



The Progression

It's Great to be a Canadian - Soyons fiers d'être Canadien"

***A Message from
the National President 2***

The "Boyz" of Greater Moncton 3

***Halifax Cornwallis Member
Appreciation Night 5***

***CPC Halifax Presents The Premiere
Sports Celebrity Dinner in Canada 6***

2nd Annual Spirit Awards 9



**2009 National Convention,
Kelowna, BC
October 14th to October 18th
Coast Capri Hotel**

SUMMER 2009

The Progression



The Canadian Progress Club

Email: info@progressclub.ca

The Progression is the official publication of the Canadian Progress Club National. It is published expressly to inform, educate and involve Progressions in the Association's service activities, programs and policies. Opinions and content expressed in the articles are those of the writer and not necessary those of the Canadian Progress Club National office or staff. The Canadian Progress Club is an all Canadian Service Club devoted to aiding and assisting those in need and servicing the best interests of the community. Material for publication in the Progression should be emailed to the editor:

Roy Urbach at:
theprogression@rogers.com.

As Progress moves ahead into the Summer and towards our National Convention I would like to ask all of you to pause for a moment and reflect on yourself and Progress. We are a group of individuals who have made a commitment to ourselves, our club and to Progress, to help others and be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves. Renew in your mind the words you repeated when you first became a member of the Canadian Progress Club, unselfishly move ahead and Progress will become bigger and better.

Roy



Message from the National President

Fellow Progressions,

The past few months have been a very challenging period for your National Board. By now, you are all aware that we are dealing with the absence of a Business Manager as well as the responsibilities that went with the position. Your National Board has divided up the administrative responsibilities to make sure the good work of Progress is not interrupted. I would like to publicly thank all of them, who have been working diligently to keep our organization's body and soul together.

Your National Board is moving forward following procedures as planned. We have many parties that we are accountable to, not the least of which is our membership. When the Board is advised of more information, it will be forwarded to the membership.

I have faith that all will right itself at the end of the day.

Let's turn our attention now to Richard Holloway and Blind Guy Biking. Richard is not far away from his launch, now and will be looking to all clubs for support. This is a nation-wide event and will benefit all regions, but we need to get out there and make a great noise so the people know he's in town! Publicity is one major component, so think of a way to get noticed when Blind Guy Biking comes through your neighbourhood.

As the individual Clubs begin to wind down for 2008-2009 active season, and get ready for your Regional Conventions, don't forget to register for the National Convention in Kelowna. There will be some "good stuff" happening there and it would be fabulous to have every club in attendance.

Yours for Progress,
Sharon Ward
National President
Canadian Progress Club

Toronto Trillium hosted the 11th Annual Tee Up

Toronto Trillium will be hosting its 11th Annual Tee Up for fund raising Ladies Scramble Golf Tournament on Monday, June 22nd, at the Remington Parkview Golf and Country Club, in support of the Toronto Seals Swim Club. The Toronto Seals provides the opportunity for Special Olympics athletes to learn to swim and compete in swim meets, and the money we raise funds their program for the year. Entry fee is only \$150 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, shared golf cart, full meal and the opportunity to win great prizes. For further information, to register or to donate prizes, please contact Juanita Soutar at Juanita.Soutar@td.com.

For the "Boyz" of Greater Moncton, it's all about the kids.

By Chris MacDonald, CPC Greater Moncton Men

Here in Greater Moncton, we've seen a busy yet very rewarding Spring thus far. On March 27th, we held our 3rd Annual Chili Greens Indoor Golf Tournament at the Dundee Sports Dome. Together with our key sponsors, the support of the Mayor and members of City Council, local club pros, lots of prizes, food and yes, even the odd beverage or two, we were able to continue the growth and maximize the exposure of this terrific and truly one-of-a-kind event. With a total of twenty teams of five spread over two tee times, it's truly a fantastic way to dust off the clubs and work on our swing for the coming season and have a lot of fun, all while raising funds in support of our now annual Kids' Day at Crystal Palace.



"Progress Club Kids Day"

Wondering what "Progress Club Kids Day" at Crystal Palace is? Funded in part by the moneys raised at the Chili Greens event and with the generous support of our community, we were able to provide over 700 less fortunate children and their families throughout the Greater Moncton Area with day passes for Crystal Palace indoor amusement park. Along with transit passes, we were able to ensure all could participate. The boyz served up hotdogs, pizza and drinks for all and coffee was provided for the parents courtesy of Chapters/Starbucks. With arts and crafts tables also provided by Chapters/Starbucks, and family & friends of Progress providing face painting for all, it's easy to see why we have decided to make Kids' Day at Crystal Palace an annual event.



Event chair, Jules Leger with Moncton Mayor George LeBlanc



Progress Club Kids Day at Crystal Palace



CPC Greater Moncton members Charles Whitman, Marc-André Castonguay and Kevin MacPherson serve up the goods to the children.



Children having lots of fun with the window painting

2009 National Convention, Kelowna, BC October 14th to October 18th

The Calgary Downtown convention team, with 13 committee chairs, including Kelowna-based, Past National President and Co-Chairman of successful Banff '85, Steve Young, have been busy making final arrangements for the Oct. 14th to 18th Kelowna Convention with you in mind. We have three major objectives; hold a fun-filled, memorable and classy affair (while breaking even in the process).

Should you be on the hesitant list, we urge you to register through our website at; www.cpcalgarydowntown.org/conv2009.html, and to book your room at the Coast Capri Hotel at 1-800-663-1144, requesting the Progress rate, starting at \$120/night. Early registration expires on July 1st. and is only \$425 for regular and \$320 for spouses, with a premium after July 1st.

In addition to the Progress related activities, we will have an active spousal program and raucous hospitality suites, starting with the Wednesday night reception. As we firm up the plans, we will be adding details to our website, including themes, paraphernalia available for purchase and extraordinary activities.

Kelowna is a fantastic holiday destination and we urge you to visit their website, www.tourismkelowna.com to learn more about the Fall Wine Festival, golfing, Okanogan wine tours, the Kettle Valley bike tours, quad tours, the casino, boating, etc., should you plan to extend your time in the valley.

The earlier you make your commitment to attend, the more we can commit to you and meet our objectives. We have booked all 150 rooms in the hotel, in anticipation of your joining us in Hotel Progress, and we have 86 rooms booked to date, thus our call for action. Registration can follow but please help us get the room commitment met now, andthen.... plan to party in Kelowna, *Ripe With Surprises*.

Wayne Bamford,
Convention Chairman



Canadian Progress Club Welcome Mat

The Canadian Progress Club National and all of its members and their friend across the country are please to welcome the new following members.

Lynn Vernon - Halifax-Cornwallis
Jan Scully - Halifax-Cornwallis
Christine MacDonald - Halifax-Cornwallis
Joanne White - Halifax-Cornwallis
Nancy O'Brien- Halifax-Cornwallis
Jacqueline Ouellet - Halifax-Cornwallis
Amy Hutt - Halifax-Cornwallis
Jennifer Hameluck - Halifax-Cornwallis
Joyce McRoberts - Halifax-Cornwallis
Steve Wilkes - Durham South
Jonathon Hollins - Durham South
Sandy Robb - Toronto Trillium

NOTICE CPCF ELECTION CALL

At your Regional AGM in May, the following CPCF Governor positions are open for election for the terms indicated:

May 30th – Western Regional Convention
BC Governor – 3 years
Alberta South – 3 years
Alberta North – 2 years

May 23rd – Great Plains Regional Convention
Saskatchewan South – 3 years
Saskatchewan North – 2 years

May 23rd Central Regional Convention
Ontario North – 3 years

May 23rd – Eastern Regional Convention
Newfoundland – 2 years

Halifax Cornwallis Member Appreciation Night

- A New Member's Perspective by Christine MacDonald

We all participate in Progress for lots of great reasons. I can tell you that my decision to join recently was firmly reiterated by an event that I attended last month. The Halifax-Cornwallis Progress Club decided that it is extremely important to let members know just how appreciated they really are for working so hard through out the year. Of course, our club is known for their social spirit.....so, our new Annual Appreciation Event has now been born. We arranged to have a local, very popular sommelier teach us a thing or two about great wine at a restaurant called Seven. He has also been a great supporter of our club, and surprised us with a superb meal to enjoy during our wine tastings. So, as a new member I must say I was so impressed — sitting there enjoying a glass of wine, having an outstanding meal..... all with a bunch of women that truly set themselves apart in the community. It just does not get much better than that.

As volunteers, we often forget just how much people commit their personal time, energy and resources into making our club such a success. Having an event like this really told me that people respect each other and have a common goal to strive for excellence in everything that we do...and as an aside, that they really enjoy a party!

Our members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, lots of personalities and that is exactly the way to have it. Through out the evening, we really had a chance to get to know each other so much better. So often when we do meet, we are entirely focused on the tasks at hand so this evening was just a fantastic way to relax and enjoy great company. It is so important to keep up that lively spirit and to thank those for their hard work. By doing that our organization will continue to retain great talent and attract new people that want to be part of a wonderful group.

A sincere thank you to everyone. You are a very talented group and deserve to know just how much your efforts are appreciated. Congratulations for a job well done. I look forward to that "sociable" again.



Front: Jan Scully, Jacqueline Ouellet, National President Sharon Ward and Lindy Hearn; Back: Halifax Cornwallis President Judy Lavers and Kelly Cotter



Front: Amy Hutt, Nancy O'Brien, Jan Scully and Jacqueline Ouellet; Back: Pat Bowes



Shelley LeBrun and Christine MacDonald



Patty Baxter, Margo MacFarlane, Jacqueline Gallagher and Carrie Lynn Wall



Joanne White, Tanya Matthews, Dana Landry and Michele Bourgeois; Back: Kathy Grose



Christine Ward

CPC Halifax Presents The Premiere Sports Celebrity Dinner in Canada!

By Dov Bercovici, CPC Halifax

That is how Rod Black, CTV and TSN sportscaster and MC of the 37th Annual Sports Celebrity Dinner describes our annual undertaking to raise much needed funds for our charities such as the Progress Centre for Early Intervention and the Kingsmeadow Home.

On February 5th, 2009, Rod was joined by other head table dignitaries NHL Legend - Frank Mahovlich, NBA Superstar - Dennis Rodman, Olympic Gold Medalist - Adam Van Koeverden, Seven-Time Stanley Cup Winner - Bryan Trottier, NFL Quarterback Hero - Jim Kelly, Internationally Acclaimed Singer - Michael Burgess, and Talented Comedian - David Hemstad.

Also seated at the Head Table were Sharon Ward, National President, Kirby Putnam CPC Halifax President, Co-Chairmen Doran Donovan and Steve Murphy (both CPC Halifax Past Presidents), and Alex Rowe - the guy that actually recruits all the celebrities year after year (Alex is yet another CPC Halifax Past President).

So I'm sitting here in the Old Triangle Irish Pub in Downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia with my fellow progression Steve Murphy trying to explain the community impact of this amazing event to you! We're trying to tell the incredible story of this fundraiser and its 37 year legacy for our charities. It's hard to describe just the one day in isolation. There is so much history to it. One article would not do justice to the behind the scenes work that takes place year after year by dedicated Progressions. There are also stories involving some of our celebrities that simply cannot be repeated or recounted in writing! So you can see the challenge that Steve and I have right now at the Pub!

Let's give it a try anyways! I'm warning you now that we might be a little long-winded here! Way back in 1973 Co-Chairmen Joel Jacobson and Jack Yablon could have never imagined the event growing to this level but their idea and its legacy has flourished over the years. Only a quick perusal of the Head Table dignitaries over the last 37 years reveals a who's who of sports celebrities. Steve and I touch briefly on some of the past celebrities. We could spend all afternoon doing this but really just zero in on the last decade or so.

Our brief trip down memory lane brings back priceless memories to me personally ranging from "Hurricane" Carter who brought many to tears with his inspirational story last year. Imagine sitting at the Head Table next to NHL Coach Doug MacLean in 1999 as he was in town recruiting for the Columbus Bluejackets. Partying afterhours in 1998 at the The Palace Night Club with Buffalo Bills Thurman Thomas and this year visiting the Joe Fafard Exhibit at the Nova Scotia Art Gallery with Hockey Legend Frank Mahovlich.

These are but a few priceless memories. There are also the lifelong friendships that have developed as a result of CPC Halifax members "bonding" as they work hard to produce the event. To name a bunch of the veteran guys who were involved with the Dinner over the last ten years in a big way as Club Presidents, Dinner Co-Chairmen, and leadership roles (please excuse me if I left anyone out): Steve Murphy, Doran Donovan, Alex Rowe, Kirby Putnam, Progress Legend and Past National President - C.J. MacMullin, Dean Powell, Dave Edgecombe, Todd Barnard, John Brophy, Chris Yonke, Bruce Mansour, Kermit Phillips, Barry Gallant, Robert Pretty, Dave O'Connor, Rob Maingot, Past National President Doug Baker, and of course Tony Mancini.

These guys are veterans of the CPC Halifax but have been supported by the history and legacy of those that came before them. There are also hard working committee members that are too numerous to mention. It is a team effort from start to finish and thus, we have success.

What an event it was this year! Over 1200 tickets were sold at \$225

each – quite an accomplishment considering the fiscally constipated economy this year. Even more impressive is the loyalty to the event. Over 80% of the dinner patrons are repeat ticket buyers. It is an event not to be missed in Halifax and net proceeds from this one night represent a significant part our annual contribution to our primary charities.

I can tell you from experience as a Past Co-Chair in 1999 and 2000 that the planning and execution of this event is no walk in the park!

I had the pleasure of working with Alex Rowe in 2000. Alex has been involved with the event in a major role since that time. Over ten years time in! This guy is a dynamo and delivered again in 2009. As we were driving up to the Moncton National Convention this past September 2008, Alex was fielding dozens of calls from sports celebrity agents and negotiating hard – with only one hand on the wheel. So in essence the dangerous process of recruiting in moving automobiles starts in the late summer and becomes a six month process! Kudos to Alex for continuing to raise the bar. What does Alex, our Talent Acquisition master think of all this?

Alex Rowe has become an expert at talent recruitment and certainly loves doing this work: "I am very passionate about my role with the Celebrity Dinner - I get to negotiate deals with international sports and entertainment agents, meet world class sports celebrities up close and personal, and most importantly help create an amazing experience for our sponsors and attendees. This is what keeps them coming back year after year and enables us to deliver outstanding community service."

Steve Murphy and Doran Donovan and their committee were equally impressive this year. When I heard that Steve and Doran were leading the event (and I think most of the club would agree) I was instantly confident it would be another success. Their follow-up, hard work, and enthusiasm were infectious.

Rick Norman and Dave Wilson (Batman and Robin) were fabulous at ticket sales follow-up. Every week we had an "annoying" report of which members were in the red (no tickets sold) or in the green (tickets sold). Their organizational skills kept us on track. Dan Lomas delivered again on sponsorship and Dinner Day event management was led by volunteers Greg Cole (President Elect CPC Halifax), Dave Steele, Chris Chabassol and my fly-fishing buddy Corey Mosher. Particular mention should go to Corey as a new member who stepped up and delivered seamless back-end support for a variety of event day tasks.



Halifax Progress Club members with Celebrities

The Premiere Sports Celebrity Dinner cont'd.

Other committee members included Conrad Coughlan/Mike Redmond (Raffle), Craig Day (Printing), Keith Mackay (Financials), and Harm Geurs (a recent proud father of a baby girl).

Why does Steve Murphy keep coming back to Co-Chair? While most would find this responsibility stressful, Steve has fun! Most importantly, "Our charities wouldn't survive year after year without a successful annual Sports Celebrity Dinner," according to Steve. His Co-Chair Doran really feels that the event represents the spirit of being a Progression: "I am completely dedicated to the values and fellowship of Progress and the annual Sports Celebrity Dinner represents the very best of what it means to be a Progression."

Yet Steve's most challenging job this year, along with fellow Progression Dave O'Connor was to host Dennis Rodman. If anyone has been following Donald Trump's The Celebrity Apprentice, you'll quickly learn that NBA Legend Rodman is a force to be reckoned

with! Denis Rodman was the talk of the town for many weeks afterwards.

Although the evening gala is amazing, the most meaningful component of event day is a pre-dinner luncheon at which Kingsmeadow home residents mix and mingle with Celebrities. Photos are taken and lifelong memories are made. I am seated with Frank Mahovlich and Bryan Trottier. Absolute gentlemen. They help residents with their meals, make great conversation and tell NHL stories that may never be repeated again. For Kingsmeadow residents, the luncheon is the event of the year where they can get autographs and talk to sports legends one on one.

The Progress Sports Celebrity represents the very best efforts of CPC Halifax. Not only are the memories are priceless, the lifelong friendships and comradery are strengthened year after year. Yours in Progress!



Dennis Rodman holds court with Rod Black



Kingsmeadow Residents with Celebrities

Kelli Morton, "Volunteer of the Year"



left to right, Tammy Bilodeau, UPS Finance & Accounting Controller, Kelli Morton, President, Michele Russell, NVP Eastern Region, Heather Spencer, Vice President

On April 16th, 2009, The Greater Moncton Women's Progress Club president, Kelli Morton, was presented with the "Volunteer of the Year Award" from her employer, UPS. Those of you who know Kelli, she is a generous and giving person and a true reflection of a 'Progressian'. Kelli contributed 259 hours to the Progress Club, Magnetic Hill Zoo, the Christmas Parade, and the Canadian Cancer Society over the last year. In honour of her efforts, Kelli's name was engraved on a 'Volunteer of the Year' Plaque that is proudly displayed on the UPS Wall of Fame.

We thank UPS for making the Club aware of this honour and applaud the company for its initiative to recognize and encourage the 'spirit of volunteerism'. We join with UPS in saluting Kelli... "Congratulations on behalf of all the members of Progress we salute you for all your contributions to the community in which you live and work!"

Calling All Ladies

Join us at the first Annual Moncton Progress Bachelor Auction

A unique fundraiser in support of
Crossroads for Women, and other local charities
supported by the Canadian Progress Club.

Thursday, May 14th 2009

6:30 pm to 10 pm

6:30 pm – Doors Open

7:00 pm – Meet the Bachelors

7:45 pm – Auction begins

Delta Beauséjour Hotel Ballroom

Tickets are \$40

Purchase your tickets at:

Head Shoppe - Superstore Mall, Dieppe

Mexicali Rosa's - Main Street, Moncton

Or visit www.monctonwomensprogress.com

or MonctonWomensProgress@gmail.com

“ This promises to be an evening filled with fun, prizes and surprises at the Moncton Progress Bachelor Auction. Join us for an opportunity to bid on a date with one of 12 lucky catches from the Greater Moncton area and beyond. In addition to bidding on these exciting date packages, our auction will also include great items for the not-so-single ladies. ”

Presenting Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



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The Association of Fundraising Professionals

2nd Annual Spirit Awards

The Association of Fundraising Professionals, Nova Scotia Chapter, celebrated 10 "Shining Stars" at the 2nd Annual Spirit Awards in Halifax on April 15, 2009. The presenting sponsor of the Spirit Awards this year was Glow Promotions, a company owned by Dave O'Connor, a member of the Progress Club - Halifax.

One of the special people honoured was Pat Bowes, a member of the Progress Club Halifax-Cornwallis.

Phoenix Youth Programs nominated Pat for her long-standing commitment to the at-risk and homeless youth of our Region. Pat strongly believes that all youth deserve every opportunity to succeed. Through her hard work she helps ensure these opportunities are made possible.

Through her involvement with the Halifax-Cornwallis Progress Club, Phoenix Youth Programs came to Pat's attention. Pat's energy and enthusiasm benefits the young people at Phoenix in many ways. She lends her leadership to the Board of Directors and serves on the fund raising committee, personally championing many successful requests for support. Most recently she helped to renew Pengrowth's 2208 commitment in the amount of \$10,000 to be carried into their second-year commitment for 2009, and hopefully into 2010..

Her favourite thing to do, however, is to spend time with the youth. Simple things like going bowling for a night or offering her seamstress talents to teach youth how to sew and mend their clothing mean so much to our youth ~ contributions that show there are people who care deeply about them



Dave O'Connor, member of the Halifax Club, presenting the Spirit Award to Pat Bowes, member of the Halifax-Cornwallis Club.

and their futures.

Since its inception over 20 years ago, the Halifax-Cornwallis Progress Club has supported the youth of Phoenix. The Club generously donates over \$50,000 to Phoenix on an annual basis, with the highlight of the year being the "Women of Excellence Awards Dinner". Each year, a young person from Phoenix has the opportunity to share their story and inspire the hundreds of people in attendance – a magical night, indeed. Thank you to Pat and to all the other wonderful Women of Progress.

Toronto Downtown hosted Annual Swim Meet for Special Olympics

On Sunday, April 19, 2009 CPC Toronto Downtown hosted our Annual Special Olympics "Fun" Swim Meet at Riverdale Collegiate. Club members in attendance together with a network of some 20-odd volunteers were on hand to see that the event was well organised and run. Special Olympics Ontario provided lunch and ribbons for the athletes, and Toronto Downtown as host picked up all expenses.

Many positive comments were received from athletes, parents and volunteers alike, and club members and volunteers got just as much out of the day as the athletes. Most of athletes attended last year's event and vowed to return again next year. For a few of the athletes and parents, this was their first time attending the event, and they were excited and happy to participate. One parent commented he was "overwhelmed" by the event and said his son had such a great time he can't wait to come back next year!

Toronto Downtown wishes to acknowledge and thank all volunteers for their enthusiasm and support. Special mention should go to Del Wright and Hugh Daley for helping out at the marshalling desk, as well as members from Toronto Trillium and Durham Region Women for coming out and lending a hand.

As well, the Toronto Trillium-sponsored Seals team looked resplendent in their new uniforms, complete with Progress Club logos on everything from their new swim suits to their warm-up outfits, including their bathing caps, and even their goggles and tote bags!

CPC Toronto Downtown hosts this event every year, as well as a Bowling Fun Day in November as a kick off to the athletes' Bowling season. Funds raised from our annual golf tournament allow us to pay for everything for both events. This year, our golf tournament will again be held at Remington Parkview Golf course Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Entry is \$135 including the round, golf cart, lunch and dinner. Hole sponsorship is \$200. For more details, contact Alan Bone at abone@rogers.com

Other events and sponsorship the club has participated in this year include pledging \$200 to the Toronto MS Walk, and \$500 sponsoring a youth humanitarian mission to Burkina Faso, Africa. We also pledged \$500 to Brampton member Richard Holloway's "Blind Guy Biking" cross-Canada tour, which begins in May.

Betty Fleming, Special Olympics Pioneer

Submitted by Sharon Ward

Octogenarian Betty Fleming, of Halifax, has been volunteering with Special Olympics for over two decades. Her efforts, along with those of colleague Mary Ann Crowley, were instrumental in bringing Figure Skating to Special Olympics in Canada twenty-five years ago this year. Before 1984, there were no figure skaters competing for Canada internationally.

In the 70s, Betty became involved in the figure skating world through her youngest daughter, whose efforts brought her all the way to the Canadian National Championships. Betty served as a Test Judge Chair for several years and was by then, quite knowledgeable about the sport. Her oldest daughter was intellectually disabled and Betty was involved with the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded on this daughter's behalf. But the two worlds were parallel, not integrated.

The two worlds found each other when Betty came across an intellectually disabled skater who wanted to go to the international Games. The games in Utah were only one year away and this athlete needed training, equipment, costumes and training and travel expenses. Betty called upon Mary Ann for her coaching skills. Mary Ann had already experienced working with people with disabilities and found that she enjoyed the experience and was able to bring out the best in these athletes. Betty and Mary Ann went to work, and through sheer will and effort, were able to bring this young lady and another to Utah. Between them, the two women brought a gold medal and a fourth place finish for Canada.

Then, in 1984, Betty attended a meeting of the Capital Area Special Olympics where discussion arose about developing new programs. With her first-hand knowledge of skating, Betty suggested a program where intellectually disabled individuals might have the opportunity to learn to skate. The idea was well received, and Betty contacted Mary Ann. Figure Skating for Special Olympics was born.

The program has only grown from there and Special Olympics Canada now has a very strong Figure Skating program across the whole country. But it was the sheer will and determination of Betty, Mary Ann and others, who got it started and are continuing to support it in 2009. Look what these seeds have sewn.

Betty is still volunteering, and at 83, is the Publicity Chair for Special Olympics Nova Scotia. A very Special Lady indeed.

Canadian Progress Club Cross Canada Ride

Blind Guy Biking President Challenge

CLUB PRESIDENT CHALLENGE. All clubs that donate \$1000.00 or more can see their Club President or a club member pedal into your Town/City. All monies that are donated will support Blind Guy Biking. Four Club Presidents have already stepped up for the Challenge. All riders will get a Blind Guy Biking T-shirt and team photo. Let's make a difference in our communities. Clubs that are interested can make this a club event with the local press. Please contact aka Blind Guy Biking, Brampton Club President, Richard Holloway at:

richard.holloway@sympatico.ca or 905-874-0544 or cell 647-330-0713. We are looking forward to seeing all of you as we cross this great country.

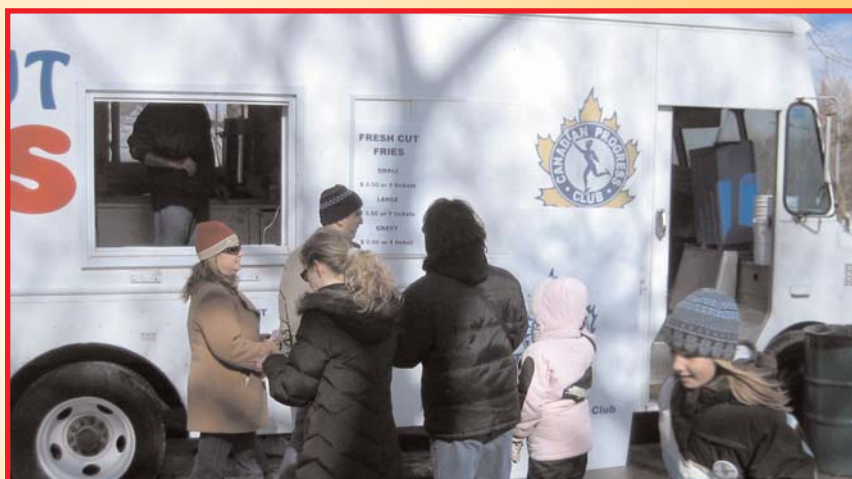
WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE CAN MAKE
THIS
A GREAT PROGRESS EVENT.



York Central's Winter Fund Raiser Supports Local Charities...

For over thirty years the Canadian Progress Club York Central has been supporting local charities with their wide variety of fund raisers. Again this year the Club with the help of Durham Men's Club were able to raise funds by selling french fries from the famous chip truck.

The Club, as usual cooked the Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Richmond Hill Winter Carnival, and the guess was they cooked over 1,200 pancakes this year as their volunteer community service.



Innovation Insight

Have you heard this?

Raise your hand if you have ever heard someone say, "We don't have an idea problem. We have an execution problem."

Perhaps you've even heard someone within your own organization say that. Perhaps you have said that. (You can put your hand down now.)

Well, if you haven't heard it, I have. Over and over and over again. "We have so many ideas that we don't know what to do with them. The problem is not ideas. The problem is execution."

Well... I'm afraid that I don't agree. The crisis at hand is not one of execution. The crisis at hand is one of commitment. Commitment to doing what is necessary to turn those ideas into results. Commitment to creating a culture that makes innovation work.

All over North America organizations are paying lip service to the power of innovation. Every day another article appears in a major business publication proclaiming the virtues of this newest incarnation of the fountain of eternal youth for business. The word innovation is appearing with abandon in business plans and in annual reports, in speeches and in PowerPoints, in goals and on walls, as if just the use of the word alone is enough to inspire the desired results.

The irony of all of this is that the same organizations that say that they are open to new ideas and innovation are frozen in time in a culture that cannot support it. Like the victim of a shipwreck - clinging desperately to a life raft even though land is in sight - leaders hope that salvation will come to them before they actually need to jump into the ocean and swim for shore.

Lip service is not commitment. And commitment is what makes Strategic Innovation work.

Plant some T.R.E.E.S.

Ok - I've ranted. Now here is a model that you might want to wrap your mind around to get a sense of how committed you and your organization really are to making Strategic Innovation work.

Simply put, for Strategic Innovation to thrive within an organization, you need to be committed to T.R.E.E.S.

T. is for Teach: Be committed to Teaching team members the concepts behind Strategic Innovation and the tools and techniques that they need to make it work.

R. is for Reward: Be committed to Rewarding team members for both quantity and quality of ideas and the results achieved with those ideas. But be careful to balance incentive with accountability. If an organization is truly committed to Strategic Innovation, it is everyone's responsibility to make it work.

E. is for Empower: Be committed to Empowering team members not only to have ideas, but also to run with them. Empower people not only by giving them permission to have ideas but also by giving them clear parameters for the kinds of ideas that the organization is looking for. Permission gets the ball rolling. Parameters make Strategic Innovation work.

E. is for Evolve; Be committed to Evolving your culture from one where innovation responsibilities are over and above "real work" to one where Strategic Innovation is the foundation of "real work".

S. is for Support: Be committed to Supporting innovation in your organization with systems for each and every aspect of your program. Where do ideas go? Who reviews them? Where does the budget come from for them? How do we provide feedback on ideas? These are only a few of the questions that need to have a systemic answer for Strategic Innovation to work.

You can improve your commitment to Strategic Innovation. Why Not! challenge yourself to make a plan for bringing even one T.R.E.E.S. commitment to life in your organization this month.

Imagine the Possibilities!

Toni Newman
Toni@toninewman.com
www.toninewman.com

Canadian Progress Club Silks have success with their 3rd Annual "Guilty Pleasures" fund raiser...

The Edmonton CPC SILKS held their 3rd Annual Fund raiser, Guilty Pleasures, on the 17th of April and it was a huge **SUCCESS!!!** With approximately 250 ladies in attendance we raised close to \$25,000 through our silent and live auctions and some fun stuff as well. The ladies were received at the door by men all decked out in tuxedos (including our Mayor and many volunteers from the St. Albert 's Men Club) who offered a glass of champagne, a truffle and a SILK scarf as a gift. From there the evening was filled with food, fashion and fun. Elvis made an appearance and wowed the ladies with his singing and his famous moves! Our Fashion show complete with male dancers kept the ladies highly entertained. To complete the evening great desserts were served while the ladies danced into the wee hours of the night with the DJ.

From all the reviews it is clear that this is an event everyone will be marking next year's calendar for right now.



Elvis wooing the ladies.....adding to a fun night of dancing, great food and fund raising.

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