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Small town has fast lane

A few years back I lost my mind temporarily and went go-carting at the Goodwood Go-Kart track on a impulse. I squeezed my ample assets into the small, power packed machine and I was off to the races.



Rural Route
Ruth

Ruth
LeBlanc

Low to the ground I took those turns like a woman possessed. Staring danger in its face it was me against the track and I floored it and flew.

Taking to it like a duck to water I drove round that track until I began to feel like Paul Tracey at the Indy 500.

My love of the sport disappeared as quickly as it began. Finally stopping, I lifted myself out of the kart and became so dizzy I thought I was going to pass out. I managed to stagger to the grass behind the rental building and collapsed on the ground.

I think I will leave the driving to people like Kevin Barrick and his 12-year-old son Keith. Both father and son were the 1996 Toronto Kart Club and Provincial Trillium Champions in both the junior and senior classes.

The Barricks now reside in Stouffville, but lived in Vardorf five years ago and are no strangers to our area, having spent many years in Goodwood.

Longtime town and rural folks might remember Kevin for all the times his name appeared in *The Tribune* over the years for both his hockey and kart racing achievements. Back in 1972 a *Tribune* headline read "Kevin Amazes Kart Racing Veterans," and that he did in great style, beating the now famous Scott Goodyear.

Kevin's love of the sport began more than 25 years ago when his parents Harold and Agnes moved to a farm just south of the Goodwood track. Hearing the drone of kart racing through the trees was too much for a 12 year old to resist investigating. Making his way to the track, Kevin made quick friends with then owners Van and Jean Bell. Before long, the Bells had hired young Kevin to rent and repair karts and do general work around the track.

Not much time passed before Kevin was out driving the track and loving the sport. When he was 15 he won the race that made our headlines. By age 19 though, the sport was left behind as Kevin started making a life and family while racing was put on the back burner.

Now though, the father and son team are making history as they both are champions who share the number four while wearing the colors purple and black. This season, both will be driving shiny new Margay Karts as they take to the track in hopes of winning further championships.

Son Keith has his eye on becoming a Formula One driver one day and dad will hang up his helmet in 1998 if indeed Keith starts competing on the national level.

Coincidentally, Kevin drove a Margay Kart back 25 year ago. The United States company was quick to realize they have a deadly duo on their hands and are using our local winners in an advertising campaign that will say "25 years later, and still a champion driving a Margay!"

Seeking sponsorship this year, the Barricks are out for victory. Little sister Karly, nine, may start racing in the novice class next year, making this even more of a family affair.

Whatever the outcome this is one rural routers who has definitely lived life in the fast lane.

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*In the event that all tickets are sold by the Early Bird deadline of midnight, April 16, then all 12,600 draws will begin on April 21. The first draw will be for the Early Bird Prize. This will be followed by draws for all remaining prizes in reverse order of retail value. The top ten Grand Prize Showhome draws will be made April 25 on Citytv's Breakfast Television.

In the event that tickets remain after the Early Bird deadline, then only the Early Bird Draw will be made on April 25. The final deadline for ticket sales is midnight May 16, 1997. The remaining 12,599 draws would then begin on May 21. The top ten Grand Prize Showhome draws will be made May 28, on Citytv's Breakfast Television. All winners will be published following the applicable draw date.

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