



THE NEWSWHEEL

We're Moving!

2010 WORLD WHEELCHAIR RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE COMING TO VANCOUVER/RICHMOND!

BC Wheelchair Sports Association and the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (CWSA) have won the bid to host the 2010 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships from September 16-25, 2010, in Vancouver/Richmond, defeating Great Britain in the process. "This is truly rewarding," says Kathy Newman, Executive Director of BCWSA. "We had plenty of experience putting this bid together and after losing the chance to host the world wheelchair basketball championships, we were determined to make this one a winner".

The United States are the reigning world champions after defeating New Zealand 34-30 at the 2006 World Championships in Christchurch, NZ while Canada took the bronze with a 23-19 win over Great Britain. "We want to keep the momentum going after Whistler/Vancouver hosts the 2010 Paralympic

Games," adds Cathy Cadieux, Executive Director of CWSA. "Fans of Paralympic athletes will get the chance to watch one of the most exciting sports in the world."



There will be 12 countries and 144 athletes competing over six days of competition. The World Championships will take place at

the signature legacy venue of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Wheelchair rugby is a sport created in Canada, by Canadians, for athletes who are quadriplegic. With mechanics and rules borrowed from team handball, ice hockey and basketball, wheelchair rugby is the only full contact sport played by athletes with a disability. Developed by three Canadians from Winnipeg, Manitoba including BC's own Duncan Campbell, wheelchair rugby was the fan favourite at the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney and in Athens in 2004.

BCWSA is thrilled about this opportunity and will be building up the community interest and excitement over the next two years. The next local rugby event for spectators to observe this exhilarating sport will be at the Vancouver Invitational Tournament at Bonsor Recreation Centre in Burnaby March 28-30, 2008. Check our website for more information:

www.bcwheelchairsports.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bridging the Gap	2
Rugby	2
Tennis	2
Hockey and Target Sports	2
Athletics	3
Basketball and Curling	4
New Address	4

CWSA AND TENNIS CANADA AWARD BC

Several BCWSA members were recipients of this years awards given out at the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association's Annual Awards. Following are the winners:

Stan Stronge Memorial Award (for fair play and dedication)

Jennifer Krempien (Basketball)

Doug Grant Team of the Year

BC Men's Provincial Wheelchair Basketball Team

Judith Zelman Rookie of the Year Jessica Des Mazes (Basketball and Athletics)

Volunteer of the Year Steve

Campbell "Skinny" (Rugby)

Male Athlete of the Year

Richard Peter (Basketball)

Additionally, Tennis Canada honour BCWSA's Director of Sport Development, **Gail Hamamoto**, who has recently been awarded a Tennis Canada Distinguished Service Award citing her hard work and dedication to tennis over the years. In their official acknowledgement, the Tennis Canada Board of Directors and Tennis BC stated: "Your contribution to the sport has been extraordinary, and we are delighted to be able to formally acknowledge your commitment."

Congratulations Everyone!

UP COMING HIGHLIGHTS

- * **HAVE A GO DAYS** Abbotsford (March 15), Kamloops (April 19), Vernon (April 20) (See Pg 2)
- * **VANCOUVER RUGBY TOURNAMENT** Bonsor Rec Centre, Burnaby, March 28-30/08 (See Pg 2)
- * **ATHLETICS CLINIC** April 12-13/08 (See Pg 3)
- * **MINI-BASKET FESTIVAL** Sullivan Heights Secondary, March 22-23/08 (See Pg 3)

BRIDGING THE GAP

HAVE A GO DAYS near you...

ABBOTSFORD

March 15, 2008
11:00 - 3:00pm
Rick Hansen School
(31150 Blueridge Dr.)

KAMLOOPS

April 19, 2008
11:00 - 3:00pm
Sahali Secondary School
(255 Arrowstone Dr.)

VERNON

April 20, 2008
12:00 - 4:00pm
Boys & Girls Club
(3300 37th Ave)

CURRENT BTG PROGRAMS

'Introduction to Wheelchair Sports'
Tues. and Thurs at 3:00 pm (in the GF Strong gym)

GYM RATS JUNIOR PROGRAM
(In Association with the Spina Bifida Association)
Wednesdays at 6:00 pm (in the GF gym)

'HAVE A GO DAYS' at GF Strong
(4255 Laurel Street, Vancouver)
3:00 to 5:00pm
Coming up on:

March 4, April 28 and June 10, 2008



For BTG Information, Contact

Jackie Ehgoetz
at 604-737-3191
jackie@bcwheelchairsports.com

or
Kevin Bowie
at 604-737-3194
kevin@bcwheelchairsport.com

****New Program****

SURREY JUNIOR WHEELCHAIR SPORTS CLUB

Join us outdoors for Tennis and Athletics! A weekly Tuesday program beginning April 15th from 4:00 - 5:30pm at Holy Cross School (160th and 88th) in Surrey. For more info on this program contact Jackie at 604-737-3191 or jackie@bcwheelchairsports.com

Check out
our up-
coming
Have a Go
Days...

TENNIS



Sarah Hunter
with Great
Britain's Peter
Norfolk

Since the Birmingham Canadian Nationals in November some of BC's best have travelled to Australia for competition. BC's Sarah Hunter and Yuka Chokyu competed in the Sydney International, January 6-12, 2008. Sarah played in the finals of the doubles (not completed due to rain) and semi finals in singles losing to the 2nd seed. Yuka finished in the quarter finals of singles and the semi finals in doubles. Following this, the Australian Open was held in Melbourne, January 14-27, with Sarah placing 2nd in doubles and losing to the first seed in the quarter finals. Congratulations on all of your hard work Sarah! Further congratulations goes to Yuka Chokyu who additionally competed in the New Zealand Open and the Queensland Open in Australia. BCWSA tennis programs run throughout the year and exist in

many communities. Stay tuned for up-coming social days, clinics, leagues and round robin tournaments in your area.

Current BC Tennis Programs
North Vancouver - Grant Connell
Contact: Uros at 604-616-0495 or uros@bcwheelchairsport.com
Richmond - YY Tennis Club - Contact: Kevin at 604-313-4675 or kevin@bcwheelchairsports.com
Victoria - Cedar Hill Rec Centre
Contact Dean at 250-475-7126 or gillisd@saanich.ca
Kelowna - Parkinson Rec Centre
Contact: Louise at 250-469-8784 or lroberts@city.kelowna.bc.ca
Vernon - Vernon Tennis Club
Contact Randy at rischell@shaw.ca

For general information contact:
Uros Budimac at 604-616-0495 or uros@bcwheelchairsports.com

RUGBY

The Rugby season is fully underway with the league having great participation and the National team training and competing in Florida. Ongoing practices are held at Ray Cam Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Up Coming Events
Vancouver Invitational Wheelchair Rugby Tournament
Bonsor Recreation Complex, Burnaby—March 28-30, 2008
2008 Canada Cup
Bonsor Recreation Complex
June 25-29, 2008

For more information contact:
Adam Frost at 604-737-3193 or 778-772-9492 or adam@bcwheelchairsports.com

TARGET SPORTS

The 2008 Canadian Airgun Grand Prix was held 22-24, 2008 in Toronto. Congratulations to BC's Chris Trifonidis who attended. The next upcoming event will be trials for Beijing, held in May.

For more information contact:
Chris Trifonidis at 604-876-9932 or triffs@shaw.ca

HOCKEY

Wheelchair floor hockey will be starting up again April 20, 2008 at Riley Park Arena (50 East 30th Ave, Vancouver) on Sundays from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals should contact Hilary Brown at 604-323-7944 or hjbrown@shaw.ca



The WC Race Series held their annual awards night January 26th, 2008. The following awards were the awards given out.

- Most Improved Track: Ilana Duff
- Most Improved Road: Alex Dupont
- Western Canada Series
- Open Men: 1st Place: Simon Harrington, 2nd Place: Jim Hudec
- Open Women: Cory Harrower
- Quad Men: Rob Mabey
- Quad Women: Michelle Stilwell
- Track Series 1st Place: Ilana Duff, 2nd Place: Michelle Stilwell, 3rd Place: Alex Dupont
- Smilin' Marv Foisy BC Road Series 1st Place: Simon Harrington, 2nd Place: James Hustvedt, 3rd Place: Michelle Stilwell, 4th Place: Lou Gibson, 5th Place: Brad Skeats

CURLING

Curling is growing everywhere in BC. **Current programs**

Vancouver - Marple Curling Club, contact Darryl at dneighbour@telus.net

Richmond - Richmond Curling Club, contact Darryl at dneighbour@telus.net

Victoria - Juan de Fuca Rec Centre, contact Stef at stefbarber@shaw.ca

Kelowna - Kelowna Curling Club 250-762-3112

Vernon - Contact Sonja 250-545-7979 or Sharon 250-542-6713

Maple Ridge - Golden Ears Curling Club, contact Fred at 604-463-4813

Prince George - Contact Joe at joe.rea@canforpulp.com

Fort St. John - contact Lori at slaterl@shaw.ca

New Programs

Abbotsford - Abbotsford Curling Club, contact Bill at 604-859-9244.

Coquitlam - Contact Joanne at 604-329-7819.

Nanimo - Nanaimo Curling Club 250-753-3474



For more information contact:
Curl BC at
604-737-3143, curling@curlbc.ca
or memberservices@curlbc.ca

ATHLETICS—WC RACE SERIES

Avchen (Harivel) Pinkard Rookie of the Year: Nathan DeWitt



Nathan DeWitt's mother accepts the Avchen Pinkard Rookie of the Year Award for Nathan from Avchen's husband Jeff Pinkard

Regular Athletics Programs

- Vancouver** - Eric Hamber Track (Oak & 33rd) Starting April/May Mondays 5:00-8:00 pm
- GF Strong Rehab (4255 Laurel St) Tues and Thurs 3:00-4:00
- Surrey** - Holy Cross School (160th & 88th) Starting April 15, 2008 Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 pm

Up Coming Events

Annual Pre-season Clinic April 12-13th, 2008 (Pinetree Community Centre, Coquitlam)

Vancouver Sun Run (10K) Sunday, April 20, 2008

Victoria Dogwood Track Meet May 10-11, 2008

The race series would like to extend a special thank you to all of their sponsors. Check out their website at www.raceseries.com.

For more information contact:
James Hustvedt at 604-616-7106
james@bcwheelchairsports.com



Sun Run 2007 - Come out and cheer on our athletes this year!

BASKETBALL



BC Wheelchair Basketball's winter City League has wrapped up in what was a fun and competitive 6 week session. They had 22 members making up 3 teams with some welcome newcomers. The next session of City League will be launching some time in May.

BC-CWBL: As the newsletter went to print the BC-CWBL division 1&2 Finals were being played March 1-2, 2008 at Douglas College. The winner will be representing BC at the CWBL Div. 1 National finals that will take place April 11-13 in Regina. January 12-13 the Kamloops Bulldawgs were hosts to a very successful Div. 2 tournament with 5 of the 6 teams participating.

BC Games: Wheelchair basketball players from around the province took part in the BC Winter Games in Kimberly-Cranbrook, February 21-24. Thirty-nine athletes representing teams from Northern BC, Vancouver Island, the Okanagan as well as two Lower Mainland teams had the chance to

travel and compete. Zone 8 defeated Zone 6 in the final with Zone 4 taking bronze.

NWBA: The BC Cable Cars Wheelchair Basketball Team returned from the 2nd NWBA Div. 1 tournament in Toronto February 1-3, upholding their undefeated streak of 6-0 on the season. The NWBA season continues March 7-9 in Milwaukee, March 21-23 in Dallas and concludes with the finals April 4-5 in Lexington. The NWBA league is the most competitive league in North America featuring some of the best players in the world. BC's participation in this league is possible through the generous support of the Rick Hansen Foundation.

Juniors: 2008 Western Mini-Basket Wheelchair Basketball Festival will be held March 22-23 at Sullivan Heights Secondary School in Surrey. The program is for youth born January 1, 1991 or later and is played on the lowered (8 ½ ft) hoop height.

For more information contact: BC Wheelchair Basketball at 604-737-3138 or info@bcwbs.ca or check out the website at www.bcwbs.ca

Excellent work everyone and good luck this year!

Mini-basket aged juniors from across BC and Western Canada are invited to participate in the mini-basket wheelchair basketball festival!



We're Moving!

Our new address will be...

BC WHEELCHAIR SPORTS ASSOCIATION
 3800 Cessna Drive, Suite 290 B
 Richmond, BC V7B 0A2
 Phone: 604-333-3520 Fax: 604-333-3450
 Toll Free: 1-877-737-3090

Check out our website for info and updates:
www.bcwheelchairsports.com

Wheelchair Loans Want to try one of our sports but don't have the equipment? We do! BCWSA offers the wheelchair loan program which allows you to rent a chair for a nominal fee and try the sport of your choice. The cost for the rental is \$10 per month or \$100 dollars for the year. Bursaries are available for those in need. If you're interested in trying one of our chairs please feel free to check out our web site at www.bcwheelchairsports.com or Contact: *Kevin Bowie* at 604-737-3191 or kevin@bcwheelchairsports.com



BCWSA STAFF LIST

****Note: New phone numbers will be in effect April 1, 2008 - Please see our website for details****

Executive Director	Kathy Newman
604.737.3091	knewman@bcwheelchairsports.com
Director of Sport Development	Gail Hamamoto
604.737.3195	gail@bcwheelchairsports.com
Program Coordinator	Kevin Bowie
604.737.3194	kevin@bcwheelchairsports.com
Program Coordinator	Jackie Ehgoetz
604.737.3191	jackie@bcwheelchairsports.com
Community Liaison/Demo Team	Richard Peter
604.787.3986	richard@bcwheelchairsports.com
Rugby-Provincial Coach	Adam Frost
604.737.3193	adam@bcwheelchairsports.com
Athletics-Regional Coach	James Hustvedt
604.616.0495	james@bcwheelchairsports.com
Tennis-Provincial Coach	Uros Budimac
604.616.0495	uros@bcwheelchairsports.com
Administration	Linda Lee
604.737.3197	llee@bcwheelchairsports.com
Bookkeeper	Debbie Carnaby
604.737.3197	dcarnaby@bcwheelchairsports.com
BTG-National Coordinator	Duncan Campbell
604.737.3196	duncancampbell@cwsa.ca

BCWBS STAFF LIST

Managing Director	Carrie Linegar
604.737.3138	carrie@bcwbs.ca
Program/Member Services Coordinator	Scott Stefani
604.737.3193	scott@bcwbs.ca
Provincial Coach	Marni Abbott-Peter
604.737.3193	marni@bcwbs.ca

Athlete Assistance Program

The Athlete Assistance Program Selection Committee met on February 12th and determined the list of athletes to be funded for the Athlete Assistance Program in 2007-08 as well as the retro-active funding allocations for 2006-07. The range of grants allocated were between \$500 and \$2050, with a total of \$29,650 in grants for 2007-08 and an additional \$19,800 in retro-active funding allocated for 2006-07. This represents a significant increase in the amount of funding provided to wheelchair athletes by the Provincial Government, to aid in the development of high performance athletes. Following are the athletes that received funding:

- Basketball:** Scott Allen, Kevin Bowie, Jessica Des-Mazes, Deion Green, Shira Golden, Erik Hagreen, Avril Harris, Bo Hedges, Wendy Jansen, Konrad Kelz, Nancy Lafleche, Nicholas Lapointe, Derek Lundie, Ross MacDonald, Brian McLennon, Roberto Molina, Anastasia Pavlidis, Richard Poon, Sunera Samarakoon, Jon Vliegenthart, Elisha Williams
- Tennis:** Ken Bartel, Jerome Bouvier
- Athletics:** Nathan Dewitt, Brad Skeats
- Rugby:** Byron Green, Ryan Schweizer

Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp

BCWSA will be hosting summer camps in Coquitlam and Kelowna again this year and joining with Easter Seals for their Shawnigan Lake and Squamish camps for one week each. For more information on this please contact Jackie at 604-737-3191 or jackie@bcwheelchairsports.com. To register for Easter Seals camps go to the website (After April 7th) www.lionsbc.ca/programs/camps. **(Interested in becoming a Sport Camp Leader or Junior Leader? E-mail Jackie for information)**

Opportunities from Other Organizations...

*** Wheelchair Sports Drop-in at Centennial Activity Centre.** This is a FREE drop-in on Wednesdays from 7:30 - 8:30 pm put on by the city of Coquitlam. All abilities are welcome though use of a manual wheelchair is required. Some additional sport wheelchairs will be available.

*** SportAbility** - Responsible for Boccia, Sledge Hockey and Power Soccer. Contact them for more info: sportinfo@telus.net or 604-599-5240.

*** Power Soccer in the Okanagan.** Penticton BC Storm Tournament April 11-13, 2008. For information contact Cathy Cunningham at c.cunningham@shaw.ca

*** Sitting Volleyball** - For information contact Travis at 778-329-7040 (between 3-5pm Wednesdays) Spring Clinic beginning March 15, 2008 at Windermere Secondary, 2-4pm.

BCWSA wishes to thank the following for their support...

- Advanced Mobility Products Ltd.
- BC Lions Society
- BC Paraplegic Association
- BC Paraplegic Foundation
- BC Wheelchair Basketball Society
- BC Sports Hall of Fame & Museum
- Betty & Bruce Birmingham
- Bogetti-Smith Photography
- Bonsor Recreation Complex
- Bread Garden
- Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Association
- Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association
- Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
- City of Burnaby Parks & Recreation
- City of Surrey
- City of Richmond
- CKNW Orphans' Fund
- Coca Cola
- Coloplast
- CurlBC
- Douglas College
- Gerard the Hypnotist Inc.
- GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre
- Hamber Foundation
- Hilton Vancouver
- Metrotown
- Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa
- Hosting BC
- The Hydrees Fund
- ING Canada
- International Wheelchair Rugby Federation
- Invacare Canada
- International Paralympic Committee
- International Wheelchair and Amputee Sport Federation
- Murphy, Battista
- New Balance
- Norco Products Limited
- PacificSport
- Pinetree Community Centre
- Province of British Columbia
- Rick Hansen Man In Motion Foundation
- Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion
- ScotiaBank
- Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of BC
- Sport BC
- Sport Canada
- Tennis Canada
- Tourism Burnaby
- Tourism Vancouver
- 2010 LegaciesNow
- Vancouver Foundation
- Vancouver Sun Children's Fund
- Wildwood Pacific Bistro
- XentIDM