

Teams needed for Stouffville spinal cord injury event



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Stouffville's Wayne Feasby was paralysed in a 1979 water-skiing accident.

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Mr. Feasby is married to Nancy and they have a daughter, Lara, 17.

For Luke Anderson, "life changed forever Oct. 27, 2002" as he notes in his website www.lukeanderson.ca, after a mountain biking accident in British Columbia.

The former Stouffville resident was left a quadriplegic, spending months in hospital and at Lyndhurst before moving to an apartment in Toronto. At the time of the accident, he had just earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Waterloo. Now he has begun to work on custom home design projects again, particularly post and beam construction.

"I have basically been reborn," Mr. Anderson, 25, said. "Every day is an adventure."

Having to pick his way through the labyrinths of public transit, vans with no ramps and inaccessible apartments slows him down, but certainly doesn't stop him.

He's taking courses at the University of Toronto and volunteering with the Queen's Quay Sailing Club, recruiting able-bodied sailors to help the dis-

abled in the sailing program and pursuing more sponsors.

He also plans to return to photography and is working with others on having a special camera mount designed for his wheelchair.

The affable young man with the blazing red hair believes Wheels in Motion will raise awareness of those with spinal cord injuries and anyone who is disabled. He will be visiting Whitchurch-Stouffville schools

this spring to talk about his injuries and Wheels in Motion.

Mr. Anderson describes his meetings with Rick Hansen as very inspirational.

INSPIRED BY HANSEN

"Who would have thought that a man in a wheelchair could tour himself around the world?"

Mr. Anderson said, referring to Mr. Hansen's wheelchair tour in the mid-1980s.

Brenda Lobraico, a physio-

therapist who has worked with spinal cord injury patients, is the event leader for Stouffville's Wheels in Motion.

She is looking for captains to form teams of 10, be they residents, businesses or corporations, to collect pledges and challenge others to participate in Wheels in Motion.

The event is still looking for sponsors. Call 905-642-2739 for information or log on to www.rickhansen.com

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