



Holiday Closure



Thank you to all that made it out to the Annual Open House; we enjoyed your company and thank Carol, Nikki, and Helio for going above and beyond to make this another successful event.

Our last day at the shop before Xmas is December 21st. We will be closed through until January 2nd;

so, please accept this as **our appreciation and gratitude** for your continued support and our official **Happy New Year!**

CWSA 70-50-40

We had the pleasure of joining a lot of folks that have been instrumental in the wheelchair sport movement last weekend and swapped a lot of stories; some of them even true!

Congratulations to all that worked/volunteered to make this Gala Event possible and to acknowledge few of many that have made some contribution worthy of attention. The following is the official wrap up from the CWSA web site:



On Saturday, December 16th, the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association's (CWSA) year-long 70-50-40 anniversary celebration culminated with a formal gala at the Westin Hotel Ottawa. The

70-50-40 event marked three major milestones in the history of wheelchair sports in Canada: 70 years since the first activity in wheelchair sport started at Deer Lodge Rehabilitation Center in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 50 years since the CWSA was officially incorporated in 1967 and 40 years since the Canadian Heritage Sport of 'Murderball,' or Wheelchair Rugby as it's now known, was invented in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

To celebrate these milestones, the CWSA presented 50 Years 50 Stories in which weekly stories profiled an individual or event in

the CWSA's history and produced a commemorative book of history and photos, "1947-2017 A History of Canadian Wheelchair Sports." A showcase of memorabilia and history kicked off the event enjoyed by many important contributors to the development of wheelchair sport in Canada. "I am so happy to see so many people who were members of teams, boards and committees that I have worked with and not seen for many years," said CWSA Vice President, Laurel Crosby.

The Hall of Fame events the following evening included video and photo compilations as well as award presentations for outstanding contributions and excellence.

The Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association Hall of Fame

Seventeen athletes and fifteen builders were inducted into the CWSA Hall of Fame, honoring those individuals who have made outstanding and extraordinary contributions to the association, since it was founded in 1967.

In the Athlete Category:

Chantal Benoit, QC
 Joanne MacDonald, NL
 Peter Colistro, BC
 Reg McClellan, AB
 Walter Dann, NS
 Ron Minor, AB
 Sandra DeVenney, NB
 Chantal Petitclerc, QC
 Diane Earle, AB
 Diane Pidskalny, MB
 Elaine Ell, AB
 Eugene Reimer, BC
 Mel Fitzgerald, NL
 André Viger, QC
 Clayton Gerein, SK
 Daniel Westley, BC
 Doug Lyons, QC

In the Builder Category:

Vic Cue, BC
 Kathryn Newman, BC
 Laurel Crosby, BC
 Maureen Orchard, MB
 Tim Frick, BC
 Michael Riding, NS
 Rick Hansen, BC
 Dr. Donald Royer, QC
 Dr. Robert Jackson, ON
 Allan Simpson, MB
 Gary McPherson, AB
 Dr. Robert Steadward, AB
 Roger Mondor, QC
 Stan Stronge, BC
 Barbara Montemurro, ON

The Inaugural Class of the Canadian Wheelchair Rugby Hall of Fame: The first inductees into the newly-created Canadian Wheelchair Rugby Hall of Fame included thirteen athletes and five builders who epitomize commitment and excellence in the Canadian Heritage Sport of Wheelchair Rugby.

Inducted in the Builder Category, are the four men who created the sport of Murderball in a small rehab gym in Winnipeg,

Manitoba in 1977. They are **Gerry Terwin, Paul LeJeune, Randy Dueck, and Duncan Campbell.**

Also recognized in the Builder Category is Pawel Zbieranowski. Pawel's leadership and commitment to the growth of the sport provincially, nationally and internationally, laid the groundwork for the sport's inclusion into the Paralympic Games.

Garett Hickling, widely recognized as the best wheelchair rugby player in the world for over a decade was inducted in the Athlete Category. Garett competed for Team Canada in every World Championship and Paralympic Games from 1995 to 2012 and in the first wheelchair rugby event held at the Parapan American Games in 2015. He was named Canadian Team Flag Bearer at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Also recognized in the Athlete Category was **Judith Zelman.** Judith was the first woman to play on the Canadian National Team and one of the first of two women to compete internationally at the 1995 World Championships. 49 Bespoke Inc. has offered an annual award in her honour.

Canada's Gold Medal winning team at the 2002 World Wheelchair Rugby Championship included 12 remarkable athletes from across Canada. They are:

Mike Bacon, SK	Daniel Paradis, QC
Dany Bélanger, QC	Allan Semeniuk, SK
Ian Chan, BC	Patrice Simard, QC
Adam Frost, BC	Daryl Stubel, SK
David Gagné, QC	Michael Whitehead, ON
Garett Hickling, BC	David Willsie, ON

"Our wheelchair sport history is now protected and archived as a result of this project and many remarkable individuals have received long overdue, and well-deserved, recognition" said CWSA CEO Catherine Cadieux. Check it out here: <http://cwsa.ca/news-events/article/dec-21-2017/cwsas-70-50-40-anniversary-celebrations-come-close>

Abilities Expo Toronto

January 19-21, 2018 are the dates for the second annual Abilities Expo in Toronto at the International Center. Last year at the inaugural event there were over 2000 attendees and a full house of exhibitors. This year is looking even better as there is no conflict with the London Blizzard Sledge Hockey Tournament which usually attracts about 500 people (their event is the following weekend in London, Ontario) and we hope to see them here in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

This year, we will have an island booth setup and we will be offering tires, tubes, and snap on tires along with complete wheel setups right at the show. Thanks to Abilities and their Canadian Show folks at Caneast, we will highlight Kenda, Schwalbe, CEW, Spinergy, Loopwheels, and a host of other products that end users

will be able to pick up at the show!



Naturally, we will have our whole product line at the show and yes, Batec (including the Mini), Benoit Systemes, and ZX-1 rides will be available.

CarboLife Coming



We are pleased to announce that CarboLife will be coming to us in early January in time for the Abilities Show. We will be introducing the line and hope you will see it as a compliment to our current offerings, expanding the choice to access their push rims or have them installed on your choice of wheels. Visit their site at <http://carbolife.de/en/>

VARILITE® 2018



Due to customer demand the Zoid™ will be available in January with the standard valve configuration only! The Zoid™ is their low profile, active-user, skin protection cushion and the smaller standard valve will be much more compatible with the users' needs.

VARILITE® price lists are being updated for 2018 and will be on-line in January. While Varilite continues to strive to maintain competitive pricing, minimal price increases were made on a few items for 2018, which is our first price increase since 2009. Most major products were not affected by this price increase; however, you will note a change with the Reflex, Reflex D, Solo™ and Solo PSV™, along with replacement cushion covers.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 CWSA 70-50-40 Ottawa, ON Dec 15-16;
- 49 49 Bespoke Closed Dec 22 – Jan 2, 2018;
- 49 Toronto Abilities Expo Jan 19-21, 2018;
- 49 CFPDP Valentine Gala Feb 3, 2018;
- 49 Los Angeles Abilities Expo Feb 23-25, 2018;
- 49 34th Annual ISS March 6-9, 2018 Vancouver, BC.

BESPOKE PLUS is the newsletter of a privately owned Canadian company called 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world that are designed to better meet the needs of people with a disability.

We have grown up in sport, have a social service background, and have adopted an advocacy role in our business practice. The next issue will be our 16th year requesting your comments and questions!