MY RIGHT FOOT: A FOOT CONTROLLED POWER WHEELCHAIR DRIVER

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The man in this case study had recently lost his wife which he relied on for his home and community mobility. After her passing, the family could not cope with caring for him, so he was placed in a long term care facility. He was able to propel his wheelchair with his right foot, but it was very slow and inefficient. He described himself as being "stuck in his room." During the initial assessment, this client explained that he had trialled a power wheelchair when he was in his teenage years, but was unsuccessful because he used a joystick and could not control his upper body movement. He reported that he "ran someone over with the power wheelchair" and this "scarred him for life." A power wheelchair was trialled with a mushroom joystick mounted on his footplate. The client demonstrated excellent driving ability from day one and did not require much training. The prescription was completed and this client is now able to independently move about his facility and community. His first outing was an OHL hockey game and a trip to the pub.