



BESPOKEPLUS



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

Happy Holidays



We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and business throughout 2023 and join everyone in celebrating the onset of a New Year.

We are settled in the new facility with all new furnaces, doors, cameras, racking, lighting, entrance, washrooms, and basically a huge facelift to what it

was a year ago. We are enjoying some quiet time and doing our best to catch up with friends and family. It seems like we were still thinking of Thanksgiving when it was already the middle of December, so the annual Christmas party has become an opportunity to entertain here and there over the last weeks giving us thoughts of a party well into 2024.

We send a special thank you to those that take the time to keep Canada Post busy and keeping us in your thoughts and Boots, I think you have the \$10.00 we have been sending back and forth since 1988! **Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!**

Access Expo Expands



We participated in all Access Expo events in 2023 and have committed to be involved again in 2024. Leandre Cassleman

with Spinal Cord Injury Ontario relays that the success of the 2023 events in Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston have encouraged them to add three more cities in 2024 Hamilton, Peterborough, and London.

More information will be provided going forward but the tentative dates are listed in Bits and Bytes.

CFPDP Valentine Gala



The Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons (CFPDP) will be holding the 40th Valentine Gala on February 10, 2024. This year the entertainer will be Rick Mercer.

We have attended most every event and have fond memories of all of them with a special place for the ones that involved 60's and 70's music from artists like Randy Bachman, Dionne Warwick, Harry Belafonte, The Nylons, Hermans Hermits, and others that I am sure Rick Mercer will be in the same league as like Bob Hope, George Burns, Bob Newhart, and many more listed [here](#).

The Great Valentine Gala, held every February in Toronto, is the CFPDP's No. 1 fundraising event. It has raised over \$35 million and has become a glittering showcase for the unheralded achievements of Canadians of all abilities. "It has changed the way we think about people with disabilities." The Gala's driving force has been Toronto businessman, philanthropist and CFPDP founder Honourable Vim Kochhar.

CFPDP has welcomed over 22,000 people at the Gala since it started in 1985 and the Foundation is thankful for the active involvement of many of Canada's leading corporations.

We are a small sponsor of CFPDP and it would be great to see some of our suppliers, partners, and friends at this event. It is always a great opportunity to have a cocktail, a glass of wine, a fine dinner at the Fairmont Royal York while supporting the Great Valentine Gala, the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, a Seat at the Table, the Helen Keller Center and more.

Front Powered Units

In a recent article to the groundbreaking first-generation electric scooters, the talk was about large tread tires that can easily cut through mud, gravel, tarmac, and grass, providing suspension to soften the ride, and introducing larger dual hub motors with peak wattages not heard of before to support the growing need for speed.

Scooters for the general population are regularly talking in terms of speeds from 56-145 km/h and could easily be going faster but the industry today feels that restricting the speed to 80 mph is for safety purposes as if falling off a powered skateboard at 80 mph would hurt less than 100 mph. All of this speed is a dream for a number of people using front powered units on their wheelchair, but the medical device regulators are a long way from looking at these speeds in this industry.

The range for scooters is from 140 kilometers on a single charge and their cost is in the \$4-5,000.00 range. Our industry is a long way behind in speed discussions and we marvel at having autonomy of 40-80 kilometers, while accepting that the cost of our products is double that of the electric products available to the general population.



The Rion RE90 has been dubbed the “Bugatti of electric scooters” and are generally sounding disappointed with the municipalities that have scooter programs with speeds limited to 20 mph; they seem to leave safety features to the end of

their discussions. This is an area that is opposite in our industry which may be somewhat self serving as we have a lot of folks that make a living from selling health and safety products and are intimately aware of health issues related to people that use wheelchairs to get from A to B. So, we address and sometimes invent issues and roadblocks to paving the way for people to more easily make the morning commute to work, the grocery run, or meeting other day to day transportation needs.

Yes, there are activity related issues with powered products; there are activity related issues with everything we do. Wheelchair suspension, wheel suspension, tire suspension, vibration dampening cushions, clothing, and simply repositioning when locked onto a powered device so you are not sacral sitting are all things to consider when using these lifestyle enhancing devices.

Rehasense Program



Adithya Rao, Commercial Manager with Rehasense, has unveiled a new certified dealer program for the PAWS and Track Wheel products from Rehasense which may be expanding to include other products in the future. It identifies the requirements to become a dealer for these products, a training program, and the advantages of being involved.

Sunrise Medical – Ride

Sunrise Medical announced the acquisition of Ride Designs recently, bolstering their offerings in the humongous wheelchair seating offerings field. The website relays the commitments Sunrise Medical and Ride Designs have to serving the industry, improving people's lives by creating wheelchair seating systems that help protect skin, enhance mobility, improve function, and optimize posture. Ride Designs have the Aspen Seating Clinic in Denver, Colorado that world class athletes and Paralympians, as well as the most discerning of wheelchair riders, go for seating solutions. This marries well to Sunrise Medical's model that has strong ties to active living market as well as meeting the needs of all in this industry. Ride Designs will now be exposed to more than 130 countries along with a host of other proprietary brands that are regularly prescribed with custom seating. But, still sold in USD plus shipping.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 Valentine Gala February 10, 2024, Royal York, TO;
- 49 REE March 5, 2024, Richmond Olympic Oval, BC;
- 49 Abilities Expo March 15-17, 2024, Los Angeles, CA;
- 49 Medtrade Expo March 27-28, 2024 Dallas, TX;
- 49 CAOT Conference May 1-3, 2024, Halifax, NS;
- 49 Access Expo Ottawa June 27, 2024;
- 49 Access Expo Kingston July 11, 2024;
- 49 Access Expo Toronto July 24, 2024;
- 49 Access Expo Hamilton August 1, 2024;
- 49 Access Expo Peterborough August 20, 2024;
- 49 Access Expo London August 29, 2024;
- 49 Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE September 25-28, 2024.

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.**