



BESPOKE PLUS

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

TO2015 Parapan



We received a thank you recently from the organizing committee of the TO2015 Parapan event coming to Toronto next year. This was related to our participation in the development of a catalogue of equipment created to support the Sport Equipment Fund pillar of the TO2015 Parapan American Development Program. This catalogue will be used by the National Paralympic Committees (NPC) to enhance participation in parasport in the America's region.



This week (October 27-30), we will participate in the TO2015 the Sport Equipment Marketplace taking place at the NPC Chefs de Mission seminar at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2M9. This seminar will include representation of the delegation leaders for each of the 28 NPC's represented in the region, as well as the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and future host organizing committees (over 45 delegates in total from across the Americas and Caribbean). The purpose of the Sport Equipment Marketplace is to provide suppliers with the opportunity to establish relationships with new customers across the Americas region, while also allowing NPC members to have a first-hand look at the parasport equipment that has been made available to them through the equipment catalogue and Sport Equipment Fund. Therefore, this issue of Bespoke Plus will be RGK related in an attempt to highlight the tremendous job they have done over the years to compliment the development of sport for athletes with a disability; something that we have done since our inception as well. We hope to see some of you in Toronto October 27-30 for the Equipment Marketplace!

RGK On-Line

RGK Wheelchairs Ltd. has been producing Bespoke (Custom Made) wheelchairs since 1988. The drive behind the operation comes from Russel Simms and Greg Eden, owners, partners, and former National Team players for the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Team!

Although the majority of ultra-light Bespoke wheelchairs produced by RGK are daily use, they have grown to be acknowledged for manufacturing some of the best sport product available in the world.

Operating out of the West Midlands in the United Kingdom, their company has grown organically since their inception and now employ 40-45 people and have enjoyed steady growth in productivity every year. They own a 30,000 sq ft plus site and manage their business in three departments - Engineering, Operations, and Commercial.

RGK has a range of models in daily use and sport, showcasing all products on their web site.

Here at 49 Bespoke Inc., we have been promoting their products in North America since 2000.

RGK Elite

Out of the 246 wheelchair basketball chairs at the London 2012 Paralympics about 56 or 21% were RGK Elite units. Combine this number with all the other RGK products at events like this drive home the fact that Russel and Greg have done an incredible job of manufacturing products that have proven advantageous for the individual athletes using them. Their units are all Bespoke, but the base models may be seen on-line at www.RGKLife.com.



Supporting Sport



Like RGK giving back by supporting the development of sport for athletes with a disability in the UK, 49 Bespoke Inc., has supported the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (CWSA)

Rugby Nationals and the Judy Zelman Award.

We have

annually supported Wheelchair Basketball Canada as well through National Championships and CWBL events including activities surrounding Man in Motion events over the years.



Canada has derived significant benefit from Rick Hansen over the years by way of his Foundation and leadership leveraging the \$26 million raised during the original Man in Motion World Tour to more than \$245 million in investments toward SCI research, rehabilitation and quality of life initiatives. Participating in sports draws people with disabilities

into community and promotes emotional and physical health, while also encouraging communities to build accessible spaces and services for all to enjoy. All things that events like TO2015 aims to do with their cultural values highlighted under the five words of:

JOY - COLLABORATION - ACCOUNTABILITY - RESULTS - PURPOSE



2015 Proclamation

The Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) headed up by one of the best sport administrators in the business, Karen O'Neill put out a news release on October 16, 2014 showing their pleasure with the proclamation by His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, that 2015 will be the Year of Sport in Canada.

This certainly bodes well for the upcoming games in Toronto, but during the proclamation on Parliament Hill they featured the ceremonial torch lighting for the Prince George 2015 Canada Winter Games - one of the key events in the Year of Sport - and a prized development opportunity for young athletes.

"Congratulations to the Canada Games Council and the city of Prince George on the lighting of the torch, which I know will be a beacon of inspiration for our country's developing athletes," said Karen O'Neill, CEO of the Canadian Paralympic Committee. "The Year of Sport will promote Canada's position as a leading sports nation and highlight the power of sport to enhance the lives of all Canadians."

The Year of Sport in Canada is a proactive pan-Canadian initiative to celebrate the role that sport plays in society and with the CPC we look forward to the Year of Sport, in particular the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games to be held following the Pan Am Games July 10 to 26 on August 7 to 15, 2015. There are many other events highlighted on the 2015 Year of Sport in Canada site at <http://www.pch.qc.ca/eng/1412868764465>.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 TO2015 Parapan Sport Conf. Oct. 27-30 Toronto, ON;
- 49 21st Cdn Disability Hall of Fame Nov 3, Toronto, ON;
- 49 SHHC Conference & Trade Show Nov 7, Calgary, AB;
- 49 SHHC Conference & Trade Show Nov 18, Toronto, ON.

BESPOKE PLUS markets/promotes **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE**® Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA**, and **Ki Mobility** products, along with Spinergy, Topolino, Glance, Spintek, Frog Legs, Schwalbe, Sun Components, Natural Fit, MBL, Blax, etc.

Comments are welcome; contact the editor Reg McClellan in the manner you wish below.