

Organization Highlights

2014 marked a milestone year for ParaSport and Recreation PEI. The organization celebrated its 40th Anniversary. The organization has seen a lot of success over the years so we felt it was important to use this opportunity to take a look back into history and celebrate the successes. We celebrated by holding a celebration event at the Culinary Institute of Canada. Invitations were sent out to all past Board Members, athletes, coaches and volunteers that we had on record. As you can imagine, this was a monumental task! During the event we presented a video that highlighted the parasports that were offered over the years on Prince Edward Island, dating back to the early 1970's. We also honored all of the past Presidents of the organization as well as our Paralympic athletes. It was an exciting and enjoyable evening for all involved.

During the 2014-2015 year, the organization tried two new initiatives, a curling program for people with a physical disability and a ParaSport Festival. Both initiatives were successful and there are plans to offer both again this year. The ParaSport Festival was a multi-sport festival that was open to students with a disability (K to 9). The goal of the event was to showcase the various parasports (e.g. goalball, boccia, wheelchair basketball, sledge hockey, etc.) that are offered on PEI as well as to provide Teachers and Educational Assistants with the hands on experience with the various parasports. The event included two very special guests, Mark Arendz, two time Paralympic Medalist and Kristen Cameron, National Wheelchair Rugby Team Player. Both athletes shared their stories with students, staff and volunteers. In addition to the showcase of parasports, we offered Changing Minds, Changing Lives (CMCL) workshops for Teachers and Educational Assistants. To date, the ParaSport Festival is showing a lot of promise for recruitment of new athletes. Last year's event has recruited new athletes to our swimming program, a coach to our sledge hockey program and a new program, target shooting, was created. We hope that this event will be even bigger this year.



Wheelchair Basketball- Competitive

The PEI Wheelchair Basketball Program faced some challenges this past year. In league play, our Island Teams did well. The Maritime Wheelchair Basketball League Finals were held in Charlottetown in March. The PEI Mustangs finished third in the "A" Division while the PEI Canada Games Team finished second in the "B" Division. Of course sights were set on Canada Games however we had a couple barriers to overcome before we could confirm our participation at the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Our team could not meet the classification points needed to put a team into the Games. With support from Wheelchair Basketball Canada and the Canada Games Council, we were able to successfully recruit an additional player from Newfoundland. I would like to personally thank all those that were involved in this lengthy process, as well as all provinces across the country that had to vote in favor of this special request from PEI. We are extremely grateful to have the support from across the country. This will assist us in building a better and stronger program on PEI!

Team PEI made a strong showing at the Canada Games. Team PEI finished fourth overall behind Alberta, the highest rank ever for Team PEI in wheelchair basketball!

Wheelchair Basketball- Development

ParaSport and Recreation PEI offered a Wheelchair Sport After School Program in the Spring. The program was exclusively designed for children with mobility impairments but open to all children. The goal of this program was to help children with mobility impairments between the ages of 5-12 to become physically active by helping to establish wheelchair fundamental skills, knowledge and abilities needed to confidently participate in play and sport with their peers. Sarah Gillis of the PEI Canada Games Wheelchair Basketball Team ran the program for six weeks at three different elementary schools. We had over 100 students participate in the after school programs!

ParaSport and Recreation PEI also continues to offer the equipment loan program where basketball chairs are loaned to schools for a two week period. There were eight schools that participated in the equipment loan program last school year.

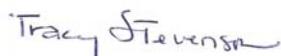
Fundraising

ParaSport and Recreation PEI has two major fundraising events, the Annual Golf Classic and the \$3,000 Christmas Shopping Spree Fundraising Campaign. The Christmas campaign was extremely successful raising approximately 50% of our annual budget for 2014-15 fiscal year.

The 2014 Golf Classic took a major hit last summer. There are too many other golf tournaments to compete with so it was decided to drop this fundraising initiative. We replaced it with a running event ...the "Night Dash", that took place on August 14, 2015. This event raised approximately \$7,000 for our programs!

We are excited for the upcoming months...there are lots of things happening on PEI for Islanders with a physical disability.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tracy Stevenson
Executive Director
ParaSport and Recreation PEI