



Neuf #9

The origin of the Paralympic Games dates back to 1948 when Sir Ludwig Guttmann staged the International Wheelchair Games to coincide with the 1948 London Olympic Games.

These games follow the Olympic Games and since 1988 in Seoul, Korea has been held at the same venue as the Olympic Games!



People in Motion

The People in Motion Show is Canada's premier show for both professionals and people with a disability using medical supply products. The event features 63,000 square feet of exhibits including adapted vehicles, mobility aids, barrier-free design, rehabilitation services, home health care products, accessible travel, leisure activities, technical aids, employment information, corporate services, web services, sport programs, and government agencies. People in Motion is Canada's most comprehensive exhibition for people with disabilities of all ages, as well as their families and friends. For more information check out their site at www.people-in-motion.com and come down to say hello and check out our new offerings at E17-18-19; free admission!

Congratulations to Neuf

Most of you know Chantal Benoit (Neuf) as the French speaking lady who answers the RGK or **VARILITE™** line, processes your orders, manages the office, and pays the bills. I am proud to say that she is also a seasoned veteran of the women's Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Team and has been selected to represent her country at the Paralympics in Athens, Greece September 17th to the 28th, 2004.

Neuf was initially selected to the national team in 1984 and after a few lean years helped her team capture bronze at the world championships in St. Etienne, France in 1990. Since then, they have been number #1 in international play and are going for an unprecedented 7th World/Paralympic title.

Coach Tim Frick has been there every step of the way since 1990 as had Neuf's teammate in Ottawa, Linda (Snake) Kutrowski. We will miss Neuf for quite a few weeks between now and the end of the Paralympics, but our hearts and spirit travel with her!

Paralympics Ontario



RGK Wheelchairs, Inc. has signed on as the lead sponsor of the 2004 Ontario Paralympic Championships to be held at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke, July 23-24 (Site of the 1976 Olympiad). "I have grown up in sport for athletes with a disability and see this as an opportunity to give back" says Reg McClellan, President/CEO of RGK Wheelchairs Inc.

"In terms of industry sponsors, RGK's support for amateur sport over the last number of years has been unparalleled", says Andrew Greenlaw, Director of Sponsorship & Events for Paralympics Ontario, "it will be great to associate our event with such a high performance brand."

The 2004 Ontario Paralympic Championships is the premier event for athletes with a physical disability in Ontario, featuring such sports as athletics, goal ball, and wheelchair rugby. With the upcoming Paralympic Games (Athens, Greece) this event will undoubtedly be a key competition for many of Canada's Paralympians.

**Check out our
new site at:**

www.4RGK.com



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Paralympics Ontario is a non-profit, provincial sport organization that delivers programs and provides competitive opportunities for its member organizations. As a Provincial partner of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, our goal is to develop and promote the Paralympic Movement.

RGK Wheelchairs, Inc. is a privately owned corporation founded in 2002 to market and promote RGK Wheelchairs in North America and now distribute **VARILITE™** Seating Systems nationally, in addition to bringing Kenda tires, tubes, and Spinergy Wheels to the marketplace.

Note: The dealer network can look forward to a copy of the 2004 poster delivered to their store soon or pick one up at the People in Motion Show!

VARILITE™

The FAQ section of the **VARILITE™** web site answers a lot of questions as does the resource area, but when Nick from OMS asked about weight limits on cushions I could only recall seeing the truck parked on an Evolution™ and had to contact the factory. The cushions have been tested to 750 lbs., but even though they are that strong, they are still **very-light**. Even in the largest sizes, the **Evolution™**, **Solo™**, and **Stratus™** weigh in at less than two pounds, an important factor for self-propelling users. Added weight means added energy expenditure and greater joint strain. For some, it is imperative to conserve energy in order to carry out daily activities while preserving joint integrity. Combine this with the statement that **Varilite™** will replace any cushion due to manufacturer's error for a two year period from the date of purchase and you have a number one product package!



KENDA TIRES

The first group of **KENDA Iron Cap** tires has been distributed to active users. The new compound has the same L3R Pro properties to ensure the same grip which has been widely appreciated, but includes properties that provide for longer wear as well. In addition, the sidewall has been strengthened to meet the needs of Rugby enthusiasts as well as all other users. They will still come in red, yellow, blue, green, orange, and grey!

Bits and Bytes

- Vulcan Wheels are lacing their product with Spinergy hubs & spokes
- Congratulations to Team Ontario winning the 2004 Nationals
- Congratulations to the Edmonton Inferno on the CWWBL Title
- Are you thinking about Therapy Now!
- Rick Hansen, Wheels in Motion Event in your community June 13!
- Have you received your new RGK terms sheet dated March 01, 2004?

BESPOKE PLUS helps market and promotes **RGK Wheelchairs**, **VARILITE™** Seating and Positioning Systems, **KENDA** Tires, **SPINERGY** Wheels, and other products through the North American company called RGK Wheelchairs, Inc.

If you have something that you think we should be expounding on, please contact us at your convenience in the manner of your choice.