



### Event Summary

The Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia (DSA-BC) is preparing to host Mobility Cup 2006, September 11-15 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on English Bay. Canada's premier regatta for sailors with a disability, Mobility Cup will be returning to Vancouver for the first time since 1998. A nationally and internationally recognized event, Mobility Cup 2006 will reflect Vancouver's position as a host to world-class events and the birthplace of disabled sailing in Canada.

DSA-BC founder, Mayor Sam Sullivan, will launch the event, hosting the opening ceremonies and a celebrity race to welcome dignitaries, guests and sailors with disabilities from across the country and around the world. The regatta itself will comprise three and a half days of racing, preceded by one and a half days of practice and the celebrity event.



### Background and History

DSA-BC and Mobility Cup origins are closely related. They can be traced back to the gift of a specially designed, accessible sailboat that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher presented to Rick Hansen during Expo 86 in Vancouver in honour of his round the world 'Man in Motion' tour. Two years later, Rick found himself too busy to use the 16-foot Sunbird, and he asked Sam Sullivan, now Mayor of Vancouver and Member of the Order of Canada, if he could make use of the vessel. Sam and several quadriplegic friends worked together to begin sailing and the Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia was born.



In the early 1990's Sip 'n' Puff technology was adapted for sailboats, enabling quadriplegic sailors with little use of their arms or hands to control boats by sipping and blowing. By 1998, Martin 16 sailboats with their heightened control response and excellent safety record had replaced the earlier Sunbirds.

## Mobility Cup 2006

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Designed by world-renowned boat designer, Don Martin of Richmond, with the assistance of Sam Sullivan and a small group of sailors, the Martin 16 has become internationally recognized as the foremost sailboat for people with significant physical disabilities. With the Martin 16, sailors with disabilities can compete on an equal basis with able-bodied sailors. Today, DSA-BC sails eight Martin 16s out of the Jericho Sailing Centre.

In 1991, Sam Sullivan envisioned a regatta in which people would come together to raise public awareness of the capabilities of people with disabilities and to provide those with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a world-class event. Mobility Cup fulfills Sam's vision. Vancouver hosted Mobility Cup for the first several years, inviting people from across British Columbia and the rest of Canada to take part. As hoped, the intended result was the growth of chapters in cities such as Victoria, Kelowna, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. Many of these locations have since hosted Mobility Cup, further adding to the development of the sport. There are now over 30 disabled sailing associations across Canada.

### DSA-BC and Mobility Cup Objectives

Mobility Cup fosters DSA-BC's mission of achieving the following objectives:

- To enable people with significant disabilities, including high-level quadriplegics to sail independently;
- To facilitate rehabilitation through recreation and self-esteem building;
- To promote the skills and achievements of sailors with disabilities;
- To promote the integration of sailors with disabilities into able bodied competitions;
- To foster inclusiveness and raise community awareness of the potential of people with disabilities.



### DSA-BC Programming

During its first season at the Jericho Sailing Centre in 1989, 22 sailing sessions were logged with the original Sunbird. Last season, nearly 800 sailing experiences were registered at Jericho. There is a variety of programming scheduled each year including the Children's Summer Sailing Program, Adult Sailing Programs, Kid's Adventure Days, and annual competitions such as Integration Cup, New Beginnings Regatta, Cascadia Cup, and the prestigious Mobility Cup.