



# Flywheel

KEEPING BRITISH CARS  
ALIVE AND WELL

## An Era Passes

October, 2020 Vol 3. Number 7

### *Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II*



Tim Graham – Getty Images

**Editor:** My first memory of television is of watching grainy black and white images of a young woman riding in an ornate coach, on her way to Buckingham Palace. That was, of course, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. I was eight years old.

I'm thinking back to that day in 1953 because, as I write this, it is just mere hours since the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Although I'm not what you'd call a Monarchist, I have a strong appreciation for how important the Royal connection is to millions around the world, and many in our Niagara British Car Club. I also have a profoundly deep respect for our late Queen who, in 70 years, never wavered in her devotion to duty and who rarely ever put a foot wrong. King Charles III has now had 70 years of guidance in performance-of-duty, and it now falls to him to steer the Royal House of Windsor through shifting and perilous times.



Our late Queen knew her way around cars. Late in the war, while still in her teens, she worked as a mechanic and a truck driver in the Auxiliary Territorial Army. Later throughout her life as head of the

Bryn Colton – Getty Images

Royals, she enjoyed taking the wheel of her Daimlers and Land Rovers. She was said to be smooth on a manual transmission. Like

the British cars we revere, our late Queen embodied grace, class and panache. She, like our wheeled treasures, was a link to a time that we sadly are not likely to see again.

The Queen is dead. Long live the King

**President Sean:** October is a great month to enjoy our LBCs.

The changing colours and cooler temperatures welcome impromptu drives for no reason other than to put a smile on your face. Vic and I plan on getting in as many drives as we can before prepping Marigold for her winter hibernation.

With the change in colours, you can also look forward to some changes in the executive. The VP and President have vacancies for 2023. We have an amazing and diverse membership and believe you will be in good hands with whomever fills these roles.

We have come through the worst of a pandemic and grown the club significantly over the 3 years I've been a part of the executive. I'll remain with the club as Director of Events and keep everyone informed of activities and reach out for volunteers to host a run or activity from time to time. I've enjoyed being your president and will always be available to the executive and members to contribute and help where I can. I'm excited for the future and opportunities for the club in the Niagara community. It's a wonderful place to live and play and I wish the new executive continued success with the NBCC. If you have any questions or interest in nominating someone, please reach out to me or the election committee or any of the executive. Cheers! Sean.

P.S. Keep your eyes open for content related to club events and activities in future issues of *Flywheel*!!!!

**Club News:** (As always be sure to check our website for additional photos and information)

**Sept 5<sup>th</sup> Marshville Festival:** In a word, a washout, as heavy rains swamped the Wainfleet fairgrounds on the Labour Day Monday. This was a proper Brave Souls Run as only a few of our cars braved the soggy elements. We salute **Brian Bassil**, along with the **Moffetts**, the **Collacotts** and the **Moulsons** for making the effort. But happily, after a two-year hiatus for Covid, the festival had packed crowds for the better weather on the Saturday and Sunday.

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Polo at Niagara-on-the-Lake.** Lovely weather on the Commons and an excellent turnout of club members and their LBCs. We are happy to report no LBCs were injured by errant equines. You'll find lots of photos on the website.

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting:** 34 people, including many new members, turned out at Burgoyne Woods Park. Among those in attendance, 4 Americans...our new Buffalo members **Berny and Franny Calkins**, and guests **John and Joanne Foster** from North Carolina, who were visiting their long-time friends Jim and Cheryl Martin. John is the one who sends us the monthly newsletter from the British Motor Club of the Cape Fear.

**Highlights of the meeting:** Club Treasurer Pete Moffett informed us that we are now up to **78 memberships!**...A reminder to get your odometer readings in to **Jim Collacott** for the annual mileage award...Info and sign-ups for the closing BBQ...Secretary **Mike Hupel** outlined the amended bylaws...**Elections:** The club is seeking volunteers for the election committee with nominations to be held at the October meeting, finalized at the November meeting and followed immediately by elections for our new officers. **Sean Nakoneczny** and **Evans McInerny** will not be seeking re-election. Sean will however be taking on the volunteer position of Director of Events...**Club Insurance:** Sean informed members that the executive are researching a more robust insurance package that provides greater liability protection for officers and members on club-sanctioned events. This enhanced protection will, however, come at a greater annual cost to the club...**Bronte:** volunteers were lined up for British Car Day at Bronte...Year-end **Christmas party** will be held at the Mandarin Restaurant on or near the second Tuesday of December

**Sept 18<sup>th</sup> British Car Day at Bronte Park** After a two-year interruption, the cars and the crowds were back at what has now become North America's largest assemblage of British cars. This show marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Triumph Spitfire, the

MGB and the Lotus Elan. Also the 70<sup>th</sup> for the MG TD and Morgan Plus 4; the 50<sup>th</sup> for the Triumph Stag and the Range Rover; and the 100-year anniversary of the Austin Seven! Special credit is due to the Toronto Triumph Club for staging this large, complex show these many years.

**Mike Hupel and Donna Hughes** along with **Herb Mckay** staffed our club display, picking up membership #79 and passing along info to several others who expressed an interest in our club. Thanks, folks!

The stroke of noon at the show brought on a stirring display of respect for our departed monarch. As bells pealed over the loudspeakers, an observance of the Queen's devotion to duty and years of service was read, followed by a minute's silence. Over the vast field, the crowd stood in respect and not a word was heard. It was a poignant and uplifting moment.

## **Birthdays**

Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Evans McInerney

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Jody Eppler

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Janet Boal

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Nick Murphy

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Tom Kirkwood

## **New members are piling into our club:**

**John Lehn** and his wife, **Harriet**, reside in the Port Dalhousie area of St. Catharines and have a couple of delectable LBCs, Here's John.

*I'm a Mechanical Engineering grad from U of Waterloo (Class of '73). I have worked as an engineer at Canada Packers and Formglas Custom Fiberglass (at both the Ontario and California plants); as publisher at Rannie Printing and Publishing and the St. Catharines Standard; as a professional fund-raising consultant at Gallaway & Lehn and as a boat builder at St. Catharines Boatworks.*

*I have volunteered in my community as a board member for St. Catharines General Hospital; served as chair for the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation; co-chair for the 1999 FISA World Rowing Championships and as a VP for Rowing Canada Aviron.*

John's Caterham with a young enthusiast at the wheel...his grandson Henry



*My interest in British cars started at 16 years of age with a Morris Mini (850). I bought my MGA Coupe from a towing yard where it was destined for the crusher. When I was 16 or 17, I loved the TV show, The Prisoner for its opening*

*sequence with Patrick McGoohan driving a Lotus Super Seven through London.*

**Tom Kirkwood:** (3 MGBs & 1 MGB GT)

*Hello,*

*I reside in Sherkston and although I am fairly new to British cars, I have been involved with the car community for many years. I look forward to participating in the NBCC events and meeting other car enthusiasts, as well as learning a thing or two along the way.*

*Below is a picture of the 1971 and 1979 MGB parked together at the 2022 Canal Days Car Show.*



## **Marty Walters (1961 MGB MK1)**



*Well my name is Martin Walters, but most of my friends know me as Marty, or Mart. My background is in the mechanical and electrical trades and eventually engineering and corporate safety.*

*I was born in the Midlands of England and my parents immigrated to Canada in 1954 when I was just a little one.*

*I spent most of my life in Hamilton and got my first MG (a new one) in 1971. Since then, I have owned several including a 1948 MGTC. For the past several years I shared my love of MGs with my love of BSA motorcycles. I was a keen member of the British Sports Car Club out of Burlington for many years.*

*In 2018 I retired from working, and moved to Port Colborne in August of this year.*

The Niagara British Car Club also extends a warm welcome to:

**Paul and Jody Eppler, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1973 TR6**

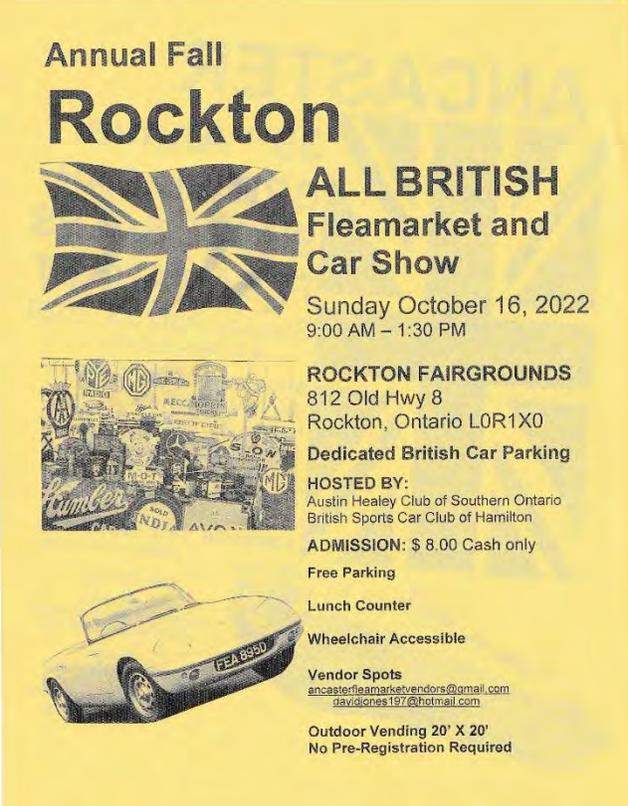
**Mark and Rachel Leesley, Fort Erie, 2004 Jag Vanden Plas.**

**Coming up:**

## Rockton Flea Market

If you can help, contact club member David Jones

[Davidjones197@hotmail.com](mailto:Davidjones197@hotmail.com)



Annual Fall  
**Rockton**  
 **ALL BRITISH  
Fleamarket and  
Car Show**  
Sunday October 16, 2022  
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

  
**ROCKTON FAIRGROUNDS**  
812 Old Hwy 8  
Rockton, Ontario L0R1X0  
**Dedicated British Car Parking**

**HOSTED BY:**  
Austin Healey Club of Southern Ontario  
British Sports Car Club of Hamilton

**ADMISSION:** \$ 8.00 Cash only  
Free Parking  
Lunch Counter  
Wheelchair Accessible

  
**Vendor Spots**  
[ancasterfleamarketvendors@gmail.com](mailto:ancasterfleamarketvendors@gmail.com)  
[davidjones197@hotmail.com](mailto:davidjones197@hotmail.com)

Outdoor Vending 20' X 20'  
No Pre-Registration Required

**Features:**

### Triumph Spitfire 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday

This month marks 60 years since the Triumph Spitfire, named after the famous WW2 fighter plane, made its debut at the [Earls Court Auto Show in London](#).

The Spitfire came about as a direct result of the popular Austin Healey Sprites and MG Midgets, small budget sports cars developed from somewhat mundane saloon underpinnings. Just as the Spridgets were based on the humble Austin A30/A35, the Spitfire's drive train and other mechanical bits were derived from the Triumph Herald saloon. Designed by the Italian styling house of Giovanni Michelotti in the late '50s, the project was shelved because of the financial troubles at Standard-Triumph. After the

company was taken over by Leyland Motors, the new bosses found the prototype in a factory corner and quickly put it into production. The Spits were good looking and lively cars. They went through five different iterations from the years '62 to '80 and weathered the transition to heavier bumpers much more gracefully than did the MGB. Over their 18-year production period 315,000 were made.

Our club member **Brian Bassil** received a special invitation to show his 1964 MKI Spitfire at the Bronte show.



Cars often come with great stories attached to them. Brian's certainly does. See below.



The image features a yellow Triumph Spitfire convertible with a black top, set against a background of stylized, wavy stripes in orange, purple, and white. The car is shown from a front-three-quarter view, highlighting its classic design with round headlights and a chrome bumper. A license plate with the text 'T PERDU' is visible on the front.



The Triumph logo, consisting of a stylized 'M' shape with vertical lines inside, is positioned in the upper left corner.



A gold-colored circular badge with a sunburst border contains the number '60' and the word 'YEARS' on a ribbon below it, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the car.

# Triumph Spitfire

- **Owner(s)** Brian and Jenifer Bassil
- **Home town** Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
- **Year and Make** 1964 Triumph Four (Mark 1) – 37,409 built
- **Engine** 1147cc in-line 4-cylinder
- **Transmission** 4 Speed
- **Restoration / Modifications / History**
  - We purchased this car in Niagara Falls around 1980 as it was identical to the car that my wife and I, living in the UK at that time had in our twenties and in which we travelled across Europe through France and Italy. It carries the memories of our youth and lost time... hence the licence plate T.PERDU borrowed from Proust's great novel Remembrance of Things Past ... "A La Recherche du Temps Perdu". It's just as we had it then, down to the Italian air horns and the Rolling Stones bumper sticker!

**BRITISH CAR DAY**   
presented by the Toronto Triumph Club

# If we couldn't get him then, what are our chances now?



Niagara British Car Club  
17N Walnut Street, Port Colborne  
Ontario, Canada L3K 2T7  
Dec 27, 2019

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

Your Royal Highnesses,

Greetings from Canada.

We are the Niagara British Car Club situated in the Niagara Peninsula. We are a social organization dedicated to the preservation, use, and promotion of vintage British sports cars.

Our club enjoys all things British and thus was delighted with the theme of Your Royal Highnesses' 2019 Christmas card featuring you both in a classic MG-TD. We note the many fine British autos the Royal Family has employed over the years, including your first car, an MGC-GT.

We would respectfully ask that if you have any remaining cards, you might send us one for our club archives. Our members would be thrilled.

Please accept with our compliments, one of our club brochures, knowing that if you are ever in our area, you would be most welcome at one of our events.

Our club wishes you both a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

The Niagara British Car Club

Jim Martin, President



**CLARENCE HOUSE  
LONDON SW1A 1BA**

From: Miss Claudia Spens M.V.O.  
The Office of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

**Private and Confidential**

14th February, 2020

Dear Mr. Martin,

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall have asked me to thank you for your letter and enclosure of 27th December.

Their Royal Highnesses are most grateful to you for taking the trouble to write to them as you did, but sadly, I regret that they are unable to do as you ask.

I am sorry to send you such a disappointing reply, but trust that you understand.

May I suggest you contact the Press Association which has an extensive photographic library and I am sure they will be able to provide you with the photograph you require? You can either write to The Press Association, Photographic Library, 292 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1AE, telephone 0207 963 7000 or visit the website: <https://www.paimages.co.uk/>.

The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall have asked me to send you, and all the members of The Niagara British Car Club, their best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Claudia Spens

Mr. Jim Martin

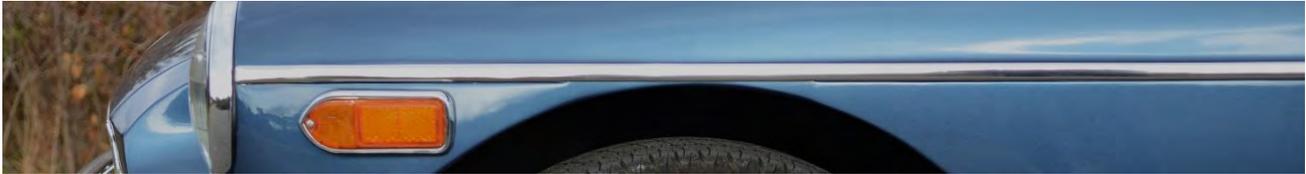
**Finally:**

## **Comparison Road Test...Hofmeister Kink vs. the LBC Spear**

A few issues back ~~we~~ I blasted BMW for rummaging around in its customers' pockets, i.e., making them pay a subscription to use certain standard equipment features in their cars. Well, the Bimmer people ain't all bad. To enhance the BMW driving experience, the company has searched Google Earth throughout the U.S. and identified several thousand road curves that match their Hofmeister Kink. In case you didn't know, that's the little reverse curve on the rear C-pillar that has been a BMW styling trait since the sixties. It's called the Hofmeister Kink in honour of the company stylist who first penned it. BMW drivers can now search the web to locate curves that match their rear pillar, seek them out, and drive them.



Well, not to be outdone, the staff at *Flywheel* have, at great effort, searched Niagara for the roads that most closely match the polished side spears on our LBCs. We have come up with these three:



Top to Bottom: Highway 3, Wainfleet – Greenlane Road, Lincoln - Bowen Road, Fort Erie from Google Earth

So, there you have it. There must be many other equally exciting roads in Niagara that also match our side trim, so get out there and find them before the driving season is over.

## **NBCC Flywheel**

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Note: The *Flywheel* is submitted for proofreading two weeks prior to release date, so check our website often, and watch your inbox for subsequent changes to published dates or details of events.

Member contributions are welcomed.