

Bespoke Plus

If Your Work Speaks For Itself, Don't Interrupt!



2025 Election Thoughts

Canadians went to the polls on April 28, 2025, and listened to the media negatively beat up on the Conservative leader as a lifelong politician and drawing a comparison to the negative side of US politics, while embracing change as being a new Liberal leader espousing the Conservative platform. Regardless of whether you voted for the red status quo, blue, orange, green change, or the Bloc you did your civic responsibility. We had 11 other parties with candidates running this year, 27 deregistered parties, three that lost their eligibility to become registered, and two eligible parties that withdrew. And one riding with 91 candidates and forces that proved enough to oust the leader of the Conservative Party. None of the parties should be walking away from political reform and all the parties should be able to listen to the opposing view, discuss it, and freely vote.

If the Conservative party leadership stays in the Ottawa area, they may want to be clear on what they are going to do with the civil service and they may want to rethink defunding the CBC. There are generations of civil servants with the largest employer in the Ottawa area, the federal government. Many of us grew up with the CBC as the only station available and it was an objective third party. It does not appear to be that today, and like many things today, money might have something to do with it.

Interesting times where we end up again having a separatist party interfering in a national agenda, a provincial party that is flirting with something similar, along with the backdrop of 10 states musing with ways of being tied directly to Canada! This should not be all consuming.

Schwalbe Tire Update



We have distributed the Marathon Plus tire for years. The industry has enjoyed its performance as best in class referring to it as the Flat-less® (Black'nRoll) non-marking tire for wheelchairs. The five millimeters of blue puncture resistant material under

the tread keep flats from the outside leaving the most likely

failure issues to problems on the inside like rim strips or broken beads on installation. In addition to providing maximum puncture protection, and super durability, they are also hand friendly with a patented smooth sidewall which is standard on all Schwalbe wheelchair tires. They will be showcased on our new web site coming soon.



We also have limited supply of the "Green Marathon" from Schwalbe billed as the pioneer in puncture protection, mileage, and environmental friendliness. It has a three-millimeter strip of puncture protection referred to as "Green Guard" and originates from the bicycle industry. It is produced entirely from Fair Rubber consisting of 70% recycled or renewable materials. Among other things, it is the first tire with carbon black from recycled bicycle tires (rCB), 98% pollution-free, revised tread pattern optimizing rolling performance, and is recommended for bikes and e-bikes. It is the latter we are testing and trying for our industry.



We now have stock in the internationally popular "Dunk King" tires. Referred to as the specialist for indoor sports, it was developed with German national wheelchair basketball players to set new standards. The tread is adapted to the camber of the wheels and offset accordingly. It does not extend over the entire width of the tire saving weight coming in at 230-265 grams.



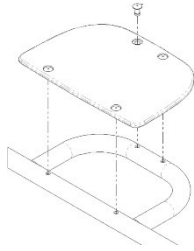
The properties of the newly developed rubber compound have low rolling resistance and high grip. The carcass has reinforced sidewalls and is enormously stable, allowing extreme maneuvers. The tire with up to 10 bar air pressure (145 PSI) is made for fast maneuverability and maximum loads. The 2Grip sidewall provides a tire that is very easy on the hands to push. The white tread leaves no marks on court and the sidewall was designed bordeaux red analogous to traditional basketballs.

APEX TRACK WHEEL



The Track Wheel shown here, like the Freewheel is approved for use on the APEX from Motion Composites. Clamping onto the footrest (tubular with or without ABS top is preferred) the Track Wheel lifts the

casters off the ground and lengthens the wheelbase. This creates a safer outdoor wheeling situation allowing for easier off-road navigation.



These ultra-light Track Wheels are also available with a double arm clamp for different chair configurations and many folding frames.

Hal Wade Merrill 1964-2025



The Canadian Rugby Wheelchair Nationals will be held May 29 – June 1, 2025, in Montreal, QC but one long time athlete will not be there. Hal Merrill of Charter's Settlement, New Brunswick passed away March 14, 2025. Our condolences go out to his wife Tracey (Harper) Merrill and son Ian, family, and friends in all the communities this athlete, coach, administrator, and mentor to many touched and loved dearly.

Hal worked as a Highway Designer with the Department of Transportation in NB and had retired a few years ago. He was a three-time Paralympian (Barcelona, Atlanta, and Sydney), in the NB Sports Hall of Fame, along with many years of competition provincially and nationally in both wheelchair basketball and rugby. He was renowned for the selfless giving of his time and energy mentoring others with spinal cord injuries often paying tribute to his mentor and coach, Leroy Washburn.

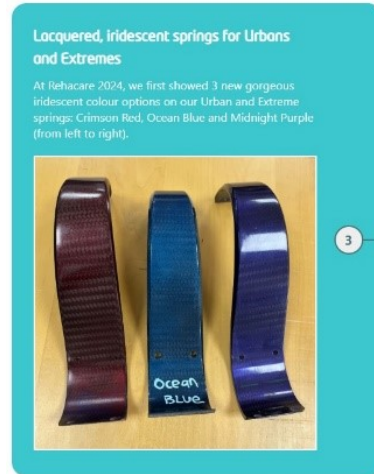
TrackZ Mobility - ShockZ



TrackZ Mobility have made a double spring suspension system to provide vibration and shock absorption to your wheelchair ride. They promote a smooth and enjoyable ride on all

terrains. Lightweight and easy to install in just a few seconds on most wheelchairs. They encourage a trial of their system to treat you to an uncompromising mobility experience.

Loopwheels New Colors



Power add-on's or electric handbikes provide unparalleled freedom for wheelchair users by allowing faster travel across any type of terrain with ease.

When you get the front casters out of the equation and start to go over rough sidewalks, transit tracks, curbs, cobblestones, and what have you, there is going

to be more vibration and movement to the rider's body. That is why Loopwheels were developed and now they are available in different colors.

Loopwheels can cushion the shocks of overcoming obstacles and absorb the vibrations of the wheelchair when using power products. The result is a comfortable ride with reduced back pain, and to go longer and farther.

If you want to learn more about the benefits of these suspension wheels, please check out the [Research Evidence and Studies page](#) on [Loopwheels.com](#).

Bits and Bytes

- 49 Abilities May 2-4, 2025, New York, NY;
- 49 RESNA May 12-16, 2025, Chicago, IL;
- 49 W/C Bball Nat Champ May 23-25, 2025, Oshawa, ON;
- 49 NAAW Access Show May 28, 2025, Waterloo, ON;
- 49 Rugby Nationals May 29- June 1, 2025 Montreal, QC;
- 49 Adapt Expo May 31, 2025, Ottawa, ON;
- 49 Abilities June 20-22, 2025, Chicago, IL;
- 49 CSMC September 9-10, 2025, Toronto, ON;
- 49 Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE September 17-20, 2025;
- 49 CDHF October 09, 2025, Royal York Toronto, ON;
- 49 OSOT Conference October 23-24, 2025, Toronto, ON.

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.**