



Flywheel:

KEEPING BRITISH CARS
ALIVE AND WELL

Take the long way home

August 2022

Vol. 3 No 6



Steeds lined up at the July 3 BBQ Jim Martin

President Sean: As of this writing, the temperatures have been rising steadily while fuel prices start to look more attractive. For Vicki and me, we beat the heat with little drives along the water at the start of the day or after dinner. I hope all of you are enjoying your LBCs. I know the NBCC was very busy this past July with numerous events and August will be no exception.

With over 70 members and growing, we are actively looking for an **Activities Director** to help keep the club organized. If you are interested, please reach out to a member of the executive to discuss. It's a volunteer role, but you get to establish what is involved in defining the role.

Read on for more club-related news and look forward to seeing you out on the roads less travelled. Cheers!

Club News:

July 3rd BBQ: A large turnout of club members and beautiful weather made for a most successful event. Many new members and many new cars were in attendance. Large thanks to our hosts, **Jerry and Wynn Cushman**, for making their lovely rural property available. Thanks also to **Liz Osadec** for organizing the food and attendance, **Jerry and Evens McInerney** for flipping the burgers, **Pete Moffett** for manning the gate, and **Jim Collacott** for running the bocce ball tourney. As always, check out the website for additional photos but here are a few from your editor.





Bud Moulson invents bocce polo. Champions Jim and Theresa, “Kekenj” ass at the bocce tourney

July 12th General Meeting: A surprisingly small turnout for a warm summer’s night but a lot of laughs, nevertheless. Among the meeting’s highlights

- Welcome to our newest member **Tim Buttigieg**
- **Mike Hupel** and volunteers to review and update club bylaws where necessary.
- In line with our club’s explosive growth, we will be creating a new volunteer position, **Activities Director**, to help assist, coordinate, and publicize the increasing number of events both in and out of the club. Liaise with other events outside of the club and provide advice and mentoring to those who wish to organize a run or event, either personally or by putting them in touch with members who have experience. Also make sure the events are listed on the website as well as at club meetings.
- Executive succession. The club is hoping to encourage future would-be executives to attend and audit executive meetings

so they can become more comfortable with the roles before putting their names up for nomination.

- At Treasurer **Pete Moffett's** request, we voted unanimously to shift our fiscal year from Jan1–Dec 31 to Sept 1–Aug 31. Club members will not feel any change re payment of dues but it puts the membership period more closely in alignment with the beginning and end of our driving season.
- Reports on upcoming runs—**the Collacotts' Sweet Run** and **Mike and Donna's** run to Dundurn castle.
- The August meeting to be an outdoor one
- Meet and go Tuesday, July 19th to be led by **Herb McKay**. Forty-five minutes of winding roads beginning at Turners Corners.

As always complete minutes of the meeting are in the members' section of our website.

July 16th Sweet Run

Hosted by **Jim and Linda Collacott**, a dozen and a half vehicles and their eager occupants took part in a backroads tour of the Southern Tier. It was good to see new member **Tim Buttigieg** and reconnect with long-timers **Jack and Kerry McCallum** and their gorgeous TR6. Beginning at the



Tim Hortons in Crystal Beach and ending at the Crystal Chandelier in Crystal Beach, our tour took in past favourites, the horse rescue farm, and Nigh's Chocolates in Stevensville.



Photos: Jim Martin

The Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue and Sanctuary in Crystal Beach operates totally on public donations and has rescued scores of unwanted and abused horses from miserable ends. If you were unable to make the run, we invite you to visit their website and consider donating to their worthy cause: lchpr.org

July 21st Dundern Castle run. Our thanks to **Mike Hupel and Donna Hughes** for pulling this one together. It was not heavily attended, so let's stick it in the vault and pull it out for the next driving season. The featured stops were historic Dundern Castle and the unique Hamilton pump house with its beautifully preserved Gartshore walking beam engines and their 25-ft flywheels.

These giant pumps took water from Lake Ontario and lifted it to the Barton reservoir. Still wonderfully preserved after 160 years, this site is worth a visit any time. The building in which it is housed will also be familiar to the fans of *Murdoch Mysteries* as it doubles for the police station in the TV series.





New members: Our club continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, and we couldn't be happier.

Mark Beckham of Niagara Falls is among the latest to join us after he and his '91 Rover Mini dropped into to our club BBQ in early July.

I am originally from Eltham, SE London, and came to Niagara Falls when I was aged 30. This was just to drive the old London Routemaster buses on the sightseeing tours with Double Deck Tours for one summer! Well, I'm still here 17 years later. Married with two children now!

I have always had classic Minis except for my first 4 years in Canada. I learned to drive and passed my test in a classic Mini. I've owned about a dozen of them from £175 Mr. Bean old bangers to

my show-winning 1990 Rover Mini Cooper RSP, which sadly I sold when I left the UK.

I like British and European cars from the '50s to the '90s. In fact, so many of our members' cars were a familiar sight on British roads when I was young.

I also drove and maintained my friend's 1969 Rover P6B for a few years. That was a beautiful car.

I've had 'Britmini' for 12 years, giving it a light restoration to get it through its first safety as it was imported from Japan. It's only a 998cc base model. But still, lots of fun. Most important of all, it puts a smile on most people's faces and is my 'time machine' back to my late teens. Here are a few photos.

A "temporary" gig.



Britmini by Clifton Hill with London AEC Routemaster Bus. Mark Beckham

Aging Well.



A 19-year-old me with my second Mini. Then below, myself 28 years later!

And Welcome to **Tim and Terri Buttigieg** of Niagara Falls. They and their handsome MG Midget will be a welcome addition to our club outings. Tim tells us how he came into owning it.

There's not much to tell...it's a 1966 MG Midget that my son had purchased when he was 22. He didn't drive or work on it, so he kind of gave it to me and I've been driving and sorting it out ever since. I've been working on cars since I was eight and worked on some British cars when I lived in Malta when I was young. I came back to Canada in '79, built a few hot rods and then lost interest in cars for a long time until I got the Midget. It gives my son a thrill to see me have fun with it. I raced when I was younger, but I had given it up for a family.



The car is called Margaret Moneypenny; my son wanted Margaret and I wanted Moneypenny so we compromised . We live in Chippewa just down the street from Garry Lemon (one of your members). I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Best Regards Tim



Darin Reynolds, Aug 1st

Ruth Legrow, Aug 8th

Jim Collacott, Aug 11th

Leslie Moulson, Aug 16th

Russ Kwiatkowski, Aug 16th

Jody Anderson, Aug 20th

Terri Buttigieg, Aug 28th

Jack McCallum, Aug 26th

Mark Beckham, Aug 29th

Did we miss you? Let us know.

Coming up:

Aug 6—Cottonwood Classic Car and Swap Meet, Selkirk

Aug 14—Kinsmen Show and Shine, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Aug 10—Outdoor club meeting at Charles Daly Park

Aug 21—Show and Shine, St David's Lioness Club

Features:

Another MG Tease:

It's time again for the annual tease about a new MG roadster from the marque's current owners, SAIC Motor.



SAIC/MG

The Chinese auto firm has been trotting out concept drawings for a new MG sports car on a regular basis, but **Hagerty News** seems to think this latest tease might have some traction. Apparently the earlier Cyberster concept (*Flywheel* June 2020) has generated enough interest that a new roadster similar to the patent drawing above, might just go ahead. Hagerty speculated the firm might launch an electric-only roadster under a youth-oriented spinoff “Cyber” brand name. More questions than answers right now:

- Would it come to North America?
- How much?
- Would you buy an electric MG roadster?
- Would you buy a Chinese MG roadster?
- Why not just get the latest Mazda MX5?

Cadillac Ranch. As an interesting follow-up to Autohenge in our last issue, **Pete Moffett** shares these pics he took of the famous auto sculpture Cadillac Ranch. Pete writes:

Thought you might be interested in photos we took on our US tour in the MGB-GT. This is the Cadillac Ranch in Texas. My grandson was an up-and-coming gear head of about 6 years old and he wanted us to take one of his model cars with us and take photos wherever we stopped. Thus, the model car in the photo. We made a book of our complete trip, including his photos with the car, and presented it to him when we got home.



He treasures it as a record of Grammie and Grandad's trip.

Cadillac Ranch is a famous art installation outside of Amarillo, Texas. It is a row of 10 vintage Cadillacs upended and buried nose first in the ground. It was erected in 1974 as an art project by a collective of artists known as the Ant Farm. Over the years the installation has been repainted to various base colours multiple times, only to be covered each time in graffiti, an activity the collective encourages. Among its repaints were a rainbow scheme

in 2012 in recognition of Pride, and all black in 2020, for Black Lives Matter

Editor Jim: You want heated seats? Your ass belongs to us. More and more, I want a new car less and less. I have just read in *Business Insider* about BMW's egregious scheme to separate their customers from even more money. They are called microtransactions—subscriptions required to unlock standard equipment features, already built into the cars, before they can be used. First this commercial break:

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

As one who admires the art and craft of copywriting, this is a masterful ad. The mellow voice makes it sound like you can further option out your car with a simple push of a button, all while tooling happily along. The ad doesn't lie—it just doesn't tell you the whole truth. BMW Connected Drive is the name they give to their digital store. You want heated seats...the monthly subscription will cost you 23 dollars a month in our money. Heated steering wheel? \$16. Adaptive cruise control? \$54. If you want the option of recording the footage from the car's camera, \$308 dollars, although that is a one-time cost. BMW assures its customers that the hardware to make all this work has already been installed during production at "no extra cost". Well, yeah. It's standard equipment on high-end cars. What the Bimmer

folks are now doing is locking the software that operates its various features and holding it up for ransom. They have been rolling this scheme out in overseas countries, including the UK, but haven't tried it here yet. They aren't alone. Apparently other luxury car makes are also looking into this money grab. One hopes that customers will vote with their feet and walk out of the showrooms, otherwise there is bound to be trickle down effect. Want the dome light to work on your Kia? That'll be an extra 5 dollars a month please. I'm certainly not in the market for a new car but this does heighten my appreciation for our delightfully retro, analogue British cars. Come to think of it, if I could get the dome light to work on our GT, it might be worth five bucks a month. Motor on!



Garry: It's easy, girls. Follow my lead.

You put your left foot in

You put your left foot out

You put your left foot in

And you shake it all about...

Pete Moffett photo

NBCC Flywheel

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Member contributions are welcomed