

Toronto Pan American Games Reunion

By: Richard Koo (Canada)

The city of Toronto, Canada was proud to host the 17th Pan American and 5th ParaPan American Games during the months of July and August 2015. This is the first time IOAPA has held a reunion outside of the Olympic Games, but we hope that this event starts a new tradition of IOAPA reunions at other regional multi-sport events.



The reunion took place on July 16 at Betty's, a friendly pub and local institution renowned for having once been called the Betty Ford Clinic until a 1993 "cease and desist" order was issued by lawyers of the former First Lady of the United States.

Being just 7 minutes from the Athletes' Village, Betty's provided the ideal location in which to host this event. Despite being a new event to the IOAPA reunion schedule, this meeting still attracted over 20 alumni from across the Americas as well as Europe and Asia. Those that attended were treated to a cozy yet upbeat environment and great conversation as we saw new faces and reconnected with old friends.

Despite the busy schedules of the alumni (many being athletes, volunteers or team officials who needed to be at events the next day), the evening continued well past 11pm. The success of this event is due in no small part to the enthusiasm and engaging nature of those in attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my co-country coordinator Caroline Bujold for helping to organize and spread the word about this year's event to the IOAPA alumni.

See you again at the next reunion in Rio!

