

# TESTIMONIAL

*“FOR THE SHEER JOY OF IT”*

Lynn has lived with Multiple Sclerosis for years. “I wanted to be in the wilderness environment again and to have a challenge.” We gave the *Trailrider* a trial run and it was thrilling to remember that old familiar sensation of moving down a mountain path. It was the closest I’ve ever come to flying on the ground.”

“Huge trees fallen to the earth reveal enormous root systems suspended in space; deep dangerous-looking gullies; narrow, twisting, root-infested trails; delicate ferns dancing in the almost still air; sunlight seeping through the canopy of greenery; incredibly fresh, clean air; camaraderie, heavy breathing and the odd stumble. I thought I would never again have these kinds of experiences, but thanks to the *Trailrider* ...that’s exactly what I did.”

DeLandreville, M. For The Sheer Joy of It. *Wilderness Access Perspectives*, Page 5



Thank you to the ‘Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Committee’ for purchasing the TrailRider for Campbell River!

# TRAILRIDER

The *TrailRider* is a single-wheeled vehicle designed to transport people with disabilities via the assistance of two able-bodied teammates, know as “Sherpas.” The single-wheel design provides the narrow profile necessary to access hiking trails and is ideal for trekking in environmentally sensitive areas.

Over the years, the *TrailRider* has evolved to very sophisticated levels. With each redesign, the vehicle becomes stronger, lighter, with the ability to accommodate a wider range of riders.

The “Black Diamond” - our most recent version of the *TrailRider*—provides a complete range of adjustability using “quick release” fasteners. It is lighter than previous models and fully compactable for ease of transport.



# TRAILRIDER



For more information contact:

CR Community Centre  
401-11th Avenue  
Phone: 250-286-1161  
Fax: 250-830-0164

# TrailRider Loan Procedures

- A nominal fee of \$10 per loan (up to one week) is required prior to equipment use. This fee covers administration and maintenance costs. If the borrower requests the equipment for a longer period, another \$10 per week is charged providing that the TrailRider is not previously booked).
- A damage deposit of \$100 (cash, cheque or VISA/MC imprint) is required prior to use.
- All bookings must be booked a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Availability of staff to do the orientation may determine whether or not the equipment is available in 24 hours.
- Pick up and drop off times are at the Community Centre, 401-11th Ave., Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30, unless prior arrangements have been made.

# DESIGN HISTORY OF THE TRAILRIDER

*The Sullivan/Cermak design team goes back a few years. Paul Cermak was the first engineer to respond when Sam, at the time a frustrated and relatively new quadriplegic, contacted the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC. He was asking if anyone was available to help him design and create the basic tools he needed to live independently. Two days later, Paul knocked on Sam's door and, within a few hours, had designed several solutions to the problems on Sam's list.*

*The Trailrider, however, was more challenging. Never one to waste time or material, Cermak fashioned the original prototype from a lawn chair he rescued from the scrap heap. Paul improved on the "bush wheelchair" concept by taking a "single-wheel" approach. He created a new undercarriage for the aluminum tubular frame and added a cushioned seat and headrest. The single-wheel design stabilized the ride and provided the narrow profile necessary to access hiking trails and paths. More importantly, the vehicle's lone wheel left little more than a footprint—ideal for trekking in environmentally sensitive areas.*

*The Trailrider has progressed to very sophisticated levels over the years. With each successive design, the vehicle becomes stronger, with more adjustments to accommodate a wider range of people and disabilities. Recent designs have focused on improving braking systems and cushioning, making it easier on both passengers and sherpas, alike.*

*Despite the stage-by-stage improvements, Paul Cermak is still partial to the original concept, although he concedes there's no longer a supply. "They just don't make lawn chairs like that anymore".*

*"The Trailrider is superbly engineered and designed. With the help of friendly, supportive and capable staff and volunteers, even those of us with severe handicaps can have a safe and comfortable ride in very rugged surroundings."*

