



# Flywheel:

KEEPING BRITISH CARS  
ALIVE AND WELL

## Driving Together

August 2021, Vol. 2:6



Coffee Tyme at Timmies: June 16<sup>th</sup> Photo by Pete Moffett

**President Sean:** As of this writing, the NBCC has held its first in-person meeting of 2021 at Charles Daley Park. The weather kept most LBCs at home but not our members. Thank you to everyone who braved the ominous clouds that brought along some rain.

While we got to meet Rob Chanona and Brian Bassil, new member Amy Skelton arrived in the rain with her '92 Rover Mini RHD but was stuck in the parking lot with a battery problem. As most were leaving in the rain, the Pritchards got her back on the road and home safely. Everyone will have an opportunity to meet her at future events!

The NBCC will continue General Club Meetings the second Tuesday of the month at the same location (Charles Daley Park) rain or shine for the next few meetings. Remember to bring your own food, beverages, chairs, and masks to use the public washrooms.

The executive welcomes your feedback and will discuss a return to the Holiday Inn/The Social or alternative venues with consideration for our comfort, safety, and costs.

Did I mention future events? This edition of the *Flywheel* is full of more information on this and so much more. Read on and see you out there, folks! —Sean

**Editor Jim: Outliers**, every club has them, those members who through no fault of their own, are seldom seen at club gatherings. Family and career obligations intrude, distance, or worse, declining health limits their ability or desire to get out. We get it; we're happy you still wish to belong to the NBCC, and after this past year of imposed outlying for all of us, we carry an even greater empathy for your situation. We just thought it was timely to let you know you aren't forgotten and that we still value you as members.

Remembering you all is one of the reasons that each copy of the *Flywheel* is addressed to you individually instead of via a group email account. You matter to us, and as we emerge from our own confinement, we sincerely hope you have found a way to liberate a bit of your time for some fun with the rest of us. If not, don't be bashful. Join in our club chat group and reach out to us. President Sean will be happy to enroll you if you do not already subscribe.

## Club Business:

**July 13th General Meeting** We took a chance during iffy weather with our lakeside meeting at scenic Charles Daly Park and were mostly lucky. The spacious gazebo certainly helped. And it was certainly good to see a large collection of smiling faces again. Kudos to **Jenny Bryce** for travelling all the way from Selkirk.



- **Prez Sean** welcomed new club members **Rob Chanona** and **Brian Bassil**.
- Outdoor locations will be the norm for the remaining summer meetings. 50-50 draws will likely be reinstated with the proviso that we pay with exact funds
- Anticipation for **Mike Hupel's** July 24<sup>th</sup> run, which, because of newsletter lead times, will be covered in the September *Flywheel*.
- **Gary Lemon** is apparently working on an August run.
- Sean and Pete discussed plans for long term care home drive-by visits starting July 17 with others being planned. Again, reports in the next *Flywheel*

- **Vicky H** has picked up the task of finding someone to stich our anniversary crest

**Finances: Treasurer Pete Moffett's** June financial statement can be found in its entirety in the Members' section of our website. In brief, for the year to date, both income and expenses are below projected levels...income at 54% and expenses at 51% with a continuing healthy surplus for the year to date. Current membership is 43 with 5 of those being new memberships. A few renewals are still outstanding.

Closing off the meeting, Pete asked for a show of hands and a big turnout of cars for the **Motors 'n' Music Car Show** at Grimsby's Southward Park on Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup>. It looks like a fun replacement for Marshville this year. Watch your inboxes for further info on upcoming club activities.

### **Members' News:**

**A Bevy of New Members:** First are **Roger Reynolds and Kathy McLeod** of St. Catharines.



Roger offers the following introduction:

*Kathy and I recently purchased our 2018 Mini Cooper S with the JCW appearance package. Its first owner specked it to be a Paddy Hopkirk tribute car. Prior to this we had a 2015 Mini Cooper S which we loved, and it prompted the purchase of this one. Kathy and I have been pretty much long-time residents of St. Catharines, although I was born in Coventry, England, and Kathy's heritage is Scottish. Both my grandfather and my father worked at Jaguar. Presently, we are also members of the Niagara Mini Club and previously I was a member of the Honda Goldwing Riders Association and the Niagara Miata Club. I noted in one of your recent newsletters you were trying to get information out about your club in the newspaper. Well that worked; that's how we found out about your club. Kathy and I are retired and are looking forward to meeting the club members and attending some of your events.*

Next we welcome **Rob Chanona and Sheryl Boswell**

Rob confesses they are complete newbies to British cars and are joining us for both camaraderie and information. In the meantime, they are negotiating the purchase of a '66 Austin-Healey MkIII. Rob takes it from here.

*We are so looking forward to being part of the club. My story of the Healey began accidentally in the summer of 1981. When I was 21, and a somewhat disillusioned lad, my friend's family relocated from*

*Montreal to Vancouver. Urey had a BMW 2002 ti that he wanted to drive out to Vancouver and asked if I'd help drive it across Canada. That was my first taste of what a special car can do to enhance your driving experience. In Vancouver Urey surprised once again when he purchased a Bugeye Sprite, and that was when I fell in love with Austin-Healey. The dream of owning a Healey stayed with me for decades, but single-car garages in Toronto always kept the dream at bay.*

*Then when Covid hit, Sheryl and I did what all Torontonians seemed to be doing, we bought an escape property (Port Weller East) in October 2020 with the first criteria that at a minimum it needed a two-car garage. The search for a Healey, at least in my*



*mind, had begun. Our Port Weller garage still doesn't have an Austin-Healey parked inside, but I'm can feel the end is very close.*

*I'm hoping to learn from other members and both Sheryl and I are looking forward to building some great relationships. —Rob*

The *Flywheel* also offers a big NBCC welcome back to **Brian Bassil** of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Brian was a real early club member:

*I previously belonged from 2001 to 2013, so I probably don't need a formal introduction, as many people will have seen me then. I will have more time to participate now with my retirement. I have the same cars as before, a jasmine yellow '64 Spitfire 4 with a hardtop, and a black over red '64 BJ8 Healey, which is the more valuable, but the Spitfire holds the memories of younger days! I will be at the Wednesday morning Tim Hortons, which is a nice country road drive from our home in Niagara-on-the-Lake*

*Cheers, Brian*

A hearty welcome back to **Dave Young**, our very own Jagmaster, who never really strayed too far away...not when members' cars are hungry for attention.

And this just in, thanks to Sean's opening notes, a big club welcome to **Amy Skelton** who as luck would have it, was a distance attendee at our last meeting. Now that we've roped you, Amy, we'll pull you in a little closer for the next one.

**Condolences** to club members **Russ and Bonnie Kwiatkowski** and also to **Jenny Bryce**.

Russ's mother, Mabel, passed away at age 93 in June.

We were also sad to hear at the July meeting of the passing of Jenny's husband, **Jim Bryce**, a year ago from lingering health problems. Because Covid has kept us apart, particularly those living further out, Jenny's news came as a shock to us. Jenny has promised to stay active in the club with her MGB. Good!

**Don and Liz Osadec.** We want to tell members' stories in the *Flywheel*. This month we feature club stalwarts Don and Liz



From left to right: TR the gorilla and TR Junior, Don and Liz

*Besides our being LBC enthusiasts, Don has long had an interest in woodworking. Everything from furniture such as a full-sized grandfather clock and antique platform rocking chairs. As well Don has done stained glass work and wood pictures known as intarsia along with making a wooden steering wheel for the TR6.*



*Don's first LBC was a 1955 MG-TF, which he restored ground up, it was a beauty. Next came a 1968 Triumph TR4-IRS, again fully restored. He had both of these cars for several years before settling on his present 1974 TR6 which brought us to the Niagara British Car Club where we have formed many wonderful friendships. Power boating was another interest but did not last long, fun while we had it.*

*We both volunteer at our church making pyrogies every Thursday, which are sold to the general public along with cabbage rolls, meat on the stick, soups, pies, shepherd's pie and lasagne. Also we volunteer at the Bingo hall on behalf of our church.*

*Liz volunteers at the St. Catharines hospital in the surgical department and enjoys baking, cooking, and entertaining. While the children were growing up Liz did a lot of sewing for the girls and also made draperies for the house.*

*And with the other free time we enjoy world travelling. We have crossed the equator six times and circled the globe 1 1/2 times.*

*On our travels we have met many people and we still keep in contact with them. Ocean cruising is our favourite method of travel because you get to see so much more of the world than one destination at a time. We are so looking forward to doing a cruise once this pandemic has been declared over.*



More samples of Don's handiwork

## **Marshville Festival Cancelled:**



Sadly, for the second year in a row, our favourite Labour Day weekend gathering has been cancelled. Organizers of the annual pioneer and craft festival in Wainfleet reluctantly decided that things were still a little too fluid to guarantee a successful festival. The uncertain trajectory of the Delta variant as well as concerns

about securing enough volunteers, most of whom are seniors, were the two major factors in the decision.

## Features:

**Radford Resurrected.** Champion Formula One pilot Jenson Button and TV motoring personality Ant Anstead are part of a team resurrecting another storied British name...Radford. Radford was first formed in 1948 building bespoke bodies for Rolls-Royce and Bentley. In the sixties they became better known for their participation in the development of the Ford GT40 and for high-end boutique versions of the hugely popular Mini. Virtually any mod was possible for customers with deep pockets. Clientele included James Garner, Peter Sellers, Mike Nesmith of the Monkees and the Beatles.



The principals are short on specifics about what they will be working on, but say they have already accepted their first commission.

**The Last Petrol Lotus:** Lotus Cars has unveiled its newest model, the Emira. It will be powered by either a 360 hp AMG four, or a Supercharged Toyota V6 rated at 400 hp.



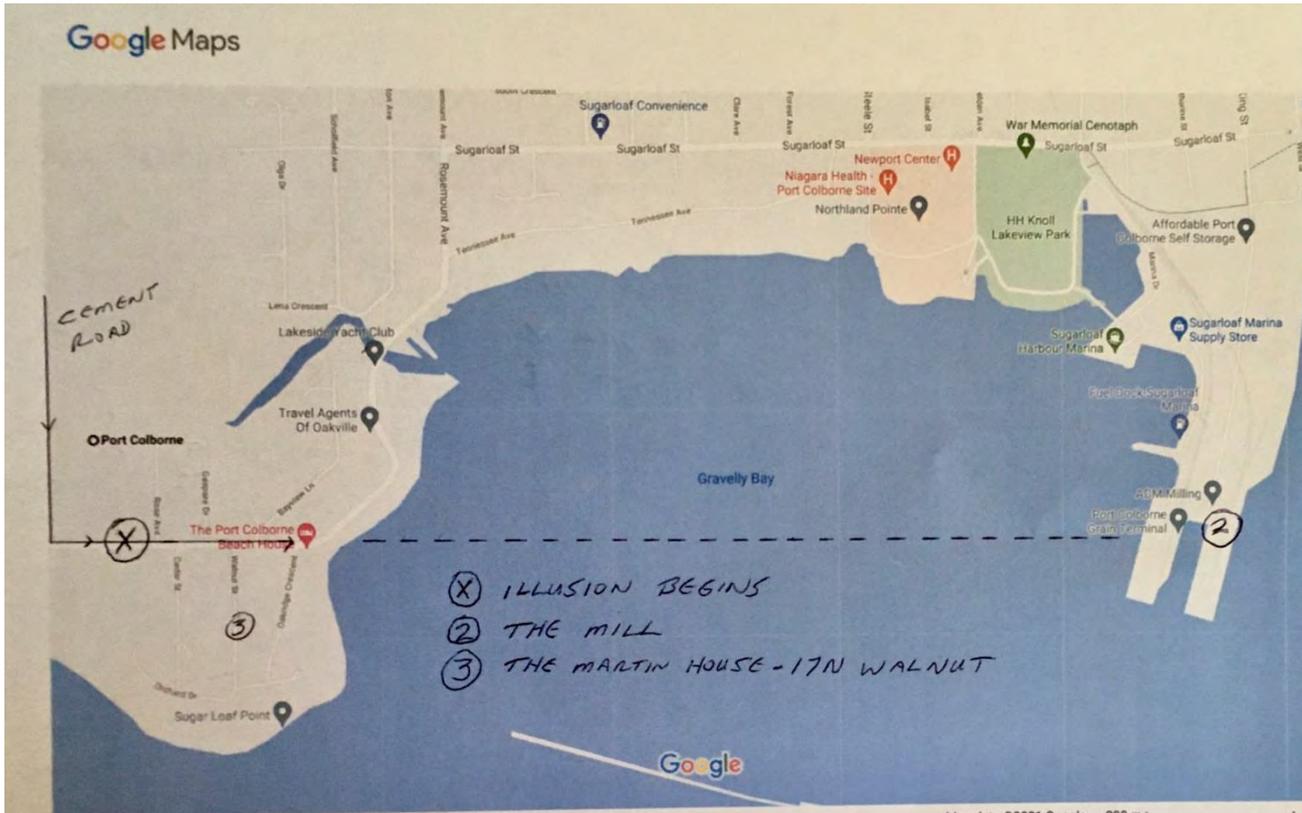
Lotus says this will be their last gasoline-powered offering. They say that going forward, future cars will all be EVs.

**Caterham fans get a jolt.** Japanese VT Holdings which recently acquired Caterham Cars, has announced plans for an all-electric version of the Super 7 in the next couple of years. The car is apparently already in development. That news is not sitting well with Caterham traditionalists. The company says gasoline versions will still be available as long as they can source suitable power plants, a phrase that would seem to leave the door open for the demise of petrol powered Sevens.

### **Here in Niagara: Port Colborne's Incredible Shrinking Mill**

Port Colborne's Shrinking Mill is an optical illusion a lot of folks in our club may not yet be aware of. That could be because the city

does nothing to promote it as a reason for visiting. Also they are doing nothing to keep the illusion alive. More about that in a moment, but first let's describe what you will see when you visit this phenomenon.



Approaching Port Colborne from the west, along Lakeshore Drive, you will encounter an “S” curve immediately east of Cement Road.

On the straight stretch of Lakeshore that follows, keep your eye on the horizon and on the large grain mill just across Gravelly Bay. At about Cedar Street the illusion will start to kick in; the closer you drive toward the mill, the more it will appear to move rapidly away from you. The effect really takes hold between Walnut Street and Oakridge Drive. Your intellect will tell you why this is happening but your senses will be in full denial. It's worth a drive down for a look. And perhaps also to visit the Martins who just happen to live on Walnut.

Sadly, this effect diminishes a little more with each passing year as growth in the tree canopy closes in one's view of the mill. A bit of judicious tree pruning would help preserve this illusion, but the city is showing little interest. Possibly they want drivers' eyes on the immediate road ahead and not locked on the horizon. Nevertheless it's worth a look.

Do you have a favourite spot in Niagara that's worth a drive? Please share it with us.

## Shirley Temple-of-Doom



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*NBCC Flywheel*

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Thanks for reading. Contributions gratefully accepted. Jim



Jim Martin

Gee, guys, I'd like to help but I'm busy inside taking this photo.