

The Paralympic Insider

CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

The Games on CBC and SRC

CBC Sports has announced it will air an impressive level of coverage of the **Athens 2004 Paralympic Games** from Greece, beginning Saturday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. ET on CBC Television. From Sept. 18 – Oct. 3, CBC Television will air 21 ½ hours of Paralympic action.

Following the successful formula of the Paralympics from Salt Lake City in 2002, Canadians can enjoy their favourite Paralympic athletes on CBC Television.

Throughout the **Athens 2004 Paralympic Games**, CBC Television will feature same-day competition coverage, feature segments and highlights.

"We are excited to once again be able to provide exposure to the Paralympic Games and our Canadian athletes who are taking part in the events," said Nancy Lee, executive director of CBC Sports.

"The Canadian Paralympic Committee thanks the CBC for its continuing and growing support of the

Paralympic Movement and its commitment to showcasing Canadian diversity and equity through its broadcasting," said Brian MacPherson, Director General of CPC. "The 2004 Paralympic Games represent an unprecedented level of CBC broadcasting support, including, for the first time, weekday prime-time

coverage."

Radio-Canada has also increased its coverage of the Games. Two shows of two hours will be presented Sunday October 3rd and 10th, a week after the closing ceremony.

CPC will release both CBC and SRC schedule on its website during the Games.

Programming



CBCsports

- » Sat. Sept. 18, 1 pm (ET)
- » Sun. Sept. 19, 4 pm, 11:30 pm (local)
- » Mon. Sept. 20, 7 pm (local)
- » Tue. Sept. 21, 7 pm (local)
- » Wed. Sept. 22, 7 pm (local)
- » Thu. Sept. 23, 11:30 pm (local)
- » Fri. Sept. 24, 11:30 pm (local)
- » Sat. Sept. 25, 2 pm (ET)
- » Sun. Sept. 26, 4 pm, 11:30 pm (local)
- » Mon. Sept. 27, 7 pm (local)
- » Tue. Sept. 28, 7 pm (local)
- » Sat. Oct. 2, 2 pm (ET)
- » Sun. Oct. 3, 11:30 pm (local)



Radio-Canada

In *ADRÉNALINE* TV Show

- » Sunday October 3rd, 3 pm (ET)
- » Sunday October 10th, 3 pm (ET)

Calendar of events AUGUST

9-10, Swimming Paralympic Team Training Camp, Winnipeg, MB
9-12, Athletics Relay Training Camp, Edmonton, AB
13 - 29, Summer Olympic Games, Athens, GREECE
19 - 22, Canadian Disabled Water Ski, Montréal, QC
19 - 22, Wheelchair Tennis Canadian Championships, St-Jérôme, QC
20-22, Boccia Ontario Games, London, ON
25-29, Sailing Mobility Cup, Ninette, MB

September

2-12, Swimming Paralympic Team Camp, Kos, GRE
11-13, Shooting Fiocchi Cup & Pre-Paralympic tournament, Padua, Italy
17 - 28, XIIth Paralympic Summer Games, Athens, GREECE



TIDBITS

The CPC President **Patrick Jarvis** was named by the IOC to be part of the 11-member Evaluation Commission that will visit the 5 Candidate Cities to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Paris, New York, Moscow, London and Madrid.



WORLD VIEW

Richard Vander Wal of Toronto, Ont. finished fourth in his race at the Rowing Worlds in the adaptive event held in Spain.



RED AND WHITE

Visa and Grand & Toy raised more than \$41,000 from their fundraising event, held from May 31st to July 2nd. Funds will help the Canadian Paralympic Team going to Athens.

The CPC is looking for names of previous Canadian flag bearers before the 1992 Barcelona Games in order to update our records. If you remember anybody that carried the flag, please let us know at sophie@paralympic.ca

The Paralympic Insider is produced by the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

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PARALYMPIC FOUNDATION



Available in Ontario

Buy Boutari Noussa Wine in August and Support our Paralympians



Buy several bottles of Boutari Noussa Greek red wine at any Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) outlet, from August 1st to 31st, and Whitehall Agencies, a major wine wholesaler from Montreal, will generously donate to the Canadian Paralympic Foundation 50 cents from every bottle sold.

Your purchases will both support our Paralympic Team at the Athens Games, September 17th to 28th, and let you toast the many medals they are sure to win. Go to <http://www.goodlibations.com/whitehall/details.asp?what=55> for a complete description of this fine wine.

The CPF greatly appreciates the generosity and imagination of Whitehall Agencies for this initiative and praiseS them for their commitment to our Paralympic Movement.

If you have any fundraising idea that you would like to organize in support our Paralympic athletes, hopefuls and programs for all Canadians with a physical disability, please contact **Barry Winfield** at (613) 569-4333, 511-2343.

Paralympic Day at the SkyDome

As you may know, the CPC, in partnership with Bell Canada, has launched a new program and initiative, the Bell Canada Paralympic Spokesperson Team. A team of 14 select Paralympic athletes is participating in a number of media and public appearances leading up to the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece, inspiring Canadians with their strength, tenacity, skill and passion. The aim of the program is raise the overall profile of athletes, their sports and the Paralympic Games.

Over the summer, CPC is targeting major festivals, celebrations and professional sports. The spokesperson's role is to interact with the public in distributing posters and postcards of the Athens Games, sign autographs and chat with supporters.

Canada Day Celebrations

Kirby Coté (swimming- MB), Paul Gauthier (boccia-BC) and Amy Alsop (goalball - SK) participated in very successful Canada Day Celebrations in their home cities and signed some

autographs.

On August 3rd, the Toronto Blue Jays, in partnership with the CPC, CPF and CWBA, hosted the "Paralympic Day" at the Skydome. Toronto sport fans had the opportunity to meet



Patrick Anderson, Captain of the Basketball Team, had the honor throwing the first pitch at the Blue Jays' Game on August 3rd. Photo: CWBA.

Ministers named

On July 20th, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced his new Cabinet.



Lisa Frulla is the new Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Status of Women. Sport Canada is a branch of the International and Intergovernmental Affairs Sector within the federal Department of Canadian Heritage.



Stephen Owen was named Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport)

Spokesperson Team members (Dave Durepos, Andrew Haley, Sabrina Petinnicchi & David Willsie), as they prepare for the final countdown to the Paralympic Games, during an on-field pre-games presentation. The 2 wheelchair basketball teams greeted the spectators in the stadium. The men's Basketball Team Captain Patrick Anderstand throw the first pitch before the game.

On August 12th, the Montreal Alouettes will be recognizing Quebec Paralympic athletes (Pierre Olivier Boily, Stéphane Coté, Benoit Huot & Sabrina Petinnicchi), during a special pre-game presentation.

Events coordinator Karen McMillan is arranging additional events, fairs and shows.

Be sure to keep an eye open for Paralympic athletes in your area at your next sporting or community event!

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Paralympic shooter returns home for the Games

NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. - Rifle shooter Christos Trifonidis has been to three Paralympics but the Games this September in Athens are extra special.

The 58-year-old quadriplegic from North Vancouver has led a life with enough material to make a gripping movie drama. His story starts in Greece.

At age three, he and his mother fled their native land, which was struggling



internally at the end of the Second World War. They settled in Poland but soon afterwards his mother died of pneumonia and Christos was placed in a Polish orphanage. Eleven years later, his father and two older brothers were tracked down in Canada and Christos was reunited with his family.

Christos returned to Greece once in 1978 during a three-month 13,000 mile European trip. Twenty-six years later another important chapter in his life will be based in Greece.

"I don't know if there is a word to describe how I feel about these Paralympics," said Trifonidis. "Yes I'm scared, yes I feel emotions, I'm excited to go back, all that is in it, but it's still hard to explain. It should be an amazing experience and I want to do well."

Now retired, Trifonidis worked in B.C. most of his adult life, primarily in the logging business. At age 36, he started to experience sharp pains running down the right side of his body, which eventually led to being in a wheelchair.

Trifonidis admitted it was hard to accept his situation. Eventually his life took a positive swing when he was introduced to the sport of shooting, and the lure to compete at a major event such as the Paralympics became his ambition.

Trifonidis competed at the 1992



Chris Trifonidis at the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Summer Games. Chris will return to his birthplace at the Games in September.

Games in Barcelona, 1996 in Atlanta and 2000 in Sydney. His best result was fourth in air rifle in 1992. In Atlanta he shot 598 (a perfect score is 600) but still finished 10th.

"It's a very competitive and deep field internationally," said Trifonidis, scheduled to compete in three events in Athens: air rifle standing (he shoots with a support), air rifle prone and prone .22 calibre. "My goal is to finish in the top three this time."

"To achieve that, I'll probably have to be perfect."

The Official Paralympic Store



Now open to the public !

Select among the following five items from the 2004 Canadian Team Uniform

- Short Sleeve Sport Wear
- Coolmax Sport Wear
- Long Sleeve Sport Wear
- Baseball Cap
- Backpack

20 % discount for the 2004 Team Members (« coupon rebate code » required).

Easy to order : online, by phone, by fax or by mail!

ALL PROCEEDS HELP SUPPORT THE 2004 TEAM



www.paralympic.ca

photos : Benoit Pelosse, Jean-Baptiste Benavent

Three athletes nominated as finalists to carry the Canadian flag

The Canadian Paralympic Committee is proud to announce the three finalists for the prestigious role of Flag Bearer during the Opening Ceremonies for the XII Summer Paralympic Games, to be held September 17th to 28th in Athens. The three nominees, women's wheelchair basketball player Chantal Benoît (Orleans, ON), sprinter Earle Connor (Calgary, AB) and swimmer Elisabeth Walker (St. Catharines, ON), were chosen by a five-person selection committee. The winner will be revealed on Wednesday, September 15th at the Pentelikon Hotel in Athens, as part of the "2004 Canadian Paralympic Team Pep Rally" in front of more than 260 guests and members of the media.

Chantal BENOIT



Earle CONNOR



Elisabeth WALKER



Basketball player Chantal Benoît, originally from Beloeil, is one of the four most experienced players on the Canadian team, with this being her sixth appearance at the Paralympic Games. She needs no further introduction. Her path speaks for itself, including a gold-medal performance at the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Paralympic Games as well as at the World Championships in 1998 and 2002. Despite all these honours, being named among the three finalists touched her.

"It's great news for me. I've been playing for 21 years on courts all around the world. The feeling of being recognized is very nice, but it is also a reflection of my teammates. All the players of the national team contributed to our gold medal wins. It would be a very proud moment for me to carry the Canadian flag because Canada remains an undeniable leader on the international sports scene," she stated.

The talented runner and world record holder in the 100m and 200m, Earle Connor, originally from Castlegar, BC and now living in Calgary, has never been one to cower in the face of adversity. This 2003 Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability says he is very pleased to be a finalist for standard-bearer.

"Just being among this select group of three athletes is one of the greatest honours of my career. All my years of hard work and effort are being recognized. To know that I am nominated by my peers is a very special feeling. I thank everybody. If I am ultimately selected, it will be wonderful, since it will mark eight years from the day I had my first taste of the Paralympic Games, watching the events on TV," gushed Connor, overwhelmed with emotion.

World record holder for 50m and 100m butterfly and as part of the 4x100m relay team, swimmer Elisabeth Walker considers carrying the Maple Leaf would be the "icing on the cake" at her fourth and final Paralympic Games. This swimmer, originally from Saskatoon, first competed at the Paralympic Games in Barcelona when she was just 15 years old.

"I was very surprised to be nominated because there are several others just as deserving. I have always given my all at each event and it's all the better if I can inspire young people to join the Paralympic Movement. If I'm the winner, it will be an amazing feeling to carry the flag in front of my twin sister and my boyfriend, who will be in the audience. I will also think of my family who will be watching on TV. I would say that all three deserve such an honour."

A Nation in Motion at Canada & World Pavilion in Ottawa

On August 1st and 2nd, the general public was invited to meet some of our greatest Paralympians and learn more about their sport at the Canada & World Pavilion. Paralympians Mirane Lanoix-Boyer (boccia), Joe Radmore (athletics), Sally Thomas (powerlifting) and retired sledge hockey goalie Dean Deslauriers shared with the visitors their experience and gave sport background information. Visitors was also invited to try-out the wheelchair basketball and boccia with the athletes.



Photos: National Capital Commission.

Paralympic Team Uniforms and Joey Radmore's racing wheelchair were some of the items shown at the exhibition. Joey also played wheelchair basketball with young participants.



The 2004 Athens Games Section



COUNTDOWN TO THE GAMES : 40 DAYS
(as of August 9th, 2004)

Athlete and Staff agreements

The CPC recently sent out both the Athlete and Staff Agreements to all 2004 Canadian Paralympic Team members. The package contains certain information designed to answer some of your questions, and combined with the ZEUS website, should make your preparations for Athens as complete as possible.

Most importantly, the package includes two copies of the CPC Athlete and/or Staff Agreement. Please review these documents carefully, then complete and sign **ALL** of the following pages before you return **ONE** copy to the CPC office in the envelope provided; please keep the second copy for your records:

- **Name and Sport (Cover Page)**
- **Athlete and/or Staff Agreement Contract**
- **Emergency Consent Form**

The Athlete and/or Staff Agreement and all supporting forms must be completed and received in the CPC office by the firm deadline of Friday, August 13th, 2004. If you are unable to meet this deadline for any reason, please contact Greg Lagacé at the CPC office; *phone:* (613) 569-4333 ext.222, *email:* greg@paralympic.ca.

Upon receipt of your signed Agreement, you will be officially selected to the 2004 Canadian Paralympic Team.

Celebrate the 2004 Canadian Paralympic Team!

On the night of September 15th 2004, family, friends, sponsors, staff and supporters will gather in the hall of the Pentelikon Estate to cheer on and encourage the 2004 Canadian Paralympic Team members. In addition to unveiling the name of the Canadian flag bearer, the 2004 Athens Paralympic Team Salute is an opportunity for Canadians to celebrate and honour both athletes and officials as they take on the world in Athens.

Join the CPC in celebrating their 2004 Canadian Paralympic Team for an evening of entertainment, excitement and emotion offered by artists Simone Soman, Chin Injeti, Jessie Ross and Andrian Anantawa. The evening will end with the naming of the Canadian Flag Bearer for the Opening Ceremonies of the 12th Paralympiad.

Invitations will be available for distribution as of August 13th. Add your family and friends who will be in Athens on September 15th to the invitation list. All those interested must RSVP by September 4th.

2004 Canadian Paralympic Team Salute

Don't miss the Canadian Paralympic Team Salute on Sept. 15th at the Pentelikon Estate in an Athens suburb.

All on-site Canadians are invited. Register at canada@paralympic.ca in order to receive your invitation before leaving for Athens.

How can ZEUS help you?

With the Athens 2004 Paralympic Summer Games quickly approaching, we strongly encourage you to visit the ZEUS website on a frequent basis for news and updates regarding the Athens environment and CPC Games preparations: *Competition schedule, Games profile, Housing information, Travel information, Etc.*

Use ZEUS to stay informed and to answer any questions you may have from now until the Games!
www.paralympic.ca

Questions? We have the answers !

With less than 1½ months to go before the Opening Ceremonies, a host of questions naturally come to mind as you make the final arrangements for your voyage to Athens. To help you get ready for departure, the CPC has prepared a final information package to address your questions and ease your concerns.

The package includes detailed information on travel and clothing, an insurance summary, calendar of events, medical review and update, etc. In addition to the information package, you will receive 2 items that are indispensable and essential to your participation in the Games: airline ticket and the Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Card (PIAC). **Please note**, some NSOs have requested that these items be sent to them directly. If you have not received these items, please contact your NSO. Be sure to look for your final information package beginning **mid-August!**

DID YOU KNOW...

The Greeks were the first to develop an alphabet with vowels.

Website of the month

Canadian Embassy in Greece: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/greece/menu-en.asp>

KEY DATES

August 13, 2004	Deadline to submit Athlete and Staff Agreements to the CPC.
August 13-29, 2004	ATHENS 2004 Olympic Summer Games
September 9, 2004	Official Team Canada travel date
September 10, 2004	Paralympic Village Official Opening