

# WhyNot.

JUNE 2006

MAGAZINE



## THE ROLLING RAMPAGE

**WhyNot. Magazine**  
THE ROLLING RAMPAGE ISSUE  
June, 2006

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**COVER:** Photograph by Kristine Bacharach

### **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-two years, the Foundation has raised substantial funds, which it has distributed to a wide variety of organizations and events. These include the Terry Fox Hall of Fame, the Eternal Flame of Hope, the Rotary Cheshire Home, the Canadian Helen Keller Centre, 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 and Jeff Adams' CN Tower climb.*

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For the past many years outstanding Canadian athletes have proudly worn the maple leaf again and again on Paralympic medal podiums around the world, most recently at the winter games in Torino, Italy.

On June 18, at a special race course around Queen's Park in Toronto, some of them will join competitors from Canada and other nations in the fourth annual Rolling Ramage. It is a great occasion for sport and spirit, and the athletes will be joined by spectators old and young – some of whom want to have a chance to try using wheelchairs around the same course.

This outstanding event offers a great opportunity to support our athletes and acknowledge the skill and spirit and honour they bring to our country. They will be led by one of Canada's great Paralympians, Jeff Adams, who has shown citizens of all ages that disabilities need not stand in the way of participating in every aspect of life and sport. The rallying cry in 2006 is "Yes I Can" and we want all of you to come out and join in the fun.

Warmest thanks must go to all our dedicated volunteers and sponsors from the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley; the Canadian Paralympic Committee; the Hon. Michael Brown, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and, most of all, the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons led by the incredible Vim Kochhar, without whom the Rolling Ramage would never have happened. Good luck to our athletes – I will be on the sidelines, as always, cheering for every one of you.

**The Honourable  
Joyce Fairbairn**  
*Senate of Canada  
Rolling Ramage  
Honorary Co-Chair*



I am honoured to once again have been asked to be Honorary Co-Chair of Toronto's Rolling Ramage, arguably the nation's premier international showcase for elite athletes with a disability.

Canada's Paralympians have come a long way in the thirty years since our fair city played host to the Paralympic Summer Games in 1976. Performances turned in by our athletes at the last two Summer Games in Sydney and Athens and this past winter in Torino garnered unprecedented coverage in the national media and captured the hearts and imaginations of sports fans from coast to coast. Today, Canadian athletes like Diane Roy and Jeff Adams are recognized around the world and on June 18 on Queen's Park Crescent you'll have an all-too-rare opportunity to see these and other international champions in action. I hope you can join us.

I want to thank the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley for the exceptional and effective work they are doing to promote and support elite competition for people with disabilities. The Rolling Ramage is a vital and exciting addition to the life of this great city and I wish you every success for the future. Thank you.

**The Honourable  
Consiglio Di Nino**  
*Senate of Canada  
Rolling Ramage  
Honorary Co-Chair*



Toronto's Rolling Ramage is a unique event in the annals of spectator sport in our country, a contest wholly invested in the belief that elite athletes with a disability are ready to lay claim to their rightful place in the mainstream of the popular imagination. If you've never experienced the power of Paralympic sport first hand, I invite you to join us on June 18. The Rolling Ramage will blow you away.

I want to pay special tribute to our Rolling Ramage corporate sponsors whose community leadership and support are so vital to our success. The future of Paralympic sport depends very much on informed, committed community partnerships like these and I commend Scotiabank, Pfizer, Petro-Canada, Thompson Printing and all our sponsors for their vision and generosity.

It takes a great many dedicated partners to mount an undertaking on the scale of the Rolling Ramage. I owe a special debt of thanks to our host the Hon. Michael Brown, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and our Ramage Patrons, Honorary Chairs and Committee members who give so generously of their time and energy to make this event a success.

Finally, I want to thank our Rolling Ramage principals, the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley along with our many volunteers and participating organizations for sharing our vision of what Paralympic competition is all about: excellence in sport and life.

**Vim Kochhar,**  
*President and CEO,  
Vimal Group of Companies  
Chairperson,  
Canadian Foundation for  
Physically Disabled Persons*



# MAKE WAY FOR THE Rolling Rampage

*Toronto's international 10K road race is a model for the future of Paralympic sport*



Canadian Paralympian Chantal Petitclerc (right) led a star-studded international field to claim the 2005 Rampage women's crown

**ON JUNE 18** the biggest names in wheelchair sports will hit the streets of downtown Toronto for the Rolling Rampage 10K road race, Canada's premier international showcase of Paralympic sport.

With \$35,000 in prize money, this year's Rampage brings together one of the most imposing fields of elite wheelers ever assembled on Canadian soil. Although race registration was still under way when WhyNot Magazine went to press, organizers have already confirmed a star studded lineup of Olympic and Paralympic medalists representing six nations, including many of the world's leading money winners on the professional track and road race circuits.

"This may not be the biggest field in wheelchair sports but the Rolling Rampage can certainly boast an all-star cast of competitors. Outside of the Summer Paralympics you'd be hard pressed to find

an event with this many of the world's top athletes," says Rampage founder Vim Kochhar, chairman of the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons.

"This is what we always envisioned for the Rampage, a marquee event in the heart of Toronto where Canadians could experience the power and excitement of wheelchair road racing first hand. These athletes are the best in the world at what they do. It's a big thrill for the fans and, we hope, a big leg up for the future of paralympic sport." Kochhar credits legendary Canadian Paralympian Jeff Adams with the original idea of hosting an international road race in downtown Toronto, but Adams, the race's Honorary Chairperson, credits Kochhar and the CFPDP with making it a reality. "Vim's the go-to guy if you want to make things happen. A race like this is a massive undertaking and he's got a real

The 2005 men's open division braces for takeoff



gift for bringing people together who know how to get things done,” says Adams.

With the combined resources of the CFPDP and the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley, and the endorsement of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, organizers worked closely with Adams and other wheelers to create an event that would appeal to athletes and spectators alike. Although many international marathons and running events include wheelchair racing as an add on, Kochhar and company wanted to put the paralympians front and centre as the Rampage’s feature event. For action and immediacy, notes Kochhar, the choice of road racing was a no brainer and the 10K format was deemed the most accessible to the widest range of race disciplines. Most paralympic wheelers, from sprinters to ultra-marathoners, run middle distances in training and in off-Paralympic years frequently participate in 10Ks and marathons to

remain competitive and keep in shape. When the City of Toronto granted permission to stage the event on the scenic Queen’s Park loop in the heart of the city, says Kochhar, the Rampage team knew they’d found the perfect home.

“The great thing about road racing is you’re right there on the curb. It really plugs fans into the action,” enthuses Kochhar. “And Queen’s Park is the perfect place to take it all in. A lot of road races head out and you never see them again until the racers cross the finish line. At the Rampage they make seven circuits of the park so you’re right there for the whole thing. When these athletes make their move for the front of the pack, you’ve never seen anything like it.”

At last year’s Rampage, three of the race’s four divisions were settled in the final yards of the race. In the Men’s Open division, South African star Ernst van Dyk claimed his third Rampage title in 21:53.9,

Aspiring Paralympian Anthony Gale in the inaugural run of the Rampage junior division.



Photograph: Kristine Bacharach

nosing out hometown favourite Adams by just 5/100ths of a second with inches to go to the wire. Third went to New York Marathon champ Saul Mendoza of Mexico with Athens double gold medalist Kurt Fearnley of Australia taking fourth in his Rolling Rampage debut. All four racers are slated to return for Rampage 2006. Other Paralympic notables with a shot at this year's crown are Tushar Patel of England and rising star Michel Filteau of Quebec.

The Women's Open division came down to a neck and neck contest between fellow Quebecers Diane Roy and Chantal Petitclerc, Canada's 2005 Female Athlete of the Year. Two-time Rampage champ Roy lost out in the dramatic final stretch when Petitclerc turned on a scorching sprint to cross the wire in 25:00.0. Italy's Francesca Porcellato came third. The Rampage win capped off a dazzling year for the remarkable Petitclerc who took gold in the women's demonstration event at the Athens

Olympics the previous fall, followed up three weeks later with five gold medals in the Paralympics. Although Petitclerc is unable to attend this year's race due to injury, Athens double medalist Roy will return to try and reclaim her Rampage title. Also registered at this writing is Paralympic legend Tanni Grey-Thompson, recently named a Dame of the British Empire for her storied career as Britain's most decorated athlete. Thomas Geierspichler, of Austria (24:44.5), clinched three-time Rampage title status in the Men's Quad division in a grueling seven lap battle with Spain's Santiago Sanz. Saskatchewan's Clayton Gerein rounded out top honours in the quad division with a strong third-place finish. Although Rampage organizers are still awaiting word on Geierspichler's status, Sanz and Gerein are both confirmed entries for June 18.

Canadian Paralympic Committee Director General Brian MacPherson sees the Rolling



Steven Keith of Petro-Canada (left), Ontario Minister of Health & Longterm Care George Smitherman (centre) and Dave Grieg (right) leadoff the 2005 Rolling Rampage 1K corporate relay.

Photograph: Devon Dunbar



Rampage volunteer Adam Price tying up some last minute site preparations.



Vim Kochhar, Easter Seals' Max Beck, the Hon. George Smitherman, Senator Joyce Fairbairn, and CFPDP executive director Dorothy Price at the finish line.

Rampage as a prototype for the future of paralympic competition in Canada and abroad. At present there isn't another event in the country offering athletes with a disability the Rampage's substantial prize purse and marquee profile, says MacPherson. And with the addition of the Rampage's junior division last year, and the race's open registration, it spells great things for the growth and development of the next generation of elite competitors.

"From our standpoint, the Rolling Rampage accomplishes two very important things. First and foremost is developing more opportunities for athlete development. There just aren't enough opportunities for young people, up-and-comers and elite athletes with a disability to compete," says MacPherson.

"The other objective is promoting greater public awareness of paralympic sport and the broader issues of disability. The great thing about the Rolling Rampage is it's downtown in the biggest city in the country. When people have a chance to see what these athletes can do, it changes their perceptions. And when the public changes its mind about disability, laws are changed and society becomes more inclusive, more accessible, more equal. In the broader sense, that's what the paralympic movement is all about: changing minds and changing lives. It empowers people physically, mentally and socially."

Building strong community partnerships is essential for the Rampage's continued growth and success, says Kochhar. In addition to the race's featured 10K events, the Rampage hosts a 1K wheelchair relay where four member teams of able-bodied participants representing corporate, social services and other community organizations roll for pledges and carefree competition. This year the Rampage is also adding an O.T.F.A. certified 5K Run, Walk and Roll for pledges with prizes and awards for able-bodied and disabled participants in each category. There are also fundraising incentives: Brooks Podium Tech shirts for pledges totaling \$100; and Brooks Adrenaline Running Shoes for pledge receipts exceeding \$300. There will also be a draw for a Nikon digital camera following the Men's Open 10K at 12:45 p.m. The event kicks off on Queen's Park Crescent, June 18 at 9 a.m. with the 5K Run, Walk and Roll.

Photographs: Devon Dunbar

# Thank You

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons together with the Rotary Club of Toronto – Don Valley and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, organizers of The Rolling Rampage, wish to acknowledge the participation of the organizations and corporations below.



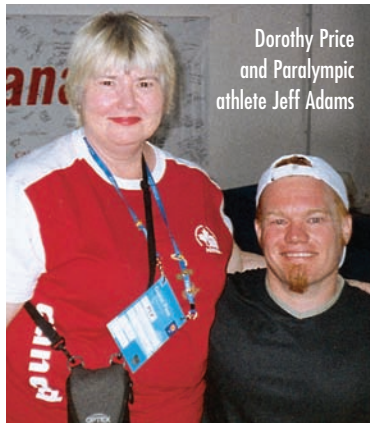
## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- abi Possibilities
- Bellwoods Centres for Community Living
  - Bloorview Kids Rehab
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind
- Easter Seals • Equip KIDS International
- Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association • Paralympics Ontario
  - Rotaract Club of Toronto – Don Valley
  - Rotary Cheshire Homes
- Sunny View Public School • Variety Village

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# Driving home the message

*The team behind Toronto's Rolling Rampage has dedicated 20 years to one abiding goal: Changing the way Canadians think about physical disability*



Dorothy Price  
and Paralympic  
athlete Jeff Adams

The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons has celebrated and supported the issues and abilities of Canadians with disabilities since 1985.

A persistent advocate for equal opportunity, the CFPDP has supported services and ideas promoting increased access and community involvement for the estimated 1.2 million Canadians who live with some form of disability. In total, the

CFPDP has launched more than 50 nationally oriented projects and events fostering increased awareness and support for causes and initiatives that level the playing field and make it possible for more people with disabilities to be fully engaged in the life of their communities. If the Foundation's many projects have one abiding goal, notes CFPDP executive director Dorothy Price, it is changing the way Canadians think about disability and the nature of its limitations.

"Promoting a broader awareness of the disability community's abilities is at the heart of everything we do," says Price. "So many people get hung up on the dis in disability that they never get beyond it. There's only so much we can do as one organization to create meaningful opportunities for people but if you can mobilize the public to look at these issues in a new way, then things start to change across the board. In the long run, real change will only come when everybody pulls together."

Since 1985 the CFPDP has raised more than \$13 million in support of Canadians with disabilities. That money, says Price, has been channeled into projects as diverse as housing, emergency intervention and education for Canada's deaf-blind com-

munity; publishing; community sports and recreation programs; the Terry Fox Hall of Fame; and Canada's Paralympic movement.

"We've always tried to direct the money to areas where, for one reason or another, there seems to be an urgent shortfall. The deaf-blind community, for example, is so small they don't even appear on most people's radar and yet their need for specialized services is huge. And Paralympic sports. I think we've seen a real breakthrough in the last ten years but there's still so much more we could be doing to help these athletes reach their full potential. And they send a powerful message about ability. Investing in our athletes is a win-win for the Foundation because they are such compelling advocates for change," says Price.

*The CFPDP's many endeavours include:*

- **ROTARY CHESHIRE HOMES**, an innovative barrier-free apartment building in Toronto for people with dual sensory loss. Developed by the CFPDP in partnership with Cheshire Homes Foundation and the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley, RCH was North America's first private housing complex designed specifically for the deaf-blind. The Foundation has also helped RCH develop emergency intervention services for the deaf-blind community.





- **THE CANADIAN HELEN KELLER CENTRE**, the nation's only training centre for the deaf-blind. Opened in May, 2001, with funding from the CFPDP, the Rotary Club of Toronto-Don Valley and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, CHKC offers temporary living quarters and one-on-one training in independent living skills, orientation and mobility, leisure activities and socialization, computers, reading and writing Braille, finger spelling, adapted American Sign Language and Two-Hand Manual. CHKC also works to raise awareness and advocates with the Deaf-Blind Community for greater access and inclusion.

- **PARALYMPIC SPORTS**. Ever since the first Great Valentine Gala, which highlighted the achievements of Canada's team at the 1984 Summer Paralympics, the CFPDP has been an active sponsor of Paralympic athletes and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. In 2000, the CFPDP was an official sponsor of Canada's team at the Sydney Paralympics, donating over \$100,000. The Foundation also supported athletes at the 2002 Winter Paralympics in Salt Lake City, in 2004 in Athens and again this past winter in Torino. The CFPDP's annual Rolling Rampage for the world's elite wheelchair athletes is also a project undertaken in partnership with the CPC.

- **THE WHYNOT MARATHON**, the CFPDP's epic 11,000 km national torch relay in support of the Paralympics in 1996. Enlisting 8,000 torch bearers

and 150,000 runners in over 700 communities across the country, the WhyNot Marathon won widespread recognition for the achievements of Canadians with disabilities.

- **SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN ROTARY CLUBS**. An organization with a long history of involvement in the disability community, Canada's Rotarians have received over \$400,000 from the CFPDP for disability projects in towns and cities across the country.
- **THE TERRY FOX HALL OF FAME**. The CFPDP's flagship awareness project, the Hall of Fame is a permanent public tribute to the achievements of people with disabilities and the many people who have served their cause. Located in downtown Toronto, it is chaired by the Honourable David Crombie and is open to the public 365 days a year.

- **THE ETERNAL FLAME OF HOPE**. Ignited in 1996 by Governor General Roméo LeBlanc, the flame still burns on the public square of Toronto's Metro Hall as a permanent symbol of the dreams and triumphs of the disability community.
- **THE GREAT VALENTINE GALA**. First staged in 1985, the CFPDP's cherished annual fundraiser has become one of the nation's best known and most enduring tributes to the aspirations and achievements of people with disabilities.

- **STEP UP TO CHANGE**, Canadian Paralympian Jeff Adams' extraordinary wheelchair ascent of Toronto's CN Tower in 2002 to promote greater awareness of accessibility issues.

- **PUBLISHING**. The CFPDP has a long involvement in publishing, including, in the early years Gala Magazine and a two-year partnership with Disability Today; over 40 issues of WhyNot Magazine; and some 260 pages of special sections published in the Toronto Star and The Globe and Mail.

To learn more about the CFPDP and its many activities go to: [www.cfpdp.com](http://www.cfpdp.com)



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