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NEWS RELEASE

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PNE AWARDS THE FIRST MIRACLE MILE ATHLETE BURSARY OF 2007 TO INSPIRATIONAL VANCOUVER ROWER, SHIRA GOLDEN

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The Pacific National Exhibition has named Vancouver's Shira Golden the winner of the Pacific National Exhibition's Miracle Mile Athlete Bursary for the month of January.

Shira has overcome seemingly debilitating physical obstacles to become one of the top adaptive rowers in the province. Injured in a rock climbing accident in 1995, Shira, who had always lead a very active life, didn't let her disability slow her down. A short seven years after her accident, Shira was a member of the Team Canada women's gold medal winning team. From there her successes continued with a bronze medal in wheelchair basketball at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games and as the first adaptive rower to enter both the BC Rowing Championships and the Delta Deas Classic.

From volunteering as a board member of the Disabled Ski Association of BC to being a volunteer with the Rick Hansen Ambassador program to representing Paralympic athletes at VANOC media events to promote the 2010 Paralympics, Shira gives her time to increasing awareness of disabled sport and ensuring that athletes have the opportunity to get involved and stay active.

"Shira has always been a consistently strong contributor to our organization," says Patrick Stafford-Smith, President of the Disabled Skiers Association of British Columbia. "Without fail, she has always followed through on the significant commitments she has made to DSABC. Our organization wouldn't exist without the contributions of Shira and others who share her passion for volunteering and the world of adaptive sports."

With the goal of representing Canada in adaptive rowing at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing and making the National Adaptive Rowing Team in order to better her 2006 fourth place finish at the 2007 World Rowing Championships in Munich, Shira's future in rowing looks extremely bright.

"The Pacific National Exhibition is happy to offer support to athletes like Shira," says Michael McDaniel, President and CEO of the Pacific National Exhibition. "She has demonstrated both perseverance and unwavering dedication to her sport and to the wider adaptive rowing community. These are two of the qualities that the Miracle Mile Bursary has been created to recognize and reward."

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 3 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 Hasting 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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