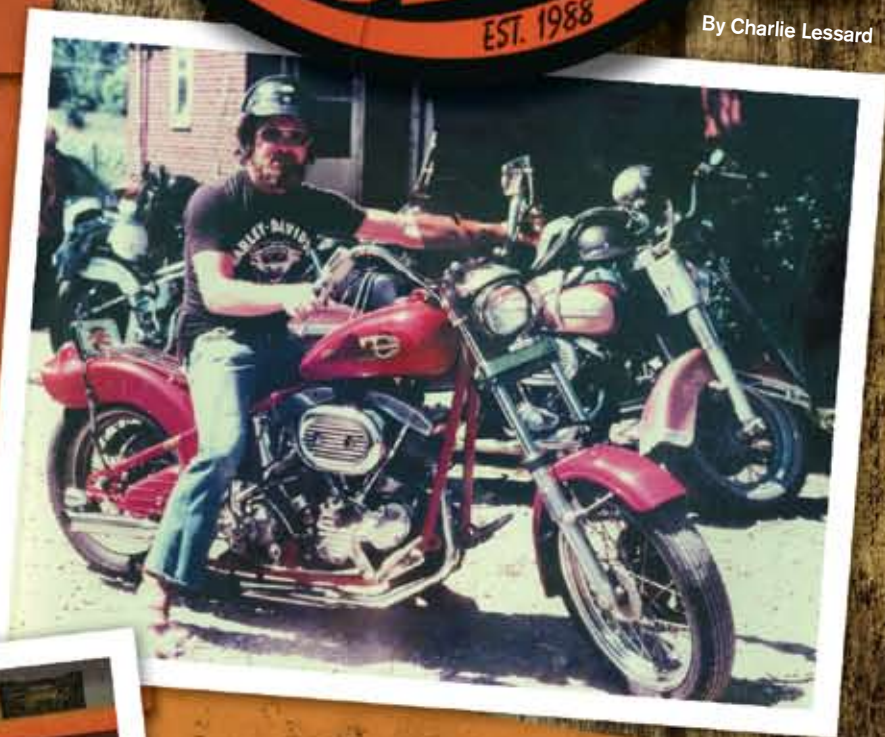


Phone calls... When you really think about it isn't it amazing how much stuff can get done just by making a phone call? I mean a simple phone call can start quite a chain of events. Would you believe that a simple phone call was actually the nucleus for the story you're reading right now? This article started not too long ago when a modern version of Alexander Graham Bell's (1870 patented) electric speech transmitter was used to convey some information to none other than Pascal, our ever-busy magazine editor. The sender of this message was motor head machinist extraordinaire Pat Juteau of J-Precision in St-Hubert, Quebec. It seems that Pat was a little "eager" about relaying information about a certain Ontario motorcycle shop that might be of interest to us here at Revolution. A little while after Pat hung up a second telephone call was made. Pascal was glad to convey Pat's info, which in turn connected me to my next mission and subsequently "Old School" report. It didn't take a lot of persuading for me to agree that 900 Colborne Street East in Brantford was where I was headed. When words like (Harley-factory-replica) and (three-generation-family-run-bike-shop) are used, my cell phone battery gets charged and my bags get packed! The third phone call that links to this story is the one I made to the shop in question, **Hip's Cycle**. Fortunately for me Jon Hipkin answered my plea. After my intro, explaining how I got their name through J-Precision and sharing a few bad jokes, Jon agreed to open the doors of his family run business and give all of us a privileged look inside.

1972 is the year **Jim "Hip" Hipkin** brought home a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle. Much to the cynicism (that's a fancy word for "a load of shit") of all his car club



By Charlie Lessard

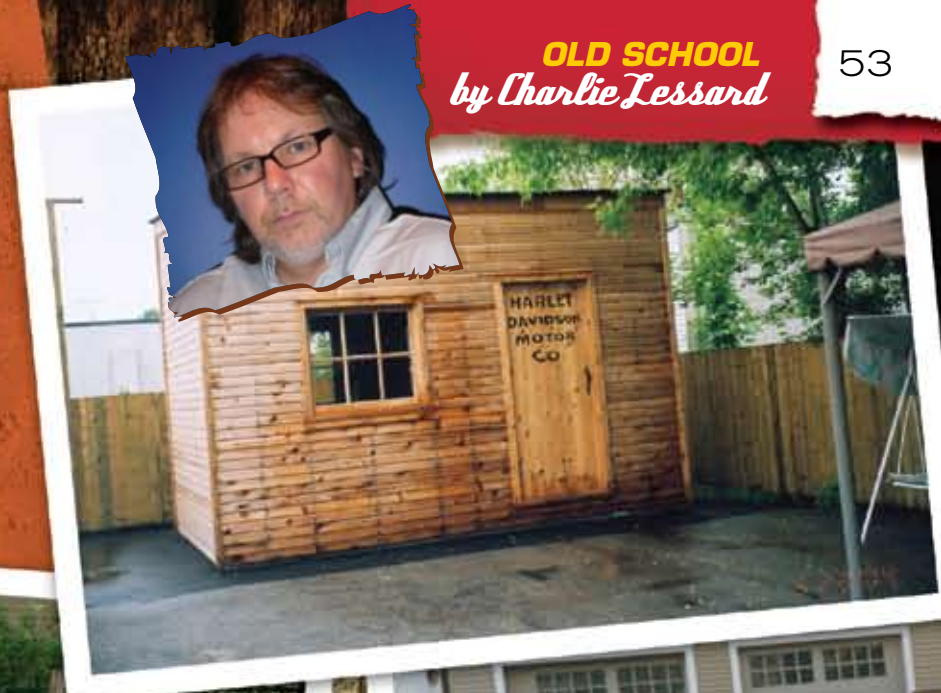


buddies, Hip was determined to follow this new revelation that for some reason really got his sense of adventure rolling. Being an "ace" mechanical technician fixing everything from lawnmowers to lift trucks Hip had absolutely no problem turning his 1970 "Bonny" into a beautiful candy red trophy-winning chopper. A very proud Jim Hipkin won top honors at the 1975 London Bike Show and from that point on there was no turning back, Hip was hooked!

After that first-rate experience with the Triumph, Hip turned his wrenches towards an old '46 Harley Davidson FL basket case. Taking motor parts from a Pan and Shovelhead Hip got old serial number 3302 running. That particular bike (known as the "Red Bike") grabbed a lot of people's attention. It wasn't long before Hip's 900 square foot home workshop was taken over

by Harley riding bikers wanting to have their scoots serviced. Still keeping his day job as a heavy equipment technician Jim spent his weeknights and weekends quickly building his new business venture. Appropriately named Hip's Cycle, he performed H-D rebuilds, restorations and complete ground-up custom builds. Being on the road doing the heavy equipment repair helped to make a lot of contacts, says Hip. "I built up a network of great friends." In 1988 Hip decided that he had enough of his day job and decided to work in the shop full time, a move that he has never regretted.

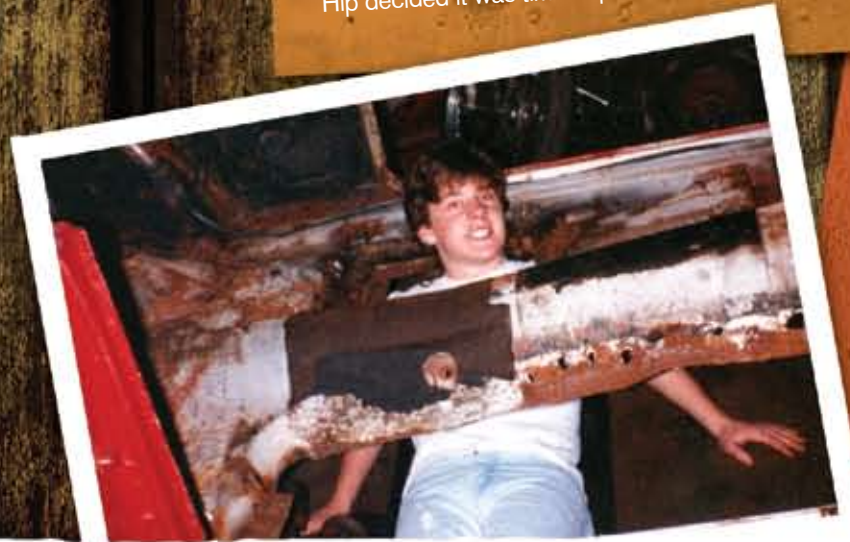
1972 was a significant year for **Jim Hipkin**. Not only did he purchase his Triumph but he also brought home his newborn son Jon Hipkin, both of which changed



his life for the better. Jon was virtually born into the motorcycle world. Spoon-fed in the shop and raised by the sound of Brantford's baddest motorcycles left no doubt as to what laid ahead for him. Jon was a natural, wrenching on everything from hogs to hot-rods and at the age of sixteen he rebuilt and started riding a 1973 Ironhead Sporty. That initial project didn't sit very well with Jon's school faculty, as they always seemed to be bothered by the sound of the Ironhead's straight pipes when Jon rode to school. After riding the Sporty for three years his father Hip decided it was time to pass down the torch, the "Red

Bike" was now Jon's. Jon rode that classic for the following eight years until he purchased a 1999 Softail (I guess that's what we can call having Harley-Davidson running through your blood!). After High School Jon attended College but that was short lived. Sharing an apartment with six guys at the age of nine-teen was just too much of a blast. "Studying wasn't a priority, partying was," said Jon with a laugh! So at the end of six months Jon decided to return home and focus on Hip's Cycle. After three years of working alongside his father and achieving his Ontario Government Red Seal status as a certified mechanic, Jon saw that it was time to bring Hip's Cycle to the next level. At the age of 23 and with the full support of both his parents (they mortgaged the farm!), Jon set his sights on a 10,000 square foot building. It was time to move from back street to main street! Rather aggressive moves for a twenty three year old wouldn't you say? Pure determination!

"It really was a leap of faith, Jon says. We went from zero overhead to business taxes and major expenses". Hip said that the first couple of years were stressful. He had his fair share of sleepless nights trying to



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figure out how to pay the bills. It was sink or swim. Both Hip and Jon worked sixteen-hour days and with the generous help from their great customers in addition to people (from all walks of life) in the community they achieved success. "We've always reinvested into our business," said Jon. "We've upgraded the air and heating system, the roof, painted, put up signs. It's our way of life and we plan on being here for a very long time. This isn't just a job." Jon continued: "this place carries on after hours because of the love for motorcycles. We treat each bike like it was our own and respect is a key element when dealing with our customers." Today Hip's Cycle customers come from as far as Miskoka, Barrie, Wasaga Beach, Guelph and London. With Hip taking care of all the behind-the-scenes daily operations and Jon dealing with all customer requirements, administration, estimates, custom builds and answering the #!@\$%? phone, they assure business efficiency and excellent customer care. When asked about the



photographs. With a crew of ten people (friends and family) and a truckload of (saw) milled telephone polls the project took life. By the end of the summer Harley riders from all around were coming by the Hip's Cycle yard just to have their picture taken in front of the ten by fifteen-foot building. Everything from the nail spacing to the door is as accurate as possible and the interior has antique tools on display, a "must see" for any Harley enthusiast.

Corey Sage is third in line to the throne at Hip's Cycle. Also born into a biker family and stepson to Jon Hipkin, Corey has always had a knack for all things mechanical.



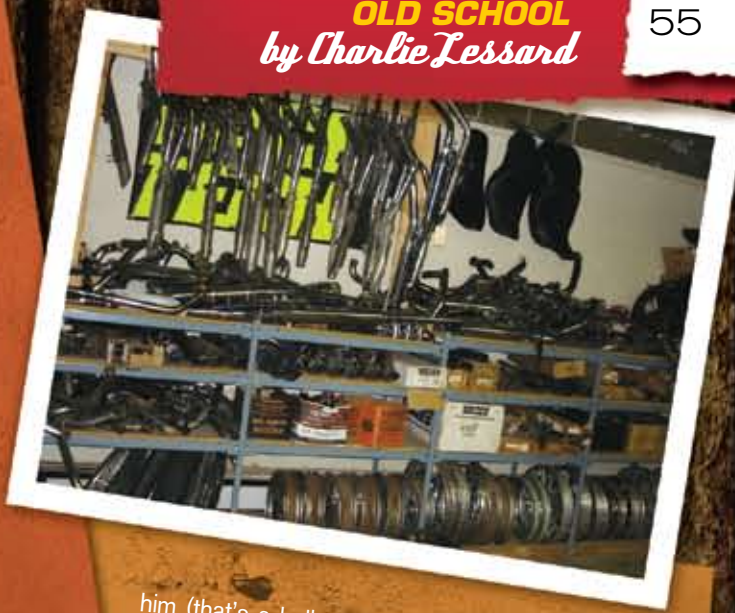
T.V. inspired "chopper craze" of not long ago they had this to say: "We sure got an influx of new customers because of it but the great thing is, it wasn't just a fad for the majority of them, they still ride. We build bikes to ride we don't build trailer queens!"

In the spring of 2003 Jim "Hip" Hipkin decided to lock up his tool box for a while and concentrate on something that he had on his mind for a while. Hip wanted to show his loyalty to the Harley-Davidson Motor Company by building an accurate replica of the original H-D factory shed (circa 1903). Hip started the project by doing hours of research through books, the Internet, phone calls and also examining old



So if you're ever in the Hip's Cycle area or doing the Friday the 13th Run and need some servicing on your two-wheeler or if you just want to stop by and have a look at their H-D factory replica, pick up the phone and call Jon. You never know what chain of events lie ahead. Stay Hip!

Charlie,
CL Chop Shop -



him (that's a hell of a compliment for a 23 year old). Corey's current ride is a 2003 88 cubic inch Ultra Classic that he actually drag-races. "Yeah, I ride it to the track, race it, then ride it back home, he said... I like my machines wide-open." Corey's future plans include continuing to learn the machining and welding trades both of which I'm sure he will thrive in... I'm certain this guy pours 20W50 on his Corn Flakes in the morning! Corey's five-year-old brother Dylan Hipkin is the latest addition to the Hip's Cycle family. Apparently he's already asked if he could have his JR-50 painted black with red flames. My guess is that Brantford Ontario will continue to have its streets set a blaze (in the fine Hip tradition) for years to come!

