development of members – basically a different way of doing things. Each of these must be worked out carefully so all members agree because ongoing support is crucial to the event's success. At the same time it is important that the club members trust the decisions made by each committee.

When embarking on a similar role in the future, I would: find a good mentor to help guide me, prepare an exhaustive list of all questions that may arise, resolve each and every question in detail with input from mentor(s) and club members, create an event plan based on these questions and solutions, make changes to the plan as required but review questions that may arise and need to be resolved as a result of the changes (again using a proactive approach), and finally, not be afraid to trust in my approach – mistakes make you more confident and give you the opportunity to reflect and grow.

In conclusion, my “learnings” do not imply that I have implemented all my findings or that I have had success with everything that I have tried, but I do believe that awareness is the best place to start. Being an effective leader does not necessarily mean being liked. It means being respected and I have gained a new found respect for those who can lead successfully and who

can create willingness for others to follow. I strongly believe that the most important thing to remember is that our club members volunteer because they want to contribute to important causes and are willing to share their experience. As a first time Chair, I would say that there is nothing like learning by experience and learning from others with experience (after all the committee members make it all happen).

P.S. We are always looking for contact leads for our Reindeer Doo event. We are planning a great and complete Christmas party for small businesses and individuals. Our event will take place on December 13th in Calgary and if you have any questions or leads, don't hesitate to call 264-3369.



NEWS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

WESTERN REGION

Alberta Special Olympics Breakfast

It was a "Breakfast with Ron McLean" on October 24th at the Calgary Convention Centre. Billed as the 8th Annual Sports Celebrities Festival, this event was held in support of Alberta Special Olympics.

Among the attendees were Bow River's Todd Berry, Al Gordon, Bill Koenig, Tom Kohl, Barry Kozmyk, Dean Querengesser, Brian Spilchen and Calgary North's Bob Lockhart. The Progressians were joined by former Olympic and World Cup skier Liisa Savijarvi.

Other sports celebrities, including Lanny MacDonald and Bearcat Murray, along with several Special Olympians were also on hand. The featured speaker was Hockey Night in Canada's Ron McLean.

Calgary Eves Calendar Fundraiser



The Calgary Eves have put together a custom full color calendar for 2003. Each Calgary Club is featured with a club photo, short bio and special dates, as well as collages of Canadian Progress Club functions. We have also listed a number of charities that the Calgary Clubs support.

The calendar is a Calgary Eves club fundraiser and would make a great gift!

Calendars are available now for \$20.00 each. Contact

(403) 237-6603 for more information or see the Western Region web at www.cpcwest.org for details and order forms. Thank you for your support!

Calgary Eves Calendar Committee:

Janet Roach, Kaitlen Tennant, Kerri Johns, Ailene Lockhart

**Calgary North
The Inaugural Accessible Housing Society Golf Tournament**

On September 5th, 2002, CPC Calgary North, in conjunction with the 7:30 News Business Club, held the Inaugural Accessible Housing Society Golf Tournament at Redwood Meadows in Bragg Creek.

Despite temperatures in the single digits and threatening weather, the tournament was a great success with 136 participating golfers.

The entry fee for the tournament was \$250.00 and a large number of dollars were raised through contest and hole sponsorships and through a live and silent auction. A major sponsor, Sheila's Drapery, was secured and the tournament raised \$33,889.95 for the Accessible Housing Society.



Drinks, food and a good time were had by all and we look forward to making next year's event an even greater success.

Gary Nakamura
President, *Calgary North*

**Calgary Bow River
Calgary Stampeders Quarterback Lunch**

Submitted by Denise Blakely

The 8th Annual Stampeders Quarterback Lunch took place on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2002 at the Metropolitan Centre, Calgary.

Hosted by the Canadian Progress Club Calgary Bow River, this annual luncheon is held in support of Big Sisters & Big Brothers of Calgary and Area.



Stampeder quarterbacks Kevin Feterik, Ben Sankey and Darnell Kennedy (above) were joined by approximately 250 members of the public and media, including sportscasters from A-

Channel and QR-77 and sportswriters from the Calgary Sun. (Unfortunately, due to a family emergency in North Carolina, Stampeder starting quarterback, Marcus Crandell, was unable to attend.)

A gourmet three-course lunch was on the menu, featuring tossed salad, steak with baby potatoes and cheesecake.

Master of Ceremonies, Stampeder Public Address Announcer Dan Carson, introduced guest speakers, Sharon Moore of Big Sisters & Big Brothers, and the 2002 Little Brother of the Year, Travis. Stampeder Centre, Jamie Crysdale (right), was called upon to make a few comments and he couldn't resist teasing the QBs about the compromising position a centre is forced to endure on the field. His humorous banter soon had the entire assembly in stitches.



Due to the delay in drawing for a pair of 2003 Stampeders season tickets, lunch organizer John Zutter (left, with 2002 Little Brother of the Year) suggested that sponsor tables take advantage of the time lag to ask questions of the quarterbacks. The spontaneous Q & A was so much fun, it may become a standard feature at future Quarterback Lunches.

Many thanks to the members of the Stampeder Football Club who participated in the event. A special thank you to corporate sponsors Riley's Reproduction & Printing Ltd., The Calgary Sun, CHQR 770AM Radio, Wolverton Investment Services and Cavell Energy Corporation. As a token of appreciation, sponsors were presented with a team photo autographed by all the members of the team.

Congratulations to John Zutter of CPC Calgary Bow River for chairing another successful event. Funds raised benefited Big Sisters & Big Brothers.

Gala Dinner and Auction



Calgary Bow River's 15th Annual Gala Auction in Support of Big Sisters & Big Brothers was held on Friday, November 8th at the Westin Hotel, Calgary.

In addition to the live and silent auctions, the gala event included a cocktail reception, a five-star dinner with complimentary wine, and door prizes. Live entertainment was provided by musician and composer Stan Foster.

Emcee Jim Hughes (Calgary Global TV meteorologist) lent his special brand of humour and panache to the proceedings and was rivaled only by Little Brother and Little Sister of the Year, Travis and Whitney. Long-time Gala supporters, former City Alderman Sue Higgins, and Arts patroness Dr. Martha Cohen were among the special guests in attendance. Also lending their support in making the event a success were Calgary Sun columnist Eric Francis and City Alderman Ric McIver.

Approximately 60 unique silent auction items were available for bid throughout the evening. After dinner, auctioneer Bill Brown and company oversaw the live auction of 18 combination packages consisting of vacations, sporting events, merchandise, services and more.

At the end of the evening, Gala co-chairs Todd Berry and Brian Spilchen presented BS&BB Executive Director, Sharon Moore, with a cheque for \$30,000.

Many thanks to all the Gala Auction donors. (For a complete list of acknowledgements, please see the Bow River website at www.cpcbowlriver.com).

Honourable mention to committee members Lynda Binder, Lori Richardson, Pam Taylor, Terry Clarke, Bruce Finnigan, Barry Kozmyk, Martin Lautsch, Tony Parrottino and Mike Warren for their behind-the-scenes contribution to the 2002 Gala Auction's success.

EASTERN REGION

New Zone Governor – Newfoundland and Labrador

Congratulations.....[Crystal Eagan](#) [Quidi Vidi]

CONVENTION 2002 Update

National Convention 2002

A Final Farewell

It's hard to believe it's over! After all those months spent meeting, planning, organizing preparing and implementing, Convention 2002 is now just a memory.

But what a memory!

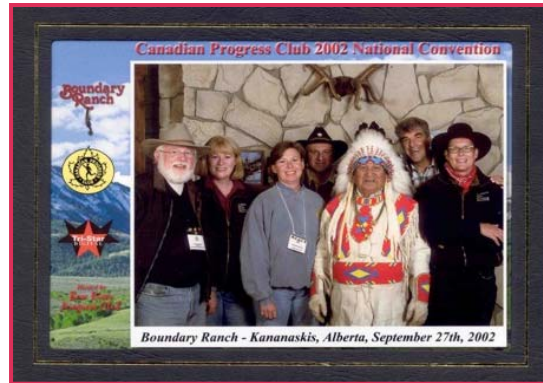


Those five days in Canmore gave all of us the chance to mix and mingle with old friends from across the country and the opportunity to meet and make new friends in Progress. Looking back at the photographs, the joy of camaraderie and the spirit of fellowship are evident in every picture.

There were so many people who contributed to the Convention's success: from the committee members to our generous sponsors to the eloquent guest speakers, right through to the attendees themselves; that a simple "thank you" seems, somehow, inadequate. And yet no other words can express our sincere gratitude. It would be remiss, however, not to make honourable mention of a few folks who otherwise went unacknowledged.

Thank you to Butterfield Acres Farm for ensuring that golf tournament organizer Bruce Finnigan was able to create a tournament awards ceremony unlike any other. Forget commemorative golf ball sets and engraved trophies—those piglets were a hit!

When Boundary Ranch event organizers, Al Cook and Barry Kozmyk, decided everyone should take home a special memento of their Boundary Ranch experience, they enlisted the aid of professional photographer and fellow Progressian, Kevin Tunney. Thanks to Kevin's efforts, attendees were treated to exceptional souvenir photos.



No one can deny the special appeal of the Special Olympians. Their participation in the CPCF luncheon and the President's Ball flag ceremony was a highlight of Convention. Thanks to Grant Blakely for overseeing their transportation from Calgary to Canmore and to Ryan the DJ and Ken from Calgary North who generously offered to transport them back so that our Convention Rookies could stay behind and experience their first President's Ball. Thanks also to Brian Hoffman of Starsilk Screening Ltd., official supplier of the Canadian Progress Club, for donating Progress-logo caps to these Special athletes.

Our appreciation also goes out to musician and composer Stan Foster for his moving performance of the Special Olympics theme song, "Heroes", and his presentation of an original piece entitled "My Canada", which he wrote specifically for Progress.

Many thanks to Janet and Wendy of Laurelwood Floral Design and the crew at Wilson Signs for helping Saturday event organizer Tim Casey realize his vision of bringing the tropical 1920s Hotel Havana to the 2000s Rocky Mountains of Canmore!

And, finally, thank you to roving photographers Denise Blakely, Janet Roach, Lucy Tougas, Darrell Stelmack, Mike Warren and Terry Clarke for the hundreds of photos that captured the essence of Convention 2002 and have contributed to the best virtual photo album since the National website went on-line.

(See the Memorabilia/Photo Album section of www.progressclub.ca. For a behind-the-scenes look at Convention see CPC Bow River's photo album at www.cpcbowlriver.com. If anyone is interested in owning a copy of Denise Blakely's 600-photo compilation disc documenting Convention from start to finish, please contact dblakely@telusplanet.net for details.)

We had a wonderful time with our friends from Sherbrooke and wish them every success in hosting the next National Convention.

We are looking forward to joining them in 2003.

Yours for Progress,
CPC Calgary Bow River
Convention 2002 Organizing Committee



A Look Back at Convention

By Denise Blakely

Moving Mountains in 2002
Canmore, Alberta
September 25 – 29, 2002

Officially the Convention began on Wednesday, September 25th, but for many it had its unofficial kick-off on Tuesday evening when early arrivals met for an informal get together at the Drake Bar.

By Wednesday, the Registration Room was open for business. Thanks to great organization by Registrar Darrell Stelmack, registration ran very smoothly. Delegates signed in, received their complimentary gift bags and Convention information packets and were quickly on their way. The CPCF Silent Auction also opened on Wednesday.

While the National Board and the CPCF Board were having their meetings, Progressions who had registered for the golf tournament at Silver Tip Golf Course were praying for a break in the weather. Fortunately, the golf gods came through and the tournament went ahead as planned with only a slight delay in tee-off. Golfers enjoyed a terrific day on the links and a post-tournament dinner that held a few surprises for the tournament winners. Unique prizes included a live chicken and rooster for the ladies and men's long drive; a goat awarded to the individual low gross; and the presentation of piglets to the low gross foursome.

Unfortunately, the helicopter tour, also scheduled for Wednesday, wasn't so lucky. The heli-tours had to be cancelled due to the Registrar's inability to disperse the cloud cover.

Thursday was a busy day with regional meetings held in the morning, followed by the "Birthday Bash" lunch hosted by the ladies of the Calgary Eves commemorating the Eves' and Bow River's 25th anniversaries in Progress. With Bow River's Jim McNeil acting as Bob Barker and the Eves' Jean Ellis standing in for Vana White, "contestants" were selected from each zodiac sign to come up and compete for prizes. Fun was had by all—even Brent Smith who was unsuccessful in his bid for a hair dryer.

In the afternoon, futurist Ruben Nelson of Square One Management and the Alliance for Capitalizing on Change addressed the general assembly on the topic of "21st Century Trends: Impacts on Volunteerism." The afternoon continued with education seminars presented by Sherry Ferronato of Ex Animo Consulting, National Education Chair Brenda Mahoney and Sandy Penrose of the Banff Centre. Attendance at the seminars exceeded expectations and extra seating had to be brought in.

The highlight of Thursday evening's dinner was guest speaker Christina Smith. Christina is Canada's most successful female bobsleigh pilot. She won her first World Cup medal in the 1999/2000 season placing third at an event in Igls, Austria, and in 2001 repeated the same Bronze medal standing. Off the track she is an equine therapist—an occupation that required a two-year apprenticeship in Europe. She is also a joint founder of the motivational speaking organization "Partners on Ice". During dinner, her message to Progressions was "never give up on the dream." She shared her personal experience of setbacks and eventual success in Europe, bouncing back to take third place. "Regardless of where you are," she told Progressions, "it's up to *you* to make a success of the situation."

Post-dinner entertainment was provided by Chicago-style blues band “The Mocking Shadows”. A perfect follow-up to Christina Smith—the music was lively, the band members pumped and energetic—as were the dancers after hearing Christina’s motivational talk!

Friday was the day for the Special Olympians. They arrived in Canmore full of spunk and enthusiasm. Fern Bremault, one of the Special Olympians seated at the head table, gave an inspiring and touching address. As lunch concluded, Janey Davies presented The Canadian Special Olympics with a cheque for \$65,000.

In the early afternoon, sign-ups for the Spousal Program ventured out into the wilds of Canmore. Before embarking on their walking tour, they were asked to review a “Release of Liability Waiver”. Among the clauses therein were:

‘...risk of injury, death or property damage due to collision or upset with natural objects, wildlife, vehicles or persons...’

‘...wild animals including black and grizzly bears, moose, elk, deer, cougars and other species, which are unpredictable and may attack without warning, resulting in injury, death or property damage...’

“But I thought we were just going for a stroll around town!” exclaimed one suddenly nervous participant. Many thanks to Cathy Jones of “Celebrations in the Rockies” for a very interesting historical tour of Canmore.

And then it was off to Boundary Ranch. As the buses departed from the hotel, the weather was not co-operating. It was cool and damp and grey—although that didn’t seem to dampen the spirits of the delegates, who managed to turn a simple bus ride into an event of its own.

As luck would have it, by the time everyone was arriving at the Ranch, the sky cleared and the weather ended up perfect for an afternoon of outdoor fun. Activities included trail rides, nature walks and hayrides, as well as some friendly athletic competition. Mitch Richardson of St. Albert won the horseshoe-throwing contest. However, it might be necessary for the Convention chairman to make an official ruling on who won the volleyball match—apparently the debate is still going on!

The Boundary Ranch experience was capped off with an old-fashioned ranch-style barbecue and barn social. Then it was back to Canmore and a hospitality suite hosted by next year’s Convention hosts, CPC Sherbrooke.

Saturday started early (too early, according to some delegates) with an 8:00 a.m. breakfast bus to Banff for the Annual General Meeting. Items on the agenda included attendance, budget, and future Convention hosts. Those who attended found the AGM informative and useful. Sherbrooke in particular derived great value from the discussions on early registration.

Saturday’s Awards Luncheon saw the passing of the gavel from President Al Gordon to new President C.J. MacMullin. Congratulations, C.J., and best of luck in the coming year.

The Convention culminated with the President’s Ball on Saturday night. The evening began with the traditional piping in of the head table and the flag ceremony. Not too many dry eyes in the crowd as the Special Olympians marched in procession bearing flags from Canada’s provinces and territories while everyone joined in the rousing chorus of traditional folk songs. Emotional highlights continued, as National President, C.J. MacMullin, gave a warm and heartfelt address and later Dr. Art Piercy delivered a moving speech on the importance of fellowship.

After dinner, the delegates retired for a breather then came back to party at the beach. The celebration continued into the night with dancing, limbo contests, and the usual Convention hijinks.

On Sunday, it was all over for another year and Bow River should be commended on a job well done.

—Denise Blakely

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It's Sherbrooke in 2003!

For more information about next year's National Convention, visit CPC Sherbrooke's website at www.cpcsherbrooke.com. Registration forms are available on-line.

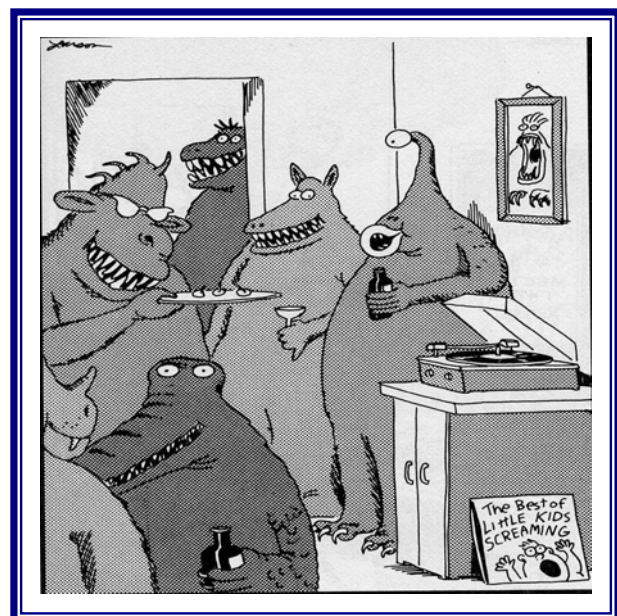
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