

Concept Cadillac Ciel Heading to Production

The time has come, the CEO said, for building the Cadillac Ciel, a concept car that was first seen in 2011. At least that's what *USA Today* is saying.

According to that newspaper, GM CEO Dan Akerson said the Ciel will go into production within the next two years.

Cadillac spokesperson David Caldwell said he is aware of no information to contradict that story.

"It shouldn't come as a surprise that we are planning new product," Caldwell said. "We are in the midst of building the brand worldwide. I will say that right now we are busy getting ready to launch a lot of new product in the next six months to a year and that's what we're concentrating on at this moment."

The Ciel – pronounced "C-L," the French translation for sky – is a four-seat convertible, and was first shown in Pebble Beach, Calif., in 2011.

At the time, GM Global Design Director Clay Dean said that "large, expressive luxury is innate to Cadillac and the Ciel recalls that heritage, while suggesting where the brand can go in the future."

"Authentic luxury is driven by experiences, not just products, and Ciel is about the experience of the journey."

The specs released in 2011 describe the vehicle as a four-seat convertible that "opens a new chapter in Cadillac's design and product ascent, pushing the brand's Art & Science philosophy into a new stratum."

Ciel is a new expression of



The Cadillac Ciel is going from being a concept car to reality.

Cadillac's historical grandeur, as well as a celebration of open-air motoring."

GM described the Ciel having doors that "are French-style, with the rear doors hinged at the rear – there is no B-pillar – to reveal a sweeping view of the dramatic interior. Distinguishing fender lines run from nose to tail, and nickel-plated bright work accents the body lines, enhancing the visual length of the car and honoring Cadillac touring cars of the past."

Dean said, "The interior is accented with sweeping nickel-plated trim. It divides the body-color upper sections from a complementing beige lower color."

Italian Olive wood, machined aluminum and hand-tipped leather are elements that flow through the interior, complementing the primary colors with warm, rich tones.

"From the materials used to

create it to the space and experience it offers passengers, the Ciel represents a unique perspective on luxury, but not the only one," said Dean. "Along with other concepts, such as the ULC, Cadillac is demonstrating that the bandwidth of the Art & Science philosophy is wide, indeed – and we're going to make it even wider."

The Ciel was developed at GM Design's North Hollywood Design Center, which is managed by Frank Saucedo. Niki Smart was the lead exterior designer, with Gael Buzyn leading interior development.

USA Today reported that the car will use a rear-drive chassis and it is not based on the Australian Holden.

Caldwell said that more information on the Ciel will be released as time goes on, but for now, GM is keeping quiet on the exact details.

School Supply Drive Slated For Auburn Hills/Rochester

It may seem hard to believe that it's time to start talking about back to school, but Rochester Area Neighborhood House is hoping community members will be willing to direct their summer energy into a worthwhile cause.

Neighborhood House, a private, nonprofit human service organization, is kicking off its annual school supply drive to support the children of low-income families in the Greater Rochester/Auburn Hills community.

As with all programs related to children, Neighborhood House strives to make sure that children in financially struggling families have the same opportunities available to them as any other child in the area.

The organization currently services qualifying families in need from Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Oakland Township and Addison Township, assisting these communities during their times of hardship and partnering with other social service providers to help many struggling individuals and families move toward self-sufficiency.

Neighborhood House is partnering with another local nonprofit, Kidz Kare, for a Back-to-School Bonanza in an effort to ensure that all local children are fully prepared to head back to school in September.

The community is invited to join in and support this cause by purchasing and donating school supply items for children in need.

Items needed include pens, pencils, colored pencils, washable markers, Sharpies, pocket folders (with and without prongs), loose-leaf binders, wide and college-ruled paper, one- and three-subject notebooks (wide and college-ruled), scissors, glue

sticks, erasers, highlighters, rulers (including metric), and backpacks for children between the ages of 6 and 18.

As school supplies go on sale this summer, Neighborhood House is hoping that everyone will join in, go shopping, and make a donation that will touch the life of a child in need.

Last year, Neighborhood House helped more than 400 children with back-to-school supplies.

It's expected that even more children will seek assistance this year.

Donations can be dropped off in donation bins at the following locations:

- Ram's Horn Restaurant - 1990 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills;
- Bar Louie - 1488 N. Rochester Road, Rochester;
- Oakland Optometry - 4970 N. Adams Road, Rochester Hills
- Ducharme Chiropractic, 111 Rochdale Drive, Rochester Hills;
- Mario's Barber Hair Styling Salon - 2955 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills;
- Clothes Closet - 44 Mill Street, Rochester;
- Neighborhood House administrative offices - 1234 Inglewood, Rochester;
- Van Hoosen Farm/Museum during Wet and Wild Wednesdays.

Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 9. Donors are encouraged to call Neighborhood House at 248-651-5836 for additional information.

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AH Engineering Firm Changes Leadership

Patti Engineering, Inc., has made several organizational changes on its executive and engineering teams.

Patti Hoff, former vice president of Finance, has been promoted to president. Hoff has been with the company since its inception.

Sam Hoff, former president, will move to the role of vice president of Sales and Marketing to take a more active role in business development and growth as the company continues momentum through the third quarter of 2013.

Additionally, Steve Palmgren, is promoted to vice president of the Southern Region, responsible for overseeing Engineering Services and Business Development.

In his previous role as director in the Texas office, Palmgren led hardware and software development and designs for major client projects.

Also, Dave Calme and Moez Moradipour have both been promoted to the position of senior controls engineer.

"We are so proud of our tremendous engineers that allow the executive team to thrive on a daily basis," said Patti Hoff. "I look forward to taking a more active role in high-level company leadership."

Dave Foster, vice president of Engineering, said, "Patti's promotion to president will be a smooth transition. She has been instrumental in building the company's solid financial position

and we expect nothing less from her than achieving the same results organization-wide.

"Congratulations are also in order for Palmgren, Calme and Moradipour, who have earned each of their professional advances. Last, but not least, we're looking forward to watching Sam excel in his new role taking advantage of growth opportunities across the nation."

Patti Engineering is a manufacturer of control systems integration. The company is headquartered in Auburn Hills.

Its strength is in electrical control and information systems and turnkey control systems integration for design/build, upgrade/retrofit and asset/energy management projects.



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