



The cushions for high risk seating and positioning from VARILITE™ are: Evolution™, Pro-Form™, and Evolution PSV™. For the guide on seating and back system selection click on www.varilite.ca



The CPA is celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year! Total Access is their magazine which we advertise in regularly. We will be attending the CPA Ontario AGM and Show June 29th in Toronto.

For the best Swap and Shop and more on CPA check on-line at: canparaplegic.org

Ulcers, 4 Stages, Labels

The definition of pressure ulcers goes something like this: *A pressure ulcer is any injury usually caused by unrelieved pressure that damages the skin and underlying tissue. Pressure ulcers are also called 'decubitus ulcers', 'bed sores', or 'pressure sores, and their severity ranges from reddening of the skin to severe, deep craters that have formed down to muscle and bone.* – National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) www.guideline.gov **Trudie Read**, OTR/L Clinical Education Specialist with Varilite™ notes, *"the terms 'decubitus ulcer' and 'bed sore' refer only to ulcers that are acquired while the person is supine or prone and so not terms that should be used to describe a pressure ulcer that is acquired while the person is sitting in a wheelchair."* The NGC go on to say that research indicates that there are several stages to the severity and condition of pressure ulcers. Treatment of these ulcers must acknowledge these differing stages, as adapted from the U.S. Dep. of Health and Human Services, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (1992) (AHCPR, currently known as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality [AHRQ]) guidelines:

Stage 1: Non-blanchable erythema of intact skin, the heralding lesion of skin ulceration. In individuals with darker skin, discoloration of skin, warmth, edema, induration, or hardness may also be indicators. The definition according to the USA National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) states, *"a stage 1 pressure ulcer is an observable pressure related alteration of intact skin whose indicators as compared to the adjacent or opposite area on the body may include changes in one or more of the following: skin temperature (warmth or coolness), tissue consistency (firm or boggy feel) and/or sensation (pain, itching). The ulcer appears as a defined area of persistent redness in lightly pigmented skin, whereas in darker skin tones, the ulcer may appear with persistent red, blue, or purple hues."*

Stage 2: Partial thickness skin loss involving epidermis, dermis or both (e.g. abrasion, blister, or shallow crater).

Stage 3: Full thickness skin loss involving damage to or necrosis of subcutaneous tissue that may extend down to, but not through, underlying fascia (deep crater with or without undermining). The ulcer presents clinically as a deep crater with or without undermining adjacent tissue.

Stage 4: Full thickness skin loss with extensive destruction, tissue necrosis or damage to muscle, bone, or supporting structures (ie: tendon or joint capsule).

The Braden Scale (www.bradenscale.com) is often used to categorize the level of skin breakdown. That information is often used in the determination of products to meet various needs including the cushions used by individuals that need a wheelchair for mobility. This writer is of the opinion that a lot of these issues are activity related injuries that occur as a result of daily routines or physical accidents and that the labeling of these injuries may become injurious to the social and psychological well being of the individual because of a medical stigma that may be attached to the terms noted above. If you were in this situation, would you rather be known for having an activity related injury that will heal more slowly if you have pressure on the area or a pressure sore which denotes inactivity to the point where the skin has broken down?



ONE SIDED FORK



We now have a good selection of one sided forks in stock to allow ease of change in front castors from 4" to 5" or 3" to 4" and vice versa! This product was developed by Mark Chelgren at Frog Legs, Inc.



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Our Contact Info:

RGK Wheelchairs, Inc.
1932 Danniston Cr
Orleans, ON K1E 3R6
Canada

Phone:
(613) 841-1824
(866) 827-4548
Fax:
(613) 841-5151

E-mail:
Info@4RGK.com
Info@varilite.ca
America@RGKLife.com
Web Site:
www.4RGK.com
www.varilite.ca
www.varilite.com
www.RGKLife.com

RGK Max Lite

Coming soon to North America is the Max Lite, a new Maxima styled titanium frame, titanium castor forks, titanium side guards, and integrated titanium camber bar, along with RGK's ergonomic seating system. Compliment this with 18 spoke Spinergy wheels and you will enjoy the strongest, lightest, and most comfortable unit to get you from A to B! This model is being shipped in the UK at this time and we hope to introduce it to the North American market in the fall at the Canadian Seating and Mobility Conference.



North American Delivery

Along with manufacturing comes a host of issues and new processes. This is amplified if you are working with a small pool of human resources and life issues arise. We are now learning first hand what it is like to be late on projected deliveries. We take this opportunity to let you know that we are doing our best to take care of the backlog of builds! Although we have production coming from both North America and the UK at the moment, our plan is that six months down the road we will be in a position to do the builds here in three to five weeks instead of five to 10 weeks; which has been exceeded with some builds in 2005 due to concerns that are out of our control. One thing that is in our control is to take care of any immediate needs; if an end user is without a unit we will do all that we can to find and fit a demo unit to meet the needs if the build time for their product is overdue!

IPC President - Knighthood

Bonn, Germany – On 11 June, Her Majesty (HM) Queen Elizabeth II announced that Phil Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has been appointed a Knight Bachelor. Sir Philip Craven was made a Knight Bachelor on the Queen's Birthday Honors List, adding to the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) he received in 1991. The Knight Bachelor is granted by HM The Queen and entitles the person bestowed with the Knighthood the use of "Sir". It is one of the oldest forms of chivalry in the British system. Mr. Craven is being awarded the Knighthood "for services to Paralympic Sport". The ceremony will take place at Buckingham Palace.

Bits and Bytes

- 2005 OPC Championships www.paralympicsontario.ca
- Canadian Paraplegic Association – Ontario AGM June 29;
- Canadian Wheelchair Curling Camp July 3-9, BC;
- Spitfire Challenge July 29-August 1, Toronto.

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.