



Flywheel:

Season's Greetings!

Dec 2022

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President Sean: The elections for 2023 took place and no one stormed the capital or disputed the election results! I'm glad to say my better half, Vicki, agreed and was elected to join me officially as president. We wanted to thank Evans for serving as VP of the executive along with everyone else who worked hard during 2022 to make the NBCC an active and fun club. Along with Vicki, the NBCC elected Lynda Moffatt as VP. Congratulations, Lynda! Looking forward to working with Mike & Donna, Pete & Lynda and Vicki for the 2023 season.

Vicki and I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas, happy holidays and a fun and healthy 2023 to enjoy with your family and friends.

In closing, I overheard that Jesus is an LBC man. He walked everywhere He went. Also heard German classic car owners are not known for their humour. [For you, Sean, we'll make an exception. Ed.]

Editor Jim: Power Couples

Following our November elections, or lack thereof, the NBCC has embarked on an innovative new way to fill our club executive positions. Couples.

In late October, our Elections Officer **Liz Osadec** faced a sadly familiar dilemma...no one wished to put their names forward to contest any of the incumbent or soon-to-be-vacant positions on

the club executive. We get it. Not everyone who joins our club does so with intention of running for office; they simply want to enjoy the fun that the NBCC has to offer. That's OK. But what to do when all of those who have felt the desire or obligation to serve on the executive, have already done so and believe that it's now time for others to step up? What happens when the well runs dry?

We have had an amazing year as new members have flooded in. Many of these bright new faces offer the potential for future club management, but first they must get to know us a little better. So, as a solution to the current candidacy vacuum, several executive positions are now shared with spouses.

President: Sean Nakoneczny has decided to stay on, but his wife Vicki Halliday will jointly share the post's administrative duties with him. Both are extremely busy with their careers and family, but between them they will find sufficient time to steer the club.

Vice President: Thank you, Lynda Moffett, for stepping up, and thanks Evans McInerney for your past service as VP.

Treasurer: Thank you, Pete Moffett, for staying on. Interestingly, the Moffetts can now form a quorum while seated in their recliners.

Secretary: Mike Hupel is also staying, but Donna Hughes will now also be afforded the proper recognition she has earned by helping her partner in that position over the past year.

That's it for the elected officials but we also want to acknowledge another power couple, Leslie and Bud Moulson, our club stalwarts

who between them earlier agreed to coordinate on a volunteer basis, all club activities going ahead, as well as directing promotional activities.

Thank you all.

Club News:

November 8 General Meeting was held at Parkway Social with a decent turnout. The big event of the night was, of course, the annual **club elections**, the results of which you have just read above. Again, our thanks to those who serve and to Liz for guiding the process. In other matters:

- We are up to 82 memberships and in that regard Treasurer **Pete Moffett** reminded everyone to please renew their memberships. Considering our recently adjusted fiscal year, Pete had no financial activities to report.
- Signups were passed around for the Christmas party (see Coming Events) on December 13th.
- **President Sean** reported that research into better club insurance continues. On that subject, we hope to have a guest speaker early in the year. **Steve Sheriff**, a Jaguar Club member has been heavily involved with the consortium of British clubs in the area who have partnered on securing more robust insurance protection.
- Movie night for the January meeting will feature the film *Rush*
- Tech Talks are being lined up for 2023. **Evans McInerney** will do a talk on preparing a proper emergency kit for your LBC. **Jim Martin's** March presentation will address restoration,

conservation, and preservation as it relates to auto museums as well as to the ordinary enthusiast.

- Runs for 2023 to be scheduled early in the new year with some thought to longer, one-day runs as suggested by **Leo VanTuyl**, and perhaps even a multi-day run. **Al Munro** who has prepared several of those in the past, cautioned they are a lot of work but will offer his advice to whoever wishes to take one on.
- Strong hints from the newly acclaimed Prezzy Powerhouse that there are new club calendars on the way.
- The night concluded with a fun auto trivia contest prepared by **Pete Moffett** and our 50-50 draw was won by **Joy Bowman**.

Members News:

- **Mike Hupel and Donna Hughes** are officially engaged. That happy news was announced at our November meeting. Our warmest congratulations to these two wonderful people who became an asset to our club from the moment they joined.
- Also, at the November meeting we were saddened to hear that **Bud Moulson** took a fall and was hospitalized with a knee injury. To top it off, his roommate in the hospital came down with Covid and **Leslie** was unable to visit Bud for a while. Bud is now on the mend and undergoing physio at the GNGH. Get well soon, Bud, and take care of yourself as well as your guy, Leslie.

- As mentioned earlier, Bud and Leslie agreed to be the events and promotions organizers for the next year, an obligation the club is happy to relax until our favourite power couple is back on all four feet and has fewer distractions to worry about.

New Members:

In the November issue we introduced Bob and Norma Miller. We have asked them to tell us a little more about themselves. Here's Bob:



We lived and worked in Kitchener-Waterloo all our adult lives. When we retired a few years ago, we wanted to get away from the city that was getting bigger and busier by the minute. We're both from rural areas in Ontario so we looked for a quiet rural village for our retirement. We found Ridgeway - we absolutely love the area we're in, and the climate can't be beat (at least in Canada).

About 20 years ago, a friend told me he knew where there was a 1979 MGB for sale, second owner, all original. When we went to see it, Norma immediately said, "I love it...we're buying it!" So we did and have enjoyed it ever since.

I've done very little to our car, mostly routine maintenance. I've always worked on my own cars and really appreciate the fact that the MGB is so easy to work on. It still has the original paint, Pageant Blue. I replaced the convertible top a few years ago and, over the past couple of years, I installed a new wood grain dash, took the seats apart, restuffed and installed new seat covers. What a difference that made - it's like sitting on a really comfy couch now.

We love to travel, and we were on a fall colour bus tour to Agawa Canyon in September when we met a delightful couple, Cheryl and Jim Martin. We happened to start a conversation about cars, and it just took off from there. When I mentioned we own an MGB, Jim immediately recruited us into the NBCC.

We were members of the Waterloo British Car Club for about 15 years and enjoyed the many friends we made, the car shows we went to and all the exciting adventures we had as part of the club. Put lots of miles on our car driving around Ontario and loved every minute of it.

Norma and I are happy to be part of the Niagara BCC. We're looking forward to making more great friends and having lots of fun on excursions with fellow British car enthusiasts. See you at the next meeting! —Bob



Birthdays in December

10th...Harriet Lehnen

12th...Carol Boyer

17th...Helene McInerney

18th...Tom Mercier

23rd...Robert and Gail Brion

25th...Henry Bos

Did we miss you? Let us know.

Coming Up:

NBCC Christmas Party Mandarin Restaurant, Bunting and Carlton, St Catharines, Tuesday Dec 13th starting at 6:00 PM. Because the meals are paid for individually, there is no need for the club to print and sell tickets. Just show up. But please let Lynda Moffett know of your intentions ahead of time so the restaurant can set aside sufficient space. The restaurant has a fantastic buffet, and we really had a good time there back in 2019.

Gift giving is optional, but ingenious and fun. Those who wish to participate should bring a wrapped, unmarked gift to go onto the gift table. Those who bring a gift are given a raffle ticket to be drawn later in the evening, and when called can choose any one of the mystery gifts on the table. British or British-car-themed gifts

are encouraged but not compulsory. Homemade or store-bought...20-dollar upper limit.

Also, yearly awards and other club goodies will be handed out.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy the Christmas cheer.

Features:

Those other MGs

We are all familiar with our land-bound MGs (discounting the ones the advertising people dropped from planes. That's a story worth telling in a future issue) but what about the ones that flew or floated?

The First MGBs. Forget 1962. To find the first MGBs you must go back to World War II when the British Navy put into service a couple of hundred **Motor Gun Boats** or MGBs.



These small, heavily armed boats were constructed to protect shipping from larger enemy ships...sometimes by inflicting harm and other times by worrying the enemy.

and distracting them while larger vessels moved in for the kill. Bristling with machine guns, cannon and depth charges, the British boats relied on their high speed, up to 40 knots, and their small size to evade the enemy, sometimes laying down a protective cloak of smoke. They protected the south and east coasts of England and served in the Mediterranean. They served in the Normandy landing and protected shipping after D-Day. In 1947, following the war, MGB-2009 became the first vessel in the world to be fitted with a gas turbine engine. Only one of the aquatic MGBs survives today. Number 81 is moored in Portsmouth, UK.

MG – 65. We found MG - 65 on a recent trip to Sault Ste. Marie, at the Bush Plane Museum. The museum is well worth a visit with an amazing collection of bush planes and water bombers. But tucked in the very back, and almost overlooked, is this diminutive sports car of the air, MG – 65.



The photo does not really show just how tiny this little plane is. It was delivered to the museum on the roof of a Toyota Echo! For a description of MG – 65, we'll let the museum placard do the talking.

The MG-65 was built in 1960 to an original design by Wilmer MacGregor, an aircraft engineer based at Mount Hope, outside Hamilton. As a matter of interest, it appears that MacGregor briefly worked as an engineer with the Air Service in Sault Ste. Marie in the 1960's. He was inspired by the Corben Baby Ace but wanted a biplane, the result being the MG-65. A Continental A65-8 engine was chosen as the power plant. The MG-65 has neither a radio or other avionics nor an electrical system and the engine must be started by swinging the prop by hand. It is considered an experimental aircraft, hence the warning on its fuselage "This aircraft is classified in the ultralight category and is operating without a certificate of airworthiness"

For much of its life MG – 65 was owned and flown by Blake James, a commercial artist and filmmaker. Blake was a free spirit, described by his friends as a "hobo of the air." In 1969 the National Film Board of Canada told the story of Blake James and his little plane. Entitled *Blake*, it was nominated for an Academy Award in the documentary category. Enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/pEsoEOiPzV8?autoplay=1>

Finally:

♫ He sees you when you're sleeping... ♫



Santa Bruce 2021 Christmas party

photo: Jim Martin

The Four Stages of Life:

- You believe in Santa Claus
- You don't believe in Santa Claus
- You are Santa Claus
- You look like Santa Claus

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. Jim