

SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO'S
70th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THE TRUE NORTH

Gala

STRONG & FREE

THURSDAY

15

OCTOBER

PRESENTED BY



MCLEISH ORLANDO
OATLEY VIGMOND
THOMSON ROGERS
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS



SPINAL CORD
INJURY
ONTARIO

LÉSIONS
MÉDULLAIRES
ONTARIO

A portrait of Josh Forbes, a man with short brown hair and a light beard, wearing a green and blue plaid shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with a faint, stylized leaf pattern.

JOSH FORBES

I'd like to welcome you on behalf of Spinal Cord Injury Ontario to the True North Gala. You are in for a good time tonight! You are supporting an organization that I hold close to my heart, and so I want to thank you for being here and being part of our community.

As many of you know, a spinal cord injury can happen in an instant. When it happens, no one is prepared. And every day, one more person sustains an injury in this province. There are 33,000 people in Ontario alone, living with a spinal cord injury.

I became part of this group on May 21, 2011. I dove off a boat and hit bottom. I broke my neck. With all that happened immediately after my injury, I hit bottom many more times.

But thankfully, the organization that you are here supporting today, reached out to me. Volunteers and staff showed me how I could live my life. They motivated me to find my passion and get back to doing what I wanted to do.

Here I am four years later. I have come through a most difficult time. I can honestly say, I couldn't have done it without the help of Spinal Cord Injury Ontario.

There will be more people like me, and thanks to you they, too, will be provided with the support they need.

Thank you so very much for joining us this evening, and in celebrating seventy years of rebuilding lives.

THE TRUE NORTH GALA

70th Anniversary Celebration

RECEPTION

East Coast Fiddlers
Tribal Vision Drummers & Dancers

EVENING FESTIVITIES

WELCOME

Joanne Smith, Master of Ceremonies

O'CANADA

Rodney Ronquillo

Terry Russel, RCMP Salutes Flag

OPENING REMARKS & THANKSGIVING

Bill Adair, CEO Spinal Cord Injury Ontario

GREETINGS

Stuart Howe, Incoming CEO Spinal Cord Injury Ontario

TRIBUTE TO BILL ADAIR

George Cooke, Board Chair, OMERS Administration Corporation
Jim Vigmond, Oatley Vigmond Personal Injury Lawyers LLP
Bob Nigol, Chair Spinal Cord Injury Ontario Board of Directors

RESPONSE

Bill Adair, CEO Spinal Cord Injury Ontario

TOPS 'N TAILS

Bonnie Gould

ENTERTAINMENT

Ron James, Comedian

MESSAGE

Josh Forbes

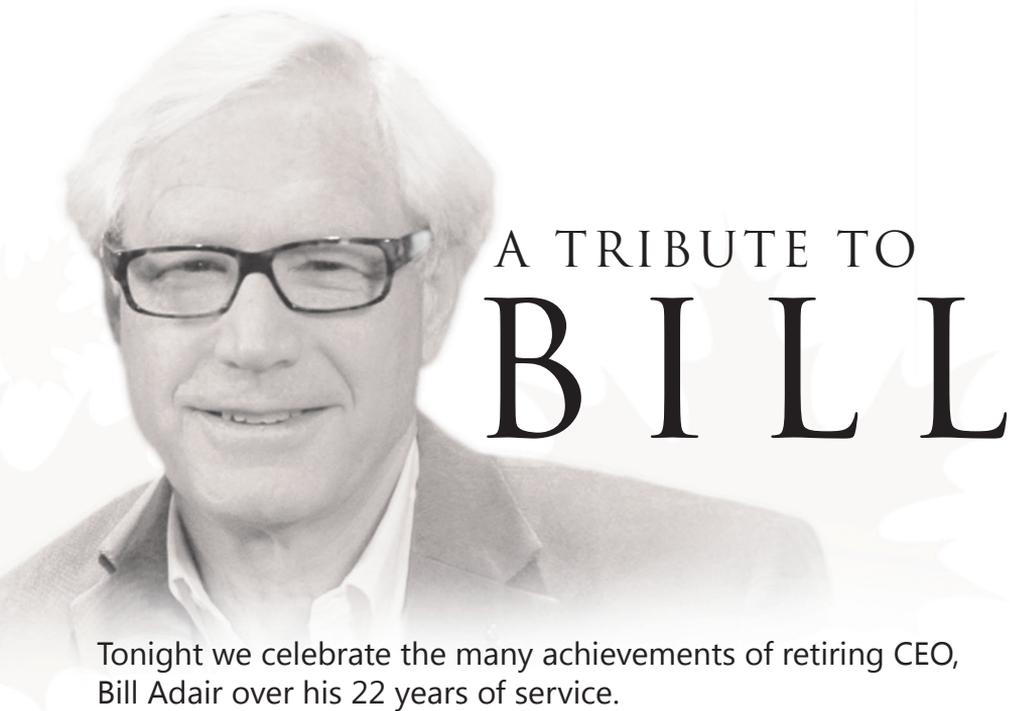
LIVE AUCTION BEGINS

Jay Mandarino Auctioneer

KEY TO INDEPENDENCE AUCTION

MUSIC AND DANCING

No Sugar Tonight Band



A TRIBUTE TO BILL

Tonight we celebrate the many achievements of retiring CEO, Bill Adair over his 22 years of service.

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario was very different in 1993. Bill came in and took over a relatively small, grassroots organization with its share of issues to sort out. Included in his responsibilities was overseeing Lyndhurst Hospital. With an annual organizational budget in 1993 of \$1.3 million and serving 790 clients, under Bill's leadership the organization grew to its present budget of over \$10 million and service to 2,014 clients.

Bill fought for recognition of the investment that Spinal Cord Injury Ontario made into Lyndhurst Hospital. In 1999, the management of Lyndhurst Hospital was transferred to Toronto Rehab, and the Ministry of Health compensated Spinal Cord Injury Ontario with \$5.4 million. This money was put into the newly established Canadian Paraplegic Foundation which continues to support the activities of the organization to this day. The funds have grown to over \$8 million. Thanks to Bill's tenacity, the Spinal Cord Injury Ontario Postdoctoral Fellowship at Toronto Rehab/University of Toronto was established and in total, over \$1 million has supported this ongoing activity.

Bill negotiated the expansion of base funding from the government between 1999 and 2007 that enabled an aggressive expansion of services, increasing regional offices from 5 to 16 across the province and the development of a First Nations strategy. By securing new substantial and sustainable resources, Bill oversaw the delivery of a formalized Peer Support Program across the province. Today, our Canada-wide federation is using our Peer Support volunteer training program as the best practice standard for the nation. New funding also enabled Spinal Cord Injury Ontario to deliver a new Employment Services program which continues today!

By collaborating with three other organizations, Bill was instrumental in

A D A I R

establishing the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation – our provincial leader in generating new knowledge in spinal cord injury. In 2000, the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation and Spinal Cord Injury Ontario provided the leadership to bring together the Ontario Spinal Cord Injury Solutions Alliance that engages over 70 spinal cord injury-related organizations to address systemic barriers. Bill also built a collaborative, innovative model for service delivery with Hamilton Health Sciences, the SCI Pilot model, to integrate Spinal Cord Injury Ontario staff into the acute centre of the hospital to increase access to services as soon as possible after sustaining a spinal cord injury.

Under Bill's leadership, the first Wheelchair Relay Challenge was organized in Ottawa. As it was a huge success, another relay took place in Toronto the same year. The Wheelchair Relay Challenge became the signature fundraising event for people with spinal cord injuries combining awareness of wheelchair use with fundraising. Just completing its 20th year, the Wheelchair Relay Challenge has raised a total of \$XX.

One of Bill's greatest strengths is the ability to focus on the unique needs of each individual with a spinal cord injury and our commitment to do whatever it takes to help each person rekindle a passion for life. As the leader of the organization, he creates a culture that takes great pride in service excellence.

Bill is a gentle, kind man who has a way of inspiring the best in others. His leadership style is surprising simple. By truly caring for his staff, showing kindness and support, he brings out the best in people and has built a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who respect and care for him, too.

We are proud of Bill's great achievements and his role in our history. Bill's legacy will live on through the work at Spinal Cord Injury Ontario.

Thank you, Bill. Enjoy your well-earned retirement!

SPECIAL THANKS

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario would like to thank the following companies for their outstanding support of The True North Gala:

BENEFACTOR TABLES

Gluckstein Personal Injury Lawyers



Henderson Structured Settlements



Howie, Sacks & Henry



Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation



Toronto-Dominion Bank



Many thanks also to the following for their generous donations, resources, time and services:

GBC-design.com Design Services
Jay Mandarino, Auctioneer
Jim Menken
Joanne Smith, Event Emcee
Langford Canoe
Leaside Landscaping
Oceans Apart
Rodney Ronquillo and Chyrell Samson
Sun Life Financial
Terry Russel, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
The Grand Luxe Event Boutique



HATS OFF TO YOUR SUCCESS

The member firms of PIA Law take their hats off to Bill Adair and Spinal Cord Injury Ontario. Congratulations on your many accomplishments. We are honoured to be part of it!



MCLEISH ORLANDO
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Travelers Canada is pleased to celebrate Spinal Cord Injury Ontario's 70th year of rebuilding lives.



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LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

SCOTTSDALE CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF ROUND

This package includes a round of golf on TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course or Champions Course, cart rental, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess (Arizona) with daily breakfast for two - a 4 night stay with airfare for two from Canada to Phoenix, Arizona. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, Scottsdale lies in the heart of the lush Sonoran Desert, Championship golf courses stand by to challenge your skills on artful layouts that wind around mammoth boulders and towering saguaros. A vibrant downtown tempts you with world-class shopping, fine art galleries, renowned restaurants and high energy nightlife.

Value: \$8,600

HE SHOOTS HE SCORES!

Signed Chair from the old Montreal Forum by the late Jean Beliveau. This item comes complete with a certificate and a photo of Jean signing the chair. Joseph Jean Arthur Béliveau, was a Canadian professional ice hockey player who played parts of 20 seasons with the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens from 1950 to 1971.

Value: Priceless!

BRINGING NEW LIFE TO OLD WOOD! GREAT CONVERSATION PIECE FOR THE COTTAGE!

Four Foot High Pine Hand Carved Hawk Carved by Jim Menken
The artist Jim lives and carves in the town of Mono. He has had a life long interest in art but has been carving since 2003. Living close to the Bruce Trail and the breath-taking Hockley Valley, Jim is inspired by subjects found in nature and strives to depict them as realistically as possible. Interesting faces are fun to carve and he especially enjoys the challenge of commissioned works where the client picks the subject! His background in landscaping enables him to create works that enhance the outdoor areas in which they are displayed. (All carvings are treated so that they will withstand the elements.)

Value: Priceless!

ESCAPE TO SAN FRANCISCO & SONOMA

Winery Tours and Tastings

The experience includes a two night stay at the Fairmont San Francisco and a two night stay at the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa, breakfasts for two, tasting for two at Chateau St. Jean, Sonoma, tour and tasting for 2 at Benziger Family Winery, Sonoma, with roundtrip airfare for two from Canada. Enjoy a total of four nights in northern California, exploring the highlights of San Francisco and the rich wine country region of Sonoma.

Value: Priceless!

OWN A PIECE OF TRUE CANADIANA!

Langford 16 Foot Cedar Strip Canoe - For over 75 years the Langford Canoe name has stood for the highest quality. Langford is Canada's oldest canoe company. As leaders in craftsmanship performance and design Langford has built the blend exceptionally beauty, elegant lines, durability, and light weight with excellent handling characteristics.. Each Langford has a beaver symbol on it as an indication of their rigorous quality standards. The symbol will assure you that this Canadian made canoe is the finest of its kind, built for serious wilderness travel, or basic recreation and everything in between. Langford's master builders, blend high functioning, and time tested designs with constant meticulous refinement. Their canoes paddle with greater ease, provide a superior measure of safety, unrivaled durability and unmatched longevity. A few strokes of the paddle, will demonstrate this.

AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS

This experience includes two loge level tickets to the 2016 American Music Awards Show (November 2016, date to be announced) at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, a three night stay in deluxe accommodations such as Hyatt, Marriott or comparable with round trip airfare for two from Canada to Los Angeles, California.

Value: Priceless!

KEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Please be part of Key to Independence – an opportunity to directly support the purchase of personal items and equipment for our clients through the Enhancing Independence Fund of Spinal Cord Injury Ontario.

In 2014-2015, Spinal Cord Injury Ontario was able to assist 174 clients, totalling \$125,000 of support.

We know we can do better and we know that this investment is making a difference in the lives of Ontarians living with spinal cord injuries. There are people waiting for our help right now!

Tonight, show your support by raising your bid card high! Your contribution to a Key to Independence is 100% tax deductible, as every dollar raised will directly support the Enhancing Independence Fund or the priority needs of Spinal Cord Injury Ontario.

Here's how it works...

During Key to Independence, the auctioneer will announce the following contribution levels: \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500. As you hear the level or levels at which you wish to make a contribution, simply raise your bid card until one of our staff acknowledges your bid.

Again, all donations will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount.

Thank you for your generous support!

HOW YOUR DONATION WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

\$5000 KEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Your donation of \$5,000 could support the purchase of an Electronic Aid for Daily Living (EADL), System that will enable a person to control his or her environment. The system includes access and control of emergency calling, lights, a laptop and cell phone, a garage and regular door opener and temperature monitor. This system gives a person a sense of freedom when they are not reliant on someone else to provide access to all of these controls. Think of what it would be like if you needed someone every time you wanted to turn on the lights or to turn up the heat or to open a door. This device is life-changing.

\$2500 KEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Your donation of \$2,500 could support the purchase of a Shower Commode Chair with Tilt. Being able to bathe and go to the washroom in comfort are life essentials. This is a chair that assists an individual to lower into the bath tub safely. A pail can be attached to the chair so that the person can also use it as a toilet. Individuals with higher level injuries require commodes with tilt and lateral supports in order to stay balanced. This is a very important tool for daily living when you have a spinal cord injury.

\$1000 KEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Your donation of \$1,500 could support the purchase of a Hoyer Power Lift. This is a portable lift that helps individuals move from one position or area to the next. A Hoyer Lift could be used to transfer out of bed in the morning to a wheelchair or a commode. This is an especially important device for people who have partners who want to help their loved ones but don't have the physical strength to assist with transfers.

\$500 KEY TO INDEPENDENCE

Your donation of \$500 could support the purchase of a Walker with Hand Breaks. This walking aid is also collapsible and is designed to give the user stability and increased independence. Today, many more people are actually walking away from their spinal cord injury because of medical advances in the treatment of a spinal cord injury in acute care. For this reason, people need devices that will help them walk.

KEY TO INDEPENDENCE-HONOUR BILL ADAIR

Your donation of any amount could support various items to enhance the life of someone with a spinal cord injury while honour Bill Adair at the same time! For 22 years, Bill has seen the difference we can make when we work together. Join in, and assist someone in living independently.

KEY TO THE LOCKED LOG CABIN!

You could win

Custom Made Earrings

14KWTW Gold with natural Tahitian Black Pearls measuring 10.5mm each and 60pts of diamonds GS1

Designed by Bonnie Gould of Oceans Apart, Value \$3,000

Buy a Key for your chance to win!

Purchase a key for \$50 or 3 for \$100 and if your key unlocks the log cabin, these beautiful earrings are yours!

Keys will be available to purchase from 6:00 p.m. to

Try your key to see if you are the lucky winner!



Hello everyone,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past 22 years.

To so many of you, I owe great gratitude for the education you provided me, the patience you showed me and the trust you gave me. I wouldn't be here today without your support.

When I started working for Spinal Cord Injury Ontario, truthfully, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. In the first few months, there were nights I lay awake wondering how in the world could I help this organization grow and flourish. Of course, personally I did not want to fail as the new leader, but more importantly, I did not want to let down the people we serve. I wanted to build an organization that would support all people with spinal cord injuries who needed assistance in the province— and I wanted those services to be delivered with excellence. I wanted to break down systemic barriers and create an environment that supported people rekindling a passion for life and living fulfilling, productive, happy lives.

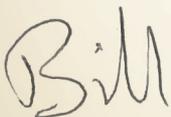
In hind sight, that personal vision is much easier to say, think and dream than to do. And that's not for lack of trying or lack of effort. Maybe any leader would say that there is a certain frustration with the goal you want to see realized always being just out of reach. But then again that is the very definition of a goal – something you are working towards, not something that already is.

I don't mean to suggest that I am not proud of what we have accomplished together over the years, because I am. I am so proud! We certainly have provided excellent services and we have tackled systemic barriers. I have seen so many people go on to lead amazing lives. I know our collective efforts have literally saved people's lives over and over again. Yes. I am indeed proud of what we have accomplished, together!

It's just that after 22 years, I realize there is still so much more to do. But I have an exciting sense of optimism that Spinal Cord Injury Ontario will continue to grow and gain ground in achieving our vision of excellence in service, advocacy and quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries.

I will continue to support the work of this amazing organization, and I invite you to do the same. Together, we will ensure that each and every Ontarian with a spinal cord injury is supported to reach his or her full potential.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large 'B' and 'l'.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



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OATLEY VIGMOND
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PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

TRAVELERS 

Rebuilding Lives



honourABLE years!