

Gravity powered racing - A UNB tradition

17 years of dare-devil antics.

Engineering week at UNB is in full swing. With only two days remaining, all should prepare for the 17th running of the infamous Coaster Derby.

Gravity powered vehicle racing has become a fall tradition at UNB. The first Coaster Derby was held in 1974. The event was organized by the then newly formed Student Society of Mechanical Engineers. The justification for running the race was that it would allow students to test their theories and knowledge of the applied science and witchcraft.

The Coaster Derby has evolved into much more than just an educational exercise, the event has become a unique form of entertainment for UNB's Students, faculty, Fredericton residents and their

families.

In the early days of the Coaster Derby, vehicles were a conglomeration of carriage, bicycle and automobile wheels welded, glued or stapled to a body rudely designed by engineering students.

From these stone age times the Coaster Derby cars have evolved into sleek machines, painstakingly assembled by the students of UNB UNBSJ and various other educational facilities. The cars today are designed to meet a rigid set of rules strictly enforced by the ever meticulous Dr. Bob Rodgers (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering) It must be remembered that some of the more shakey examples of Coaster Derby vehicles may not have been designed and built by engineering students as the race is open to any interested faculty, off campus group, or individual.

The regulations covering car design are as follows:

The Cars

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

1. Vehicle cannot be self-powered. Gravity only.

2. Vehicle must be supported by 3 or 4 wheels. No training wheels allowed. (latter rule for wild eyed arts man thinking about entering their bike.)

3. Steering, brakes and frame must pass a visual inspection. The test run will also determine if the vehicle is fit to enter the competition.

4. Vehicle must have a roll bar which goes over the highest point of the driver.

5. Vehicle must be equipped with a seat belt.

6. Seat belt and helmet must be worn by driver.

The Course

The course runs from above the Aitken Centre down to the LB Gym, along MacKay Drive. The CHICANE, which incorporates two seemingly unnavigable turns in the course is located near McConnell Hall. This location is often where most spectators prefer to stand. With its comfortable, safe and often sunny seating area which allows for a GREAT DAY OF UNMOTORIZED MOTOR CAR RACING (spoken like Jackie Stewart), this course is a wonderful example of UNB's excellent landscape.

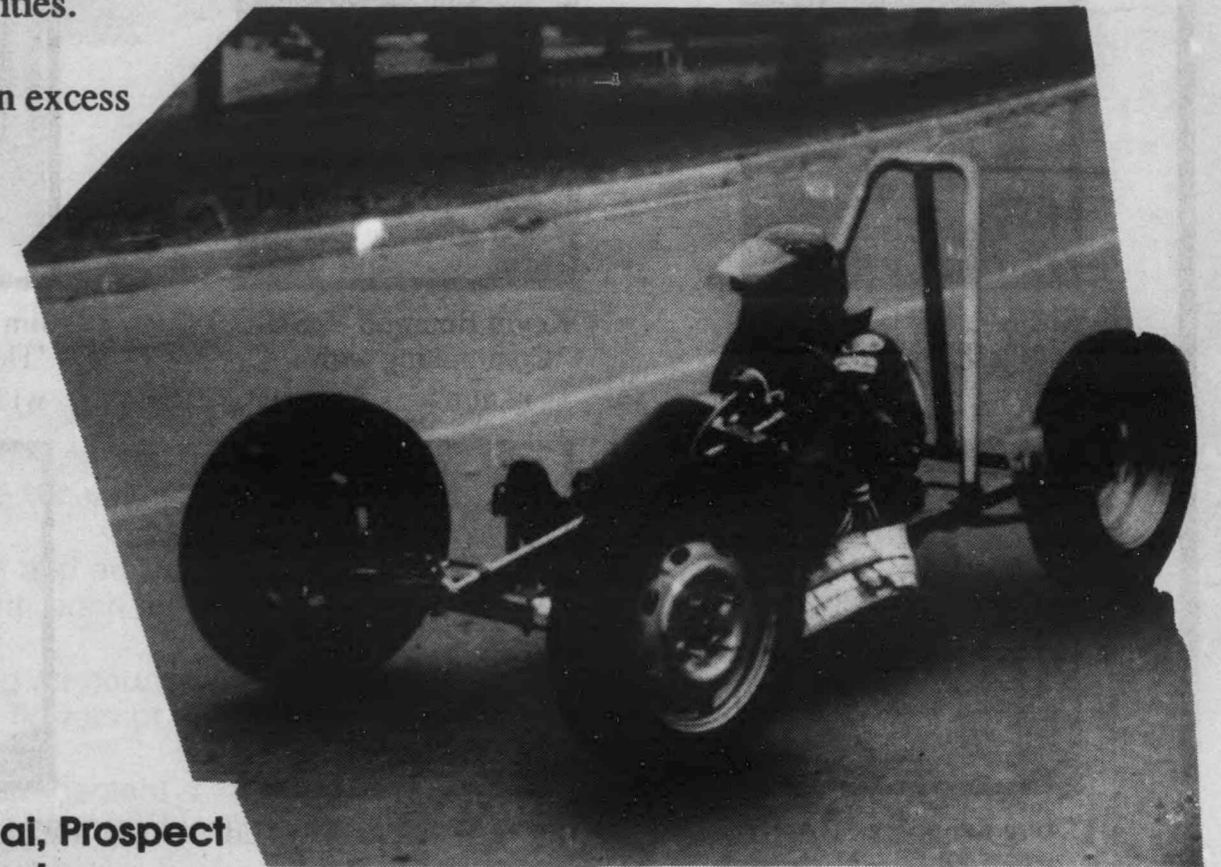
Another popular and entertaining location for spectators is the hairpin turn leading to LB Gym, which has seen it

fair share of crash and burn activities.

The cars have been clocked by (Fredericton's Finest) at speeds in excess of a warp factor of 50 km/hr.

Race Date: Saturday October 5, 1991.

The mechanical Engineering society would like to thank the following sponsors: Clark Chev-Olds, Trans Canada Autohaus, George Bradbury's Monteith, Hyundai, Prospect Suzuki, Clark Toyota, Passport Fredericton, Coca-Cola Bottling.



The Race Rules

1. The vehicles will begin each race with a "Push Start" over a length of 30 feet. Only one individual is to be involved in the pushing of the vehicle (and driver). Pushing over the 30 ft. line will result in penalty time being added to the driver's race time.
2. Once past the finish line the driver will be required to stop his/her vehicle in the "Stop Area". If the vehicle goes over or falls short of the "Stop Area" penalty time will be added to the driver's race time.
3. After the practice run the race will consist of the following sections: preliminary, quarter final, semi-final, consolation and final. In each section the vehicles will be started two at a time, with the exception of the preliminary timed races that will be run one vehicle at a time.
4. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place as well as innovative design and car involved in the most spectacular altercation.

Past winners include Perry Delano, Trevor Neilson, Nelson Piquet, Niki Lauda and Mario Andretti some of whom have gone on to greater racing fame.

Don't miss the 17th Annual Coaster Derby!
Saturday October 5, 1991
See you on the slopes!