



RBC Donation Helps Disabled Skiers Hit the Slopes at Calabogie Peaks

RBC Dominion Securities has partnered with the Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing's "Calabogie Adaptive Ski Program" providing a \$4000 donation to assist with the delivery of services during 2016-17. (in the picture attached left to right is Deb Blimkie, Program Director, Mark Gallivan, Vice President RBC Dominion Securities, Clay Dawdy, Director at Large).

Entering its 13th season, the Calabogie Adaptive Ski Program (7-week Sunday program) has grown from its initial base of 8 skiers assisted by 12 volunteers to approximately 40 skiers assisted by 65 volunteers. Although the program is centered around skiing and snowboarding activities for children and adults, the goal is to build awareness and self-confidence in individuals who in a number of cases would be shut-ins during the winter months. Specific to this objective, the program is also entering its 12th season hosting a ski day for "Community Living" disabled adults from Renfrew and Arnprior. This season, 25 - 30 skiers are expected to be assisted by approx 30 instructors and volunteers the last Monday in January.

The program's instructors and volunteers also assist Calabogie Peaks Snowschool providing instructional services and specialized ski equipment to disabled children allowing them to ski and snowboard with their classmates when they visit the ski hill on weekday outings throughout the school year.

The week-long Winter Sports Clinic for Injured Soldiers has been held for the past 6 years in Calabogie. The first Clinic in 2011 hosted six injured Canadian soldiers followed by 10 in 2012, seven in 2013 and 13 in 2014 and approx.50 soldiers in the 2015/16 clinics. Two of the clinics saw the inclusion of seven injured American veterans. Learning to ski and snowboard, developing peer and mentor relationships, making new friends, thrills (and spills) is what can be expected at this year's clinic scheduled to begin the first week in February.



Training and providing Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing (CADS) instructor certification for instructors and volunteers continues to be a top priority to support all of our programs both at Calabogie and within CADS National Capital Division. This year, Calabogie will host the Eastern Canada Pre-course for CADS Course Conductors and Instructor Certification Examiners.

Further information regarding the program's participant and volunteer opportunities can be obtained on the website: <http://www.cads-ncd.ca>