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Story of woman's plight inspires act of generosity

By **DON PEAT**, SUN MEDIA

Last Updated: 25th June 2009, 4:21am



On Monday, someone stole a motorized wheelchair from a woman who suffers from Spina Bifida. After reading about Gail in the Toronto Sun, Dave Baker was so touched by her story that he gave her a brand new scooter.

She's got new legs now.

A Scarborough company has given an Oshawa woman a new link to the outside world just hours after her story appeared in the Sun.

Gaile Kelly, 54, had her motorized wheelchair stolen sometime late Sunday or early Monday, leaving her trapped in her small one-bedroom apartment above a bodyshop.

Kelly, who suffers from spina bifida and has a broken left foot, needed the scooter to get around. For her, that 17-year-old machine was her legs. Although it was only worth about \$500, Kelly thought it would take a year before the province provided a replacement.

She had kept the scooter locked under a trailer behind her Grenfell St. apartment.

Yesterday, in a small ceremony outside Newstart Canada's Kingston Rd. office, Kelly was given a scooter, a royal blue 2009 Daymak Boomer Buggy IV, free of charge, right off the showroom floor.

"I love it," Kelly said as she climbed into the seat.

"I really do."

Accepting the keys to the scooter from Newstart president Dave Baker, Kelly said her first destination was likely the beach.

Baker said he decided to donate the scooter after reading Kelly's story in the Sun yesterday. "When one person can give to another person it always makes you feel good," he said. "She's got the latest and the greatest, it's got a full warranty."

Her husband, Steve Kelly, said he was shocked when their campaign to find the stolen scooter led to a brand-new scooter from strangers.

"I was amazed," Kelly said. "It's beautiful."

The couple say if the thieves that took the old scooter ever return it, they'll donate it to help someone else in need.

And don't worry -- they say they've made arrangements to make sure the new one doesn't get stolen, too.

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