



“Dare to Dream” **Stephen Delane**



I now live in Pemberton, BC, but grew up in Red Deer, Alberta and was a member of the Red Deer Boys and Girls Club from age 6 -18. I first got involved with the Club while attending summer camp at Camp Alexo. I was a camper for 5 years and then decided to become a CIT. I wanted to give back to the kids the same positive experiences I had when I was a camper. It remains today some of my fondest memories. During those years I also became a member of the Keystone Club. I met so many people that I am still friends with today. The Boys and Girls Club had a tremendous impact on me as a youth. It taught me about commitment, unselfishness, goal setting, decision making as well as working together and having fun. It gave me huge confidence in myself. I totally believe, because of those experiences, that one can become whoever they want in life, and go for your dreams.

One day in August of 2007 I decided to go to an open tryout for the Canadian Skeleton team at Simon Fraser University. On my way there I almost turned around a couple of times because of nervousness. I then said to myself that I might as well go for it this is a dream of mine. Following my tryout I then registered for the training program in October of 2007. I will never forget my first run. I hit the roof in corner 9 and hit another wall even harder and was in a great deal of pain as I barely made it across the finish line. I wasn't even sure I wanted to try this again, but by the end of the third day I was running off the top at the Olympic men's start. I then joined the Alberta Skeleton Association. I would drive to Vancouver and fly to Calgary to train every Thursday and return home late on Sunday, work Monday to Wednesday and do it all over again. I was invited to try out for the National development Team in October of 2008. The top 12 would qualify for the Americas Cup tour. I finished 12th in the first race and 13th in the second race, only to learn that I was racing with a broken sled. Consequently I did not qualify, and also decided to stay and train on the Whistler track for the remainder of the season. I am now trying to raise the funds to cover the cost of a good sled, better equipment as well as training and travel costs. I will be assisting the team at the 2010 Olympics and once I secure my new sled, the rest is up to me. I am aiming for the 2014 Olympics in Moscow. I have faced numerous challenges and every possible reason to quit, but because of what I learned as a youth in the Boys and Girls Club, and the belief that I can do it I am going for my dream. I cannot thank the Club enough and all the people who had a role in shaping who I am today.

Stephen Delane



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Red Deer & District

HELP US SUPPORT STEPHEN'S DREAM

Recently, the Board of Directors of the Youth and Volunteer Centre Foundation awarded Stephen a \$3,000 grant to help with training costs in pursuit of his dream. This was made possible as a result of the Margaret Bolze Learning Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Margaret Bolze had a strong belief in the benefits of investing in our youth. As an alumni member of the Boys and Girls Club the agency is proud of Stephen's ambition, commitment, leadership and applauds his dedication in pursuit of his goal. In order for Stephen to make the next step in pursuit of his dream of becoming a member of the Canadian Skeleton team for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Moscow he needs to raise funds for equipment and training costs. Athletes are not subsidized by the National Association until they have successfully made the team. Stephen has made tremendous strides and is so close to his dream of becoming a member of the Canadian Olympic Men's Skeleton team. He is confident that better equipment and additional training will enable him to accomplish that goal.



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Keep checking this website for regular updates on Stephen's progress.