

TURN ON A DIME AT PIVOT FIELD

KART RACERS READY FOR GREEN LIGHT ON TRACK



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At least one motor-sport proposal for the Calgary area has gotten on track: the Calgary Kart Racing Club's development at Strathmore.

When the city killed Race City, it also doomed the club's track which had the south end of the facility for 13 years.

At the end of the 2013, karters were booted out and set out to find a new site.

Now, says club president John Kwong, "we are so close to being able to race on our own brand new track."

The new circuit, which the club is operating on a 20 year lease, is on 20 acres of land on the east side of Strathmore just off the Trans Canada Highway.

It has been a struggle, but there's a bright light at the end of the tunnel.

Named Pivot Field, the 8-metre wide, 1,300m track with its 14 turns is ready for paving.

"Construction was arranged to begin immediately after the development permit was issued," says Kwong. "But it was delayed when the MD of Wheatland appealed setting things back until the end of July. By then the equipment had been committed to other projects."

"But the track is laid out, the gravel in place and compacted and we're hoping the paving which was delayed by the recent snow-storm, will get under way sometime between now and the first of October."

He says if all goes well,

the club might be able to run an endurance race before the end of the season, "but we need a good turnout of volunteers this weekend to get some of the necessary work done."

There's other work to be done once the paving is complete before the track can be used.

"We still have to wrap and place about 500 stacks of tires to form safety barriers, complete the landscaping to the edge of the pavement and generally make the track safe for racing," says Kwong. "With a lot of help from club members,

this is very doable."

He said completing these tasks will ensure a full season of racing in 2015, but that there's a lot that remains to be done to complete the project.

"We will have to finish the paddock area, install electrical subpanels and new gates/practice control system to get close to what we had at the old facility — and then come the paddock area improvements."

Kwong says this is the longest sprint track in Western Canada and its site is a perfect fit.

"Strathmore is still quite close to Calgary and all the amenities of a larger city are there, which will make it very attractive to host future major events."

Now that summer's over, he's hoping to see more club members turn out to help with the work. The next work party at Pivot Field is this weekend — Saturday and Sunday — starting at 9 a.m.

Ashely Hughes has his eye on the prize as he steers his cart to victory in the Rotax Masters race in kart racing at the Varsity Speed Park in Calgary on September of last year. It was the last big race on the racetrack before being closed down.

