



Creative Carriage president Bob Nunn (from left), crew chief Dave McCabe and Denny Snider, the man who came up with the idea for a modified race car to carry a disabled passenger, show a finished product at Creative Carriage's office in Cambridge.

Dream wheels become reality

Some elbow grease from volunteers helps racing fan build idea into car for disabled

By CHERRI GREENO
RECORD STAFF

CAMBRIDGE

A racing car built for disabled people is now a little closer to making dreams come true.

The 1991 Thunderbird was at Creative Carriage Ltd. in Cambridge yesterday having wheelchair restraints installed in the passenger side.

The installation is one of the last adjustments the Project Track Champion car will need before it's able to offer rides to those who, until now, could only look at a race car from afar.

"We are just so happy that this day has come," said Denny Snider, who came up with the idea two years ago. "The light at the end of the tunnel is really bright now."

When the car is completed, Snider

and his team will travel around Ontario, offering rides to disabled people.

While it isn't exactly a race car, it does resemble one. There is a full racing harness, a 302-cubic-inch Ford motor and a four-barrel carburetor. The roof on the passenger side has been raised and modified to allow room for a wheelchair.

The car was built with the help of 150 people who donated more than \$40,000 worth of their time and supplies.

The idea came both from Snider's love of race cars — he watched his first race at the age of 10 — and from watching his father live the last 10 years of his life in a wheelchair as he battled cancer.

"What we are hoping it will do is project a sense of awareness, project a sense of sensitivity to people who have special needs and to allow them an op-

portunity, if even for a minute, to share in something that the rest of the world may take for granted," said Snider, 60, who lives near Durham.

"This is our gift from the world of racing to the special fans."

And although the vehicle may look like a race car, it likely won't race at NASCAR speeds. Snider said the car will travel about 50 kilometres per hour.

Dave McCabe, a farmer from the Mount Forest area, lost the use of his right arm after he fell off a combine when he was two.

He is helping to build the car and hopes it will help remove the barriers that people with disabilities face in the racing world.

Bob Nunn, president of Creative Carriage Ltd., said he was having the wheelchair restraints installed for free. "It's a worthy cause," he said.

Snider said he hopes to have the car on the road by May.

Stops in Waterloo Region are planned but haven't yet been finalized. cgreeno@therecord.com

Cocaine seized in Ozzi probe 90 per cent pure

By BRIAN CALDWELL
RECORD STAFF

KITCHENER

One of the biggest drug busts in Waterloo Region history involved cocaine so pure it likely came from the source country without being cut, or diluted, along the distribution chain.

Const. David Clark, a lead investigator in a 15-month probe that culminated in dozens of arrests, testified yesterday that analysis of the drug purchased by an undercover officer showed it was more than 90 per cent pure.

Since other substances are routinely added to cocaine to boost profits at every step from the source to the street, he said, the results suggested police had infiltrated the upper level of a sophisticated drug ring.

Clark was testifying in Superior Court in Kitchener at a sentencing hearing for Lithouthay Xaysy.

Xaysy, 31, of Cambridge pleaded guilty in November to cocaine trafficking and possession of a loaded handgun in connection with Project Ozzi, a joint investigation involving RCMP, Waterloo regional police and Stratford police.

But the full extent of his involvement, a key factor in the prison sentence Xaysy receives, is still in dispute.

Federal prosecutor Catrina Braid contends Xaysy was at the top of a network capable of supplying 10 kilograms of high-quality cocaine at a time.

Defence lawyer Eginhart Ehlers maintains Xaysy — a short, muscular man with glasses — was a go-between and therefore only a party to the deals, not the main supplier.

Clark, a regional police officer, out-

lined the relationship between Xaysy and two other men, Michael Ladouceur and Joseph Wojnowski.

Sgt. Paul Staas, an undercover officer on loan from Hamilton, made drug purchases from Wojnowski after being introduced to him by a paid informant.

Wojnowski was supplied by Ladouceur, who in turn got cocaine for three deals in the summer of 2004 from Xaysy.

Numerous telephone calls between Xaysy and Ladouceur — among more than 78,500 calls intercepted by police — were played in court to show they had a trusting, ongoing business relationship.

"He's his worker," Clark testified. "That's what it comes down to."

The first two deals involved a kilogram of cocaine at a time.

The last one, arranged to take place at the Comfort Inn in Cambridge, was for 10 kilograms at a purchase price of almost \$400,000. Diluted and sold in smaller amounts, that quantity of cocaine would be worth about \$1.2 million at the street level, police estimated.

"I've never even heard of such a large purchase by an undercover police officer," Clark said.

It's believed Xaysy, who was also dealing in large quantities of marijuana, got his cocaine from Toronto.

The operation allegedly headed by Xaysy was one of two main distribution networks broken up by police when they moved in to make arrests on the morning of the 10-kilogram deal.

In all, 31 people were charged and more than \$3 million in assets were seized, including cash, drugs, luxury vehicles and guns.

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Four charged with drug offences

KITCHENER

Four people face charges after Waterloo regional police raided a Kitchener house and seized \$9,500 worth of cocaine, a machete and hatchet.

Shortly after midnight Saturday, police raided a Karn Street residence.

They also seized small amounts of marijuana and heroin, 22 ecstasy pills and \$700 worth of cannabis resin, Staff Sgt. Frank Sinko said yesterday.

Three men, aged 34, 37 and 18, and a 17-year-old woman face possession and other charges.



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