



Flywheel:

KEEPING BRITISH CARS
ALIVE AND WELL

The Open Road Beckons

July 2020, Vol. 1:4



Getting ready to dazzle the Chartwell folks. Photo: Sean Nakoneczny

President Sean: Last month the NBCC had its first club activity in quite a while and it was fantastic! A drive-by parade at the Chartwell Long Term Residence had an excellent showing of a dozen vehicles. There was plenty of excitement, laughter and cheers on the part of the residents, workers and drive-by participants.



Chartwell building. Photo: Chartwell



Moulsons. Photo: Sean N.

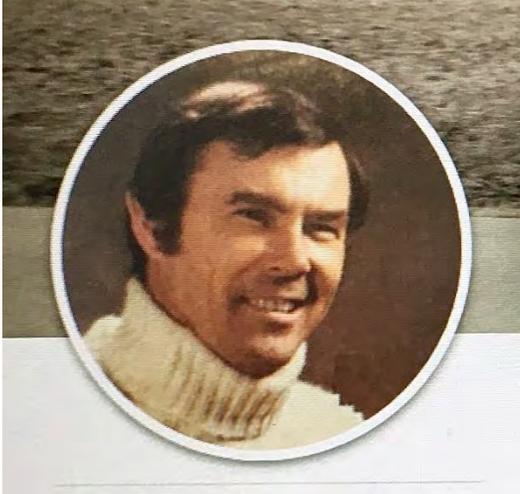
Making it all the better was the participation of three members who have licked Covid-19. It really drove home the resilience of our club and made this outreach activity all the more special. I'd like to thank Dave Harrison (& Irene Murray) for offering the property he manages as a destination where the members could gather after the parade.

The newsletter is packed with more things of interest, so read on!

Cheers!

Sean

Passings: One of time's sad inevitabilities is the loss of friends and loved ones. Our club most recently lost former member **Ed Law** who left us June 12.



Beyond his family, Ed's other passions were belonging to various drum corps, Formula Vee open-wheel racing and British cars, including a brief

membership in the NBCC. You can find more information at:
<https://www.friscolanti.com/obituary/edward-law>.

And we offer our heartfelt condolences to **Paul and Janet Monahan** whose daughter Rachael suddenly passed away on June 12.

And also to **Jack and Kerry McCallum**. Jack's father passed away in May. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all.

Amid this sadness we are happy for the continuing recovery from Covid-19 of **Bud and Leslie Moulson** and **Maureen Pritchard**. It was great to see all three out and enjoying the Chartwell drive.

Future Activities: Following the great turnout of members for the Chartwell run, we are all looking forward to convening once more at the Ontario Street Holiday Inn on **Tuesday, July 14**. This would normally be a club meeting night, but instead we will have an outdoor BBQ prepared by the hotel restaurant. There will be distance parking in a specially roped off area. It sounds like a safe and delicious way to renew acquaintances. At this writing we have

sufficient numbers, but if you have not already indicated an interest be sure to let Sean know.

Cameron Pritchard is nearing the end of the restoration of his **1959 TR3** and can proudly say none of the work has been farmed out. The body panels and openings, freshly painted in a proper shade of sports car red, are back on the vehicle and the finish line is in sight.





Cameron still has to get the interior trim kits to finish it off.

This car is quite a story. Through a friend, he found it in Ancaster in 2014 where it had been in storage for 30 years. It was in remarkably good shape. The frame, fitted with a roll bar, was immaculate. After the usual preparatory work, tank flush, rad and fluids, it started right up, and Cameron made a number of shakedown runs around the block.



The real problem was the car's questionable hygiene. It smelled...the result of being home to mice for three decades. That made the decision for a frame-off restoration a lot easier to make.



Mice aside, there were numerous pleasant discoveries. The engine showed good compression and had a number of new internal components. Pulling the engine and transmission apart revealed all new clutch components. It seems the car's previous owner used it in competitive rallies and kept the oily bits well maintained. This is Cameron's second restoration project, the first being another British car, an MBG. Thanks for sharing your photos, Cameron.

And speaking of red TRs, **Bruce and Joy Bowman** have been enjoying their newly completed TR6. Bruce is another one of those talented guys who does all his own work. We will profile Bruce and his cars in a future newsletter. Soon.

Al Munro is back with another peek in the *Rearview Mirror*



British Car Day at Bronte has been cancelled, but we are keeping our ear to the ground for the resumption of various cruise nights around Niagara. Let us know when you hear of any encouraging news.

Garage Services: As we grow our list of local services on the website, here is a somewhat more expanded list. These are not endorsements. They are simply listed to help speed your search. If you know of others in Niagara, please let us know.



"I thought you were finished!"

- **Jagmaster**, 303 Welland Ave.
St. Catharines, 905 933-6776 jagmaster@smypatico.ca
- **Central Service Auto Repair**, 63 Welland Ave. St. Catharines.
905 685-1622 centralserviceauto.ca
- **Pelham Imports**, 43 Scott Street West, Unit 3, St Catharines,
905 684-9009 P_imports@hotmail.com

- **Gregg's Auto Service**, 3 Hiscott Street, St. Catharines, 905 708-7160
- **Dr. Doolin Productions (Moss Motors parts)**, 4049 Yager Rd. Port Colborne, 905 788-3298 james@dr-doolin.com
- **Matt's Automotive**, Matt is now retired from his import repair business but is willing to work on small jobs at his home workshop. 2024 Miller Road, Port Colborne, dd7000@gmail.com 905 835-0064

The Financial Page: Yes, I know I misspelled *stimulus* last month. And in bold letters. Ouch! How did I miss that? Anyway in a related vein, **Stuart Matthews** offers up these investment observations:

- If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in Delta Airlines one year ago, you would have £49.00 today.
- If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in AIG (BA) one year ago, you would have £33.00 today.
- If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in Lehman Brothers one year ago, you would have £0.00 today.
- If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in Northern Rock thirteen years ago, you would have £0.00 today.

But, if you had purchased £1,000 worth of beer one year ago at Tesco, had drunk all the beer, then taken the aluminum cans to the scrap metal dealer, you would have received £214.00.

Based on the above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily & recycle. A recent study found that the average Briton walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that Britons

drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means that, on average, Britons get about 41 miles to the gallon!

Thanks for that, Stuart—and remember, everyone, “Those who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full are missing the point. The glass is refillable.”

***Unruly Places*, Review by Jim Martin**



Mill Race Road, Wainfleet. Photo: Jim Martin

Like many these days, I now have more time to read proper books, ones with hard covers and dust jackets. I'm currently enjoying *Unruly Places* by Alastair Bonnett, a gift from our daughter, Heather.

In part, Bonnett laments the loss of special places through civilization's ongoing mapping and homogenization of the planet. He offers up unique, hidden, troubled or forgotten sites across the globe, with thought-provoking ideas about why these places, often not peaceful or pretty, feed our human need for exploration and a sense of place. Bonnett is a traveller, not a tourist.

In the context of how we enjoy our cars, a couple of phrases in the book's foreword leapt out. Bonnett writes of motorways "...travelling from nowhere to nowhere. Moving through landscapes that once meant something...but have been reduced to spaces of transit..." Further on, he writes how "...the reaction of modern societies has been to straighten and rationalize..."

Our needs may be more prosaic, but how many of our special places (roads) have been straightened and rationalized? How many remember the winding little roads we once needed to take down and across Twelve Mile Creek to get from Welland Avenue to rural Fourth Avenue on the other side? Now a wide, smooth bridge delivers us directly into Retail Sprawl and Stoplight Hell. Remember how old Highway 8 westbound past Butterball's used to be a sinuous, leafy tunnel of trees climbing out of Twenty Mile Valley? And just last year we lost the lovely S-curve on Twenty Mile Road that dipped down to the bridge over the creek and up the other side. Ill-fated exuberance resulted in roadside memorials at the top, so the region put in a new taller and straighter span. Safer? Yes. Better? Not for us!

Thankfully we still have a lot of special places left on Niagara's roadmap. Some of them like Moore Road off Effingham are so short the trip is over in seconds, but its effect is lasting. A few others in no particular order are Mill Race Road in Wainfleet, Philip Road in Lincoln, Roland Road in Pelham or any twisting piece of pavement that skirts the water or explores a valley. Just remember that what makes these roads so special to us, also makes them an attractive target for developers and their backhoes. So let's get out and enjoy these places while they are still a little bit unruly. Pop-up run anyone?

Thanks for reading and on your way out please enjoy this clever sign spotted along Highway 3.

Cheers,
Jim



Photo: Jim Martin

NBCC Flywheel

President: Sean Nakoneczny <mailto:sean.nakoneczny@gmail.com>

Editor: Jim Martin themartins@farnhamhouse.com

Copyediting and layout: Heather Martin