

Goodwood man racing snowmobiles

Stouffville man playing the Lynx

The Finnish Lynx brand of snowmobiles is quickly making a name for itself on the Canadian racing scene.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Ed Hakonson is part of a business arrangement that's seen several machines imported from Finland on a trial basis.

Mr. Hakonson, who operates his own parts and clothing distributorship to motorcycle and snowmobile dealers, is overseeing a testing project this winter.

Goodwood-area stockcar driver Peter Gibbons, who's managed by the Kennedy Road man and sponsored by his Choko company, has enjoyed some good post-Christmas results aboard the Lynx GLS 3300 model. In his first crack at sled racing, Mr. Gibbons came third in a snow-cross event at Winnipeg, Man., and third again on the Owen Sound oval.

Finland's Pauli Piippola, who guided the Lynx GLS to the 1985 Scandinavian snow-cross championship, is here to take on North America's best alongside his Uxbridge Township colleague. He had a third place result in Winnipeg plus other good showings.

SURPRISE
"They're actually doing much better than we thought," says Mr. Hakonson. "We were

hoping for (placings) anywhere in the top 10, but they're coming in the top three."

So far, the racers have found the sleds are more suited to the snow than the icy track surfaces common to Ontario. But the Canadian-Finnish team has busily made adjustments to the machines in anticipation of the weekend's Kawartha Cup races in Peterborough.

Mr. Piippola returns to his native land on Tuesday, while Mr. Gibbons plans to carry the Lynx name through the remainder of the Ontario circuit.

Other workhorse Lynx models are being market-tested through various Canadian dealerships and snowmobile clubs.

In April, Mr. Hakonson will sit down with officials from manufacturer Nordtrac Limited of Rovaniemi, Finland, to determine if and when the line will be introduced to Canada.

"With the strong success of Lynx snowmobiles in Northern Europe it seemed only natural to expand to North America," according to a company news release from late last year. "Nordtrac Limited of Finland chose Canada, 'home of the snowmobile', as its first target market."

Nordtrac is part of the worldwide Finnish Valmet Corporation, which recorded 1984 sales of \$1 billion U.S.



Lynx is the new cat on Canada's snowmobile racing scene. Testing the Finnish-made sleds are (left to right): Goodwood's Peter Gibbons; Erik Ahmasalo, research and development manager for Nordtrac Limited; and racer Pauli Piippola, defending snow-cross champion of Finland (1983-85) and 1985 Scandinavian

title-holder (Finland, Sweden, Norway). The trio was pictured at Mr. Gibbons' Uxbridge Township residence while preparing for this weekend's Kawartha Cup.

— Chris Shanahan

Televisions taken

Two televisions were recently stolen during a residential break-in on Parkway Dr.

Police said the house was broken into between Dec. 31 at 12:30 p.m. and Jan. 3 at 4 p.m.

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