



BESPOKEPLUS



“If your work speaks for itself don’t interrupt”

OSOT Conference



November 4-5
Toronto, Ontario

We are booked to attend the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists annual Conference at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre on November 4-5, 2022. We will be

exhibiting and look forward to networking with folks over the two-day event.

Although the OTs are not necessarily users of the equipment, the way funding works, they are paramount to the success of those manufacturing and selling the equipment as they have been tasked (along with other professionals in the field like Physio Therapists) by the Ontario government to recommend products for funding and they are also the ones that sign for the dollars going out the door to support end users who need the equipment.

Tennis Canada



CHAMPIONNATS CANADIENS
DE TENNIS EN FAUTEUIL ROULANT
BIRMINGHAM
NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS
CHAMPIONSHIPS

We have the pleasure of providing player support at the

Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships at Jarry Park in Montreal (IGA Stadium 285 rue Gary-Carter) from November 03-06, 2022. The host organization is Parasport Quebec, and the Tournament Director is Marie Davies, mdavies@tenniscanada.com. The host contact is Anne-Renée Thibault, arthibault@parasportsquebec.com. Click here for the [tournament web site](#).

Tennis Canada and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) are partnering to provide an ITF classification opportunity during the 2022 Birmingham Nationals.

49 Bespoke Inc will be represented by Chantal Benoit who will be available on site, from 30 minutes before the first match, to the end of the last one. She will have a display space equipped to assist in handling repairs, replacement

parts like wheels, tires, tubes, castors, bearings, and even have some additional products to showcase like Batec, PAWS, and the Companion.

49 Bespoke Inc is looking at participating in this manner at all 9 events scheduled for next season if the needs of Tennis Canada, Local Hosts, the ITF, and 49 Bespoke Inc are all met.

CSMC 2022

There was a good turn out at the Canadian Seating and Mobility Conference and most exhibitors would say that the limited exhibit time was well attended, and they were busy providing information on their products and services. We were very appreciative of having our products well represented by Adi, Soren, Frank, and Reg, but highlight the exceptional job done by Soren (with Rehasense from Denmark) and Adi who were carrying the load for us with



energy and enthusiasm second to none in the building. Despite the Delta facility being accessible years earlier under a different name, this year we had to go back to management to note that they had some work to do to better accommodate a group like this particularly if more people in wheelchairs are invited to attend.

Active Living AccessExpo

Active Living
Tradeshow

The 3rd annual Active Living Tradeshow merges together what was formerly the Access

Expo with the Active Living Conference at Variety Village November 4-5, 2022. Regrettably, we have a conflict with the two other events that weekend and will have to take a pass this year, but wish Jeff, Karen, and all a super event and see you next year.

The Access Expo first started in 2019 saw over 2000 attendees each year with upwards of 100 exhibitors.

In its 24th year, the Active Living Conference has welcomed over 4,800 student and young professionals.

Check out a new start here: [Active Living Tradeshow](#)

Congratulations Jed Alo



We were pleased to attend an anniversary luncheon for Jed Alo recently who has been with Sunrise Medical for 30 years. Jed drew the short straw when Sunrise Germany purchased RGK Wheelchairs and has that product line in his daily customer service responsibilities.

Jed is just a puppy age wise, so he probably has another 30 years to provide top quality service for Sunrise Medical Canada.

Professor "Tip"



Armand "Tip" Thiboutot, Jr. of Boston, Massachusetts, passed away on October 16, 2022, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Roxbury. We send our condolences to his wife Patricia, his daughter Anna, Michele, and all his family and friends.

After incurring a spinal injury from his service in the US Army where he had enrolled as a 19-year-old, Tip pursued a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, a Master's degree in French, and a PhD in French Literature from Boston University where he soon became a lecturer in French to undergraduate students. He also earned a Diplôme d'Etudes de Civilisation Française from the Université de la Sorbonne in Paris, France.

Tip dedicated the majority of his professional career to promoting equal rights and access for persons with disabilities. He served as a board member at the Boston Center for Independent Living for several years, worked as Assistant Chief of Prosthetics at the Boston Medical Center, Jamaica Plain and co-founded The Access Group, an

organization which helped businesses comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

An avid able-bodied basketball player as a teen and briefly at the college level, Tip started playing wheelchair basketball for the New England Clippers in 1968. He founded the local wheelchair basketball team, the Boston Mustangs, in 1972. In the following decades, Tip contributed to the development of wheelchair basketball on a National and International level. He coached the USA men's team at the 1984 Stoke Mandeville Paralympic Games. His love for France and French culture led him to coach the Parisian CAPSAA team during the 2005-2006 season.

In addition to playing and coaching wheelchair basketball for more than 40 years, Tip was the Vice-President of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) for 15 years and Vice-President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) between 1998 – 2002. In recognition of his dedication to the sport, Tip was inducted into the NWBA Hall of Fame in 1993 and received the IWBF Gold Triad Medal in 2002. Author of "Best Teams of US" and the book entitled "Wheelchairs Can Jump" published in 2012, Tip was a true pioneer and leader in the sport of wheelchair basketball.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Tuesday, November 1st and we joined thousand's of others remembering the Professor, Armand "Tip" Thiboutot! The obituary lists support to <https://www.nwba.org/donate> or to "the Armand "Tip" Thiboutot wheelchair basketball archives fund, in care of Maureen Gilbert, Coordinator, Campus Life.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 Birmingham Tennis Montreal, QC November 3-5;
- 49 OSOT 2022 November 4-5 Toronto, ON;
- 49 Active Living Show November 4-5 Toronto, ON;
- 49 Abilities November 04-06, 2022, Miami, FL;
- 49 Abilities December 2-4, 2022, Dallas, TX;
- 49 Abilities March 10-12, 2023, Los Angeles, CA;
- 49 REE March 7, 2023, Richmond Olympic Oval, BC;
- 49 38th ISS Pittsburg, PA April 13-15, 2023.

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.**