



# Flywheel:

## The Open Road Beckons

April 2021, Vol 2:2



2018 Friendship Festival Photo: Jim Martin

### President Sean:

I'm writing this during a lovely warm spring day, pining to bring our LBC home from hibernation. Some may wait for April showers to wash away the residue of winter's salt and grime, while others throw caution to the wind. Whatever you decide, driving season is here or right around the corner.

Event planning and regular meetings remain up in the air for the time being. As our editor at large points out, vaccines are being administered, but much of the province and country remains in some sort of restriction for gatherings, etc.

For the time being, I encourage reaching out to fellow members, when the notion strikes, for a porch visit or drive. The executive is monitoring public washroom availability and looking to begin some club runs while respecting provincial regulations.

Lastly, our impromptu club video call went relatively well. We had good attendance and it was a good start. I'll look to set up another for April. Some helpful tips for next time:

- Try headphones or earbuds to reduce feedback since some computer's microphone and speakers are located relatively close together.
- Learn to use the mute function and have it on when not speaking. It helps reduce ambient noise during the call.
- Test your computer, tablet, or cell phone with a friend to ensure it functions before the call itself.

I'm looking forward to our twentieth year, getting out on the road, and seeing each of you this year. —Sean

### **Editor Jim:**

**Swinging into Spring:** As you are reading this, the Spring Equinox is receding in the rear-view mirror and the Summer Solstice lies ahead, tantalizingly just over the horizon. It's a prospect to lift our spirits, although realistically this year is likely to play out much like the last, at least until we are all comfortable with a sufficient blanket of Covid-19 vaccine



coverage. So for the time being, we will keep keeping our distance,

and keep our masks and thinking caps on, too, as we search out novel ways to motor forward.

Part of our motoring forward invokes the yearly call for the renewal of our club memberships. Covid-19 most likely has distracted some of you from remembering your 2021 club dues. Treasurer Pete Moffett informs me a number of folks have yet to renew, so consider this a gentle reminder before we send a large man in a suit to your door.

With the arrival of good driving weather comes the increased likelihood of running into...sorry...meeting fellow LBC drivers who are not members of our club. Make sure to have a good supply of club brochures in the glove box. Contact Sean if you need more.

Of note; the *Flywheel*, our “temporary” Covid-inspired newsletter is one year old with this issue! Thanks for riding along. —Jim

### **Club Business:**

**A Virtual Club Meeting** was held Tuesday, March 9, with a pretty decent turnout of participants—Sean and Vicki, Russ, Cameron and Maureen, Leslie and Bud, Evans, Leo and Tina, Jim C., Henry, Al and Jan, Laura, and our newest member Mike Hupal. And yer faithful editor.

Not much in the way of Robert’s Rules, but a chance to remind ourselves how we look without masks and to kick around some ideas for what could be another strange year of modified club activities.

President Sean told us he learned a lot from last year and pledged to keep the club active with runs conducted within the current health guidelines. The suggested motto for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

**Get out and drive!**

Al thought a formal club run could be possible by May, but said no overnight runs could be considered before 2022. Al also reminded newer members not to be afraid to take on organizing a club run, as lots of help would be available to them. All agreed the pop-up runs from late last year were great fun, easy to do, and an excellent way to keep the club engaged in the coming driving season.

There was also discussion as to whether the club should continue with the Holiday Inn as a meeting place after the Covid dust settles, or if we ask if it is time for a change of venue. In the meantime we look forward to outdoor picnic meetings during the warmer weather. Al will look into renting a picnic pavilion at Rock Point Provincial Park.

### **Members' News:**

We are sending a great big club "Get Well" to **Frank Price** who started chemo treatments last month. Frank is in good spirits and ready to take on the treatments, 12 in all, over a 6-month period. Frank aims to get out among us this season and we have no doubt that by late summer he will have drop kicked Mr. C through the goalposts of oblivion. Also we send big hugs to Ann. Our better halves are our heroes during such times.

**Pete Moffett** is recuperating nicely from his successful heart surgery. He's keeping his revs down while the valves seat, but will be ready to climb back behind the wheel soon.

Hip, hip hooray for **Vicki Mowers** whose chassis now rides evenly after her second hip replacement in March. Look out, Herb!

**Russ Kwiatkowski** has secured a supply of snappy-looking face masks that proudly display our loyalties. He still has a few.



Give Russ a call while this fashion statement is still relevant. They're free. Thanks, Russ.

**Knock it off, Evans!** Before *Undo* came to describe that strange little symbol on the Microsoft tool bar, it was a uniquely British instruction for removal of one's wire wheel spinner. No *On* or *Off* for those sly Brits. No, it was *Do* or *Undo*. It leads one to ask, even though they invented the English language, whether the British

should be entrusted with it? This mental meandering comes about as the result of these photos submitted by **Evans McInerney**. They relate to using the correct tool for the job.

The right photo shows a badly bruised wire wheel spinner that had been subjected to a metal headed hammer. Evans called it the Thor Hammer. Well, that wounded warrior and its three companions were replaced, some years ago but their replacements still look as good as new.

The new spinners are now coaxed on and off (undo'd?) with the proper persuader. In Evans's words, "The dead plough hammer...has removed and replaced this spinner dozens of times and left no marks or flat spots, and it's easier to use as it does not rebound like the metal hammers."

And they are great for cracking walnuts...



## Features:

### You plan to drive that crate?



NBCC friend **John Foster** down in North Carolina is no stranger to building his own cars from the ground up. In the past he has built a Ferrari California Spyder replica. This time he's in the mood for a Lotus 17. Here's his plan:

- Get body
- Add stuff
- Drive

Yes, it will be a bit more involved than that. John has sourced a Mazda engine and transmission, along with an MGB shell and suspension. He has an ingenious idea to cut the B floor pan down to receive the fibreglass body. John promises to share more of his creative adventure in future issues of the *Flywheel* as well as his own club newsletter, *The Hub*. Stay tuned.

## Fifty Years ahead of the Curve



mgcarclub

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Social distancing in the early '70s. Thanks to Russ K. for sending this along.

### What's in Here?



That's the question we posed in our last *Flywheel*. What kind of forgotten British automotive treasure would you like to find inside this picturesque garage? Thanks for your answers.

**Jim Collacott:** “I actually have a list, a *Money-no-object* list. At the top is a 1939 MG WA Tickford. Back to more reality, wouldn't a 1973 MGB-GT V8 be a nice find?”

**Russ Kwiatkowski** also thinks that because it's a two car garage, he should have two of his favourites inside. Who are we to argue? He'd like to find a 1960 Lotus Elite (Series 2). “I remember the Elites racing at Shannonville vintage races back in the '80s. Pretty exciting watching them take corners on two wheels. Unbeatable!” Russ's second choice...a 1957 MG Magnette ZA.

**Scott Norris:** “Completely dismantled 1957 Jaguar XK150. Convertible of course. I always wanted one. There was one close to me growing up.”

**Lynda Moffett** would like to find an MGB V8 conversion like our friend Kevin Pesant used to own. She'd like it to be an automatic.

**Cheryl Martin** would like to find a Triumph 2000 roadster. She's always liked the look of them. Headlight envy perhaps?



Triumph 2000

**Jim Goertz** is ready with his hazmat suit... “There’s probably a rotted out Chevy Impala in there, but I’d certainly be hoping for a Jaguar XK model. Of course it would be covered in barn dust, likely mouse infested, and partially rotted.”

**Terry Semple** would love to trip over an early Sunbeam Tiger...one that needs rebuilding.

**Editor:** I would like to find a 1960 Jaguar XK150 Gold Head roadster like the one Cheryl and I once owned. I would like to find it in the same slightly shabby condition, so I could have the pleasure of fulfilling the dream I had back then to make it into a decent daily-driver classic.

### **Meet Your Copy Editor**



We don’t know where your editor would be without **Heather Martin**, who has been so much help to her old man in making the *Flywheel* look presentable each month. Before she became a web developer, Heather’s past career was in the publishing field as a proofreader and copy editor; skills she now provides gratis to the club. She tells us she’s OK with this arrangement, but our president felt the **NBCC** owed her something more tangible, and edible. So Sean and Vicki put together a generous package of Niagara-produced preserves and sauces, along with a club calendar, and sent it off to Montreal early in the New Year.

*Dear Sean and Vicki,*

*Thank you so much for the delightful parcel that arrived on Friday! What a very thoughtful thing to do, and it will make for lovely nibbles while we're staying safe at home. The calendar looks great!*

*It's been fun to keep up with the club's news these past months and to flex my old copyediting neurons.*

*All my best to you both, your families and everyone in the club!*

*Heather*

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*Heather,*

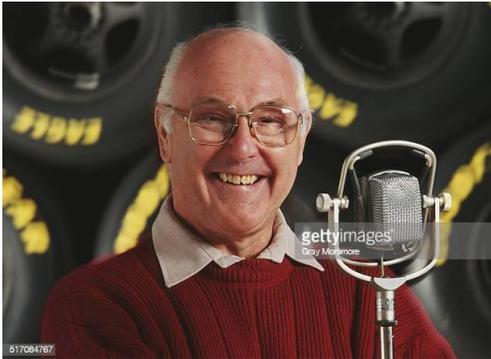
*You are most welcome, and we appreciate your contribution to the NBCC.*

*It was a trying time last year and the newsletter has been instrumental with keeping members in touch and informed about the club.*

*You and your family keep safe and healthy!*

*Sincerely,  
Sean & Vicki*

Personally Cheryl and I think it's the least Heather could do. After all, we taught her how to use a spoon.



## **Murray Walker, 1923–2021**

Much loved former Formula 1 race commentator Murray Walker has passed away at age 97.

His enthusiasm for the sport often got the better of him in the announce booth, and in his excitement, his commentary produced some memorable gaffes, some actually coming off as quite clever. Race fans loved him for it. Late club member Kevin Pesant and I often watched the races together and we like to call him “Muddy Talker.”

Here are some of our favourite “Murrayisms”:

- “There’s nothing wrong with the car, except that it’s on fire.”
- “The lead car is quite unique, except for the car behind it, which is identical.”
- “And now excuse me while I interrupt myself.”
- “Now we have exactly the same situation as at the beginning of the race, only exactly opposite.”
- “Unless I am very much mistaken...and yes, I am very much mistaken.”

And a couple of examples of Murray’s perceptive skills:

- “He can’t decide whether to leave his visor half open or half closed.”
- “With half the race gone, there is half the race still to go.”

**Formula 1** is back for 2021 with a storied British name, Aston Martin, on the grid for the first time in 60 years, and some splendid new liveries. Have our club's F-1 fans noted how large and heavy these cars have become in recent years? The current championship Mercedes race car now occupies a footprint that's bigger than its largest sedan.

Check the photo below to track the cars' growth through the years. These are Ferraris, but the story is the same across the spectrum.



A lot of this growth has to do with increased safety, so we can't argue with that. Hopefully the new rules for 2022 will at least give us cars that are a little more aesthetically pleasing.

### **How Are Your Reflexes?**

This simulates you in the driver's seat of a car. You're driving down a road, and when a big red hand flashes in front of you, you have to put on the brakes. Then, the Reaction Time Test tells you how old you are, when it comes to driving.

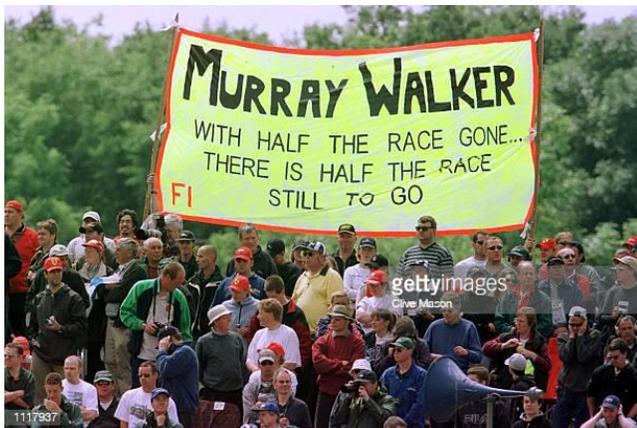
The test is based on the reaction times of 2,000 people aged 18 and over. The Reaction Time Test plotted their reaction times by age; it matches your reaction time to those averages.

Some of their results may surprise you. The Reaction Time Test found that left-handed people and men have slightly better reaction times than the average person.

We'll bet you try it more than once!

**[Click on me](#)**

## R.I.P. Murray



*NBCC Flywheel*

**President:** Sean Nakoneczny

[sean.nakoneczny@gmail.com](mailto:sean.nakoneczny@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Jim Martin

[themartins@farnhamhouse.com](mailto:themartins@farnhamhouse.com)

**Copyediting:** Heather Martin

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Thanks for reading. Contributions gratefully accepted. Jim