

2016-2017 was another busy year for ParaSport and Recreation PEI. We had seven programs running this year at various locations across the Island. These programs included, wheelchair basketball (2 programs), sledge hockey, Aqua-Abilities (swimming lessons with kids), ParaFit (swimming lessons for adults), target shooting and paracycling. Paracycling was a new initiative this year. We partnered with Cycling PEI and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind- PEI to offer the program and we are thrilled with the outcome. We had 10 cyclists and 5 pilots participate in the program.

We also had some exciting developments in wheelchair basketball on PEI last year.

Wheelchair Basketball- Development

ParaSport and Recreation PEI did a lot of work at the grass roots level this year for wheelchair basketball and other Paralympic sports. The following were conducted this past year...

Mini Wheelchair Basketball Program- NEW

In January 2017, we offered a Mini Wheelchair Basketball Program for youth ages 5-13. We had 9 participants register for the program. The program was led by Janika Reddick, former Holland College Hurricanes Basketball Player. She did an amazing job with the program. We are off to a slow start for this season, with only 5 participants registered but we are excited to be collaborating with the other Maritime provinces to develop a mini/junior league.

Bridging the Gap: Have-A-Go Days & School Visits

We hosted 9 Have-A-Go/Awareness sessions across PEI. We targeted summer sport camps, day camps, community festivals, etc. From these sessions, we were able to identify several potential youth for a mini wheelchair basketball program. We also visited 5 schools where we gave presentations and each school borrowed our wheelchairs so wheelchair basketball could be included in their PE curriculum.

ParaSport Festival

For the third year in a row, we hosted a ParaSport Festival at the UPEI. The festival was for students with a disability, grades K to 12. 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 students, Teachers and Educational Assistants with the hands on experience with the various parasports. The event included two very special guests, Canadian National Sledge Hockey Team Members, Billy Bridges and Adam Dixon. The response we received from the schools was overwhelming. We had over 80 students and 60 staff participate in the event. This event received a lot of media attention because we used this event as the official launch for the 2016 World Sledge Hockey Challenge that we hosted last December.

Wheelchair Basketball- Competitive

The major highlight for our PEI Mustangs this past season was having one of our players, Westley Johnston being named to the Men's U23 National Team. We were very proud to have another Islander named to a National Team!

The PEI Mustangs participated in the Maritime Wheelchair Basketball League. They attended four off Island tournaments and PEI hosted one. Our participation numbers for this program continue to remain low (9 players) but we are hoping that the new mini program will be a feeder program for the Mustangs.

While we are excited about the progress we made this year but, there is still lots of work to be done! We are looking forward to another busy year for ParaSport and Recreation PEI.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Stevenson
Executive Director