

The Link

CONNECTRA
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

June 2008

THEO BC: working for jobseekers

People with significant disabilities in the Vancouver area are being encouraged to conduct their job search with THEO BC.

THEO is a non-profit that offers a range of employment-related programs, courses, continuing education, leisure activities, and supported education services. It runs training, education and job placement services, detailed EPPD program manager Christine Buchanan.

The centre offers a variety of things to jobseekers, ranging from pre-employment workshops looking at job readiness and employment skills, to training, work experience placements and supported job search, she detailed.



Christine Buchanan

“There’s lots of ways to go to become employed,” she said.

The Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance wants job seekers to deal with THEO BC, Triumph Vocational Services or Neil Squire

Society, depending on where they live and the nature of their disability. Info: www.theobc.org.

Website upgrade

Connectra has updated and upgraded its website.

The site, www.connectra.org, now presents comprehensive links to organizations offering services in a number of categories, including health, mobility, recreation, entertainment and employment. It also features news stories.



Workshop presenters: (from left) George Eckschmiedt, Lori Cockerill and Mark Mozel from Vancouver Soaring Association, at April's ConnectTra workshop.

ConnectTra for work and play

The next ConnectTra Workshop will present a mix of employment and leisure options.

Both are important for people with disabilities seeking a return to the workplace, says ConnectTra programs administrator Stephen Street. He aims to add recreational and creative opportunities to the mix, “in keeping with our new mandate to keep our members as socially active and involved as possible.”

The workshop is held in the Alma VanDusen and Peter Kaye meeting rooms of the Library Square Conference Centre, Vancouver, from 1pm to 2:45pm on Thursday, June 26. There will be food provided.

Presenter Nicola Oliver, Programs Manager for BC Centre For Ability, will discuss programs that enhance an individual’s job-readiness. Then, Sheila Polard, Aquatic Supervisor of the Stan Stronge Poole, will discuss the recreational and therapeutic services their programs provide.

ConnectTra’s subsequent workshop will be in August.

To book a place or discuss the event, contact Stephen Street: 604-688-6464 ext. 115, or email ssstreet@disabilityfoundation.org.



Freedom of the skies, with BCMOS gliding.

2008 Gliding program gets off the ground

A gliding program for people with significant disabilities is taking to the skies again this summer.

The British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society (BCMOS) Easy Gliders program started up again in May, with flights planned until September.

Easy Gliders is run in conjunction with Hope Gliding Centre, operated by Vancouver Soaring Association. In total, says Easy Gliders organizer James Willetts, there will be 45 flights, each of around 45 minutes' duration, on: Tuesday, June 3; Tuesday, June 10; Tuesday, July 8; Tuesday, July 29; Tuesday, August 12; and Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Info: James Willetts, 604-837-5616, todsworld@hotmail.com, or else visit www.disabilityfoundation.org/bcmos/gliding.

Theme hikes focus on outdoor activities

This year's British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society (BCMOS) theme hikes will concentrate on outdoor activities including stargazing, bird watching and fishing.

The idea is to focus on the end result – the activity – rather than the journey, according to BCMOS programs manager Kirk Duncan. Rather than being a ride in a TrailRider, it's a fishing trip or lesson on provincial natural history.

"It's about the experience. It could be a nature walk in Rocky Point Park, in Port Moody, fishing on the Fraser River or stargazing."

Saturday, June 7	Lighthouse Park
Sunday, June 8	Wheels in Motion at the PNE
Saturday, June 14	Spanish Banks
Sunday, June 15	Pacific Spirit Orientation Challenge
Saturday, June 21	Buntzen Lake
Sunday, June 22	Whistler
Saturday, June 28	Burnaby Lake – Beaver Watching
Sunday, June 29	Lynn Canyon OR Canoe/Hiking Adventure
Sat./Sun. July 5/6	Overnight at Alice Lake (near Squamish)
Saturday, July 12	Rocky Point (Port Moody)
Sunday, July 13	Whistler
Saturday, July 19	Pacific Spirit Orientation Challenge
Sunday, July 20	Spanish Banks
Thursday, July 24	BCMOS and DSA Kids' Day
Sat./Sun. July 26/27	Overnight to Cultus Lake (near Chilliwack)
Saturday, Aug. 2	Buntzen Lake (potential for fishing!)
Sunday, Aug. 3	Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve – Stargazing
Saturday, Aug. 9	Whistler
Sat./Sun. Aug. 16/17	Overnight to Golden Ears Provincial Park
Saturday, Aug. 23	Maplewood Mud Flats – Bird/Wildlife Watching
Sunday, Aug. 24	Cypress Mountain OR Harrison Hot Springs
Sunday, Aug. 10	Starlight Starbright Walk in Pacific Spirit Park
Thursday, Aug. 28	BC MOS Volunteer Appreciation BBQ
Friday, Aug. 29	Last day of hiking

Theme hikes cost \$10 per session, and overnight camping must be booked at least one week ahead. In addition, the regular hiking program runs Wednesday to Friday at Pacific Spirit Park (4915 West 16th Ave.). Book hikes at 604-222-1312 or bcmossummer@disabilityfoundation.org.

Sailing calendar offers a variety of on-the-water activities for all levels

The 2008 Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia (DSA-BC) has published the regattas and events that will be a highlight of this sailing season.

In addition, regular sailing is held Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm, at Jericho Sailing Centre (1300 Discovery St., Vancouver, BC) until Aug. 29. Book on 604-222-3003 or dsasummer@disabilityfoundation.org

Saturday/Sunday, June 7/8	Jericho Classic
Saturday/Sunday, June 14/15	DSA New Beginnings Regatta
Saturday/Sunday, June 28/29	Waves Regatta
Saturday/Sunday, July 19/20	Integration Regatta
Thursday, July 24	DSA and BCMOS Kids' Day
Saturday/Sunday, Aug. 9/10	DSA Cascadia Regatta
Saturday, Aug. 16	Bowen Island Trip



Adaptive sailing in Vancouver.