



# BESPOKE PLUS

"Pushing to be Better, Faster, and Stronger"

October 2006

CSMC Hand Out

Volume 4, Number 44



Check out [www.CSMC.ca](http://www.CSMC.ca) for a schedule of offerings for 2006 at the Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Road October 4-6. We will be showcasing new products from RGK, Varilite®, and Kenda (we have passes if you need one). See you at the kick-off social Wednesday evening in the exhibit hall.



Gary McPherson was born in Edson, Alberta. He moved to the Yukon Territory for three years during his childhood, and in 1955 became a permanent resident of Edmonton.

Go for it Gary!

## VARILITE® Reflex™

**VARILITE®** is the leader in ultra-lightweight Air-Foam Floatation wheelchair seating systems and back supports and we will be on hand at the [www.CSMC.ca](http://www.CSMC.ca) to show our products!

Air-Foam Floatation combines the best characteristics of air and foam to provide excellent pressure distribution, comfort and stability. See us at booth 715, 716, 717, and 718 to check out the **Evolution™**, **Meridian™**, and **Wave™** Series along with a glimpse of what is currently scheduled to be available in February of 2007, the all new **REFLEX™**! The **REFLEX™** is an **ultra-lightweight skin protection** cushion for those at moderate risk of breakdown that has a revolutionary built in air release device that automatically releases a portion of the air when the user sits on the cushion to provide a maintenance-free fixed amount of immersion for optimum pressure distribution and postural support. Built **VARILITE®** tough with automatic inflation when the weight is removed, this product is destined to be the darling of the industry!

Also coming in the next few weeks, the **NEW SIZES** you have asked for; see us at our booth for a complete list of the additional sizes our booth along with the whole family of postural support systems including other seat cushions, back supports, secondary supports, and seating accessories. See the web sites at [www.varilite.com](http://www.varilite.com) and [www.varilite.ca](http://www.varilite.ca).

## Vote 4 Mother

When I ended up in a chair 30 plus years ago, I met a fellow that immediately made a tremendous impact on my life. He was inspirational, motivational, and became a friend for life affectionately labeled "Mother" because he was to so many. He has embarked on a mission to be the next Premier of the Province of Alberta. He is Gary McPherson and he needs the help of every Albertan to have Alberta realize **The McPherson Difference!**

He is a leader locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally, he effects change, he is a father & spouse, a partner in small business, a University lecturer, a published author, a sought-after public speaker, he understands the medical system from the "inside out", he is an adjunct professor in the Faculty of Physical Education & Recreation at the University of Alberta, he is the Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, he has been named to the Order of Canada (1993), named one of the top 100 Edmontonians of the Century, and he was also named one of Alberta's top 100 individuals who contributed to Sport over the





RGK has had ERGO seating for over a decade!

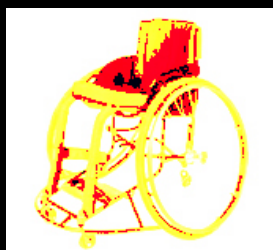
Congratulations to the other companies now promoting enhanced seating and mobility!

Wheelchairs  
Accessories  
Cushions  
Backs and  
Secondary  
Supports



Varilite .ca 4RGK.com

KENDA KOLOR!



Andre was a teammate, business colleague, and friend!

last Century, and he wants to make a difference by leading the PC Party of Alberta and governing Canada's fastest growing province!

If you are an Albertan, please visit [www.GaryMcPherson.com](http://www.GaryMcPherson.com) and choose to make a difference by purchasing a membership on that site, at [www.albertapc.ab.ca](http://www.albertapc.ab.ca), or via the telephone 1-800-461-4443 or 780-423-1624 or (780) 423-1624. It is a "one member one vote" system and each candidate requires a minimum number of member supporters, so if you are eligible, please choose to get involved and help make a difference! Go for it Gary and know we are all supporting you!

## RGK Ergo



RGK's ERGO seating is well proven as a superior option for wheelchair users. RGK ergo seating can reduce the amount of dump desired by one third while having the balance factor remain the same as per a straight seat setup. This not only provides better balance and comfort, but it also distributes pressure better and makes it a lot easier for the end user to get in and out of the chair.

Now, there are an increasing number of manufacturers incorporating this design into their stable of units available to the general public.

## AMERICAN KENDA

**Kenda** has been making high quality tires, tubes, and flat free products since 1962! Today, they are making products for scooters, power chairs, sport, and daily use chairs to give comfortable rides, longer wear, and increased puncture resistance for indoor and outdoor use. Last year, they purchased **American**



**Airless** and relocated that manufacturing facility from California to their biggest North American facility in Ohio. Visit [www.kendausa.com](http://www.kendausa.com) and [www.americanairless.com](http://www.americanairless.com) for product lines and more information. Kenda has introduced non-marking color products to the North American market.

## Andre Viger Remembered

The head lines say, **André Viger** was born September 27, 1952 in Windsor, Ontario. He was a French Canadian Wheelchair marathoner and competed in five Paralympic Games along with a host of world Championships and other events garnering Gold, Silver, Bronze medals along with all kinds of other accolades including the Order of Québec and the Order of Canada! It is with great sadness that we relay his passing on Sunday October 01, 2006 at the age of 54. We have the utmost appreciation for Andre Viger, a teammate, business colleague, and friend! Our hearts are with all family and friends.

## Titanium

We have written often about the fact that most anyone using a wheelchair would like to have one that is stronger, lighter, and more durable. Most of us have listened to the manufacturer's promotion and understand that titanium is stronger, lighter, and has superior corrosion properties over chrome moly and aluminum. When we look at the frames alone, a titanium frame is 50% lighter

Titanium frames are 50% the weight of an equivalent chrome moly frame! But when you add in all the options units come with you are increasing the poundage and potential for break downs.

## What About Wheels?

[corima.com](http://corima.com)  
[decon.se](http://decon.se)  
[glancewheels.com](http://glancewheels.com)  
[karma.com.tw](http://karma.com.tw)  
[Mbl.dk](http://Mbl.dk)  
[nthawk.com](http://nthawk.com)  
[skywaywheels.com](http://skywaywheels.com)  
[spinergey.com](http://spinergey.com)  
[strykersorano.com](http://strykersorano.com)  
[sunmetal.com](http://sunmetal.com)  
[vulcanwheels.com](http://vulcanwheels.com)  
[velocitywheels.com](http://velocitywheels.com)  
[x-corewheels.com](http://x-corewheels.com)  
[zipp.com](http://zipp.com)



than an equal sized chrome moly frame, but this is only about one third the overall weight of the wheelchair. We add in the wheels which may be anywhere from one to six pounds depending on the wheel used, the tire, the tube, the axle, etc. A folding backrest adds in 258 grams, aluminum side guards adds 305 grams, screw in push handles is another 200 grams, and quick release stroller handles at 650 grams per pair! The brakes, type of footrest, upholstery, cushion, and back products all add in the pounds. There are a large number of castors available in composite and metal materials and there is a big difference in the weight they add.

I was amazed at a recent visit to a rehabilitation center in Quebec when we weighed different units and found that low end units made with what I would refer to as inferior parts waiting to be changed was within a pound or two of titanium units. When you add up all the parts that those units come standard with you naturally increase the poundage and incident of breakage issues.

A Manchester University study with top conditioned wheelchair basketball athletes revealed that titanium products with Spinergey wheels had 25% improvement in acceleration, 5.5% increase in speed, -26% weight reduction, and -15% reduced energy requirement in relation to chrome moly units with standard steel spoke wheels!

"Six pounds of weight difference does not seem like that much when a lot of us would be better off losing that much around the waist! However, when that six pounds is at arms length and you have to lift it 10 to 30 times a day, 300 to 900 times a month, 3600 to 10,800 times a year, my shoulders tell me go for it and reduce the weight of the product as much as possible.

Those six pounds three feet away becomes closer to sixteen when the laws of physics get done with it unlike those six pounds around my stomach. Although, I should also consider losing that sooner than later! Seriously, the danger of repetitive strain injury is very real and should be of utmost concern to the user," quotes Dan Weber, Metrologist and 25 year wheelchair user.

## RGK and Spinergey

RGK Wheelchairs, Ltd., has announced that they will now provide the new Spinergey Wire Wheel on Daily Use Models using 24" and 25" wheels. This wheel has Spinergey quality in wire construction. The 30 spokes are straight-pull, stainless steel, in silver with black low flange hubs with 1/2" sealed bearings.

The black rim is custom double walled aluminum design in 20", 22", 24", 25", and 26". The hand rim is anodized aluminum, 6 Q-Tabs. This wheel is very reliable, attractive, and extremely strong. A great value!

Spinergey have also introduced a new flexible push rim which promises to be a big hit in the industry.

But what about all the other wheels on the market?

Glance Wheels have embarked on a journey in forging product, Easton has a new product available through Skyway, and Vulcan is gearing up to make noise in the market place.

There are a number of other wheels on the market as well, so we provide the web sites (left column) where you can get the skinny first hand.

Check them out and send us note on the wheels we missed along with the appropriate web site.



We enjoyed ourselves at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rehab Equipment Expo September 12<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, BC.

GF Strong's, Ian Denison did a super job of the event, made it very affordable to show our products, and introduced us to Dianna Mah-Jones.

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[www.Varilite.ca](http://www.Varilite.ca)  
[www.Varilite.com](http://www.Varilite.com)  
[www.RGKLife.com](http://www.RGKLife.com)

## MEDIChair Thunder Bay

Congratulations once again, MEDIChair Thunder Bay have been participating annually in "The Easter Seal Society Power Play", this year on September 30, 2006! Power Play is a 4 on 4 Floor Hockey Tournament which is an annual event in Thunder Bay known as **The Ultimate Power Lunch!** Last year Barb Ceresino's ladies team won the division, but this year competing in open they won the hearts and sportsmanship award along with the recognition of top fund raisers. The funds raised go to the Easter Seal Society for children, youth and young adults with physical disabilities in our community to assist them to reach their potential and enhance future independence.

Easter Seals funds disability solutions through financial assistance, summer camp, the Recreational Choices funding program, research advocacy, and public and consumer education.



RGK Wheelchairs, Inc., Varilite, and Kenda are proud supporters of initiatives like this; good job Barb!

## Welcome Dianna Mah-Jones

Congratulations to Ian Denison for the job at REE2006 (super exhibitor pricing) and for introducing us to Dianna Mah-Jones. Working with him at G.F. Strong in Vancouver and at REE2006 was Occupational Therapist Dianna Mah-Jones who has not been to a CSMC, so we invited her along to join Mable and Lloyd Haase, Kevin Coleman, Charles Li, and Reg McClellan in our booth. Please welcome Dianna and help make the experience for her memorable.

## Bits and Bytes

- CSMC Oct 4-6, 2006;
- Rehacare, Dusseldorf, Germany 18-21 October 2006;
- Kidz Up North, Reebok Stadium, Bolton November 2006;
- Beyond Boundaries Live, Olympia 2, London December 8-9, 2006;
- Shoppers in Calgary Nov 3 and Toronto November 20, 21, 2006;
- Therapists Choice November 8, 2006.

**BESPOKE PLUS** helps market and promotes **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA** Tires, **SPINERGY** and **GLANCE** Wheels, and other products through the North American company called **RGK Wheelchairs, Inc.** Back issues on [www.4RGK.com](http://www.4RGK.com).

**If you have something that you think we should be expounding on, please contact the editor, Reg McClellan.**