



## THE CANADIAN SOURCE FOR RESPIRATORY PRODUCTS



TAVISH™ mask — Developed as a result of the 2003 SARS crisis

Respan Products Inc's recent success with their Tavish™ mask is in part due to the unfortunate H1N1 (Swine Flu) scare. They are inundated with orders, particularly from the City of Toronto (9000 units) and Vancouver (30,000 units) – quickly turning a global problem to an opportunity overnight. As of September 2009, the City of Toronto will have converted all traditional non-rebreathing masks and nebulizer kits over to the Tavish™ mask, which was developed as a result of the 2003 SARS crisis.

A non-rebreather mask is a device used in medical emergencies like the Swine Flu outbreak, for patients that require oxygen therapy to breathe unassisted, but unlike oxygen tanks used commonly by elderly patients, it allows for the delivery of higher concentrations of oxygen and also prevents the exhalation of harmful particles. Filtration of a patient's exhalation is accomplished either by placing a filter on the exhalation port, or through a filter that is part of the mask itself.

Due to international concerns with the transfer of disease and medication transfer, Respan™ has developed a line of adult and pediatric oxygen and aerosol masks to protect healthcare providers, other patients and family members. The Tavish™ mask is equipped with plastic housings that contain bacterial/viral filter media to the side ports of the mask. The exhalation from the patient is captured by the filter media, reducing and/or minimizing disease and medication transfer.

The privately owned Canadian company operating under the same name with the same family owners, Janey and Gerry Hacke, began specializing in respiratory disposables in 1981. As a manufacturer of plastic medical devices, its current products include a full range of respiratory and oxygen supply products, as well as various accessories.

When asked how their masks compare to those used in the SARS outbreak, Respan's president Janey Hacke comments, "The Tavish™ Aerosol Mask is available in adult and pediatric sizes, unlike other

products currently on the market. It has received a U.S. patent, with the Canadian patent to follow." She further explains, "We have achieved success by developing and manufacturing high quality products with unique characteristics and providing excellent service to our customers while adhering to our quality assurance system. Continuous improvement is one of our goals." Their unique products include: Kraton Cannula Prongs - a hypoallergenic nasal product that delivers gas (i.e. pure oxygen) in adult, pediatric and infant sizes, and; the Jemsdal® mask – an oxygen mask used to monitor CO<sup>2</sup> levels. New products are currently being added to the pipeline.

All product related research and development, design, engineering, production and manufacturing are done in-house. With the rise in demand, the Respan™ family owned and operated management explains, "Our innovative abilities have proven themselves since 1981, and with the Tavish™ mask, we have received strong attention and recognition. Our sales have increased in Canada and the U.S., therefore employing more Canadians to complete the orders." As a result of the sales of the Tavish™ mask, new methods in extrusion, molding, assembly and packaging have been developed to assist with increased productivity and cost control while strictly adhering to our Quality Assurance system.

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When asked what challenges Canadian companies face, Hacke responds, "We urge Canadian hospitals, emergency services, homecare companies, healthcare professionals, distributors and all levels of government to look to **Canadian** manufacturers to provide products that will satisfy their needs." Hacke states, "In Canada we have a world recognized source of extremely innovative and industrious people, who strive to excel, and will do so, but need support and recognition. Currently, many Canadian companies are shut out of opportunities by the strength of large multi-national companies and cannot get into the medical system without support." ■



### About Respan Products Inc.

Manufacturing processes include injection molding, extrusion, assembly and packaging from the raw material stage to finished goods. All products are produced on company owned molds and tooling and are assembled to rigid quality standards, complying with, or exceeding applicable industry standards. Products are sold under the RESPAN™ label through distributors to hospitals and directly to home healthcare companies and emergency services.

Respan™ is an approved vendor to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the City of Toronto Ambulance Service. Some manufacturing is done under private label for major medical distributors. Products are exported to the United States, United Arab Emirates, Europe and Asia.

For technical information on the performance of the Tavish™ filter media, visit the Respan™ website [www.respan.com](http://www.respan.com).