



BESPOKEPLUS



"If your work speaks for itself don't interrupt"

Build Your Space

Julie Sawchuck, B.Sc., B.Ed., RHFAC is an author, professional speaker, designated Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification professional, and a lady with a zest for life assisting others along the way who are also learning new things while getting from A to B in a wheelchair.



After completing construction on her own fully accessible home, she wrote the book "Build Your Space – How to Create an Accessible Home for You, Your Family, and Your Future!" This book compliments her work in running a program "Building Without Barriers" which is an online platform for accessible design and construction, something she offers to architects, OT's, trades, homeowners, etc.



Now, in collaboration with Samantha Proulx and Jane Vorbrodt she has penned the book "Building Better Bathrooms" and it is now available on Amazon or through

her store www.juliesawchuck.ca. For Julie and her collaborators, it has never been about book sales, but it is key to getting the books into the hands of the people who need to know what is written on those pages. The book considers all the important elements of bathroom design. Julie writes, "If we had some wicked grant to fund this passion project, we could send you a free copy, but alas, that is not the case."

Here is what you need to know:

1. Written by Julie Sawchuck, with C.E.T. Samantha Proulx and Architect Jane Vorbrodt;
2. Published March 2021 — the most up-to-date building resource there is;

3. Printed in CDN (Blyth, ON) in full colour 167 pages;
4. \$45 plus tax and shipping by Canada Post - you'll have it in a week;
5. If you want to buy multiple copies for your course, students, or firm? Get in touch with Julie directly.

Fuel Service



In another issue of Bespoke Plus we wrote an article on the growth of self-serve fuel stations. It is sometimes inconvenient or not an option for a person with a

disability to use the self-serve option (which is most places now) at the gas station. We noted that SCI Ontario's web site had information on the subject as it related to some of the companies providing fuel and that has been updated with [here](#).

Contact information for Esso Customer Service at 1-800-567-3776 Shell Customer Service 1-800-661-1600 Petro-Canada Customer Service at 1-800-668-0220 Ultramar Customer Service 1-800-363-6949 Husky Customer Service 1-800-661-3835.

SCI Ontario encourages motorists with disabilities to communicate their gas station experiences to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario at 1-888-520-5828.

The [Canadian Coalition of Mobility Challenged Drivers \(CCMCD\)](#) was founded in 2017 by Edward Rice, the Chairman of the Ontarians with Disabilities League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, and Louise Russo, founder of W.A.V.E. (Working Against Violence Every day). Their mission is to work in partnership with government,

businesses, and non-for-profit organizations to strive for a barrier free environment for mobility challenged drivers.

A new app to assist disabled drivers with refueling their vehicles was developed and has been in operation for some time now in Canada! FuelService is being piloted by Shell Canada in approximately 1300 stations from coast to coast in Canada. It is free application, available for iPhone and android, and easy to use.

It's a simple 3 step process:

1. Open the app and search for a station nearby for assistance;
2. Pick a station and FuelService will contact the station to ask if they can help;
3. If the station can help, they let the driver know when an attendant will be out.
4. [Get the app here!](#)

Supply and Demand

The doubling of rents and double-digit escalation in real estate pricing as referred to in the industrial real estate business is all about supply and demand. From a small business owner perspective, that is anything but true. When a municipality, a region, a province, and ultimately the national ground we live on is bought up by foreign REIT's and other multi-billion-dollar funds it is a monopoly and the people, the small businesses that pay 52% of our government spending must dig deeper to stay in business or sell out; that rises to over 90% of businesses when you add in medium size companies (100 or more employees).

If this type of development is ultimately good for the country, then the governments at all levels should stand up and own it while explaining the short and long term positive or otherwise impact on Canadian culture and development. But we do not hear that as our inquiries to the municipality and province have been passed on to the federal government; we have yet to call Mr. Trudeau.

Naturally, we should have listened to our purchase voices years ago when property was \$50-\$100 per square foot. But, when you are trying to introduce new products and doing your best to meet the needs of the customer, you do not pay enough attention to the economics of doing that work. Now, in this area the going price is between \$300-\$400 per square foot for industrial property making our move to an owned building in the \$6-8,000,000.00 range.

We will be at Caldari for six more months or as soon as we can find new digs; still, only at a 65% increase in rates. Thank you, PIRET/Blackstone for the accommodation.

Paralympic Foundation



The Canadian Paralympic Committee recently announced the appointment of The Great One, Wayne Gretzky to the Paralympic Foundation of Canada Honorary Board. In addition, Wayne Gretzky Estates has formed an exciting partnership with the Canadian

Paralympic Committee (CPC) as an official supplier.

The Honorary Board is comprised of individuals who are committed to helping the Paralympic Movement stay strong and grow across Canada. Members are appointed by the PFC's Board of Directors. Gretzky becomes the fifth member of the volunteer-based Board alongside Senator Chantal Petitclerc, Rick Hansen, Scott Russell, and Dr. Robert Steadward, all luminaries in their respective fields. Read the full release [here](#).

British Lead the Way

British Wheelchair Basketball announced the launch of first-ever Women's Premier League for wheelchair basketball. This is the first women's professional wheelchair basketball league in the world!

The introduction of the league is a game-changing moment for the sport and will attract the world's best wheelchair basketball players, signposting the UK as a destination for high level, quality competition for aspiring female talent. The first season will run from December 2021 to May 2022. See www.britishwheelchairbasketball.co.uk for more information, congratulations UK!

Bits and Bytes

- 49 OSOT/Sheila Buck Virtual Workshop June 3-4, 2021;
- 49 Abilities Expo June 25-27, 2021 Chicago, IL;
- 49 Paralympics **Aug 24–Sept 5, 2021** Tokyo, Japan;
- 49 Abilities Expo Oct 1-3, 2021 New York, NY;
- 49 Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE **October 6-9, 2021**;
- 49 37th ISS **October 27-30, 2021** Pittsburg, PA;
- 49 Abilities Expo Nov 12-13, 2021 Toronto, ON;
- 49 9th Annual SCI Conference November 16-18, 2021.

BESPOKE PLUS is the newsletter of 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world 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. **Comments are welcome.**