



# BESPOKE PLUS

"If your work speaks for itself don't interrupt", Canada 150.

## Connections



Matthew Fleet with the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities in Peel Region is organizing another edition of Connections 2017 (18<sup>th</sup> annual) at the Mississauga Convention Center May 3 from Noon to 7:00 PM.

This annual event promotes community connections, new products, and is free for all to attend, end users of assistive device products, prescribers, funders, and other industry related folks with the exhibitors supporting the event to the tune of a \$200.00 contribution per booth.

*The Coalition for Persons with Disabilities was formed as a not-for-profit community-based partnership of persons with disabilities and community groups working collaboratively to affect positive changes for persons with disabilities in the regions of Peel, Halton and Dufferin. Operating since 1985, it was established in order to avoid duplication of services and to foster cooperation, trust and collaboration to meet the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. Their on-line address is [www.disabilityaccess.org](http://www.disabilityaccess.org).*

## CSMC



The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canadian Seating and Mobility Conference (CSMC) goes this week at the International Plaza Hotel in the GTA. The on-line presentation reads: *This year's program promises to offer an exciting and interesting variety of topics for all of us who work in the area of assistive technology. The Conference program consists of educational, exhibitor and business workshops.*

*Networking and fun are always a huge part of our Conference and this year will be no exception. Our exhibitor and partner lists grow each year and we encourage you to take full advantage of the networking and informational opportunities in the Exhibit Hall.*

*See the latest product updates, get informed about services available, connect with new and old acquaintances and expand your knowledge of the field in which we all work.*

CSMC is supported by manufacturers and distributors with a key organizational role played by partners like Invacare,

Ottobock, Permobil, Pride, and Sunrise Medical. It is open to clinicians, technicians, and dealers within a fee structure and registration is mandatory. Product end users are not invited to attend this event.

## NWBA Hall of Fame



What a tremendous time we had in Louisville, KY at the National Wheelchair Basketball Association's Finals. It used to be the Final 4, but this year there were 7 divisions vying to be named champions; an

honour for seven (7) division teams determined after a schedule that included 95 teams, 420 games, and basically 12 courts of action from 8am – 10pm over the course of five (5) days!

As a member of the Hall of Fame and that Committee, we enjoyed the benefits of hooking up with a number of friends and catching up with folks that play a big part in our lives.

## CWBL Finals 4 Women



We were privileged to act as a sponsor for the CWBL Finals for Women (now referred to as Nationals) last weekend in Burlington, ON. The event was organized by the

Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association (OWSA) headed up by Laura Wilson who has revitalized the association and is enhancing the program and services available to wheelchair athletes in Ontario.



Congratulations on the work done Laura, Josée, and all!

We look forward to working with you and your team at the wheelchair Rugby Nationals in Hamilton, ON May 26-28!

## 70-50-40

What does 70-50-40 mean to the wheelchair sport community across Canada? Well, 2017 is a really big year for the Canadian

Wheelchair Sports Association...

- It's been **70 Years** since the first activity in wheelchair sport started at Deer Lodge Rehabilitation Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1947.
- It's been **50 Years** since the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association was officially incorporated in 1967.
- It's been **40 years** since the Canadian Heritage Sport of 'Murderball,' or Wheelchair Rugby as it's now known, was invented in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



As Canada is celebrating its 150th anniversary, CWSA is celebrating these three milestones in the history of wheelchair sport in Canada to recognize the significant achievements and

contributions of some amazing people who made it all possible: the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and partners.

## Sacral-Ischial Indent



*After VARILITE Air-Foam Floatation cushions (such as Evolution PSV™ and Meridian™) have been used a number of times, the sacral-ischial foam area may appear to become indented, as shown.*

This is natural for these products because the soft, less firm foam of the sacral-ischial area, by design, exerts less "push back" on the cushion fabric than the surrounding firmer foam. The four-way stretch cushion fabric accentuates the indentation.

These **VARILITE®** products are under pressure and therefore the air in the sacral-ischial area foam is still supporting the load and providing pressure displacement. The role of the foam is to keep the air where it is needed and preserve the cushion shape. This kind of indentation would be of concern for foam-only cushions, as it would indicate that the foam had developed a permanent set. The Air-Foam Floatation technology of **VARILITE®** cushions prevents this from happening.

As a reminder to preserve the life span of **VARILITE®** products, the valve/s in the cushion should be opened at least once per week when the cushion is not under load. That will allow the interior open cell foam to fully inflate and maintain the elasticity in the material while providing years of the best pressure distribution in the strongest, lightest, most maintenance free manner possible!



## OSOT Events 2017

The Ontario Society for Occupational Therapists (OSOT) ran the 7th Seating and Mobility Workshop 'Understanding, Evaluating, and Justifying Your Prescriptions of Seating and Mobility Systems' on April 7, 2017 in Barrie, ON. The event featured Sheila Buck, BSc. OT Reg. (Ont.) with twenty five (25) Assistive Device Program prescribers.

We take this opportunity to provide a thank you to the new lady on board at OSOT in Special Events and Marketing (Cassandra Venere) and OSOT Executive Director (Christie Brenchley) for making this workshop happen. These events do not happen without product and financial support so thank you **Advanced Mobility Systems, Power Plus Mobility, Westech HealthCare, Theracare Marketing, Continent Globe, Motion Specialties**, and of course, **49 Bespoke**.

Next on the agenda is a cooperative approach introducing up and coming occupational therapists to products and services at the People in Motion Show May 26-27.

In addition, we are getting close to nailing down dates for the Niagara Region and Windsor, ON for the next two (2) workshops in this series.

## Bits and Bytes

- 49 OSOT Linked in to Learn April 7, Barrie, ON;
- 49 CWBL April 7-9 UofQ Montreal, QC;
- 49 McKesson Showcase Toronto, ON April 21-23;
- 49 CWBL Women's April 21-23 Burlington, ON;
- 49 Defi Sportif April 24-30, Montreal, QC;
- 49 Connections 2017 (Event 4 All) May 3 Mississauga, ON;
- 49 CSMC May 2-3 (Prof Registration) Toronto Congress Center;
- 49 Abilities Expo New York Metro May 5-7;
- 49 People In Motion Show May 26 PIM Toronto, ON;
- 49 CWSA Rugby Nationals May 26-28 Hamilton, ON;
- 49 Canada – Germany Event May 30, Toronto, ON;
- 49 Accessibility Fair June 3, Vaughan, ON;
- 49 Rolling Spokes Show June 8, Brandon, MB;
- 49 U23 World Championships June 8-16, Toronto;
- 49 Abilities Expo June 23-25, Chicago, IL;
- 49 Prairie Heart Show September 11, Regina, SK;
- 49 MEDICChair Show September 13, Saskatoon, SK;
- 49 Rehacare (Event 4 All) October 4-7, Dusseldorf, DE;
- 49 ISS Vancouver, BC March 6-9, 2018.

**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. Comments are welcome.