



Abilities Expo Toronto



We will be welcoming 2000 plus end users and a few hundred network associates at the second annual Abilities Expo January 19-21, 2018 at the International Center

here in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

This year is looking great for this show as there is no conflict with the London Blizzard Sledge Hockey Tournament which usually attracts about 500 people (their event is the following weekend in London, Ontario) and so we hope to see them this year.

This year, we will have an island booth setup and we will be offering a tire service (most tires and tubes on the market will be available at discounted pricing) and we will have some complete wheel setups right at the show. Thanks to Abilities and their Canadian Show folks at Caneast, we will highlight Kenda, Schwalbe, CEW, Spinergy, Loopwheels, and a host of other products that end users will be able to pick up at the show! If you have particular wheelset requests, give us a heads up and we will have them at the free show.

Naturally, we will have our whole product line at the show with many chairs from Wolturnus, OffCarr, RGK, Elevation, Bespoke, Varilite® seating systems, Batec Mobility, Benoit Systemes, and ZX-1 rides will be available.

OSOT Seating & Mobility

Thank you to Motion Specialties, Power Plus Mobility, AMS Tilt, and 49 Bespoke Inc., for their partnership commitment to the OSOT on the 2018 Seating and Mobility Workshop Series "Understanding, Evaluating and Justifying Your Prescription of Seating and Mobility Systems." Presented by Sheila Buck, BSc.OT, OT Reg.

We are still seeking the participation of other partners who want the opportunity to be involved in the development of these events that educate, enthuse, and enhance the relationship

with prescribers, dealers, manufacturers, and distributors. These events are a great opportunity for all product providers to participate in an open educational environment.

VARILITE® Self Inflating

Yes, **VARILITE®** products are self-inflating! We reiterate this over and over at in services as we inevitably have people express in amazement "how does it do that" as if it were magic!

They manufacture and market innovative, lightweight, user-friendly postural support systems. Their cushions come in widths from 10" to 24" and are tested to 750 pounds in the largest sizes.

Their "Air-Foam Floatation Technology" *combines the best characteristics of air and foam!* www.Varilite.com and www.Varilite.ca

VARILITE® Products excel in these areas of need meeting and exceeding end user and prescriber expectations:

- 49 Pressure distribution
- 49 Postural support
- 49 Vibration reduction
- 49 Light weight
- 49 Low maintenance.

One Arm Drive

Most manufacturers offer a one arm drive system for daily use products, but not all manufacturer for basketball chairs. We recently looked into this for an end user and found that Per4Max and Eagle Wheelchairs are both doing one arm drives for basketball chairs and why not as they are both big supporters of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) who have a most active wheelchair basketball program. In addition, Wolturnus and Proactiv have one arm drive offerings and I am sure many more if you would like to visit some of these sites.

www.RGKLife.com

www.gtmobil.com.pl/en

www.Per4Max.com

www.colourswheelchair.com

www.TopEndwheelchair.com

www.melrosewheelchairs.com

www.bromakin.co.uk

www.davincimobility.com

www.topmedi.com

www.o4wheelchairs.com

www.meyra.com

www.Wolturnus.de

www.offcarr.com

www.Tilite.com

www.SunriseMedical.ca

www.eaglesportschairs.com

www.BoxWheelchairs.com

www.proactiv-gmbh.com

www.romasport.co.uk

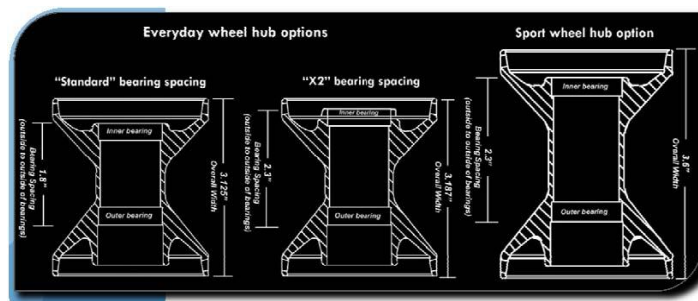
www.ottobock.ca

www.oracing.net

www.oxgroup.co.jp

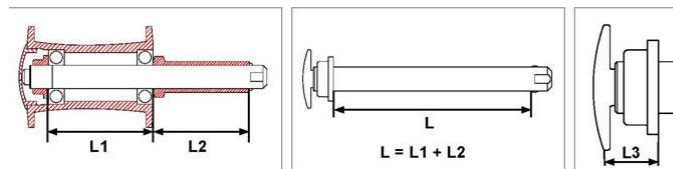
Axles

Years ago, most chairs were using a 7/16-inch axle and it was usually a low-grade steel. Many users had problems with them experiencing breakage by simply jumping off a curb, something that the engineers of the time did not consider perhaps because of the perception they had of the end users' abilities and activities. Today, most wheelchair manufacturers use 12 mm, 1/2 inch, and even 5/8 and 1-inch axles. Those axles are often made of hardened stainless steel and are incredibly durable.



With end users getting more and more technologically savvy and seeking better wheels, the question always comes up as to the size and type of axle needed to go with the new wheels and their chair. We use the following information from MBL to determine the length of axle required.

We ask the end user to take the bearing spacing of the hub that they are going to be using and add the length of the camber bar insert or axle plate and spacer if any. Then, measure the axle from the thread to the ball bearing and we should be good to go.



Bigger is Better Permobil

Permobil is on a roll with acquisitions. Following the purchase of ROHO in 2015 and the Comfort Company in October 2017, Prairie Seating in January 2017, they have now followed up with an agreement to acquire Ottobock's OBSS and Nutec Custom Seating business in Canada and the USA.

Further to their distribution agreement last year with Max Mobility (Smart Drive) they acquired the company in December 2017.

Permobil, a leader in power chair development, have one of the best manual chair lines in the market with Ti Lite, and they have all kinds of seating and positioning. When you add in the other eight product lines they work with it is safe to say they are a going concern!

Bits and Bytes

- 49 Toronto Abilities Expo Jan 19-21, 2018;
- 49 CFPDP Valentine Gala Feb 3, 2018
- 49 Los Angeles Abilities Expo Feb 23-25, 2018;
- 49 34th Annual ISS March 6-9, 2018 Vancouver, BC;
- 49 OSOT Seating & Mobility Sarnia, ON April 11;
- 49 Access Abilities in Oakville, ON April 19;
- 49 CSMC Toronto, ON May 1-2;
- 49 OSOT Seating & Mobility Oshawa, ON May 30;
- 49 People in Motion Show Scarborough, ON June 15-16;
- 49 Rehab Equipment Expo Richmond, BC September 11;
- 49 OSOT Seating & Mobility Thunder Bay, ON Sept 12;
- 49 OSOT Annual Conference Richmond Hill, ON Oct 20;
- 49 Rehacare Dusseldorf, Germany September 26-29.

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 welcome.