

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2007 BCWBS ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

On Saturday, March 2nd at the BC-CWBL Finals Awards Banquet in New Westminster, BCWBS was pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 BCWBS Annual Awards.

### **Outstanding Community Support Award**

#### **Hugh McRoberts Secondary School Leadership Class**

Since 2003, BCWBS has hosted the Annual Junior Wheelchair Challenge Tournament in Richmond at McRoberts Secondary School. Led by class teacher Trish Nicholson, the McRoberts Grade 10 Leadership Class hosts our junior participants and treats everyone to a first class tournament. Students take on all of the key volunteer roles that are essential to the success of the tournament. In addition the students not only learn what it is like to run a sporting event they gain great awareness and appreciation of our great sport and working with athletes with disabilities. A special thank you to Miss Nick and the McRoberts students!!

### **Volunteer of the Year**

#### **Karen Townsend**

Karen Townsend was instrumental in the creation of the junior wheelchair basketball program that now takes place in Nanaimo. During this past year, she has run the successful junior program at Coal Tye elementary school, made travel arrangements and driven junior players to junior events both locally and in Vancouver, helped prepare the Vancouver Island Zone 6 team for the BC Winter Games, and she has worked closely with the Mid-Island Wheelchair sports board of directors regarding both our junior and senior wheelchair basketball programs. Karen has also assisted with many community and school demonstrations and specials events such as Sport Fest and Wheels in Motion. In 2007, she joined the Mid-Island WSA board of directors and has been an enthusiastic and active member.

### **Official of the Year**

#### **Laurie Wong**

Laurie Wong has been officiating wheelchair basketball for 3 years. She started out in BCWBS developmental city league and has quickly progressed up to the Provincial CWBL level. She has made a significant effort to be available for junior tournaments, city leagues, women's initiatives and CWBL tournaments. Laurie is constantly finding ways to increase her knowledge of the game of wheelchair basketball and she takes advantage of every opportunity to improve herself. When Laurie is officiating she not only referees the game but comes early to set up the gym and score clocks. She makes sure teams are ready to go and stays afterward to assist with clean up. She is a fantastic asset to BCWBS and has great potential to continue on in the sport to officiate at higher levels.

### **Coach of the Year**

#### **Peter Taylor**

In 2007, Peter Taylor was at the helm as coach of the BC Men's Provincial Team which enjoyed a season of success. BCWBS was pleased to enter a team into Division 1 of the NWBA with a team full of talented BCWBS athletes and Peter took on the role as Head Coach of the squad. The BC Team ended the regular season with a 10-2 record and took 2nd place at the Final 4 in Lexington, Kentucky. In

addition, the BC Men were crowned 2007 National Champions in Winnipeg as they outplayed Manitoba in a 69-59 gold medal win. Peter managed the final with great success as BC saw a variety of line-ups enter the game and keep up the strong pace on both offence and defence. A busy and successful year. Thank you Peter for your hard work!

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L-R (back row): Laurie Wong, Elisha Williams, Peter Taylor, Karen Townsend (front row): Stephanie Park, Bo Hedges

BC WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THEIR  
GENEROUS SUPPORT:



**WE ARE MOVING ON MARCH 27!**  
Our new contact information:



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**Managing Director** *Carrie Linegar*

**Provincial Coach** *Marni Abbott-Peter*

### 2007-08 Board of Directors

**President** *Dean Brokop*

**Vice-President** *Ross MacDonald*

**Secretary** *MJ Boudreault*

**Treasurer** *Aaron Wilson*

**Director at Large** *Andrew Greenlaw*

**Director at Large** *Michelle Stilwell*

**Director at Large** *Sarah Sugiyama*

## 2007 BCWBS ANNUAL AWARD RECIPIENTS cont from pg. 1

### Junior Athlete of the Year

#### Stephanie Park

Stephanie has been a regular participant in the Surrey Junior program for many years. She participates in the annual Junior Challenge and in 2007 she played in both the mini and the 10ft divisions. The move to 10ft was a significant step in her development and demonstrates the level to which her skills and knowledge of the game have improved. In 2007 she also joined the first ever BCWBS Women's City League as its youngest participant and organized a wheelchair basketball demonstration at her school which was also highlighted in her local paper. She is an extraordinary ambassador for the sport and a great role model to all youth in terms of her healthy, active lifestyle and her academic excellence.

### Female Athlete of the Year

#### Elisha Williams

Elisha Williams started wheelchair basketball in 2005. She was a varsity basketball player at the University of Alberta before several significant knee injuries ended her stand up career. She was later recruited by Northern Regional Coach Pat Harris. In 2007 she was classified as a 4.5 player in the international classification system, and was awarded D card status in the National Women's Team Program. In 2007 she was a member of the Prince George Titans who won the BC Conference of the CWBL, and then placed 2nd at the CWBL Finals. Elisha was also a member of the BC Breakers women's provincial team who won the Bronze medal at the 2007 National Championships. The highlight of her 2007 season was her first international competition with the women's national team, and a Silver Medal at the Para Panamerican Games in Rio de Janeiro.

### Male athlete of the Year

#### Bo Hedges

Bo started playing wheelchair basketball in 1996 as a junior athlete in Northern BC. Having moved from junior level activities, to BC-CWBL, Canada Games and the BC Provincial Team, Bo was selected to the Sr. Men's National Team in 2007 – a year that was very busy for Bo on the basketball court. In 2007, the Prince George Titans took 1st place in the BC CWBL Conference, and 2nd place in the National CWBL Finals where Bo was named to the All-Star team in both tournaments. Bo was also a key member of the BC Men's provincial team, having contributed to their 2007 national championship gold medal and the success in the NWBA with the BC team. With the Sr. Men's National Team, Bo travelled with the team to England for a gold medal performance at the Visa Paralympic Cup and travelled to Rio for the Para Panamerican Games where the team qualified for the Beijing Paralympics.

## MORE AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

### Elisha Williams, Bo Hedges and Jessica DesMazes receive Premier's Athletic Awards

The Premier's Athletic Awards recognize top female and male athletes in each of the sports participating in the 2006/07 BC Athlete Assistance Program. These awards honour athletes who, through their commitment to hard work and excellence, have left their mark on sport in BC. BCWBS athletes Elisha Williams, Jessica DesMazes and Bo Hedges were selected as the recipients from the BC Wheelchair Sports Community.

### BCWBS Members receive 2007 Canadian Wheelchair Sport Awards

Our congratulations must go out to Jennifer Krempien recipient of the Stan Stronge Memorial Award for fairplay and dedication; Richard Peter, named Male Athlete of the Year, the BC Men's Team was given the Doug Grant Memorial Team of the Year award and lastly Jessica DesMazes recognized with the Judith Zelman Memorial award as rookie of the year.

### Stan Stronge Inducted Into Basketball BC Hall Of Fame

On April 26, 2008, Stan Stronge will be inducted into the Basketball BC Hall of Fame in the *Builder* category. Stan was instrumental in the formation of the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association and later in the founding of the Vancouver Wheelchair Basketball Society in 1983 which is now the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society. Stan's goal was to provide opportunities for people in a wheelchair to participate in sport. Stan was interested in all wheelchair sports, but wheelchair basketball had a special place in his heart. He played, served as a team manager, organized the league and generally ensured through his own energy and drive that the sport would succeed. We acknowledge Stan for the great mentor and builder he was in laying the ground work for what has become a great history of wheelchair basketball in British Columbia!

# BC–CWBL DIVISION 1 AND 2 FINALS

On March 1–2, 2008, the BC-CWBL Division 1 and 2 Finals took place at Douglas College in New West. Prior to the Finals, the Douglas Royals, headlined by National Team players Patrick Anderson and Jamie Borisoff looked to be the team to beat in Division 1. With an impressive 8–1 record they earned a buy straight to the finals and thanks to an amazing 37 points by Patrick Anderson in the final game, took down the Douglas Lions 73–49.

In Division 2, it did not look like anyone would catch the Kamloops Bull-Dawgs who were looking to go undefeated and seemed like a lock to take home the division 2 crown. Their undefeated season came to end after a round robin loss to the Vintage Cable Cars however, but the Bull-Dawgs took their revenge when it counted, beating the Cable Cars 60–36 in the final.

Special thanks to Douglas College, Advanced Mobility, Medi-chair Vancouver and the Province of BC for your support of this event! BCWBS would also like to thank Bob Thorpe, Tyler Tingle and the City of Kamloops for hosting an extremely successful BC-CWBL Division 2 tournament this season.

## BC-CWBL Tournament Awards

### Division 1

MVP Patrick Anderson  
All-stars Richard Peter, Jaimie Borisoff,  
Brian McLennon, Erik Hagreen,  
John Lundie

### Division 2

MVP Brian Dyck  
All-stars Erik Vliegenthart, Richard Poon,  
Scott Allen, Matt Ficocelli,  
Shira Golden

## BC-CWBL League Awards

### Fairplay Award

Div 1 Sunera Samarakoon  
Div 2 Matt Ficocelli

### Most Improved Player

Div 1 Elisha Williams  
Div 2 Wendy Jansen

### Leadership Award

Div 1 Bo Hedges  
Div 2 Mark Saunders and Chris Abbott

## BC-CWBL Finals

### Tournament Scores:

March 1/2, 2008 at Douglas College

### Division 1

Lions (52) – Dingos (63)  
Dingos (63) – Royals (75)  
Royals (73) – Lions (49)  
Lions (75) – Dingos (58) **Semi Final**  
Royals (73) – Lions (49) **Final**

### Division 2

Kamloops (33) – Cable Cars (42)  
Okanagan (42) – Hooligans (37)  
Oceanside (40) – Kamloops(72)  
Breakers (32) – Hooligans (35)  
Cable Cars (53) – Tsunami (45)  
Thunder (49) – Breakers (44)  
Okanagan (38) – Kamloops (83) **Semi Final**  
Cable Cars (50) – Hooligans (42) **Semi Final**  
Tsunami (43) – Breakers (31) **Consolation**  
Hooligans (53) – Thunder (51) **3rd Place Game**  
Cable Cars (36) – Kamloops (60) **Final**



Division 1 winners, the Douglas Royals



Division 2 winners, the Kamloops Bull-Dawgs

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 2008

- 7-9 NWBA Division 1 Tournament  
Milwaukee WI
- 15 Centre for Performance Camp  
Douglas College
- 21-23 NWBA Division 1 Tournament  
Dallas TX
- 22-23 Western Mini-Basket Festival  
Sullivan Heights, Surrey BC
- 28-30 2008 Western Junior Nationals  
Winnipeg MB
- 29-30 Calgary Rollers Tournament  
Calgary AB

### APRIL 2008

- 4-5 2008 NWBA Finals  
Lexington, Kentucky
- 11-13 2008 CWBL Finals  
Regina SK
- 26 Hoopfest 2008  
Cambie School, Richmond BC

### MAY 2008

- 2-4 Defi Sportif  
Montreal QC
- 15-18 2008 National Championships  
Coquitlam BC

## SPORT WHEELCHAIR RENTALS

BCWBS has a limited number of sport wheelchairs available for rental through the Wheelchair Loan Program. The program requires you to sign a loan agreement one-year in length and submit a \$100/year or \$10/month rental fee. If you are interested please read our policy and fill out a wheelchair loan application form on-line at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca) and click for **athletes** and then **wheelchair loan program**.

# BCWBS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS. CALLING ALL ALUMNI!



On May 19th, 1983 the Greater Vancouver Wheelchair Basketball Society was incorporated under the Society Act of BC and later changed its name to the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society. BCWBS is currently in the midst of a very busy season where our anniversary

celebrations will culminate as we host the National Wheelchair Basketball Championships May 15th – 18th, 2008 at the Pinetree Community Centre in Coquitlam. We invite all of our members to come to the event to watch the games and volunteer but more importantly to be part of the celebrations with us. We also plan to have a great alumni component to the weekend which will include an alumni game, memorabilia, awards banquet and alumni reception. If you are BCWBS alumni or know where a few more are hiding we would love to hear from you. Please contact BCWBS for more information.

### Team Profile: Dueck Powerglides

Our second member highlight in recognition of our anniversary is the *Dueck Powerglides Team*, a group of individuals who pioneered the game of wheelchair basketball in BC long before the creation of BCWBS. The *Dueck Powerglides* of Vancouver, came into existence in 1950 when Doug Mowat, Stan Stronge, Jim Mackie and Walter Schmidt decided there was a need for a sport people with disabilities could play. In the mid '50s Mowat was hired by the Dueck family to work as the late-hours salesman in their tire shop at Broadway and Fir. Soon Mowat became involved in the beginnings of the sport of wheelchair basketball at the gymnasium of the Western Rehabilitation Centre. With him as manager, and his friend, John Allan as referee, they would play pick-up games with service groups and with the local kids at Vancouver schools. Enter sponsorship from the Dueck's, and later on the world would see the *Dueck Powerglides* and the BC Wheelchair Basketball League. He would follow the sport through his life and go on to manage teams that competed in Israel and Germany.

With the addition of three more players and coaches Norm Watt and Al Noble, the club was born. The first few years the team played most of their games against University Fraternal Organizations. The highlight of the 1951-1952 season was their first wheelchair basketball exhibition game played and witnessed by a crowd of 2700 fans at the new UBC gym. Over the next four years the *Powerglides* played 75 games against able-bodied teams amassing a remarkable



74 and 1 record with a game high of 102 points. The 1954 season was the most extensive season for the team. The team began to look to the future and the chance to establish an east west final against the Wheelchair Wonders of Montreal, the only other Canadian wheelchair basketball team of that era. The *Dueck Powerglides* believed that they should show the public the capabilities and skills of people with disabilities and were prepared to journey throughout BC to hold exhibition games and promote the game of wheelchair basketball.

The *Dueck Powerglides* played the game when it was unknown and helped create the success the sport has today. Wheelchair basketball on the west coast owes its success to the *Dueck Powerglides* and its founding members who had the foresight to recognize the future of this great game.

## JUNIORS

## THUNDER AND SONICS HIGHLIGHT JUNIOR TOURNAMENT



On November 10 and 11, 2007 over 50 young athletes came out and participated in the 8th Annual Junior Wheelchair Basketball Challenge. The tournament consisted of seven teams made up of players from around British Columbia and Washington and featured a number of close competitive games in what was a great atmosphere for both players and spectators. In the 8 ½ ft

division it was the Seattle Sonics edging the Breakers 21–16 in the final game while in the 10ft Division, the BC Thunder made up of Nick Konishi, Derek Lundie, Coti Koski, Steph Park, Eddy Solla, Chanel Bode, Jesse Partridge, Anastasia Pavlidis, and Felicia McKinnon went undefeated over the weekend to take first place.

The tournament was marked by a number compelling moments, including the first all girl match-up in the tournaments history as both the Sonics Gold and the Thunder fielded 5 girls per side in what was an exciting first for this event. Another highlight came as Rick Hansen stopped by to offer support and pose for pictures with some excited young fans. The tournament culminated in the presentation of the trophy to the winning teams and awards to some outstanding performers.

We would like to thank the Province of BC, the Loyal Protestant Association, Save on Foods, Holiday Inn Express and the McRoberts Secondary School Leadership Class for their outstanding support of this event and we hope to see everyone back next year!

## Individual Awards

## 8 1/2 Foot Division:

Sharp Shooter – Alex Lundie, Surrey  
 Defensive Player – Zac Meyer, Seattle  
 Speedy Gonzales – Kayna Sesser, Seattle  
 #1 Hustle Award – Ben Hagkull, Chilliwack  
 Best Chair Skills – Balraj Zimich, Richmond  
 Leadership Award – Quinton Simard & James Robinson, Nanaimo  
 Spirit of Fairplay – Joel Ewert, Prince George

## 10 Foot Division:

Sharp Shooter – Derek Lundie, Surrey  
 Defensive Player – Shae Partridge, Richmond  
 Speedy Gonzales – Travis Dolen, Seattle  
 #1 Hustle Award – Eddie Solla, Chilliwack  
 Best Chair Skills – Alex Kilba, Kamloops  
 Leadership Award – Josh Nicklason, Seattle  
 Spirit of Fairplay – Alyssa Higgins, Seattle  
 Top Rookie – Anastasia Pavlidis, Victoria & Tyler LaFebvre, Prince George

## FUNDING NEWS

## BCWBS Receives Bell Community Sport Fund and Paralympic Equipment Fund Grants

BCWBS would like to thank **Bell Canada**, the **True Sport Foundation** and the **Canadian Paralympic Committee** for their generous contributions that have allowed us to purchase new sport wheelchairs for use across the province.

The True Sport Foundation is committed to ensuring that sport makes a positive contribution to Canadian society, to our athletes, and to the physical and moral development of Canada's youth. The Bell Community Sport Fund Grant is administered on behalf of Bell Canada and the True Sport Movement by the True Sport Foundation. BCWBS was thrilled to receive a Bell Community Sport Fund grant used to purchase three sport chairs for the newly developed junior wheelchair basketball program in Vanderhoof.

The Canadian Paralympic Committee delivers programs that strengthen the Paralympic Movement in Canada, including sending Canadian teams to the Paralympic Games. BCWBS was pleased to receive a new sport chair from the Paralympic Equipment Fund for summer sports to support skill development of athletes that demonstrate potential to become future Paralympians. The grant contribution received will be used by individuals in our wheelchair loan program and help in ensuring a strong BC Paralympic presence in the years to come.

## 'Growing Champions' and 'Canadian Athletes Now Fund' Support Local Athletes

Established in 2007 through a partnership between Sport BC, PacificSport, BC Athlete Voice and the Province of BC, **Growing Champions™** enables businesses and individuals to become actively engaged in BC's sport system by directly funding local athletes on their journey to success. These funds assist the athlete with training, travel and equipment expenses. Three out of every four dollars raised goes directly to the athletes with the remaining dollar allocated to support future athlete development programs and increase sport participation in BC for many generations to come. If you are interested in becoming a sponsored athlete, please visit [www.growingchampions.ca](http://www.growingchampions.ca) for more information.

BCWBS congratulates Jennifer Krempien and Misty Thomas on being selected to receive **Canadian Athletes Now Fund Grants**. The Canadian Athletes Now Fund is a not-for-profit organization devoted solely to raising funds and awareness for Canada's athletes. The Fund has been set up to help Canada's athletes ready for international summer and winter Games. Monies donated to the Fund are put directly into the hands of Canadian elite athletes to support their training, coaching, nutrition and living expenses in preparation for international competition. The mission is to underwrite the expenses of as many Canadian athletes as possible, as support is needed years before the medals can be obtained.

JUNIORS

## ZONE 8 TAKES GOLD AT THE 2008 BC WINTER GAMES



From February 21–24, BCWBS was pleased to have many of its junior players taking part in the 2008 BC Winter Games held in Kimberley-Cranbrook. The week featured many thrilling and competitive games as well as both individuals and teams making great strides in their skill development.

The gold medal game featured the undefeated Zone 8 (Cariboo-North

East) team taking on the Zone 6 (Vancouver Island Central Coast) in what was a thrilling game from start to finish. Zone 8 however, lived up to their billing as the top team of the tournament winning gold, while the Zone 6 team put in a very strong effort all tournament long and won silver. The Games concluded in dramatic fashion with two very exciting matches. In the bronze medal game, it was Zone 4 (Fraser River Delta) defeating Zone 3 (Fraser Valley) in what was a rematch of their round robin game. Although Zone 3 lost both contests, their improvement over the tournament was obvious as they gave the Zone 4 team all they could handle in the medal round falling just short after a strong fourth quarter comeback. Zone 2 from Thompson Okanagan failed to advance to the medal round, however they did play a very strong tournament and we congratulate them on an exceptional effort.

Although it was the games that brought athletes from around the province to compete, the true highlights came away from the court. Sportsmanship, friendship, and team play were demonstrated by all of the athletes competing and all of the staff attending were extremely pleased by what we saw from all of the competitors. It was a pleasure for us to bring the sport of Wheelchair Basketball to Kimberly-Cranbrook and the support that we received from the local community did not go unnoticed. For many of the competitors, this was their first chance to travel away from home to play and the full stands that supported them made the experience that much more memorable. A special thanks goes out to the countless volunteers that made this experience possible as well as the BC Games staff and the many spectators that came out to support these young athletes.

## KIDS GO TO NAZZY'S SUITE



Eddy gets into the spirit of things at GM Place.

On January 23, 2008, some lucky BCWBS junior players got the thrill of a lifetime as they got the chance to see the Vancouver Canucks take on the St. Louis Blues from Nazy's Suite. The evening began with all of the kids meeting at GM place and heading up to the suite where popcorn, drinks, pizza and hotdogs were waiting for them. Later the Canucks took the ice to the cheers of everyone in attendance and halfway through the first period, the kids got a special welcome on the Big Screen and they announced that the children from BC Wheelchair Basketball were Nazy's special guests.

Henrik Sendin provided the perfect cap to the night with a beautiful shootout goal and Roberto Luongo sealed the deal by making one of his many fantastic saves to give the Canucks a shootout victory. After the game the kids each left with a commemorative T-shirt and a few souvenirs for them to remember their night by. A special thanks goes out to Markus Naslund, the Vancouver Canucks and all of the wonderful staff at GM Place for making the night truly one to remember.



Zone 8 players bring home gold at the BC Winter Games in Kimberley-Cranbrook.

# BC CABLE CARS CONTINUE TO ROLL IN NWBA

The BC Cable Cars have looked very impressive in the first two tournaments of the 2007-2008 NWBA season. Avenging a tough loss in last years finals, the Cable Cars came out strong as they hosted the season opening tournament November 30 – December 2 at Douglas College in New Westminster. The Cable Cars, composed of many current National and Provincial team players all from BC, made full use of their home court advantage going 3–0 and quickly establishing themselves as the team to beat this season.

After running the table in the first tournament, the team headed off to Toronto for the second tournament hoping to duplicate their home court success. When the dust settled, the Cable Cars did just that and left Toronto the same way they arrived; with an undefeated record.

The NWBA season will resume with tournaments March 7–9 in Milwaukee, March 21–23 in Dallas and conclude with the finals April 4–5 in Lexington. Please continue to follow your BC Cable Cars by visiting [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca) for all tournament details and results.

The BC Wheelchair Basketball Society would like to thank all of our tournament sponsors specifically the Rick Hansen Foundation, Douglas College and the Metropolitan Vancouver Basketball Foundation for their generous support in making this tournament possible.

## Tournament Scores

### Nov 30 – Dec 2, Vancouver Game Scores

BC Cable Cars 76 – Dallas Mavericks 69  
Milwaukee Bucks 52 – BC Cable Cars 77  
BC Cable Cars 83 – Team Canada 71

### February 1 – 3, Toronto Game Scores

BC Cable Cars 84 – Dallas 75  
BC Cable Cars 82 – Canada 55  
BC Cable Cars 95 – Milwaukee 68

### Remaining Division 1 Tournament Dates

March 7 – 9, Milwaukee  
March 21 – 23, Dallas  
April 4 – 5, NWBA Division 1 Finals,  
Lexington Kentucky

## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

### 2008 Mini-Basket Festival

On March 22 and 23, BCWBS will be hosting the second annual Western Mini-Basket Festival at Sullivan Heights Secondary School in Richmond, BC. The 2008 Western Mini-Basket Wheelchair Basketball Festival is an exciting event focused on providing junior players with a positive competition and skill development experience just for them. The Mini-Basket program is for youth born January 1, 1991 or later and is played on the lowered 8 ½ ft basketball hoop height. BCWBS is inviting mini-basket aged juniors from across BC and Western Canada to participate and register as an individual or a team. The festival will include individual skill development and information sessions and of course a ton of fun and games!

The tournament registration fee is \$35 per player for those with a playing jersey from last year and \$50 per player for those requiring a playing jersey and this fee includes your lunch both days, coaching and instruction, and prizes. A registration package can be found on our website at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca). BCWBS members can also apply for a travel subsidy for this event through the Sportsfunder Travel Grant Program. The application form can be found online at [www.bcwheelchairsports.com](http://www.bcwheelchairsports.com). We hope to see you there as we wrap up another junior wheelchair basketball season!



### Hoopfest 2008: Support BC's Wheelchair Basketball Athletes

Saturday April 26, 2008  
Cambie School, Richmond BC

It's Hoopfest time again...the 15th Annual. Join us for an opportunity to play wheelchair basketball! We'll supply the wheelchairs, coaching, food & prizes. You just come and have fun! Hoopfest is BC Wheelchair Basketball's biggest fundraising event. At this event a variety of corporate

and community organizations participate in a one-day wheelchair basketball tournament to raise funds in support of wheelchair basketball programs across BC. The \$1,000 registration fee covers your team entry for up to 10 participants, t-shirts, and lunch. The help of our BCWBS membership is always appreciated for team recruitment, donations and prizing for our silent auction and team awards and volunteers to help coach teams, score keep, referee, etc. Call BCWBS at (604) 737-3138 for more information or register your team on-line at [www.bcwbs.ca](http://www.bcwbs.ca).

### Join us for the 2008 Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion Event

On Sunday, June 8th, 2008, people of all ages and abilities can come out to wheel or walk with friends and family along a designated route in their community, or participate in a fun and challenging wheelchair relay to raise funds and make a difference. So save the date and get involved! Last year's event raised more than \$2 million for people with spinal cord injury and we're hoping set the bar even higher in 2008! Show your support by participating in an event near you, making a donation, volunteering at an event or organizing a special event of your own. For information on 6th Annual Wheels in Motion events throughout BC and across the country contact: 1-866-60-WHEEL or (1-866-609-4335) or email: [wheels@rickhansen.com](mailto:wheels@rickhansen.com)

### Abbotsford Wheelchair Basketball Program

BCWBS will once again be offering another 8 week wheelchair basketball development session at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Abbotsford this spring. Join us Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:30pm on April 10, 17, May 1, 8, 15, 22 as well as June 5 and 12. This program is open to both new and experienced players. A limited number of sport wheelchairs are available for use at the program. To be eligible to participate, players must have a current BCWBS membership. (\$35 for adults, \$20 for juniors) If you require a sports wheelchair please contact BC Wheelchair Basketball at 604-737-3138. Special thanks to Rick Hansen Secondary School and the Rick Hansen Quality of Life Fund for your support of this program.

# HIGH PERFORMANCE CAMP DRAWS ATHLETES FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

On January 5 and 6, 30 athletes and six coaches from around the province gathered at Douglas College to take part in another extremely successful high performance camp. The purpose of the camp was to bring together the best players and coaches in BC to focus on skill development, team system play and the sharing of different perspectives. The weekend also features CWBA Centre for Performance Sessions as part of the national athlete training curriculum. Players from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Northern BC and the interior all took part along with all three Canadian national coaches to make this weekend both fun and educational. With a mix of both up and coming players and established veterans, everyone went away having improved on their skills and all continued to show great improvement from camp to camp.

In addition to skill development, the weekend also served as a selection camp for the Women's Provincial Team, and an evaluation camp for the Men's Provincial Team. Both of whom hope to take home the National Championship on home turf as BC hosts the Canadian National Wheelchair Basketball Championships in May. The weekend also served as a means of identifying new talent to participate in the Canadian

Centre for Performance program and with an exciting batch of young talent, the BC team looks to remain strong in the coming years.

A special thanks to all the players and coaches for participating and the team veterans who continue to strive for improvement while showing the younger athletes the dedication that it takes to achieve success. Also thanks to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this camp happen and we look forward to the remainder of the season. BCWBS is pleased to present the Men's and Women's BC teams for 2008:

BC Men's Provincial Team: Jaimie Borisoff, Roberto Molina, Richard Poon, Bo Hedges, Richard Peter, Sunera Samarakoon, Ross MacDonald, Erik Hagreen, Kevin Bowie, Brian McLennon, Tony Golston, Scott Allen, Peter Taylor Coach

BC Women's Provincial Team: Shira Golden, Jennifer Krempien, Jessica DesMazes, MJ Boudreault, Misty Thomas, Elisha Williams, Nancy LaFleche, Arley McNeney, Janet McLachlan, Wendy Jansen, Liz Wolfe, Coach Marni Abbott-Peter

## COACHES CORNER

### Marni Abbott-Peter – Provincial Coach

BCWBS Coaches are preparing for the busiest months of the wheelchair basketball season. There are upcoming championships for junior, men, women, NWBA and CWBL. We are also looking forward to the National Team selection camps in April. Several BC athletes will be attending these camps with hopes of being selected to the team for the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing this fall. Stay tuned to the BCWBS website to see the results and stories from these elite competitions.

### Regional Coach Updates

#### Greater Vancouver – Joe Higgins

The fall and winter seasons are always busy time for wheelchair basketball in the Lower Mainland. The successful completion of 2 City League programs was great to see. With over 50 participants in the two sessions our May program looks poised for the same success. A special thanks to Douglas College and Bridging the Gap for making this program possible.

The Byrne creek skill development and game night will be continuing at 6:30–9:30pm and there will also be a Be Squad camp March 15 from 12:00–6:00pm at Douglas College.

Although many of our junior programs are wrapped up for the season, there are still opportunities for juniors to come out and play. There will be a program starting up in Abbotsford or you can contact BCWBS for more information.

### Okanagan – Joe Higgins

In December, the first ever Kelowna City League wrapped up and it was very exciting to bring this new program to the Okanagan. A special thanks to People in Motion and the Rick Hansen Quality of Life Grant for helping get this program off the ground.

Our Wednesday practices have wrapped up for the season but Sunday mornings at Parkinsons Rec Centre are still going strong so please drop in for some great wheelchair basketball.

Also, we would like to wish good luck to Matthew Ficocelli, Bryan Shore and Wendy Jansen who will be representing the province in various upcoming competitions.

### Northern BC – Pat Harris and Mark Cormack

Vanderhoof Youth Recreational Program is up and running for youth ages 6 – 12 Years. The program will run February 25–April 29, on Tuesday evenings 6:00–7:00pm at Sinkut View Elementary. This program provides a fun, basic introduction to wheelchair basketball skills.

We would also like to congratulate our Zone 8 (Cariboo-North East) team for their recent gold medal performance at the BC Winter Games in Kimberly Cranbrook as well as athletes Avril Harris and Erik Vliegenthart who also went on the help the Kamloops Bull-Dawgs win the BC-CWBL Division 2 title.