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### ACCOUNTANTS

Lang and Associates

730 Eglinton Avenue East

Toronto, ON M4G 2K7

Attention: Mr. David Lang

### FUNDRAISING

Fred Gaby

396 Woodsworth Rd., Unit 59

Toronto ON M2L 2T9

416 445 6160



## Gabor Takacs – ADDS Member of the Year

It was the winter of 1992. Decked out in a pair of bright blue ski pants, bright red ski boots and a loosely matched jacket, I embarked on my first ever ski adventure. The equipment felt heavy and cumbersome against my then 4'6" frame but the promise of newfound athleticism and freedom was too enticing to pass up, even at that tender age. "Show me a big pizza, Gabor!" my well-meaning instructor encouraged, likely realizing that my skiing debut on essentially flat terrain didn't promise much. Not wanting to disappoint, I arced my skis into a wedge as best I could and promptly lost my balance to come into contact with a face full

of snow. Without any time to feel discouraged, I heard a familiar voice exclaim, "Good try! – You're so close!" Not sure if this was a mere shot at blind faith, good etiquette or an actual vote of encouragement, I eagerly waited to become set straight from my current predicament and have the curly ends of my skis pointing downhill again. Several weeks of much the same exercise ensued. My parents (who are non-skiers), I'm sure, had second thoughts of the pastime they had encouraged me to try. The ends of my ski weekends were generally marked by bruised hips, sheer exhaustion and a smile that wouldn't fade. This in turn made way for a relentless effort to continue. Fast forward several weeks and through much care and a healthy dose of childhood enthusiasm I managed to link together four wide turns that spawned the width of the entire slope to arrive at the bottom of a very modest green run. Though my legs were in no shape for a repeat performance (or so I thought), the encouragement was intense and, frankly, I wasn't going to let anyone down. Whether by way of luck, determination or muscle memory, part two was much the same as my previous attempt, arriving at the bottom of the same beginner hill atop my skis, unscathed. By the end of that season, I was linking turns on a modest intermediate hill. Those who had a firsthand glimpse of my progress were impressed. As for me, it was just another attempt at learning something new, fully realizing that this journey would surely be one of more than a few winters.

Several years later in my freshman year of high school I was determined to join my peers on the annual ski trip to Blue Mountain in Central Ontario. Not exactly known for my athletic finesse, many well-meaning faculty asked me to reconsider. How could this possibly be a positive experience for the lone kid with Cerebral Palsy? Relentless and likely filled with teenaged angst, I resisted and maintained that it could and absolutely would happen. Indeed, it did. Conventional high school social circles went by the wayside and the playing field was level with my (seemingly) far more athletic football player peers. I quickly realized

though that talent at football doesn't necessarily translate to talent at snow sports and promptly capitalized on this opportunity. It was arguably the single most important day that (re)defined the trajectory of my high school career.

With the onset of adulthood, and my first year of university, I took to Google to explore if there were any local opportunities to continue what had become a mostly social ski career. I connected with Fred Gaby, then President of ADDS, and was promptly greeted with a warm, "Welcome aboard, kid!" As I commence my 17th year with our club, I'm endlessly humbled to helm this great organization. Together with our Board of Directors and a team of steadfastly committed volunteers, we have the distinct privilege to be part of the largest adaptive ski club in Ontario for participants 19 years of age and older. Together, we drive the notion that adaptive skiing and snowboarding are merely more ways to get to the bottom of a mountain.



My sincere thanks to everyone who has had a part in shaping my journey as a skier; the list is long but I remember each and every one of you. Your positive impact on my life is immeasurable. I'm forever grateful and inspired to pay that forward, both to newcomers to our sport and the adaptive sports community as a whole.

## A Message from the President

As autumn is in full swing, it's time once again to look forward to another winter on the slopes. First and foremost, I would like to thank our devoted volunteers, donors and hosts at Mansfield Ski Club. As my own story illustrates, there are no words to accurately describe the value you bring to our members both on the mountain and beyond. Each one of you plays an instrumental part in driving our mission of providing adults with disabilities the opportunity for winter recreation. ADDS is truly blessed to have such steadfast volunteer staff and supporters!

This year, our annual "Think Snow" get-together will take place on Friday November 24th at The Mandarin Buffet located at 1027 Finch Avenue West. If you're able to attend, I invite you to join us for dinner and the opportunity to socialize in the spirit of skiing. The cost is \$20 per person.

As we are an organization solely comprised of volunteer staff, if you or someone you know is interested in helping out in any capacity, please contact me directly at [ski.adds@disabledskiingontario.com](mailto:ski.adds@disabledskiingontario.com)

See you on the slopes!

Gabor Takacs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabor Takacs".

President, Adult Disabled Downhill Skiing (ADDS)



## The ADDS Summer Barbeque

Submitted by  
Cynthia Berringer

Every year in mid-June, the members of the "Adult Disabled Downhill Skiing" (ADDS) group gather together with their families and friends for the ADDS Annual Summer Barbeque. For the past few years, an ADDS member (Tom Martin) and his family have graciously opened up their home to the ADDS group to host this event.

The ADDS Summer Barbeque begins with the Annual General Meeting where board members are elected or re-elected and members have the opportunity to understand the financial status of the organization as well as share program ideas for the coming ski season. Once the AGM is adjourned the remainder of the event is spent catching up with current members and their families, meeting potential new volunteers and participants, enjoying an evening campfire together, and of course, enjoying a wonderful spread of food.

As a longstanding ADDS member, I have two things that I enjoy most about coming to the ADDS Annual Summer Barbeque. Like my fellow skiers, I enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with friends who I only really see during the ski season. Also, I enjoy the opportunity to participate in the AGM. This allows me to feel I have a voice in the organization, and I can actively contribute to the decision making process in regards to the election of board members, as well as program planning for the coming ski season, to which we all look forward.