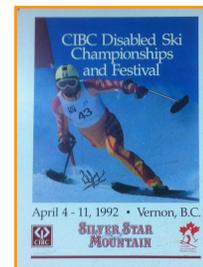


# Early History of Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports or SSASS

- During 1991-1992 season at **Silver Star Mountain Resort or SSMR**, there was still no “adaptive snow sports” program operating what so ever on mountain! Only Lars Taylor, injured while bike training, now self taught was here before us on his Mono Ski.
- Jerry Johnson, founder & president of **Canadian Association for Disabled Skiers or CADS**, due to lack of snow else where he asked friends at **SSMR** to host their National **CIBC (Sponsor) Disabled Ski Championships & Festival** from April 4 to 11, 1992. **SSMR** was owned by some of Jerry's past **CSIA** Instructors and friends, Norm Crerar & John Gow in his Ski School Director days, from Sunshine Village Resort, Banff, AB.
- After all **CADS Festival** racers, attendees and instructors returned home; in May 1992, a young mother, Donna Carter, her daughter, Daniella with MS and a few friends, were still left wondering why, there was still no program at **SSMR** for Danielle, her friends Shelly Hrynew and Brent Lloyd, all in wheelchairs?
- So Donna contacted both **SSMR** & **CADS** and they encouraged her to start their own program. She then successfully obtained a government grant for \$10,000. This went towards setting up of **North Okanagan Disabled Skiers Association or NODSA**.
- They followed with purchases from then known, **Disabled Skiers Association of BC** for: *1 Adult Sledge, 1 Child Sledge, 6 used adult original outriggers, 2 used Bi-Uniques sit-skis w/pontoons & 1 used Mono-Unique Sit-Ski*. In September 1994, **NODSA** Board of Directors was formed with Donna Carter chosen as our 1st president!
- In December 1994, our first **CADS Level 1** Certification Course was held for 10 volunteer instructors: 5 **SSMR** Ski School Instructors and 5 interested volunteers answering local newspaper ad. It was conducted by Herb Bradley, senior **CADS Level 3 Examier**, who drove from Mt. Washington, Vancouver Island **CADS** Program to run our initial course.
- Andy Mather, at suggestion of Kathie, took this course; now after 30 years, I am last of 10 these original **CADS** Instructors.
- October 1995, Tricia & Bob Smode joined **NODSA** from **CADS** program in Edmonton, AB, with **CADS Level 2 & 2A** certifications.
- This enabled **NODSA** to advertise for additional volunteer instructors. Andy having not taught in previous year due to “too many instructors and not enough students,” returned. Were soon out on those slopes, teaching and giving back to others!
- December 1996, Dennis McGuckin, another **CADS Level 3**, came over from Mt. Washington and Certified 10 more **CADS Level 1 NODSA** volunteer members.
- By January of 1996, Donna Carter had chosen to stepped down as **NODSA's** president with Brock Lawrence becoming interim president until Gord Johnson took over in April 1997.



Donna Carter Founder & our first President of NODSA/SSASS

Danielle Carter Below & Left Bi-skiing Andy Mather her Instructor



Shelley Hrynew Bi-skiing, being stage-coached by Instructor Gord Johnson



Brent Lloyd in a Sledge tethered by person unknown.



Michelle Daneyuk 4 Tracking with pair of outriggers!



Early group of NODSA Students with their CADS Instructors

David Thunder, Bob Smode & Andy Mather with original 3 NODSA used Sit-skis!



- Bob Smode was able to train 12 **CADS level 1** Instructors, preparing them to taken past their **CADS level 2 & 2A** over first full weekend in April 1996. In February 1997, Bob & Tricia Smode both chose to step down for personal reasons.
- At AGM in February 1997, Brian Brownfield, now a CADS Level 2A became next president of **NODSA & Henry Swan**, as VP.
- A vote was taken in May 2002 by all members to rebrand ourselves with a more relevant name.
- Membership chose to vote for new name: **Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports or SSASS**.
- This name was approved, as it helped to identify our location and this also allowed for **Snowboarding** by using 'Snow Sports'.
- Finally word '**Adaptive**' now was being widely used, as we work with our student's '**abilities**' and not their disabilities, by using most of same **CSIA, ASA & CADS** Teaching Methodologies or Techniques!
- These are for students with disabilities: Autism Spectrum Disorder & Cognitive Impairment; Visual Impairment; 3 Track using outriggers ; 4 Track using outriggers & Sit-skis (either Bi-ski, Mono-ski or Quadski
- **SSASS** was incorporated as a Registered BC Non-profit Society with our BN number on December 10, 1997, allowing us to provide donators with BC Tax Receipts!
- To start, **SSASS** was renting upstairs **Team Room** in **Silver Star's National Altitude Training Centre (or NATC)** and then storing all adaptive equipment in locked cage downstairs! Brian wisely found room in lower level of NATC 'under used games room' by **SSMR** guest teenagers . We persuaded **SSMR** to allow **SSASS** to rent this large meeting room, 2 key storage spaces, with direct outside access from December 15 to April 1 each year!
- Andy Mather became our next **SSASS** President in June 2002 to 2010 with oh so many happy days being a part of it all: lotsa CADS Students, Instructors, Committees, Certifications Courses, Conducting and attending CADS Festivals all across Canada .
- **SSASS** was also given very rough fundraising special event guidelines from Vancouver & Mt. Washington's **CADS** programs.
- March 1998, Andy Mather named our newest event: **The CARTER CLASSIC FUNDRAISER**, in honour of founder, Donna Carter & her daughter & our 1st student Danielle, who passed away in 1997
- This annual Special Event provides the public and /or our student's family member teams (in costumes or not), to all participate.
- Everyone "**guesses**" their time at start of 1 of 2 dual slalom courses, attempting to match their recorded time difference at Finish Line. Teams of 4 with lowest total time differences winners!
- This event has become such an extremely rewarding, successful and profitable event!
- In 2002 Brian & Brent Lloyd's parents purchased and donated our first adult Mountain Man plus a pair of Superlite Outriggers and a set of Mtn. Man pontoons to help us teach anyone like Brent who is a quadriplegic.
- Over these many years since we began, there has been outstanding innovative, forward thinking from **Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports** Presidents, along with so many supportive, talented and dedicated board members:
  - **Peter Lawson, from 2010 to 2014,**
  - **Dan Cook from 2014 to 2020**
  - **Peter Lawson, now once again in 2020!**
- **Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports Sponsorships: Lastly, we must THANK 2 of our longest and most outstanding Sponsors, without whom SSASS would simply not exist:**
  - **1st** Working successfully and learning with **SSMR** now under 5 different owners and all their excellent managers and staff; **SSASS** is eternally grateful and truly appreciates the help and support for past 30 years using the lower NATC!
  - **2nd** Each year Randy Schellenberg, a past **Certified CADS Level 2A** and oh so generous owner of **QUICKTURN Production Machining Ltd** has continuously donated to **SSASS** much needed, early funding, amazing tools, great repairs, parts and shipping of our Adaptive Equipment for free to and from their US Customs Warehouse to us at Silver Star.



**Thank you one and all, so much!**



## Some Notable SSASS Student Alumni Highlights:

**Sonja Gaudet:** Was a past **SSASS** student Bi-skier, who became Canadian National Team wheelchair curler

- In 1997 falling from a horse, experienced spinal cord injury leaving her in a wheelchair.
- Set on maintaining healthy life, enjoyed before accident, spoke to Rick Hansen about adaptive sporting opportunities, while raising children from a wheelchair, as his were of similar age.
- Tried many wheelchair sports found curling almost by accident, consulting for Vernon Curling Club
- Made her debut following year at Turin, Italy 2006 Winter Olympics.
- Sonja & her team won 3 straight Paralympic gold medals for Canada: 2006, 2010 & 2014.
- Sochi, Russia, Sonja was Canada's flag bearer for Winter Paralympics opening ceremonies.
- Also 3-time World Wheelchair Curling Champion
- By 2013, became first wheelchair athlete inducted into Curling Canada Hall of Fame.
- 2016, Sonja retired from her athletic career, 2 years later, was featured on a Canada Post Stamp!



**Josh Dueck:** Past **SSASS** Mono-skier Student Athlete who soon became **SSASS** & BCAS Ski Team member

- A Canadian Paralympic National Team Member in 2007
- 2009 World Cup Para-Alpine Downhill Champion won multiple IPC World Cup podiums.
- In 2010 Josh won Silver at Paralympic Games in Vancouver, BC.
- 2014 Won Silver & Gold medals at Sochi, Russia Paralympic Games
- Also won gold as Mono-Skier at 2011 X-Games, 2 Bronze metals at 2012 X-Games.
- February 2012 became first sit-skier to complete backflip off snow jump & landing upright on snow and skied away!
- An advocate for workplace safety and accessibility in sport
- In 2013 Josh gave on **TED**TALKS about his life experiences. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFa4wnlOWxU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFa4wnlOWxU)
- Canadian Paralympic Hall of Fame member and "once said, he feels a responsibility to give back to sport."
- Was made Chef de Mission for Canadian Team at 2022 Beijing Paralympic Winter Games.
- Today, Josh is Executive Director of Freestyle BC
- In addition to working, he considers to be "peer mentor, motivational speaker & ambassador, spreading his message of hope, sharing his story of overcoming adversity, and promoting active living."



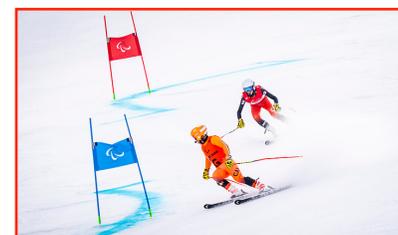
**Chelaine MacInroy:** started **SSASS** 1st as 3 tracker, quickly moving to Prashberger Mono Sit-ski Student in 2008

- Also became **SSASS** Race Team Member in 2008
- Joined BC Para Alpine Ski Team in 2009
- Then moved to Nissin Mono sit-ski in 2012 with BCAS Provincial Race Team
- Joined Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team in 2014
- Top results on Para World Cup Circuit winning 2 Silver & 3 Bronze medals
- Only sit-skier, male or female to complete in 2015 Canada Winter Games, Prince George, BC in a Slalom Course.
- Retired as racer in 2016 due to unrelated injury & then 2 years of Covid in 2020 & 2021
- Has plans to become newest SSASS Para-Alpine CADS L. 2 Sit-Skier Certified Instructor winter 2023



**Logan Leach:** began alpine skiing in 2010, after his blindness diagnosis, joining both **SSASS** & Vernon Ski Club.

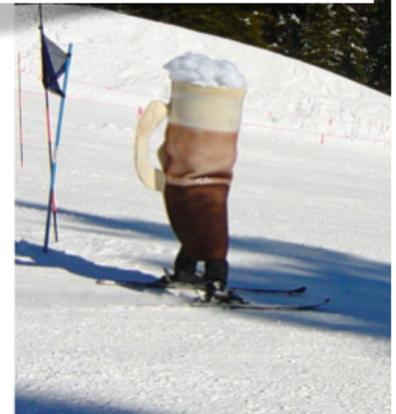
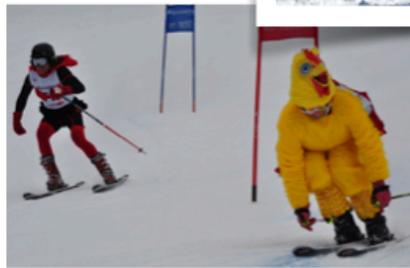
- Went to Colorado won 3 gold medals USA/Canada Para Alpine Nationals.
- First skier with disability to join Snow Sport Academy, blazing trail for others to follow.
- Named to BC Para-Alpine Development program BC Adaptive Snowsports in 2017
- Won Silver in 2019 Canada Canadian at multi-sport event in Red Deer, Alberta
- 2020, joins Alpine Canada's Para Alpine 'NextGen' program 2021-22 for World Cup
- 2020 presented with Athletic Excellence Award Pacific Sport Okanagan Community Sport Hero Awards, Kelowna, BC
- 2021, named finalist for Athlete with Disability of Year from Sport BC
- Off to 2022 Beijing, China Paralympic Winter Games, where he led by his guide placed:  
*9th in Downhill, 7th in Super G, 5th in Slalom & 6th in Super Combined!*



# SSASS' Early Beginnings as North Okanagan Disabled Skiers Association or N.O.D.S.A. from 1992 to 2001



# 20 Years of Great SSASS' Annual Carter Classic 'FUN'drai\$er Events!



# S.S.A.S.S.' Recent Past as Silver Star Adaptive Snow Sports from 2001 to 2017

