

The Link

CONNECTRA
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

December 2008

Artist gets a lift from city eagles project

Connectra member Cleo Pawson is reaching new heights after landing the chance to work on the Eagles in the City project.

This public art project will see giant, and very colourful, bald eagles displayed throughout Metro Vancouver. It is raising money for the B.C. Lions Society for Children with Disabilities and the Canucks for Kids Fund, following on from Orcas in the City in 2004 and Spirit Bears in the City in 2006.

The fiberglass statues will be auctioned off in April 2010.

Pawson's two-metre statue is on display outside Vancouver City Hall. Painting the artwork took five months, working for two-hour stints followed by a couple of days' recovery time.

The commission initially seemed daunting to Pawson, whose scoliosis has been worsening, but she received help from the Neil Squire and Tetra societies along the way.

"It was a really positive thing. Just the perfect project to help me – getting the eagle out there, I was a person who made things.

"I'm starting again making new art after making the eagle.

"My disability is affecting my hands more, and I've had to change my technique. I have to have a different way of getting around things."

Pawson's pictures, showing the work from start to finish, are linked from the Connectra website: www.connectra.org.



©CLEO PAWSON "HER FACE, FIRE BIRD WOMAN, AND SPINE"

Colourful: One of Cleo Pawson's previous canvasses, Cleo.

Come and celebrate Christmas with ConnectTra



The next ConnectTra workshop – titled *Christmas with ConnectTra* – will be on **Monday, Dec 15.**

The festive workshop will be held at the Library Square Conference Centre, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver. It runs from 1pm to 3pm in the Alma VanDusen and Peter Kaye Meeting Rooms.

Guest Speakers are from InterFit, which makes recreation options available to people with disabilities, and inner city regeneration

group Building Opportunities with Business.

Links to both organizations, and additional information about the workshop, are available on the ConnectTra website: www.connectra.org.

A light meal is included.

Anyone who wants to attend should reserve a place with ConnectTra program coordinator Steve Street: 604-688-6464 ext. 115, or sstreet@disabilityfoundation.org.

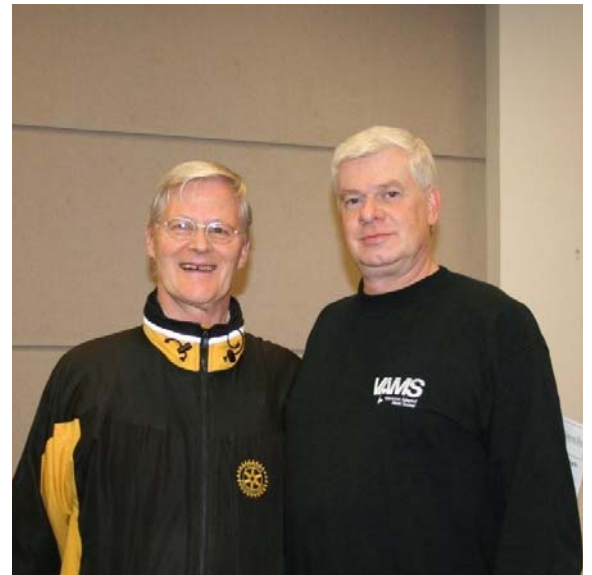
ConnectTra info:

604-688-6464 ext. 115

sstreet@disabilityfoundation.org



Packed audience: ConneCTra members at the Oct. 22 workshop.



Keynote Speaker: Udo Erasmus (left), Steve Street.

Audience hears of ways for people with disabilities to access Olympic opportunities

accessWORKS made a presentation to ConneCTra members at the October workshop – this column, from the group, by **project officer Maggie Vilvang**, provides additional details about the group.

accessWORKS was created by a broad consortium of disability missioned organizations to act as a point of connection between themselves and the economic opportunities flowing from the 2010 Paralympic and Olympic Winter Games.

As the connecting point, accessWORKS works closely with VANOC and the suppliers and sponsors to create opportunities for economic inclusion. accessWORKS then works with the members of our consortium to connect people with people with disabilities to these opportunities.

accessWORKS encourages disability missioned organizations to become part of our consortium by registering on our web site: www.accessworks.ca. Becoming a consortium member will provide you with

access to job postings and business opportunities that may be of interest to your clients.

The accessWORKS Business Network, which is accessible through the website, is the place for persons with disabilities who are self-employed, or operate businesses to connect to Olympic related opportunities.

accessWORKS encourages job seekers to register with one of our consortium member employment agencies in order to receive full support, however individual registration with accessWORKS for independent job seekers is an option and can be done through the web site.

Employers interested in becoming disability confident and recruiting and retaining skilled candidates with disabilities are encouraged to visit the accessworks web site where a full array of supports and services are listed.

Credits:

Sabrina Miller photos
Matthew Wild writing & design



Listening: ConneCTra member Rich Barton.



Interaction: Udo Erasmus talks to members.



accessWORKS: Stephanie Liebe-McGinnis.

More: Steve Street at 604-688-6464 ext. 115, or ssstreet@disabilityfoundation.org