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Mac inventor's collapsible bike trailer up for top award

The Hamilton Spectator

(Jul 8, 2009)

The McMaster University engineers who created a collapsible bicycle trailer are hoping to pick up a special piece of cargo: an international inventors award from vacuum entrepreneur James Dyson.

Mechanical engineering and management graduates Lindsey Kettel and Cory Minkhorst are competing for the James Dyson Award in an international design contest that carries a prize equivalent to \$19,000, with a matching award for the winner's school. Their invention, the Crosstown bicycle trailer, is meant to make bicycle commuting more appealing by adding the equivalent of a small, stow-away trunk to a bicycle.

Kettel and Minkhorst created the trailer as a graduating project in mechanical engineering. The lightweight carrier attaches to the rear forks by a single arm. When not in use, it rides over the back wheel.

When it's time for loading, the rider swings the trailer down, opens up the bed and raises the fabric walls. The carrier bed opens out to be a little larger than a case of 24 beers, and can haul up to 45 kilograms of cargo.

Dyson himself chooses the overall winner in consultation with an expert panel that is reviewing entries from 21 countries.

The two Mac inventors, already winners in Ontario and Canadian engineering competitions earlier this year, are also looking for online votes in the People's Choice category for Canadian inventions.

Voting is accessible by following the links from jamesdysonaward.org.

Voting closes July 20.



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