

Deputation for October 28, 2024

Presenting: Maureen Munden, Rod Crane, Michael Pocock

Rod Crane is a local athlete who attended BVCS and GBSS in Meaford. He was a promising goalie on our local Beaver Valley teams. At the age of 18 he injured his spine and his life changed in an instant. His story is one of resilience and triumph, a story that has touched the heart of many. Despite the challenges and uncertainties he faced, his determination and perseverance along with an unwavering spirit he not only regained his strength but he pursued higher education, graduating from Niagara College with a diploma in Recreational Therapy.

In 2018 Rod reached new heights when he became a member of our National Para Hockey Team representing Canada on the world stage at the Beijing Paralympics and clinching a Silver Medal. His achievements echoed the dedication and grit of all para athletes, leaving a profound impact on the hearts of those who witnessed his triumph. As we have all seen from the most recent Paralympics in Paris, the dedication and grit of these athletes is inspiring.

I have been involved with Special Olympics, a worldwide sporting agency dedicated to sport for individuals with intellectual disabilities, for over 20 years and know the transformative power of sports in the lives of our athletes and families.

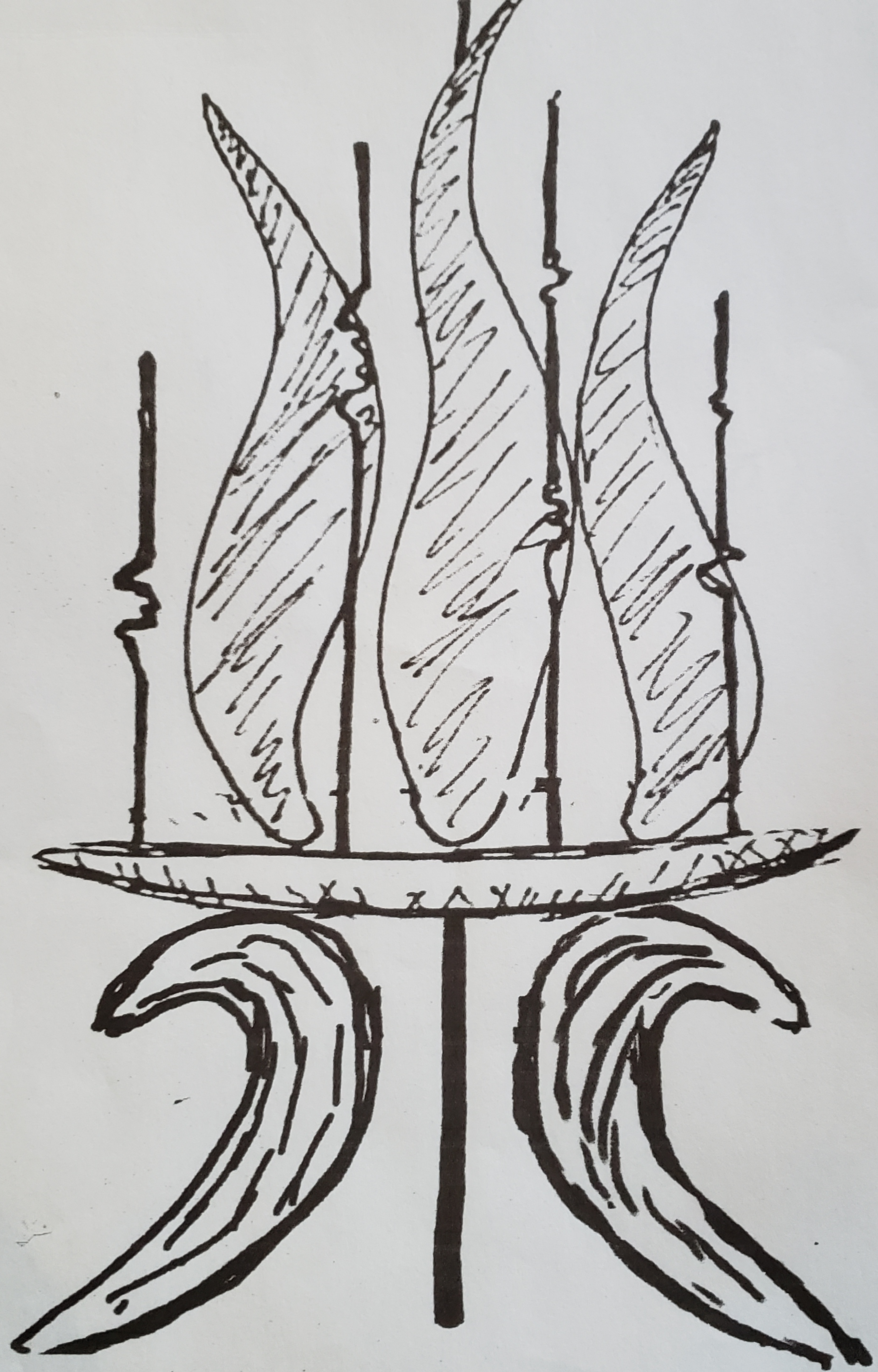
As a local citizen I am unaware of any official recognition for Rod. I am proposing a monument to be set in one of the two new wildflower beds outside our arena, a community focal point. A public statement for a private man who has inspired his community, friends and family. In recognising his accomplishments, we also have the opportunity to showcase the paralympic movement and its contributions to the lives of people with physical disabilities. The hope is to shed light on the paralympic movements significance for empowering all individuals.

As the vision for the sculpture developed in cooperation with Michael Pocock and Rod, the sculpture began to symbolize not just Rod's story but also a reflection of everyone's struggles and victories. The project's funding drive will symbolize the communities unwavering support for Rod and the values he represents, unity and strength bound together. It will be visible to the entire community with its outdoor placement and professional lighting, making it visible throughout the duration of all hockey seasons.

I am proposing a sculpture by Michael Pocock. We are requesting a financial commitment of \$10,000 that would pay for the materials for this piece. We are committed to community engagement and plan to raise at least \$5000 towards this project. This would necessitate a removal of the requirement for 3 tenders on the sculpture.

In celebrating Rod Crane's inspiring journey, the Town of the blue Mountains will find a source of both pride and inspiration for generations to come.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.







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