

Josh Dueck Speaker Profile



Independence, success, and even love came at an early age in Josh Dueck's life. When most teens are struggling to figure out what they'll do after high school, Josh had a clear vision. He would make a career out of his passion — freestyle skiing. He would travel the world, skiing competitively for a spot on the World Cup circuit.

Training eight to ten months a year left little time for earning the dollars he needed to compete. The burden was heavy and in 2002, after two years of trying to realize his vision, the money ran out and Josh accepted the position of head freestyle coach at Silver Star Freestyle Ski Club in Vernon.

While completing the Silver Star's site preparation for the Canadian Junior Nationals Josh took a test jump that changed his life, "I was doing a test jump and miscalculated my speed," says Josh. "I ended up going much too large and over-shot the landing hill. I landed chest first and folded in half like a scorpion."

Months of rehabilitation were required so Josh could learn how to live his new life as a paraplegic. The freestyle community, his parents, and an "angel" named Lacey bonded together, making his recovery the most enjoyable and exciting time of his life.

Josh has taken on new challenges and volunteers with the BC Freestyle Club, learning new skills like how a non-profit organization is run, bookkeeping, and speaking out about the importance of working safely. More importantly, he has returned to his first love – skiing. He says, "Prior to my injury, when I saw someone in a wheelchair I'd think to myself, 'life's done for that guy; it's all over.' It's not, it's just different – I'm on a mission to blow down that stereotype by competing at the 2010 Olympics!"

For more information, or to schedule a presentation, please contact:

Breanna Graham
WorkSafeBC, Public Affairs
Email: breanna.graham@worksafebc.com
Tel: 604-231-8578 Fax: 604-279-7545
Toll Free: 1-888-621-7233 (Local 8578)

Support Services
Tel: 604-276-3100
Toll Free: 1-888-621-7233