



# Flywheel:

## The Open Road Beckons

June 2020, Vol. 1:3



*Inside: Electric Dreams. Is this the new MGB?*

### **The Prez Sez:**

The weather has been encouraging many of us to give our LBCs a little shakedown run and maybe take a drive and see some sights. I think many of us are still adjusting to the new normal. Weeks have passed during which many of us have been self-isolating to protect ourselves and others. Gradually, we've ventured out and experienced changing protocols for essential shopping, etc. It's tempting to let our guard down as time passes.

I was cautious to ask members if they would be interested in a drive-by parade (see Members' News below) since club activities remained suspended. Vicki and I have to say we were so happy to see those who could make it. It really was nice to see everyone

and the turnout was excellent. Respecting physical distancing while being able to see and chat with friends was food for the soul. It was also a pleasant surprise to see new and seasoned members in attendance.

The executive is discussing how to navigate the club through these times and I'm confident we will have some creative and fun activities that will allow us to stay connected and interactive while remaining safe. We are always monitoring the government and health regulations so we can act accordingly.

Lastly, our chat group (**groups io**) is a work in progress for us all. A little more than half the club membership is now on board. Joining is optional, but it's an excellent way for isolated club members to converse socially as a group. Please contact Al Munro or me if you aren't sure how it works. As a moderator, I'm still learning and making mistakes with how it works too.

Can't wait to see and talk with all of you soon. Get out there, stay safe and have fun.

Cheers!

Sean

**Editor Jim:**

**Hooning around.** I was not aware of *hoon* as a verb until recently. It's certainly too new to be in my Oxford dictionary. I'm pretty sure Ken Block was in short pants when my dictionary was printed, but the King of Drifting with all of his Hoonigan YouTube videos must be the guy we have to thank for this word. I've seen people using it more often recently to describe Covidiot driving behaviour... using the nearly empty roads as one's own private race track or gymkhana course...(ie., if you're hooning, then shame on you and you deserve the ticket). The word fits. I thought perhaps *hooning* also could simply mean the joy of getting back behind the wheel of our special cars and taking them out for a spin. No, it doesn't work, and I can't picture our club as a hotbed of hooning either. Most of us have too much silver in our hair and our cars are too anaemic. We could try to hoon about in our LBCs, but instead of raising the public's ire, the public would just laugh at us...an equally unfavourable reaction. We need our own word for hooning.

Before we dive into things, a shout out to my daughter, Heather, in Montreal for her copyediting, proofreading and photo assistance.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Flywheel* and we invite your contributions.

Cheers, Jim

## **Club Business:**

**Laura Nelson** has asked to step aside as Vice President, and **Evans McInerney**, who had agreed to stand for the position last fall, has now stepped in on an interim basis. We thank Laura for her enthusiasm and time and welcome Evans aboard.

Current and past executive have been having monthly teleconferences, and as you might expect the chief topic is how do we maintain club vitality while waiting for Covid restrictions to relax?

What we foresee, if conditions are favourable, are a number of small, informal pop-up runs...individual members directly contacting others for short runs. This way there would be no limit to the number of small, physically distanced runs our members could initiate. Then, as larger gatherings are permitted, we could end these runs with a physically distanced picnic.

Sadly the idea of a general membership meeting still seems quite a ways off...even one outdoors.

Sean, Pete, Garry, Al and I have been attempting to phone each and every one of our members, and the response has been gratifying. You are all in our thoughts and we can't wait to see your faces again.

## Members' News:

A big NBCC welcome to our newest members, **Cameron and Maureen Pritchard** of Thorold. As you can see from their sartorial splendour, the club is going to have to seriously upgrade its dress code. They have a lovely looking MGB roadster (below) as well as a fine '59 Triumph in the final restoration stages. Cameron will profile that car in the July issue.



*Photo: Cameron Pritchard*



*Photo: Cameron Pritchard*

**Scott and Pat Norris** have sold their house in Wainfleet and are now in Nova Scotia's beautiful Annapolis Valley. We are happy for them that they finally sold their lovely home, but sad that they are gone. They have been among our most active members. Our club will also miss their big back deck. They plan to join the British Automobile Touring Association of Nova Scotia, but

will remain in the NBCC as well and plan to make visits back to Ontario.



*Photo: Jim Martin*

Oh, and if Scott didn't have enough vehicles to wrangle, just before the move he picked up a '79 Spitfire and a parts car.

**Vicki Halliday** was the birthday girl on May 26 when club well-wishers motored past her house during the supper hour. It was orchestrated by hubby Sean who quietly arranged to have our small convoy assemble nearby. Good, if brief, fun was safely had by all. Check out the video links: [Clip 1](#), [Clip 2](#), [Clip 3](#).

**Russ Kwiatkowski** sends this bit of news: China's SAIC Group, which now owns the MG brand, has unveiled a concept drawing of a proposed new all-electric successor to the MGB.



The **Cyberster Concept** would “showcase the company’s technical prowess” while presumably turning the public’s mind away from those soul-sucking SUVs that now wear the MG badge. Your cynical editor offers the following observations: First it’s very easy to make a drawing. I’d at least wait for a 3-D rendering in clay before cracking a grin. Second, I see in the drawings that this

proposed new sports car will leak electricity in copious amounts...something you'd think MG could have corrected by now. And it's not just the smoke of yore...those MG wires will be throwing out blue lightning! Three, it will be level 3 autonomous. Who wants an autonomous sports car? You are supposed to **drive** the bloody thing! And finally it will have 5G connectivity, so presumably the good folks at Huawei will be able to report us to our insurance company wherever and whenever we clip an apex or accelerate too briskly. What would Cecil Kimber think? It's exciting looking, though.



**Al's Rear-view Mirror: Al Monro** has been blowing the dust off his archives. (It's easier without the face mask, Al.) This month he takes us all the way back to 2001 and the first days of the NBCC. Click on the icon below to check it out:



Mirror for 2001.pdf

**The Headwaters British Car Club**, with whom we now trade newsletters, has revamped its website. Check it out at [headwatersbritishcarclub.org](http://headwatersbritishcarclub.org). The website has a large and varied listing of members' cars, with photographs.

Their website currently has info on how to participate in their **All British Virtual Classic and Antique Car Show**. But hurry, entries close June 13.

**Actual Car Shows:** The city of Port Colborne has issued a further suspension of public activities till July 2. That means the first eight of the city's highly popular cruise nights will by then have been cancelled. Fingers crossed for July 9.

Organizers of the **Marshville Festival** (which usually takes place on the Labour Day weekend) have pulled the plug this year out of safety concerns arising from Covid-19. This event is always a yearly favourite with the club but, of course, we all understand.

**Product Recall:** If you purchased jack stands across the river at **Harbor Freight**, be aware that there is a huge recall on the 3-ton and 6-ton models that carry the Pittsburg brand. The support pawl

can disengage under shifting weight, resulting in a sudden and potentially fatal collapse. If you have any of these in your garage, stop using them till you check with Harbor Freight for the affected manufacturing dates and serial numbers.

### **Artisanally selected time wasters:**

***Lane markings*** can be an irritant when they try to dissuade you from straightening a corner, but they've also probably saved your bacon more than once. Here's the **History Guy** with the story of highway lane markings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KYBaoNPNgA>

***Oil change madness:*** We all know about changing our oil. How does that go for a LBC...four quarts of Kendall GT, a Fram filter and twenty minutes of your time? Thirty-five bucks or thereabouts?

Perhaps you've heard the saying "don't buy a supercar unless you can afford two supercars," meaning the purchase price just gets you through the door. Consider the price of an oil change on a Bugatti Veyron. You'll need north of 20 grand to get those dead dinosaurs in and out of that monster motor:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKobwz7wJso>

**Stimulis:** The Feds and provinces are offering Canadians all sorts of payments to keep the economy from stalling out altogether. This story may help clarify how stimulus works.



A wealthy businesswoman is driving her Jaguar westbound through Saskatchewan. She's been on the road all day. The setting sun is in her eyes and she's getting tired. Upon arrival at the small town of Pumphandle, she spies the seedy-looking Stockmen's Hotel on Main Street. She stops at the hotel and slaps a \$100 bill on the desk, saying she wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night.

The town has fallen on hard times. Streets are empty; everyone is in debt and living on credit. As soon as the visitor walks upstairs, the hotel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire her debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the C-note and heads off to pay his bill to the Co-op.

The guy at the Co-op takes the 100 bucks and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer services on credit.

The prostitute rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill.

The hotel proprietor quickly puts the hundred back on the counter so the traveller will not suspect anything.

The traveller comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill, hops back in her Jag, and leaves.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything.

However, the townsfolk are now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, folks, is how a stimulus package works.

Till next time, stay safe. And safe travels to Scott and Pat.



*Photo: Pete Moffett*

“I’m telling you Scott, you’re going the wrong way. If we’re heading to Nova Scotia, the sun should be in our eyes.”

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*NBCC Flywheel*

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