

Shelley Gautier Para-Sport Foundation

About Our Foundation



Shelley Gautier became the first female T-1 rider on the international para-cycling scene. Since then she has dominated her class and won several world championships and competed in the London 2012 Paralympics. Currently training for the 2016 Paralympics to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Shelley is the honorary Chairperson and a director of the Foundation and helps to support its charitable efforts by utilizing her proven expertise in elite sports achievement and her experience with fundraising for para-sports.

The Shelley Gautier Para-Sport Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization whose main goal is to promote a healthy lifestyle for people with disabilities through involvement in para-sport activities. Para-sports are sports that utilize adaptive equipment, venues and formats to enable people with disabilities to participate. We have a growing number of dedicated volunteers and supporters who contribute their time and resources to truly make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Although the para-sport world is growing, it is not near where it needs to be and requires increased public awareness and opportunities to encourage participation. Our foundation is pleased to be a part of the solution by hosting regular para-cycling rides throughout the summer that offer hand-cycling for people with physical disabilities and tandem cycling for people with visual impairments.

We are very pleased to announce that we currently have 4 para-cycling programs running throughout Ontario, and we are always on the lookout for new sports to offer a variety of options that appeal to people of all abilities! Our programs come at no cost to the individuals participating as we provide the equipment and trained volunteers to encourage people with disabilities to lead healthy lifestyles and remain active in a non-competitive, recreational sports environment.





About Our Programs

Para-Cycling Program – Pier 8, Hamilton, ON

This program began on May 11, 2015 and was held bi-weekly for six weeks at the Ancaster Community Centre. The second course of this program ran from January 10, 2016 for another six weeks. Now in its third phase in June 2016, we moved our adaptive bikes outside to the Waterfront Trail at Pier 8. People with all levels of disability and skill are welcome to come out and participate using our hand-cycles and tandem cycles. How to get involved? Contact Program Leader Farid Pirani and join us for some fun!

Where: Pier 8 (47 Discovery Drive, Hamilton)

When: Sundays from 2-4 PM & Thursdays from 6-8 PM

Contact: Farid Pirani, Cell-Phone: 905-537-9492, Email: faridpirani@gmail.com

Para-Cycling Program - W. Ross MacDonald School for the Blind, Brantford, ON

As we mirror the Hamilton program to provide a para-cycling program at no cost to the participants, in Brantford we provide a special focus using tandem bikes to provide an appropriate venue for people with visual impairments. We first began this program in Brantford in April through June 2015 and we now have an incredibly thriving outdoor summer program with 10 tandem bikes being utilized by people with visual impairments and their sighted volunteer 'pilots'! The summer rides take place twice per week from June through August 2016. How to get involved? Contact Program Leader Rob Clark and join us for some fun!

Where: W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind, 350 Brant Ave., Brantford, ON

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30

Contact: Rob Clark at brantfordtandem@hotmail.com



Para-Cycling Program – Niagara Region

Having begun in April 2016 as an indoor para-cycling training initiative at the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being in St. Catharines, the Centre utilizes the expertise of qualified volunteers from Brock University to train individuals on hand-cycles. As of June 2016, we have taken our program on the road with a mobile trailer that brings hand-cycling and tandem cycling right to the community for some outdoor fun while getting

fit! The Niagara outdoor riding program meets at the Allanburg Community Centre and welcomes participants and volunteers to come out and experience hand-cycling and tandem cycling.

Where: 1560 Falls Street, Allanburg, ON L0S1A0

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm and/or 5-7pm.

Contact: Holly Dapp, (289) 303-7817, Email: hdapp@hotmail.ca

Para-Cycling Program – Ottawa

This unique program was already in development with a mobile trailer running for 3 years from the parking lot at the Aviation Museum in partnership with Fitness Dynamics. It became the model for our outdoor mobile cycling programs since it has been running successfully for the past 3 years.

Where: Canada Aviation and Space Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway, Ottawa, ON K1K 2X5

When: Monday, 6-8pm

Contact: Joey Desjardins, (613) 677-6569

Email: joey.p.desjardins@gmail.com



Program Expansion – Other Activities & other Communities

Our goal is to expand our programs to other communities in Ontario and hopefully other provinces that have optimal opportunities for para-sports. We are currently working to develop programs to include sledge hockey at the Ancaster Community Centre in Hamilton, and are also communicating with the Rowing Club in St. Catharines. Our plan is to continue to use the same platform and model for the programs while including more activities to focus on fitness and rehabilitation for individuals of all abilities.

The Foundation continues to provide more adaptive equipment and venues to give individuals more opportunities to participate in physical activities without the usual barriers that often discourage participation.

One of our summer students is a sledge hockey athlete. Claire is 28 years old and is on the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Development team and has been on the Canadian Women's Sledge Hockey team for two seasons. She hopes to be on the team for another season with tryouts coming up this September. Congratulations, Claire!



How Can YOU Make A Difference?

We're always welcoming new participants with physical disabilities and visual impairments, as well as able-bodied volunteers to bike with our participants! If you want to get involved and make a difference as a participant or a volunteer contact the chapter nearest you. Each chapter welcomes new participants and volunteers even if you are inexperienced or unable to come out for every ride. Every little bit can make a dramatic difference in the lives of others.



As a charitable foundation we are continually fundraising to deliver free programming for our participants. We believe in removing ALL barriers, including addressing the socio-economic issues that often stand in the way of people who do not have the means to participate, were it not for the generosity of our donors, sponsors and funders. Please consider contributing to this great cause that inspires people into action.

Used Mobility Equipment Fundraising Drive

We have access to used mobility equipment that is being sold for a fraction of the usual price. Some of the equipment includes manual/tilt chairs for \$300 and electric chairs for \$1000. This not only supports the PWD (persons with disability) community, but a share of the proceeds also goes directly to support the recreational sports activities of the Shelley Gautier Para-Sport Foundation.



Special Recognition

We are very fortunate to have received tremendous support to get the Foundation going and growing! It is with great pleasure that we thank the following organizations for their incredible contributions.

TORYS LLP: Thank you to David Outerbridge and his team for providing the legal guidance to help build a world-class para-sport foundation

The Ontario Trillium Foundation: For providing us with a SEED grant to operate our new sites in Hamilton, Niagara and Brantford



Turning Passion into Action

Newsletter

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Canada Summer Works: For providing us with 10 talented Summer Students to “super charge” our 2016 summer programs and initiatives

Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport: For providing us with funding to run a pilot program in Ancaster from which to learn and build upon

Gary Kotak: For his generous donation of a boat that we were able to re-sell to help launch a new Chapter in Whitby

And a very BIG Thank You to the our incredibly dedicated Team of Volunteers that keep things moving in the right direction!

THE SHELLEY GAUTIER PARA-SPORT FOUNDATION

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