



## PIM 2016

We will be returning to the [www.People-in-Motion.com](http://www.People-in-Motion.com) show May 27-28 at Queen Elizabeth Place with a number of new products listed in our poster (left). We will have the founder and owner of Benoit Systemes (Robert Benoit) from France at this event along with Pablo

Martinez Molina from Batec in Spain. We will also have Spinergy's ZX-1 at the show along with the complete line of VARILITE® Seating Systems, Schwalbe, FrogLegs, Blax, BBraver, Kenda, Sun Components, Topolino, Loop Wheels, and a host of other products.



We are pleased to be working with the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists (OSOT) again this year to hold a "Linked in to Learn" session at the People in Motion Show. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Seating and Mobility Workshop in our series "Understanding, Evaluating and Justifying your prescription" presented by Sheila Buck, B.Sc., OT Reg. (Ont.) on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Exhibition Place Queen Elizabeth Building.



This is a great opportunity for people taking the workshop, the show presenters, the host OSOT, and the Exhibitors who will already be at the People in Motion Show. But, the real opportunity here is for the people using these products and the general public looking for more information on products and services for someone close to them!

## OMNI POD



It was a pleasure to meet U of T students Sebastian, Eric, Gavin, and Louis recently, who were tasked with a project labelled the "Omni Pod" that required a chair.

Sebastian explained it best; *"the Omni Pod is a wheelchair accessory designed to make certain film cameras (such as the Super 8 camera) and standard photography equipment accessible to wheelchair users. It was designed by Eric Tseng, Gavin Hurd, Sebastian Gajewski and Louis Lou, a team of student engineers from the University of Toronto. The challenge the team was tasked to solve in the design course named "Praxis II", was to find a way to allow manual wheelchair users to be able to film with a Super 8 camera, which would regularly require the user's hand to press and hold the trigger. Once the team solved the opportunity, they tweaked the design to allow for a wide range of wheelchairs to be fitted with a wide range of cameras. The team recently presented their concept design and prototype at the Division of Engineering Science's Showcase in the heart of Toronto on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April at the Heart House Great Hall."*

## Friends of Bill Hersh

Lisa Shapiro relays that the 2016 recipient of the Bill Hersh Memorial Scholarship at Carleton University is Samantha Faddoul, who received her B.Eng. at Carleton in 2015 and is now studying toward her Masters of Engineering (civil). *"Born in Halifax, Sam moved to Ottawa with family at high school age, where she not only excelled academically, but also played soccer, rugby, and volleyball, and roller-bladed, swam, skated and snowboarded. While her first scholastic love is math, she decided that engineering would offer her more career options. However,*

*she has maintained a math connection by tutoring high school students. On the sport side, she is considering taking up kayaking. She credits at least some of her interest in engineering to her father, who she says can make and fix anything; and she has spent time watching him do just that. Her inspirational mother holds a master's degree in divinity."* – Lisa Shapiro

## MedlineMedicalMart

Medical Mart relays it is business as usual after joining the Medline family headquartered in Chicago, IL. Medline has been around for four decades and has had continuous growth now offering over 350,000 medical devices and support services in more than 90 countries. Medical Mart brings the Canadian connection to the table along with a quarter of billion in revenue with a couple hundred employees at facilities in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Mississauga, Milton, Edmonton, Delta, and Thunder Bay. Together, they are now a company with 14,000 employees, no debt with either, and combined sales of \$8.3 Billion. The future is looking bright with this merger of two very well ran companies!

## Lithium Ion News

We had every intention of writing about the educational experiences or trials and tribulations of families dealing with spinal cord injuries in this issue of Bespoke Plus. We were thinking of Cassy and Forrest Campbell who purchased a Batec to get back to cycling and being able to get around in the environment they wish. Instead, we have to take a micro look at one aspect of their travels in life when the arbitrary allowed maximum wattage of a removable battery in a mobility device almost grounded them.

In another life a scooter company appealed to the industry to allow individuals using their product be allowed to travel with a lithium ion battery. The voltage times the amperage was well under 300 watt hours so they pegged the maximum allowed at that number. Batec users have been travelling for years with a 36 volt 9 amp battery (324 watt hours) by simply turning it off, removing the key, and carrying it on board the aircraft as the sealed unit was then limited to 25 volts 9 amps meaning that it was well under the 300 watt hours. Now,

the batteries full power regardless of state is used and if your battery is removable you will no longer be able to carry it on board. Remarkably, if the battery was non removable and on your mobility device it would be allowed to travel with you underneath in cargo!

In their recent world travels, Cassy and Forrest spent hours talking with various agents regarding their Batec travel. The airline in question did everything possible to make the best of a situation where they are obligated to abide by the dangerous goods transport rules and regulations. Various companies are in conversation with the IATA (International Air Transport Association) and the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) to have the issue of increasing the watt hours dealt with by their dangerous goods panel. Benoit Systemes has dealt with the situation by producing a travel battery that has a little less power. Batec will have a statement on the issue in short order, but it would seem to this writer that creating a non removable battery situation would be one way of dealing with the issue now (after all if your power chair had lithium ion batteries with wattage exceeding 300 and they were considered non removable the power chair would be allowed in cargo). We like the airline comments that they embrace **"Life Well Travelled"**, and they want to ensure safety and smooth travel for all!

## Bits and Bytes

- 49 CWSA Rugby Nationals May 27-29 Montreal, QC;
- 49 People in Motion Show Toronto, ON May 27-28;
- 49 European Seating Sym June 13-15, 2016 Dublin, IR;
- 49 Abilities Expo Chicago, IL June 24-26;
- 49 Abilities Expo Houston, TX August 5-7;
- 49 Abilities Expo Boston, MA Sept 16-18;
- 49 OSOT Conference Mississauga, ON Sept 23-24;
- 49 REHACARE Dusseldorf, Germany Sept 28 Oct 1;
- 49 Abilities Expo Bay Area, CA Nov 18-20;
- 49 Abilities Expo Chantilly, VA Dec 2-4;
- 49 Rehab Equipment Expo Richmond, BC Jan 6, 2017;
- 49 Abilities Expo Toronto, ON Jan 20-22, 2017.

**BESPOKE PLUS** is the newsletter of a privately owned Canadian company called 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world that are designed to better meet the needs of people with a disability. We have grown up in sport, have a social service background, and have adopted an advocacy role in our business practice. Comments are welcomed.