

# Abbey Park High rolls for Wheels in Motion

■ By **Krissie Rutherford**  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

For the second year running, Abbey Park High School is getting behind a Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion event.

On Friday, the school heard from Stephen Cull and Melanie Hawtin, two ambassadors for the annual Canada-wide event, which was founded in 2003 and has raised more than \$3.6 million towards awareness and funds to improve the quality of life of people with spinal cord injuries.

"I think you guys are one of the greatest ambassadors out there," Cull told a gym full of students and teachers.

"You guys really need to be commended."

Cull, who was confined to a wheelchair after a tobogganing accident at age 28, spoke to students about Hansen's achievements.

To date, the British Columbia native has raised almost \$180 million towards a cure for spinal cord

injuries and the improvement of the quality of life.

After winning 19 international wheelchair marathons and representing his country in the 1984 Paralympic Games, Hansen embarked on his Man in Motion World Tour.

In 1985, he wheeled the circumference of the earth to raise awareness and funds for spinal cord injuries.

"He went 28,815 miles," said Cull. "How can he do that? Really? What an incredible Canadian."

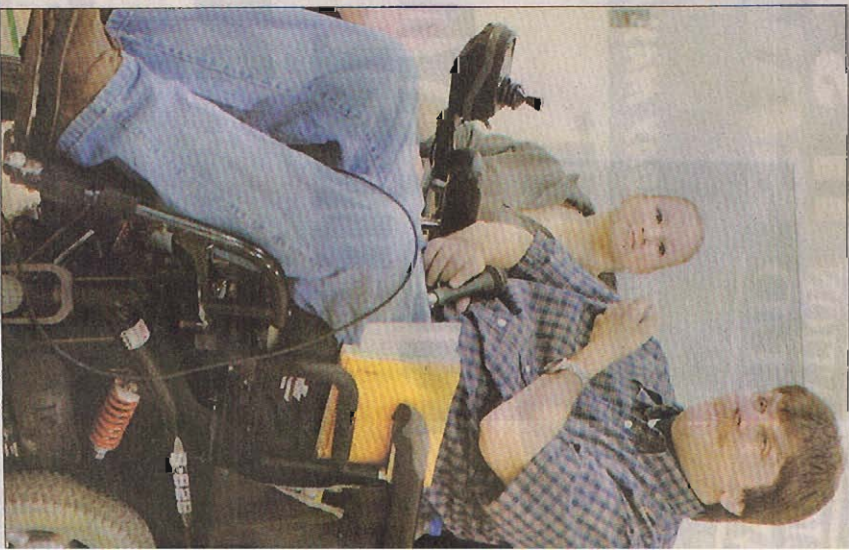
The Man in Motion World Tour raised \$26 million and spurred the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation, which is committed to improving the lives of people with spinal cord injuries.

"He's carrying on the dream – and you guys are helping," said Cull.

"I'm so impressed with what you guys are doing here."

Some of last year's fundraising in Oakville allowed Hawtin, a T.A. Blakelock student and Paralympic

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**GETTING BEHIND THE CAUSE:** Melanie Hawtin (local ambassador) and Stephen Cull speak about a cord injury and coping with a disability during a Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation pre-events assembly at Oak High School.

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