



# BESPOKE PLUS

*"Pushing to be Better, Faster, and Stronger"*

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*The Canadian Women's Wheelchair Basketball team have won every Gold Medal at the World Championships or Paralympics except one (the USA took Gold in Athens) since 1992. They have numerous nominations for team of the year in Canada, but have never won. This year they are nominated at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Sport Awards to be held March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Winnipeg, MB. Their feat is unparalleled in sport and surely cannot be passed over again! Good luck gang!*



## RGK UK Factory

The RGK factory in the UK makes regular dealer/distributor announcements and most recently they relayed that all solid puncture proof tires in the future will be supplied with BLACK color only. In North America we will continue to offer after market tires which come from Green Tyre, MBL, and KIK, with the latter being a full stock in multiple colors for most rim types.

The factory was pleased to relay that recent changes to procedures combined with the hard work of the RGK team have resulted in our delivery time for new wheelchair builds being dramatically reduced. *We are currently confirming an eight week build time, whilst achieving a 90% success in on time deliveries.* Delivery times are impacted when orders are forwarded incomplete, when imagery is requested prior to the builds going forward, if there are unforeseen incidents with the delivery of components or raw materials, and if there are transportation issues.

## McMaster University Study

Researchers at McMaster University, Queen's University (St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital), University of Western Ontario (Parkwood Hospital), and Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (Lyndhurst Centre) are looking for 800 Ontario residents with spinal cord injuries. The study, which aims to examine the effects of health and physical activity on people with spinal cord injuries, will be the largest study of its kind, and could change the treatment currently given to those with such injuries.

Kathleen Martin Ginis, associate professor of kinesiology at McMaster University, and the lead investigator in the Study of Health and Activity in People with Spinal Cord Injury (SHAPE-SCI) said people with spinal cord injuries are at heightened risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity as well as various secondary health complications such as chronic pain, skin ulcers, and urinary tract infections. The key to preventing these problems, she believes, lies in increasing a person's physical activity.

The study is open to quadriplegics and paraplegics over the age of 18. Current physical activity is not a factor in participating in the study. Participants will be followed over an 18-month period to determine how their physical activity levels relate to their physical and psychological health, including their risk of diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Specifically, participants complete 3, 45-minute telephone interviews. During each interview participants are asked to recall their physical activity levels for the past 3 days as well as questions pertaining to their general physical and psychological health, and factors that are associated with physical activity. Interviews will be scheduled at a convenient time in accordance with the study protocol at the following time-points: baseline (0-months), 6 months, and 18 months. For more information on the study or to get involved, please contact Jennifer Vording at 905-525-9140 ext. 27937 OR email us at [shapesci@mcmaster.ca](mailto:shapesci@mcmaster.ca).



The REFLEX™ is the first Varilite® non-adjustable skin protection cushion which is virtually maintenance free. It features a built-in air-release device which allows a fixed amount of immersion and prevents bottoming out. When weight is taken off of the cushion, the REFLEX™ automatically re-inflates.

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## Thank You Bill

Bill Adamthwaite, Aries Medical, has decided to do a little less traveling, for business anyway, and a little more focusing on the use of technology to make visits to dealers in Canada. He has chosen to pass on contracts with Daher, Down Under Wool, Rotec, and the Varilite® side of RGK Wheelchairs, Inc. Aries Medical now represents Innovators exclusively and Mike Fricker, who was doing consulting work with Aries Medical, has now taken on a role with [www.achievemedicalinc.com](http://www.achievemedicalinc.com). We thank Bill and wish him all the best in his new life and work style and look forward to catching up at trade shows, etc.

## Reticulated Foam & REFLEX™

On most of our Varilite® cushion products we have machine washable covers that are available in mesh or incontinence. They are made with breathable four-way-stretch material and have reticulated foam inside which promotes air exchange and improves pressure distribution. The underside is a rugged non-slip material with hook and loop for added security and the covers meet strict ignition resistance standards for upholstered wheelchair components.

In the last few weeks Varilite® has experienced some supply issues with the reticulated foam which has caused some delivery issues. Reticulated foam is specialty foam that is designed with an open cell structure with few or no membranes to assist in the filtering and control of liquid delivery. It has various pore sizes to control permeability, high tensile, tear, and elongation properties, and is produced with antifungal and antibacterial additives. Back orders on Varilite® product is relatively new to us and that is why we have called back when out of a particular item to offer a substitute (i.e.: PSV for standard valve and vice versa or incontinence cover versus mesh). The latter suggestion, mesh versus incontinence, often brings up the question as to the difference in the two covers, especially since the product itself is a flotation device and water proof. Mesh covers are made of an open weave material designed to allow for best available air flow through the material. Incontinence covers are made of a waterproof material which will not allow fluid to penetrate the cover, and does not contain latex.

The REFLEX™ is coming with our next shipment (the second week of March) and Ontario residents will be pleased to know that it has an **ADP Device Code SESVP6020** (all formats) with a reimbursement of \$397.00 based on the \$425.00 retail pricing established.



## Bits and Bytes

- Congratulations to Team Canada taking top spot in Osaka, Japan;
- International Seating Symposium March 8-10;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Canadian Assistive Devices Association (CADA) Conference Shoppers Home Health Care Conference Ctr., in TO May 07.

**BESPOKE PLUS** helps to market and promote **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE®** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA** Tires, **SPINERGY** and **GLANCE** Wheels, and other products; 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.**