



Flywheel:

KEEPING BRITISH CARS
ALIVE AND WELL

Driving Together

September 2021, Vol. 2:7



The Boathouse... Friends, food and cars...we're back! Photo: Pete Moffett

President Sean: September is typically a time to reminisce about the summer that just passed, and to enjoy one last long weekend before thoughts turn to what is needed to do before putting our LBCs away for the winter.

This summer has been challenging weather-wise, but we've had success with some help from the press (thanks again, Leslie and Al), coffee meets (thanks, Dave and Pete), run events (thanks,

Mike & Donna, Leo & Tina), and we've seen a significant growth in our membership.

Not so bad for a pandemic summer. With that, I'm looking forward to Motors 'n Music this September 4th and what remains for the NBCC for the rest of the year.

Cheers!

Editor Jim: Euphoria—on July 19th Cheryl and I dined out for the first time in a year. It felt good! Fish and chips and a dark ale at the Canalside in Port Colborne as a big lake boat drifted by. On the way home, we passed a local ball diamond with kids on the bases and parents in the stands. We both felt a slight euphoria bought on by those two once very normal events. These and a host of other activities have been absent for far too long. Then, less than a week later, a genuine, honest-to-goodness club run in our LBCs, the first in over a year-and-a-half. Happiness upon happiness!

Our euphoria would be no match for that of London on VE day or the Dutch when liberated by our Canadian troops, but it was certainly sufficient for us. And let's make no mistake, we are still fighting a war...most of us in the rear trenches, but a (thankfully) few of our members not only meeting the enemy on the front lines but defeating it!

I am personally very proud of how our club has fought the war. Not only have we held our position, but we have won ground. We are better connected now than we were in March 2020.

And we can boast of the added vitality of a slew of fresh new members over that period. Hats off to the NBCC, and self-congratulatory pats on the back and high fives as we once more drive ahead.

Club News:

August 10th General Meeting

Threatening weather held off, and lakeside breezes made for a pleasant gathering at Charles Daley Park. The meeting was well attended with newcomers **Tom and Linda Mercier** and **Roger Reynolds and Kathy McLeod** attending their first meetings. We also welcomed **Casey Paolozzi and Andrea Freeman** who were guests of **Laura Nelson** and who are thinking of joining the NBCC. The more the merrier.

Items discussed—our 20th anniversary crest design, which has been finalized by Rainbow Marketing and will soon be coming to a hat near you. Also, the tempo of club activities is picking up—runs to long term care homes; our long-delayed *Brave Souls* run, which will now be Leo and Tina's *Brave the Heat Run*; a pending trip to the Juke Box Diner in Niagara Falls; and the Motors 'n Music* show in Grimsby on the Labour Day Weekend. Treasurer **Pete Moffett** reported that we are still in a happy place financially. **Al Munro** reminded us to start thinking of fall elections. We will want to strike an election committee at our September meeting, with nominations in October and voting in November. The meeting concluded with the resumption of our 50/50 draw. Beginner's luck—new member **Kathy McLeod** picked up 40 bucks.

*As this is written, Pete tells us that registrations have closed for Motors 'n Music, and our club has 20 cars entered, out pulling the Aston Martin and Miata clubs. Well done, Pete!

Pat Norris



Our club has had sad and shocking news from Nova Scotia. Club member **Pat Norris** has passed away following a sudden illness. Pat and Scott were very active in our club when they lived in Niagara and maintained their membership when they moved Down East a few years ago. Pat shared Scott's passion for motorized toys and was looking forward to starting the restoration of her MG TD. Ironically, they were both planning a trip back here for this month. We send our prayers and condolences to Scott.

Halton Summer Cruise 2021



Mike and Donna (Photo: Pete Moffett)

Mike Hupel and Donna

Hughes entered our club in a big way, organizing our first post-shutdown club cruise even before they had a chance to meet any of us personally. They joined the NBCC last year but, living

some distance away in Oakville, had not had a chance to meet any of us in person until the day of the run, July 24th. That changed when we Niagarans got to sample the scenic splendours of the Halton Hills just north of where they hang their hats.

We started at the Casablanca service centre in Grimsby and what a turnout—some 20 cars and 40 participants, including many new and potential club members. The first leg of our motorcade took us along the North Service Road to the Hamilton Beach strip and into Burlington, along the eastbound Lakeshore to Oakville Harbour and the Boathouse Restaurant. It was there that we got to meet Mike and Donna for the first time. The food and service were great, highlighted by a flypast of the Lancaster bomber from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. We chose to believe Mike and Donna when they told us they arranged that.



After lunch, with our hosts in the lead, it was north and into the Halton Hills with its fine collection of LBC roads. As the second leg began, so did the rain, steadily intensifying into a moderate downfall. Some cars peeled off for home but a few made it to Hidden Valley Park and the end of the run. Even with the rain, it was a fun outing and a worthy first effort for Mike and Donna. Check our website for more photos.

[Waiting for the Hamilton Harbour lift bridge: Al Munro](#)

Upper Canada Lodge



[Photo: Pete Moffett](#)

After a two-day rain delay, several club members visited Upper Canada Lodge August 13th for a drive-by visit to treat the residents to a bit of automotive nostalgia. The club was well received. Thanks to all who participated.

LaSalle LTC



On August 15th, Sean, Vicki and new club member Amy (below) delivered some joy from Niagara to Burlington as they joined other British cars for a static display at the LaSalle Home on Plains Road in Burlington

New Members:



Amy Skelton

Well about me: I grew up in Thorold and in 1995 moved to Beamsville with my parents where I now own a home.

I have an older sister and younger brother. I don't have kids but I do have 2

[Amy's Royal Wave: Pete Moffett](#)

American Staffordshire Bull terriers and 1 English Bull Terrier.

I have loved cars and motorcycles my whole life. When I was walking, I had classics, and as soon as I was able to after my car accident, I bought my mini.

It's a 1991 Rover Mini 1000 City E. I bought it in 2004 and I've been the only Canadian owner of this car. I had it restored last fall with all of the body taken care of, new paint and trim. It has a 1275cc automatic. I tell ya, there's nothing like the feeling of belonging to a car club.

Amy

Linda and Tom Mercier

The Merciers are newly retired and have moved down from Sudbury to take up residence in Fonthill. Linda has a lovely 1979 Burgundy MGB with a tan interior. They belonged to a club up North and are thrilled to find a local British car club. They sought us out at one of the Wednesday morning coffee gatherings and followed up by attending our August meeting at Charles Daly.



[Photo: Jim Martin](#)

Ken and Jo Agnew of St. Catharines are the proud owners of a 2013 MINI JCW Countryman. They are friends with new members Roger and Kathy (August *Flywheel*) and that is how they found out about us. They too have jumped right in, joining us on our Halton Hills cruise. Welcome all!

Sessanta Miglia by Pete Moffett



“Sessanta Miglia” sounds better than “a sixty-mile drive through the fabulous scenery, twisty roads and vineyards of the Niagara Peninsula.” So that’s what it’s called—it’s a weekend of cruising, luscious cars, good company, great food, and engaging conversations amongst like-minded gearheads. This was a two-day rally of the Peninsula’s best roads. Lynda and I chose to make a weekend getaway of it and booked a room at the Hilton across the road from our Coffee Tyme hangout at Glendale and York Road. Even though it was only minutes away from our house, we dropped off our dog, Beau, at our son’s house and escaped for the weekend. The rally was a fundraiser for a new West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby. A new hospital is being built to replace the current one, which is 72 years old and showing its age. The cost of the new hospital is being split among federal, provincial, municipal sources and community fund raising. Part of the \$400 registration fee for the event is being donated to the hospital building fund. A tax receipt for the donation amount will be issued. This event was started a few years ago by the Aston Martin Club, but for the past few years the organizers have opened the event to other marques. The cars present ranged from a Citroën 2CV to a MacLaren Elva Roadster (\$1.7M), and everything in between, including Astons, Ferraris, Lambos, Lotuses, a Ford GT, a Volkswagen bug and a

beach buggy. Quite an eclectic group but all willing to talk about their cars. Of interest for the NBCC was an MG TD and an MGB as well as a 1934 Lagonda. Your author's E-Type has been very unreliable lately, so he decided to spoil himself and at the same time check off a box on his bucket list by renting a Jaguar F-Type for the weekend so as not to show up too underdressed. What a great ride it is too.



For pictures of the event, click the link at the bottom of the home page on our website. Pete

Features:

John Foster's L17 project update:

You may have been following John's progress in greater detail in the other club newsletters you receive. Here is our Cole's Notes update. John's project started with the acquisition of a fibreglass Lotus 17 body shell earlier this year, along with a donor Miata for the 170 horsepower engine, 6-speed transmission, wiring harness and other bits. John's real stroke of genius was figuring out that an MGB tub could be shortened and sectioned, providing a chassis

with the appropriately narrow track for the Lotus shell. The rear suspension will retain the MG lever shocks, leaf springs shortened to quarter elliptic. Panhard bars and air springs. The MGB steering column has been shortened and fitted to a right-hand drive steering rack sourced from England. The top of the column has been modified for a removable steering wheel. A custom 8-gallon stainless-steel fuel cell has been fabricated by a friend. John has fabricated his own flaring tool for plumbing the cooling system, a custom stainless exhaust manifold, and a serpentine belt system of his own design. Headlight buckets have been installed as well as a drive-by-wire accelerator pedal and clutch and brake pedals. The major body bits have been strengthened, laser aligned, and hinged clamshell style at the front and rear of the car. All of this, of course, entails a lot of mocking up, fiddling, figuring, assembling and disassembling. John's assembly manual is on a shelf between his ears. He's writing the book as he goes. John is making remarkable progress and will be even further along by the time you are reading this. John's photos in no particular order below:







John's serpentine belt with small alternator

Moss Motors MGB visits Jay Leno. Check it out.

<https://youtu.be/Y5Qppmbj8CY>

Our favourite part:

Jay: "I'm surprised there's no sound system in it".

Robert: "The car **is** the sound system".

The Jaguar XK150 Foxbat

Following up on the E-Type hearse a few issues back, here's another weird wagon. This one-off woody, constructed in the 70s,



was named the Foxbat by its creator. You may wish to call it another name. Still, one has to admit it was pretty clever to figure out that the back of a Morris Traveller would fit onto the

back of a Jag XK150 fixed head coupe. No? Here's more on the story: <https://youtu.be/SttmNHV8bcU>



A New Canadian Racetrack? Courtesy of Racer Magazine



<https://racer.com/2021/07/14/proposed-new-canadian-track-secures-fia-approval/>

Sit on This. If you want to make a statement at the club's next visit to the polo grounds, it's hard to go wrong with an 11-thousand-dollar folding stool. Available from Roll-Royce of course.

We present the Pursuit Seat, a fully adjustable, folding butt holder constructed of leather, carbon fibre and polished aluminum. This option can be had for a mere £6581, or \$11,266 in our money.





However, if you find that you are a little strapped for cash, Luther here will cobble one together in exchange for some granola or an Ozark Mountain Daredevils CD.



As Joy labours away, Bruce takes another one of his secret naps.

Finally: Who doesn't enjoy a good road-trip yarn?

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/escape/article-9810289/Nostalgia-staycation-trip-Driving-historic-Great-North-Road-65k-Morgan-sports-car.html>

NBCC Flywheel

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Thanks for reading. Contributions gratefully accepted. Jim



The Munros not only thrived during Covid, but grew enormously large.