



# Carmichael Connection

## July 2017

**HEAD OFFICE**  
2219D McGarrigle Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9S 4M4  
Tel: (250) 585-2889  
Fax: (250) 585-2861

### CARMICHAEL ENTERPRISES RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS LTD

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Port Alberni woman named Canada's Nicest Person

**Excerpts from:** Alexa Huffmanon: June 23, 2017 in: Check News  
<http://www.cheknews.ca/port-alberni-woman-named-canadas-nicest-person-340576/>

A Port Alberni woman who sews blankets for sick kids has been dubbed "Canada's Nicest Person" by Roots Canada.

Angel Magnussen created Hugginz by Angel, a registered Canadian charity that provides blankets and other items for kids with serious illnesses or other medical conditions.

Magnussen, who has Down syndrome and autism, has fundraised for various charities and has made blankets for sick kids in Canada and around the world.

In May, Roots Canada was searching for "Canada's Nicest Person" in honour of Canada's 150th birthday. Canadians could nominate their friends and neighbours who made a positive impact on their community or their peers. The company announced Friday that Magnussen was the winner. A \$10,000 donation will go toward a charity of her choice. She will also receive a \$500 Roots gift card and a custom Roots Award jacket.

"I am so happy to be named Canada's Nicest Person \$10,000 will help me to sew more blankets," Magnussen said in a statement.

"I want to wrap sick kids in a warm hug to help them heal. Thank you for helping me to help sick kids."

Last year, long-distance runner Curtis Hargrove travelled for 49 days to Los Angeles to give one of the blankets to Ellen Degeneres. Unfortunately, Ellen did not receive the blanket, but the campaign helped raise money for Hugginz by Angel.



### HETEROSEXISM

### ISMS

### Myth Busting

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### DISABILITY APP

<http://www.abilityapp.org/>

STAFF SPOT LIGHTS



Birthdays ~ July 2017

Shalom	Jennifer F	Joelene
Kevin N	Jack	Maureen
Sam	Russ	Les
Al	William	Kiran
Chris M		

Staff Draw Winners

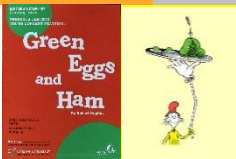
JUNE: Chovie



Welcome New Staff & Returns

William Les Susan S

RANDOM FAST FACTS



Dr. Suess wrote "Green Eggs & Ham" to win a bet against his publisher who thought that he could not complete a book with only 50 words.



To produce a single pound of honey, a single bee would have to visit 2 million flowers

OOPS!

If we have missed anyone off the Staff Spotlights please contact the office so we may correct in the next issue. Thank you!



"Isms" Myth Busting

Submitted by: Cathy Bontogon, Residential Coordinator

**Myth / Fact?** - Gays and lesbians can ordinarily be identified by certain mannerisms or physical characteristics (stereotypes).

**Here is the Fact** - Gays and lesbians come in as many different shapes, colours and sizes as do heterosexuals. Only a very small percentage can be identified by stereotypic mannerisms and characteristics. In fact, many heterosexuals portray a variety of the so-called gay stereotypic characteristics. Some members of different subcultures may tend to mimic specific behaviours in an effort to "fit in."

**Myth / Fact?** - We do not know what causes homosexuality.

**Here is the Fact** - This is by far one of the more controversial issues for the gay and lesbian community. It is not yet known what specifically causes either homosexuality or heterosexuality.

Some believe it is predetermined genetically or hormonally. Others maintain that all humans are susceptible to all variations of sexual or affectional behaviour and "learn" a preference or orientation.

Homosexuality has existed in cultures around the world for centuries. It has been a constant part of societies throughout history. The question, therefore, may not be what "causes" it, but how can we come to better understand and accept all of the complexities of homosexuality.

**Myth / Fact?** - Child molesting is about abuse, not sexual attraction.

**Here is the Fact** - Over 90% of child molestation is committed by heterosexual men against young girls.

**Myth / Fact?** - Most gay or lesbian people regard themselves as members of the opposite sex.

**Here is the Fact** - Most, if not all gays and lesbians, are comfortable with their femaleness or maleness. Being gay or lesbian must not be confused with being transgendered/transsexual, where one feels trapped in the body of the wrong sex and, therefore, may seek surgery to rectify the matter.

**Myth / Fact?** - Homosexuality is not "natural" - that is, it does not exist in nature, therefore, that proves that it is dysfunction.

**Here is the Fact** - From a scientific point of view, it is "natural." Any animal, including humans, is capable of responding to homosexual stimuli. Research suggests that homosexuality is almost universal among all animals and is especially frequent among highly developed species.

**Myth / Fact?** - No one can have their sexual orientation "converted."

**Here is the Fact** - Homosexual "conversion" is no more common than is heterosexual conversion. Most, if not all, gays and lesbians have no desire to "convert."

**Myth / Fact?** - Gay and lesbian people have made a conscious decision to be gay.

**Here is the Fact** - The "decision" may not be whether one is going to be gay or not, but rather whether one is going to acknowledge the existence of personal homosexual feelings and behaviours. "Coming out" is a very complex and difficult process. It may take a long time for many gays and lesbians to "choose" to accept their homosexuality as a valid and normal lifestyle.

Those who struggle with their gay identity may suffer enormous anxiety, pain, and anger as they work to repair the instinctive conflict between societal messages and their own feelings and their feelings and preferences their own feelings and preferences.

## Inventor meets his hero, Ellen DeGeneres, leaves with \$25,000

Excerpts from: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/may/25/young-post-falls-inventor-meets-his-hero-ellen-deg/>

Alexander Knoll, a 12-year-old inventor and entrepreneur from Post Falls, grew emotional when he met his idol this week.

Dressed in a suit and blue tie, the boy with red hair and freckles broke out in tears when he sat down next to Ellen DeGeneres on her show, which was taped Tuesday and aired Thursday afternoon.

"You're my hero, and just thank you so much for having me on. This is incredible," said Knoll, a sixth-grader at Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy.

DeGeneres invited Knoll on her show to talk about his creation, [Ability App](#), a free app and website that will help people with disabilities navigate public spaces and find safe, reliable services and employment opportunities.

"It's amazing," she told him as her studio audience cheered.

DeGeneres said she would introduce Knoll to her digital team to help his ideas flourish. She also surprised him with \$25,000, courtesy of Shutterstock, to help get the app off the ground.

"You're my hero," she told Knoll at the end of the segment.

An avid fan of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," Knoll met her for the first time as he walked onto the set in Burbank, California, with the cameras rolling.

"It was very overwhelming, but it was so amazing seeing Ellen standing up from her chair and the audience," Knoll said Thursday after school. "All of it was coming at once and it was incredible."

In an October 2015 profile in The Spokesman-Review, Knoll explained that he was inspired to develop the program as he watched a man in a wheelchair struggle to open the door of his grandparents' old Black Sheep Sporting Goods store in Coeur d'Alene, before they opened a new store with accessible features. Alex figured there could be a way to help people learn about access before they go somewhere, so he set out to create it.

As Yelp is to eating out, Ability App is intended to give users such details as the locations of wheelchair ramps, accessible boat launches and hiking trails, service animal-friendly locations and restaurants with Braille menus. Other features may include grocery delivery, occupational therapy, transportation and mobility, and disability-friendly job listings.

Knoll also has imagined voice-activation and eye-tracking features for users who don't have use of their limbs. His passion for drawing and design led him to create a clever logo that appears on the app's

Facebook page, website and business cards for the venture. His mother, Anne Knoll, has been at his side, assisting him on the computer.

Knoll has met people with disabilities and learned about their challenges. A family friend who is paraplegic told him she could have used his app during a recent trip to the East Coast, staying in unfamiliar towns along the way, to buy a wheelchair-accessible vehicle.

In March 2015, Ability App took best in show at Invent Idaho, a statewide student invention competition. Knoll got to explain his project to Idaho Gov. Butch Otter, first lady Lori Otter and state lawmakers at the state Capitol in Boise.

The judges "were just unanimously blown away, impressed, with his idea and with the heart that he has for others," Beth Brubaker said at the time. She is the state coordinator of Invent Idaho and a project specialist at STEM Charter School in Rathdrum, where Knoll previously was enrolled.

That summer, Knoll was named grand champion of I Cubed online challenge, a budding student invention competition whose theme that year was special needs. In August 2015, he presented Ability App to a crowd of entrepreneurs and technology experts at the Think Big Festival in Coeur d'Alene. A month later, Knoll donned his business suit and spoke before University of Idaho computer science students and faculty in Moscow.

"I believe we have the power to make the world a better place for those who need help," he said in one of his many presentations.

Knoll has been looking for financial backing to bring his invention to life. In November 2015, he and his family traveled to Ireland to speak with potential investors at Web Summit, the world's largest Web conference, in Dublin.

Knoll also is raising money for Ability App [via a GoFundMe campaign](#). As of Thursday evening, he had received just over \$2,400, most of that in the hours after the episode aired.

"We want to make it the best it can be for people with disabilities," he said. "It's going to cost a lot of money with all of the ... employees and the servers and the location. It costs a lot of money."

Knoll said the \$25,000 from DeGeneres will be a big help in launching his app. "I'm going to work on it as hard as I can and as fast as I can until we get it out," he said.



## UP COMING EVENTS



## INTERNATIONAL SELF-CARE DAY

July 24, 2017

<http://isfglobal.org/international-self-care-day/>



## CARF Canada

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<http://www.carf.org/Events/Webinars/>



In Celebration of Canada's  
**150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

## CANADA DAY

July 1, 2017



## Austin Riley Moving up to Nissan Micra Cup!

Excerpts from: <http://canadiankartingnews.com/austin-riley-moving-up-to-nissan-micra-cup/>

### *Young karting star from Ontario advances career with Nissan Micra Cup, drives message of hope and inspiration at every turn*

Nissan and JD Promotion & Compétition are proud to announce 18-year-old karting champion, Austin Riley, as a new driver for the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup season. The teenager from Uxbridge, Ontario, has been racing since he was eight-years-old, competed and succeeded at every level of karting, and inspires crowds of people to follow their dreams with every race.

At the age of 12, Austin was diagnosed on the high-functioning end of the autism spectrum. Although his racing career was in its infancy, Austin's parents, Jason and Jennifer Riley, did not stop his racing dreams, instead, they did the opposite. With the support of family, friends and the karting community, the Rileys nurtured Austin's burgeoning talent and he found his element on the race track.

As the racing accolades poured in, and Austin's racing abilities developed, the Rileys realized they had a unique story to share. In 2013 they established Racing with Autism, a platform to raise awareness about autism and Austin's official racing team.

"Motorsport has given my son countless things he hasn't been able to find anywhere else in life, and one of them is acceptance," says Jason Riley, president of Racing with Autism and Austin's father. "It also teaches coping mechanisms you can't learn anywhere else, but ones that you can apply every day, no matter what the situation."

Austin has proven his mettle in the karting community being a three-time karting champion and with numerous career highlights including second place in the 2016 Championship Ron Fellows Karting Challenge in the Rotax DD2 Shifter division, and second place at ECKC Goodwood Kartways in 2016.

It was Nissan Micra Cup veteran driver Metod Topolnik of Azure Racing, and wife Marie Christine Bédard, who introduced the Rileys to the Nissan Micra Cup, after learning about Austin and Racing with Autism. Autism awareness advocates themselves, Topolnik and Bédard were inspired and encouraged by Austin's achievements, and reached out to his family.

"Our son Thomas was diagnosed with autism at two-years-old and at that moment, our world stopped. We never could have expected this for our beautiful, curious and affectionate little boy," said Bédard. "Metod and I began doing everything we could to give Thomas the best chance for a better life, and became advocates for autism awareness. When we learned about Austin's achievements, it gave us immense hope, and we wanted to help support and encourage Austin in the pursuit of his dreams and share this message of hope with people like us who need it most."

### Riley Makes His Micra Cup Debut



More information and the complete list of drivers who will participate in what will be an exceptional season of the Nissan Micra Cup will be provided soon. In the meantime, please visit: [www.nissan.ca/micracup](http://www.nissan.ca/micracup).

To learn more about Austin, visit: [racingwithautism.com](http://racingwithautism.com)

After Topolnik offered his Micra Cup race car for Austin to try on the track last year, the Rileys realized something they once considered out of reach – advancing to car racing – was a real possibility. Topolnik of Azure Racing rallied support from Groupe Touchette Pirelli, The Els for Autism Foundation and The Miriam Foundation, to sponsor Austin to participate in the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup season, marking the first time Austin will compete in car racing.

Austin's debut continues a pattern already seen in the Nissan Micra Cup family. Valérie Limoges; Samuel Crowe; Nicolas Barrette; Kevin King; Stefan Rzdazinski and the Micra Cup champions from the 2015 and 2016 seasons respectively – Olivier Bédard and Xavier Coupal – all earned their racing stripes in karting.

"Offering innovation and excitement for everyone is the heart and soul of the Nissan brand and absolutely carries over into the motorsport side of the business," says Joni Paiva, president of Nissan Canada Inc. "The Nissan Micra Cup grid is an assembly of highly-skilled, passionate men and women with a mixture of driving backgrounds. Austin diversifies the Nissan Micra Cup series in a wonderful way. I look forward to seeing how Nissan Micra Cup and spec series racing will further advance Austin's already-impressive career."

On May 7th, the Nissan Micra Cup drivers, including Austin, gathered in Mirabel for the annual test day ahead of the season start. Austin's passion for advancing his career was apparent, as the young karting star gained speed and confidence with every lap. "I've been really excited to drive on the track as a Nissan Micra Cup driver. Getting behind the wheel of the Micra one day before I turn 18 is the best birthday gift I could ask for," says Austin Riley. "Racing is where I belong. I strongly tell everyone to keep following their dreams, nothing is impossible."

"This is a very exciting time for us as a family, as a team, and for the autism community. Austin is about to embark on a fun challenge with the Nissan Micra Cup, but one that is necessary to further cultivate his talent, which we staunchly believe, has no bounds," Jason Riley added. "I'd like to sincerely thank Metod and Marie of Azure Racing, Groupe Touchette Pirelli and all our sponsors, as well as the Nissan Micra Cup team, for helping make this happen. It's going to be an incredible season."

Carmichael Connection

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