

Young Entrepreneur of the Year Luc LeBlanc – Kent County Custom

Did you know that you did not have to go to California to get the motorcycle of your dreams? Who knew that motorcycles are custom built in the Kent region? That's what this year's young entrepreneur of the year, Luc LeBlanc, does for a living. Luc is the founder of Kent County Custom (KCC), a business that builds customized motorcycles.

Originally from Notre-Dame-de-Kent, this 29 year old individual attended l'École Clément-Cormier in Bouctouche. He then continued his studies at NBCC Moncton to become a machinist. He worked for local businesses for approximately 10 years before starting his own company.

"My last boss told me that he was letting me go and that I had to start my own business. This is what got me started." said LeBlanc who went to see CBDC Kent in Bouctouche

in order to start his business. Luc LeBlanc started to build motorcycles in his father's garage located in Notre-Dame-de-Kent in 2002. Full of ideas and passionate about manufacturing, Luc built one motorcycle within the company's first year and built two more the following year. His company growing constantly, Luc had no choice but to look elsewhere for a bigger place during his third year. He bought a garage in Shediac Bridge, close to Route 11. Mathieu Boudreau, his only employee, is Luc's right-hand man. "This year, we built five bikes as well as a T-Rex and the services done on Harley Davidson motorcycles have doubled." stated the owner of Kent County Custom who also does maintenance of motorcycles and modifies them.

Since 2002, Kent County Custom has built almost 20 motorcycles, and the most expensive one, which took a total of 750 hours to build, was retailed at \$100,000. KCC can also custom builds motorcycles in the \$20,000 range. Between March and October, the servicing of motorcycles is mainly what keeps Luc LeBlanc in business.

"We are very busy due to the fact that we offer various services such as mechanic, welding, machining, painting, chrome, etc." said the young enthusiast who also sells all sorts of Harley Davidson and Japanese parts.

During winter, Luc is very busy since he attends numerous events and demonstrations. He even already attended a show in Alberta and was featured in a motorcycle magazine.

"During summer time, there is a bike show every weekend, which means we have to close the garage from Friday to Sunday. When we come back to work on Monday, we have to store everything back where it belongs and finish work that has to be done for the



remainder of the week. On Thursday, we have to organize the weekend all over again.” commented LeBlanc who is supported by his wife, Méliissa Robichaud, along with his two-year-old daughter, Jessie.

In 2006, Luc LeBlanc, who was approached by a motorcycle manufacturer in Ontario, had the chance to live an incredible experience. He was part of a competition in which the contestants had to build motorcycles with a hockey theme. This was broadcasted on television on TSN (The Sports Network).

Only four builders were chosen across Canada to participate in this competition, and Luc LeBlanc won the second place with his motorcycle, the Misconduct, who was very popular. A lot of people even say that Luc LeBlanc should have won first place.

"It was awesome", said LeBlanc who showed the nation his talent.

Eventually, Luc LeBlanc, who has really good ideas, would really love to have his own line of Kent County Custom motorcycles. He is surely on the right path to fulfill his dream! “I also like building cars and other things. A client asked me to make him metal banisters for two houses. We are going to start making these projects little by little. The name of our business is not Kent County Choppers, but Kent County Custom because our business builds more than motorcycles” said LeBlanc, an excellent machinist that is able to build and do practically anything.

“Starting a business is not easy” stated Luc LeBlanc, who had a mobile home installed behind his garage so that he could work close to home. “We will live here for a couple of years before we build a house. A lot of sacrifices need to be made. You have to work hard and love what you’re doing” said LeBlanc who taught the machinist course at NBCC Moncton for a period of five years while he was running his business at the same time. Luc LeBlanc has many dreams, but becoming famous is not one of his priorities. “If I can continue to do this job that I love, I will be very happy” said Luc who has a promising future in front of him.

Congratulations Luc!