

Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Society: January 2009 Newsletter

Welcome and a happy new year to all our new members. It's been a busy start to the season and we have lots of news and information for you:

Firstly a huge thank you to:

- Whistler-Blackcomb Foundation for their extremely generous contribution of \$150,000 towards our new building at Mid-Station on Whistler Mountain. This funding, in combination with the initial \$25,000 committed by Scotiabank in 2006, takes us half-way to our fundraising goal for this capital project. We are really excited to move towards building our "Dream Centre for Excellence at Whistler-Blackcomb";
- VANOC employees for their donation of \$6,022, which was raised through their annual Christmas Fundraiser. This contribution marks a total of over \$11,000 in funding from VANOC employees;
- The Meakin Family for their contribution to the WASP Endowment Fund. The endowment now sits at just over \$17,000 and will provide a secure core operational funding source for our Society;
- Carol MacLaine and all the instructors and volunteers in the WASP: Ski and Scotiabank Learn to Ride Program for their hard work over the holiday season.
- Kidsport Whistler for their \$500 contribution towards the Autism Training for our Ski and Scotiabank Learn to Ride Staff and Volunteers.

To find out more about how to contribute to the "Dream Centre for Excellence at Whistler-Blackcomb", make a donation or direct funds into our Endowment Fund, please contact us at cwalker@whistleradaptive.com.

WASP News

- ❖ WASP will be hosting a social Fun raiser at Roland's Pub in Creekside on Wednesday Jan. 28, 6-10pm. Susan Holden will perform, and there will be door prizes and a 50/50 draw. We invite you and your friends to come and enjoy this fun event. All proceeds of the 50/50 draw will help fund our programs.
- ❖ Got some good photos or stories to share? WASP has a new Facebook Group (search groups for Whistler Adaptive Sports Program) to keep friends of WASP up-to-date with information about the society and to share news, photos and visitors. We invite you to join, invite your friends and spread the word.
- ❖ WASP has new administrator and summer programs coordinator: Suki Cheyne brings over 10 years administration and online publishing experience to the program ranging from administration at Whistler Blackcomb Ski School to managing online publishing programs for Oxford University Press. Suki has recently attained her Level I & II Alpine Officials and Level I Nordic Officials, and has been an active WASP volunteer at local events and races since moving to Whistler 2.5 years ago.
- ❖ Autism funding approval – Joe Teichman, our Zone Representative to the Disabled Skier's Association and volunteer instructor with our WASP: Ski and Scotiabank Learn to Ride Lessons had secured blanket autism funding approval for our Ski and Scotiabank Learn to Ride Program. This funding is granted by the provincial government for families with children and youth (6 to 18yrs) with autism. He has been contacting government officials to convey the therapeutic aspect of our Ski and Scotiabank Learn to Ride Program. Please pass this great news onto any family that you think would benefit from this information, and have family members interested in learning how to ski or snowboard.
- ❖ Race program – We are starting up the Adaptive Alpine Race Development Program once again! We are in the process of hiring a coach and will be sending out program details very shortly.
- ❖ Kidsport Whistler – This great organisation provides funding up to \$300 per year to for children and youth (5 to 18yrs) to access sports programs in the Whistler Area. Funding can be applied to some of our WASP programs. Please contact us at admin@whistleradaptive.com for more information.
- ❖ Building Update – We are working hard behind the scenes on two exciting capital projects. The "Dream Centre for Excellence at Whistler Blackcomb will provide an open, welcoming, accessible facility that would be used by the participants of our skiing, snowboarding, adaptive alpine ski racing and summer hiking programs. We would like to thank the Whistler-Blackcomb Foundation once again for their tremendous contribution of \$150,000, Scotiabank for the seed funding of \$25,000, Whistler-Blackcomb (especially Rob McSkimming and Doug Forseth) for their unwaivering support and First Canadian Development Corp for providing the building at cost. We are currently waiting for approval to move forward with the project from the Ministry of Tourism Culture and the Arts.
- ❖ Whistler Athletes' Centre Legacy – We are formally signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Whistler 2010 Sports Legacies. This will provide office space, storage space, use of the high performance training centre, meeting space and access to low cost, accessible accommodation in the Whistler Athlete's Lodge post-Games. This is a tremendous Legacy for our organisation and we would like to thank our past President, Sian Blyth, all of the past and current Directors and our Executive Director, Chelsey Walker, for their amazing efforts to secure this legacy.

- ❖ The WASP Bursary Committee has awarded \$8,144 in bursaries to approved participants. This has resulted in 1 kayaking lesson, 2 canoeing lessons, 3 hiking days, 2 cross-country lessons, and 65 skiing and snowboarding lessons. All of the individuals receiving bursaries to date live in Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and Mt. Currie.
- ❖ Keep your head warm and support WASP with a [WASP Toque or Baseball Cap](#).

WASP is a registered charity. We rely on donations and contributions to deliver our innovative adaptive sports programs. Please support WASP and [donate](#) today.

Coming up in 2009

January

- ❖ **CADS Level 1 Courses** Jan. 15 and 16, 2009 and Jan. 22 and 23. To register email Brian Rode at brode@intra-west.com. Cost is \$20 and participants need to be members of DSABC (\$35) and WASP (\$2). DSABC Memberships can be purchased at www.disabledskiingbc.com.
- ❖ **Fun Raiser at Roland's Pub in Creekside** Jan. 28, 6-10pm.
- ❖ **Alpine Level 1 Officials Course** – Dates to be confirmed.
- ❖ **Para-Nordic Skill Development Clinics for coaches and volunteers (Skate and Classic)** Lost lake, 5-7pm, \$5 and you'll need a valid Lost Lake trail pass which is half-price after 3pm. Contact admin@whistleradaptive.com to register. Limited space available. Dates to be confirmed.

February

- ❖ **Fireside Chats** with the WASP Board of Directors Feb. 4 and 7, 4.30-6.30pm, Whistler Mountain Ski Club Lounge.
Come and find out more about WASP and meet some of the board members. Accessible parking and ramp access on site, further parking in the Creekside underground car park opposite.
 - ❖ **Para-Nordic Skill Development Athlete Clinic: Learn to Loppet - Free Technique** Whistler Olympic Park, Callaghan, Feb. 7, 2-4pm, \$30 includes sit-ski hire (if needed) and trail pass. Contact admin@whistleradaptive.com to register. Limited space available. Clinic will be followed by a Canadian Sport Centre Pacific session on goal setting. Details to follow.
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Volunteer Opportunities

- ❖ Jan. 23/24: Whistler Blackcomb Foundation's TELUS Winter Classic – contact cwalker@whistleradaptive.com to volunteer
- ❖ Mar. 4-7: IPC Cross-Country Skiing & Biathlon World Cup, Whistler Olympic Park - contact cwalker@whistleradaptive.com to volunteer
- ❖ Mar. 9-14: IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup, Whistler Mountain – Creekside - contact cwalker@whistleradaptive.com to volunteer
- ❖ Apr. 25: BC Para-Alpine Champs/Rotary GS, Whistler - contact cwalker@whistleradaptive.com to volunteer

There are a variety of roles ranging from officiating and course work to helping athletes with transfers onto the Creekside Gondola and sport demos. If you would like to volunteer please contact Chelsey at cwalker@whistleradaptive.com to volunteer.

Events to add to your 2009 calendar

January

23/24: Whistler Blackcomb Foundation's TELUS Winter Classic
27-29: 2009 Canadian Adaptive Snowboard National Championships
28: Social fundraiser at Rolands, Creekside, Whistler

February

12: 1 year Countdown to the Olympics

March

4-7: IPC Cross-Country Skiing & Biathlon World Cup, Whistler Olympic Park
7 - Ski-a-thon, Whistler Olympic Park
9-14: IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup, Whistler Mountain – Creekside
14: World Cup Wine'd Up

April

3/4: Comedy Festival

25: BC Para-Alpine Champs/Rotary GS

Please pass this newsletter on to anyone that you think may be interested in WASP.