



Pacific National Exhibition

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

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PNE AWARDS OCTOBER 2006 MIRACLE MILE BURSARY TO DUNCAN'S BRAYDON LUSCOMBE

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The Pacific National Exhibition has named 13-year-old Braydon Luscombe of Duncan the winner of the October 2006 Miracle Mile Bursary.

Braydon, who lost his leg to necrotizing fasciitis (more often referred to as flesh eating disease) at the age of five, has overcome unimaginable physical challenges to become one of British Columbia's most promising young athletes. After meeting a former Para-Olympic athlete who faced the same challenges he did, Braydon joined the Disabled Skiing Association of B.C. at age seven and hasn't looked back. After a few short months it was apparent that Braydon had a natural talent for downhill skiing and has continued to excel at a phenomenal rate.

"He is an outstanding young man who has an undeniable passion for his sport," says Bob Hodgson, Braydon's coach and Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports (VISAS) head coach. *"At the rate he is going, Braydon will be not only be competing at the 2010 Para-Olympics – he will be on the podium."*

This year alone Braydon has competed and placed in the B.C. Disabled Ski Championships at Sun Peaks, the B.C. Winter Games in Trail and the National Disabled Ski Championships in Mount Washington. In addition, Braydon has been selected to join the B.C. Disabled Alpine "A" Ski Team, an honour that speaks to both his skill and his unstoppable drive.

Between training in the off-season, skiing through the winter and keeping his grades up as a ninth grader at Duncan Christian, Braydon has found time for community service. Whether it is volunteering at soup kitchens, visiting the elderly or giving his time to community fundraisers, Braydon has proven that he understands the importance of serving his community.

"This bursary was created to honour exemplary young people in our community," says Michael McDaniel, President and CEO of the Pacific National Exhibition. *"Braydon is an outstanding example of the young people that the PNE wants to acknowledge. He is extremely driven and always looking to the next challenge. He is a truly extraordinary young man."*

For more information on the PNE's Miracle Mile Bursary visit www.pne.ca or call 604-251-7708.

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Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over three million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four activity streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hastings Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

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