



BESPOKE PLUS

"Pushing to be Better, Faster, and Stronger"

September 2005

Interurban Spinal Cord Injury Conference Hand Out

Volume 3, Number 25



"RGK W/C's, Inc., makes BESPOKE (Custom made) wheelchairs in North America and is the national (Canada) distributor for VARILITE's products. The company is based in Ottawa."

VARILITE™ manufactures postural support systems (Cushions, Backs, PAL supports, and accessories and is wholly owned by Cascade Designs based out of Seattle, WA.



Welcome to the 14th ISCIC

RGK Wheelchairs, Inc. is proud to participate in the 14th Interurban Spinal Cord Injury Conference in Kingston, ON., September 15th - 16th and we look forward to the program. The theme **"Ages and Stages"** which will focus on three stages of life: youth, mid-life and aging is exciting especially when you note that there will be world renowned researchers and speakers addressing the issues. We will take the opportunity to share with participants the concept of RGK **BESPOKE** manufacturing in the wheelchair business, postural support systems from a **VARILITE™** perspective, and show some other great products from KENDA and Spinerger!

RGK Wheelchairs, Inc., was incorporated in November 2002 to continue marketing and promoting RGK Products in North America and to escalate the plan to manufacture the products in North America. The principals involved in this venture are Russel Simms, Greg Eden, and Reg McClellan. Information is available on-line at www.rgklife.com and www.4RGK.com.

In March of 2003, VARILITE™ and RGK Wheelchairs, Inc., entered into an agreement that made the Ottawa based company the exclusive distributor of VARILITE™ seating and positioning systems in Canada. Immediately, a **1-866-Varilite (827-4548)** number was established and www.varilite.ca was posted on-line.

RGK – New Products

Octane is in the news all over the world and now with



RGK in the UK! Their new product labeled **Octane** is a **BESPOKE** build with over sized tubing

(32mm) diameter that provides increased rigidity and comes complete with titanium components. We will include this concept into the North American Hi-lite line.

This follows the introduction of the Max Lite which is part of the Maxima line, also a **BESPOKE** build boasting strongest and lightest. Look for the new Lifestyle

Products Brochure coming your way soon and view the new products at the upcoming shows.



VARILITE™ New Products

The Evolution™ Wave™ ships this month, an ideal solution for people with high risk of tissue breakdown. This new product incorporates the Evolution™ and Evolution PSV™ adjustable air-foam floatation skin protection cushions with a solid positioning base. A family of bases with three different Wave designs: CPW (Contoured Positioning Wedge), LPB (Lateral Positioning Base), or CPB (Contoured Positioning Base). (Complete Overview in **BESPOKE 26**)



We carry all Spinergy wheels Sport and Daily Use. We install the hand rims of choice including Natural-Fit, with Kenda Tires (Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow, or Grey and Tubes usually for same day delivery.

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Quadra Wheelchairs

Where is Jeff Minnebraker? Some of you attending the conference may remember Quadra Wheelchairs and if you do, you will always remember the man who was responsible for the innovative wheelchairs we all enjoy today. Jeff designed and brought into the world Quadra Wheelchairs — the first rigid frame unit (T60-61 and considered a little heavy by current standards), the first quick release axles (*and I would not leave the shop until I had an extra one just in case – I still have it today*), the first with urethane wheels, precision bearings, double wall rims from the bicycle industry, upholstery that was virtually indestructible, and they brought color to the industry! In another life, *I owned Quadra in Canada with a friend Morris (Moe) Derkoch and we had sufficient stock to fill orders immediately. We received an order in the AM and pulled the frame, components, assembled, and shipped it same day ... just as the end user wanted, within one inch increments and ready to work on the toe in and out. We need more time in this venture to get to that point with a truly Bespoke build. The last I heard, Jeff was following his new passion, ultra light flying!*

I spoke with Robert Fulton at www.glancewheels.com the other day, he provided metal information to Jeff in the early days, and he does not know Jeff's whereabouts either. My other regular sources for information like this have no more than I, so if you know the whereabouts of the guy who changed things for many of us, please pass it along.

Degrassi, Silver Anniversary

CTV and Epite Pictures Inc. kicked off the first of 19 new half-hour episodes of the award-winning, prime-time Canadian drama Degrassi this week www.degrassi.tv "The Next Generation" marks the 25th anniversary of the Degrassi franchise and we are proud to have supplied product for use in these episodes. Look for our presence on Monday or Friday evenings!

Bits and Bytes

- Saskatchewan's First Home Healthcare Show September 13 & 15;
- Lifemark Health Acquires MEDiChair www.lifemark.ca ;
- Interurban Spinal Cord Conference September 15/16 in Kingston;
- Canadian Seating and Mobility Show September 21-23 in Toronto;
- Medtrade October 18-20 in Atlanta;
- Shoppers Home Health Care Show November 8 in Calgary;
- Shoppers Home Health Care Show November 21/22 in Toronto;
- Therapy First November 28/29 in Winnipeg.

See Bespoke Plus @ 4RGK.com

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.