

Thought Of The Week
By Ted Ecclestone

This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.



Emerson
The American Scholar (1837), sec. 3

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Electric bike sales rise with ecology concerns, gas prices

By DAN PELTON
Staff Reporter

Recent reports say the cost of a barrel of oil has risen to over \$60 US and signs of a global economy rebound, particularly in Asia, have many commodity experts predicting the price will continue to rise.

In other words, prepare for another round of skyrocketing gasoline prices.

Recent events have seen our economic base gradually switch from traditional manufacturing to "green" technologies and the entire social landscape altered by such legislation as the provincial Green Energy Act.

In other words, environmental consciousness is not a passing fad. It's our new way of life. So, you may want to consider putting the Hummer in the garage and buying an electric bike.

Electric bicycles have become a rapidly-increasing industry since Ontario passed legislation to make them legal in April. The growing popularity not only stems from ecology and gas price concerns, there is also the appeal that comes from

the fact the bikes don't require driver's licenses or insurance.

"More families are going down to one car," points out Mike Daley, proprietor of E-Rides Canada on Townline Rd and a dealer of Volt Canada electric bikes. "Fifty per cent of trips are around three kilometres each. People are looking for alternative transportation and they are turning to electric bikes."

Ray Hunt, who runs the Scoot-A-Long electric bike dealerships, is one of this industry's veterans with seven years under his belt. He says the sales of his bikes—which have a price range of around \$1,000 to as high as \$3,500—have increased 40 per cent this year, alone.

Scoot-A-Long's territory stretches from Orangeville west to Kitchener-Waterloo and north to the Owen Sound area. He has also franchised the operation to locations in Windsor and Wasaga Beach.

There are electric bikes that retail for less, yet there is the old axiom that you get what you pay for. Cheaper models, Mr. Hunt maintains, do not have the performance, durability and after-sales servicing that

his product lines do.

While prices can go as high as \$10,000, Mr. Daley figures that a reliable e-bike suitable for the Orangeville market would run in the \$2,000 range.

An example is the Boca, a \$2,000 (taxes included) electric bike built in North America by Eco-Cycle.

It has a 48-volt system, which includes a 500-watt motor, which takes from two to

eight hours to charge the lead acid battery. The charge lasts from 60 to 100 kilometres, depending on how much you open the throttle, but a turbo-boost feature allows for longer charges if one pedals the bike intermittently.

The evolving technology around the bikes is seeing the gradual introduction of lithium batteries. While more expensive than lead acid batteries,

they make the bikes lighter and lessen the charging time by up to two hours.

(What should also be taken into account is that charging the bike's batteries will likely be done at night during off-peak hours. Thus, in this age of smart meters, the cost might even be less than Mr. Hunt's estimate of 32 cents a charge.)

As well, Mr. Hunt explains, the more costly lithium batter-

ies have a longer life; up to seven years, he figures.

The Eco-Cycle Vista SE, (retailing at \$3,500), has a three-speed automatic transmission, a lithium battery that is good for up to 120 kilometres, and a cruise control option that recharges the battery while it's in operation.

It also features rugged ABS plastic construction. Mr. Hunt says that a Vista SE was accidentally dropped from a second-storey balcony and came away just a few scratches.

Among the converts to electric biking is Cindy Ness, an Orangeville realtor who has made the commitment to lead as environmentally-conscious lifestyle as possible.

This includes the purchase of a Volt Canada electric bike from E-Rides, (which came with a free regulation motorcycle helmet).

"I plan on parking my car and using the electric bike to show homes in Orangeville and to get back and forth to the office as well as for my personal use like going to the grocery store," says Ms. Ness.

"Electric bikes only go between 30-40 km/hr but are

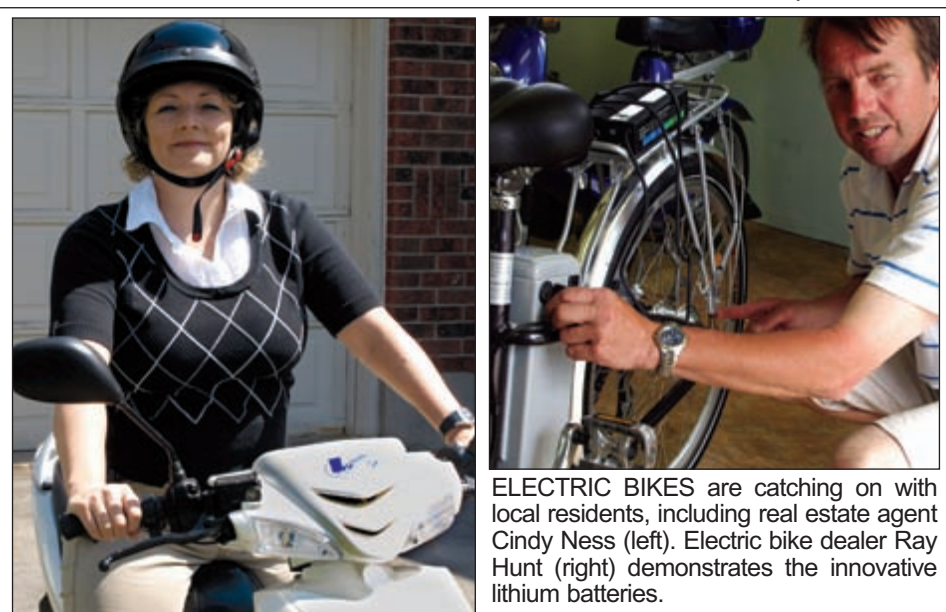
far better for the environment, not to mention the wear and tear of starting our cars, driving a couple of blocks, stopping, showing the house and starting all over again."

It also enhances her ability to spread the message as someone who is serious about energy efficiency; not only in transportation, but in home ownership, as well.

"If there are two identical homes for sale on the market and one is rated as an energy efficient home and the other is not which one are you going to buy? Today not many homes are energy rated but I believe home sales for the future will eventually have to show an energy rating designation."

Andy and Sheila Kirk, a retired Orton couple, say the advent of electric bikes has opened up an avenue of recreation that otherwise would not be open to them.

Health circumstances prevent Andy, a lifelong cycling enthusiast, from cycling alone. With an electric bike, Sheila can join him and keep up. "What it does is allow me to go out cycling with him and allows him to go out," she explains.



ELECTRIC BIKES are catching on with local residents, including real estate agent Cindy Ness (left). Electric bike dealer Ray Hunt (right) demonstrates the innovative lithium batteries.

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HIGH WINDS may have stalled their aerial assault but the Peeewe Outlaws ground offensive proved to be just as potent when Orangeville rolled over the Halton Hills Wildcats 38-0 in Ontario Minor Football League play at Westside Secondary this past Sunday. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

Northmen A blunt Arrows

By MIKE MALONEY
Sports Editor

Orangeville continues to be the team everyone is watching in 2009 as the Rayburn Construction Junior A Northmen improved their season record to 6-0 with wins over Six Nations and Barrie this past weekend.

Playing Friday night at home to the Arrows,

Orangeville knew Six Nations would be out looking to even the score for a 9-6 loss to the Northmen two weeks before.

With Orangeville looking sluggish through the opening minutes, Arrows Grant Cattalano opened the scoring just over a minute into the game, assisted by Chancey Johnson.

Jeremy Noble would get to Nations starter Randy

Johnson at the 7:22 mark of the first—assisted by Brandon Ivey—followed by John Quarrie who went end to end to score unassisted at 9:02.

Noble notched his second, a powerplay marker with seven minutes remaining in the first period, with Mat McLeod and Nick Rose earning assists.

Tempers started to flare in the second with a steady procession of players from both teams making their way to the penalty box.

Jon Harnett widened the Orangeville lead to three goals with his shorthanded goal at 10:51, only to have Randy Staats return the favour in kind five minutes later for the period's only two goals.

Sean Gillies and McLeod made the most of powerplay chances early in the third before Travis Gibbons

made it 7-2 for Orangeville with 8 minutes left on the clock. A pair of Six Nations goals kept them in the game until Greg Harnett tagged an empty netter with 26 seconds left to play that totally unglued the Nations composure.

Right off the draw it was off with the gloves for all the players on the floor. Both coaching staffs exchanged words as well while some fans in the stands also contributed to the ensuing melee before arena staff and Orangeville police came between the parties.

Speaking after the game, an obviously agitated Orangeville coach Matt Sawyer was more than willing to comment on the play of his guys as well as that of Six Nations. Not wanting to pick apart the

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Peeewe Northmen clip Hawks wings

The Boston Pizza Peeewe 2 Northmen hosted the Oakville Hawks for their home opener on Wednesday, May 27th and celebrated with a 6 to 0 win.

From the first draw, Orangeville dominated the game by executing practiced passing plays and shooting techniques with effective results.

The quick-paced game went scoreless until early in the second period, Northmen Cameron Spencer scored unassisted on a line change.

Minutes later Ty Mikulik, sandwiched by the Oakville defense, made an excellent pass to line mate Kyle Cunningham who posted Orangeville's second goal.

The points kept coming with goals from Tyler Nother and Braydon Cresswell and assists from Eddie Schulz, Riley Armstrong, Ben Anyon and Spencer.

The Hawks could not take flight as the Northmen maintained offensive pressure and strong fore checking.

In the third period, Calvin Meek put a bounce shot past the Oakville goaltender, assisted by Koyer Hoffman and Andrew Gourlie.

Anyon posted

Orangeville's sixth goal with the help of teammates Cresswell and Schulz.

Oakville was scrambling, desperate for a goal, but Rylan Hartley once again was outstanding in net and claimed the shutout.



TOUGH WEEKEND. It was a long weekend of a different kind for the Shelburne Vets who saw their season record fall to 3-5. On Friday night at the Bunker, Shelburne gave up a two goal lead late in the third to be edged by Centre Wellington 12-11 in overtime. Playing in Clarington Sunday evening, they dropped an 18-4 decision to the Shamrox's followed by a 13-5 loss at the hands of the Caledon Bandits in Mayfield on Tuesday night. Shelburne will be looking to return to the win column this Sunday when they play host to Innisfil at the CDRC where the two teams will take the floor at 7 p.m. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

Outlaws rule at home

Home was certainly the place to be for the Orangeville Outlaws this past Sunday afternoon as all three of the local football squads - Atom, Peeewe and Junior Varsity put together winning performances on the Westside field.

Starting in the morning, the Outlaws Atom Reps bounced back from a season opening loss to Brantford by cruising to a 28-0 victory over the Brampton Bulldogs.

The offensive line lead by Keith Roost, D.J.Moffat, Chris Fillier, Jeff Benham and Alan Sharpe punched open holes for running backs Nathan Small and Tie Tucker all day.

Small ran the ball into the Brampton end zone for

two touchdowns while Kyle Bagley brought the crowd to their feet with an electrifying 70 yard kick-off return to also score a touchdown.

The Outlaw defence was solid with strong showings from Griffin Hayward, Jake Monk, Jordan Ross and Jake Smith. The 'D' line also contributed big on the scoreboard by not only shutting down the Bulldogs offence. Sean Clapperton's interception on the Brampton 25 lead to the final Orangeville touchdown.

The Atoms' next challenge comes this weekend when they put their 1-1 record on the line against Mississauga.

Game two saw the

Peeewe take to a wind swept field against Halton Hills.

Heading into the game, Orangeville's offence planned on going to the air but weather conditions altered those plans.

"We had practiced all week preparing for today's game but due the high winds, we had a last-minute game plan change" commented Peeewe coach Mike Lepore.

That last minute change paid off in spades. By keeping the ball on the ground, Orangeville was able to pound the ball down field while chewing up the time on the clock.

The coaching staff was very impressed with the

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