

Bespoke Plus

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



**WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSORIES**



2025 W/B Nationals

OnPara, Durham Sport, Wheelchair Basketball Canada, and the Oshawa area are welcoming Canada's Best wheelchair basketball players this weekend to that sports National Championships!



The games will be held **May 23–25, 2025** at Durham College Ontario Tech University in Oshawa. The event will bring together top athletes from across six provinces to compete in both men's and women's divisions. The teams from Manitoba, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and a Women's MIX team will treat fans to an incredible weekend of competition, sportsmanship, and provincial pride!

2025 Rugby Nationals



Parasport Quebec and Wheelchair Rugby Canada will be hosting the 2025 Wheelchair Rugby National Championships **May 29 to June 1** in Montreal, Québec at the Claude-Robillard Sports Complex.

Wheelchair Rugby Canada acknowledges this event is hosted on the traditional territories of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation and acknowledges this historical and ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples on the land.



As per our annual commitment to sport and active living we are providing apparel, wheels, or awards for these events along with **Spinergy Wheels** for four MVP's (two for each tournament) complete with Kenda K196's.

Events are streamed and we wish everyone all the best at these two events. Good luck to all competitors!

Omobic Tires

The Gazelle, Speedlite, and Trailblazer are on new chair order forms to answer end user demand for more quality tires for various purposes. These products are part of the OMOBIC line for more than the active user market.

All of the Omobic wheelchair tires have a puncture-resistant layer to ensure the user a safe ride. Each model offers different benefits to the user.



The Gazelle (24"-25") is an ultralight and elegant looking tire for users who often remove the wheels from their wheelchair and for users who are looking for a tyre with minimum rolling resistance. It weighs only 205 g (size 24"). The use of Kevlar bead wires

instead of traditional steel wires not only makes the tire very light – it also makes the tire foldable and therefore suitable for taking along on trips. The Gazelle tire is furthermore built with a 15 mm protection belt made of tightly weaved nylon fabric (SPL) which provide a high level of puncture resistance. Available sizes of the OMOBIC Gazelle are 24" (25-540) and 25" (23-559).



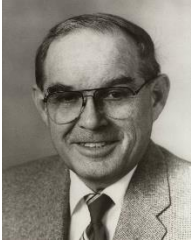
The Trailblazer (20"-26") is extremely puncture resistant and durable. Built to last with a high and wide protection belt. At the same time, it is easy running.



The popular Speedlite (20"-26") tire is your optimal choice if you are looking for a very easy running, yet durable all-round tyre.

These tires are all in stock along with the offerings from Kenda, Schwalbe, Sentinel, Cheng Shin (CST), Innova, Shox, Primo, Tufo, IRC, etc. Remember when there was only one?

H "Boots" Cooper 1935-2025



H. "Boots" Cooper celebrated his 90th birthday April 9th and passed away April 25th. He was a wheelchair sports builder involved since the 1960s in various administrative roles with the Paralympic Sports Association in Edmonton, the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association, Alberta Northern Lights Wheelchair Basketball Society, National Wheelchair Basketball Association, and the Canadian Federation of Sport Organizations for the Disabled. The administrative positions "Boots" held kept him busy in early retirement and gave him the time to attend numerous competitions as a staff member or team manager.

Competitions included everything from municipal competitions, to provincial, national and international with highlights at the Pan American Games, Wheelchair Olympiad (later known as Paralympics), and the Stoke-Mandeville World Games. He is extremely involved as the secretary-treasurer of the Sports Fund for the Physically Disabled.

Boots was cremated and ashes will rest beside his parents. There will not be a funeral, and his wishes were for donations to go toward wheelchair basketball.



Need For Speed

One of the most common questions asked when people are selecting a front power add on is how fast it will go; and it never seems fast enough for a lot of folks. While end users are preoccupied with speed (and it is almost always faster not slower) the medical establishment is asserting their control over these products and imposing slower speeds for all users. Some advocate 10 kilometers per hour, most 15, while the user demographic is seeking 30 or 40 kilometers per hour and more.



Most of these devices are able to leave the factory set at whatever is ordered and most are changeable in the field through their display like the PAWS or with hardware like the Batec line.

The rules and regulations ultimately come from Medical Device Regulations (MDR) developed through the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF). That group aims to *"strategically accelerate international medical device regulatory convergence to promote an*

efficient and effective regulatory model for medical devices that is responsive to emerging challenges while protecting and maximizing public health and safety". The March 2025 Meeting of this volunteer group was held in Japan and the meeting recap is available on the web site at www.imdrf.org along with a host of other information that appears all too bureaucratic to this writer.

2025 NAAW

National Access Awareness Week became National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) and is celebrated the last week of May in Canada. In 2025 it occurs from May 25 to May 31 and we are participating in two events this year May 28th at Rim Park in Waterloo at the Accessibility Tradeshow and Conference and in Ottawa May 31st at Adapt Expo Ottawa in the Field House and Ravens Nest at Carleton University.

NAAW activities are a time for Canadians to celebrate the contributions of persons with disabilities while recommitting to creating a more inclusive and accessible society. It's not just about awareness—it's about action.

It began as an opportunity to promote inclusion and recognize the efforts made by individuals, communities, and organizations to remove barriers for people with disabilities. It's rooted in the values of the Accessible Canada Act, to make Canada barrier-free by 2040. The 2025 Theme is *"Forward Together: Accessibility for All"*.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 W/C Bball Nat Champ May 23-25, 2025, Oshawa, ON;
- 49 W/C Rugby Nats May 29-June 1, 2025 Montreal, QC;
- 49 Accessibility Tradeshow May 28, 2025 Waterloo, ON;
- 49 Adapt Expo May 31, 2025 Ottawa, ON;
- 49 Kevin Mills Celebration of Life June 7, Newmarket, ON;
- 49 Abilities June 20-22, 2025, Chicago, IL;
- 49 Abilities August 1-3, 2025, Houston, TX;
- 49 Abilities September 5-7, 2025, Phoenix, AZ;
- 49 C&R Expo China September 12-14, 2025, Beijing, CN;
- 49 CMEF September 26-29, 2025, Guangzhou, CN;
- 49 CDHF October 09, 2025, Royal York Toronto, ON;
- 49 Abilities October 17-19, 2025, Ft. Lauderdale, FL;
- 49 OSOT Conference October 23-24, 2025, Toronto, ON;
- 49 CSMC September 9-10, 2025, Toronto, ON;
- 49 Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE September 17-20, 2025.

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.**