

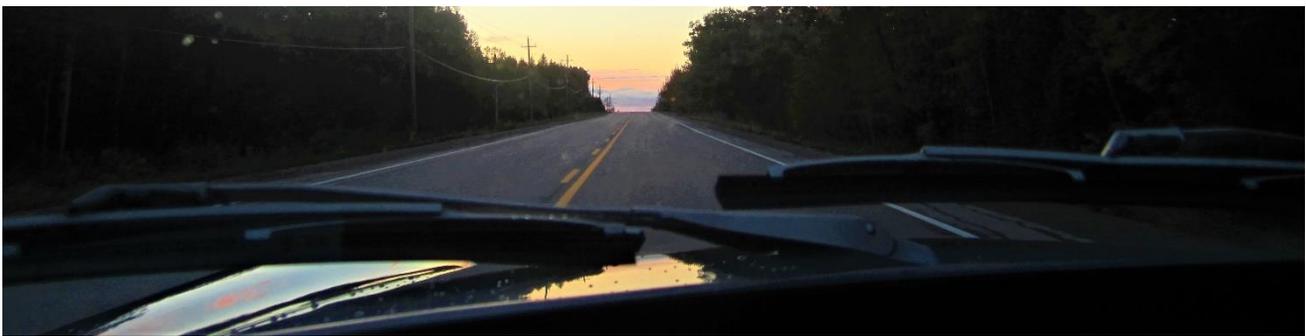


Flywheel:

Counting the days

Feb 2023

Vol. 4 No 2



Tobermory at sunrise. Photo: Jim Martin

Presidents' Musings: Goodbye January, hello the month of love and gazing out the window wondering what Mother Nature has left in store for us.

Many of us are counting the days until we can turn the key and hear that roar of our LBC's again. We are very happy to report that the events committee has been very busy and the 2023 season is shaping up to be a year of adventure for the NBCC. They have something for everyone this season. Bud's calendar is filling up and, with a team comprised of Leslie, Vicki, Herb, and Carol backing up Bud's plans, 2023 will be a year to remember.

The winter months can be a tough time of year for many. Filling the long grey days can feel never ending. Movie night in January was a welcome night out for all who attended. Jim Martin choose

a wonderful movie, but I must say I have never had a trip on a plane like that in the movie! If you are looking for a movie to enjoy at home that will spark your car enthusiast's heart, please reach out, the club has a lengthy list of recommendations.



We want to extend a big thank-you to each and every person who donated to the food bank. We delivered the large box of supplies to Newark

Neighbours. We are hoping to continue collecting non-perishable items during the winter months at each NBCC meeting. Please feel free to bring your donations and show a little love for our community. Each month we will donate to a different food bank.

—Sean and Vicki

Editor's Ramblings: 2023 is said by some to mark the 100th year of the MG marque. There is some dispute about that depending on which early milestone you count. Nevertheless, what will the second hundred years bring? MG is not even British owned anymore, which presents an interesting question...if new Chinese-made MGs ever make it to our shores, how will they fit

with our *British* car club? And what kind of MGs will they be? It's certain that future sports cars are going to be electric. (More EV news later.) And most certainly, most future MGs will not be sporty two-seaters, but SUVs. And why not, when the likes of Aston Martin, Lamborghini, Ferrari, Porsche, Jaguar and so forth have found there is much more money to be made in these more practical if mundane offerings. A non-enthusiast friend of mine recently picked up a rental car in Spain. He says he loved it and sent back this photo.



Are we looking at the future of British car clubs?

Finally, a correction: In last month's *Flywheel* I wrote that **Bruce and Joy Bowman** were announced at the Christmas party as part of the Moulsons' Events Committee. Wrong. Sean actually named

Herb McKay and Vicki Mowers. Thanks, and apologies to Herb and Vicki. I guess that's what happens when yer editor is holding a beer instead of a pencil. Cheers, Jim

Club News:

Show me the money! A friendly reminder from our club treasurer, **Pete Moffett:** "Hello members. It is that time again when you must renew your **annual dues**. To do so, click the following link niagarabritishcarclub.org/membership-renewal. You can choose a hard copy form or the simpler online form, then send a cheque or, even easier, an e-Transfer to pete@themoffetts.ca. Those who became members after August 31, 2022, are exempt. Thank you for your continued support."

January 10th Membership Meeting: The beginning of the year is traditionally a slow time, so we dispensed with club business at our January meeting and watched a movie instead. Ron Howard's *Rush* is a reasonably accurate (for Hollywood) telling of the famous rivalry between James Hunt and Niki Lauda. Hunt's mid-flight washroom shenanigans with the flight attendants are something that I suspect one misses by flying economy. Those who could not make it missed out on the Moulsons' excellent popcorn, especially the Chicago mix. It was also great to see Bud out and about again. This was also the first of what we hope will be many collections for local food banks.

January 14th marked the inaugural meeting of our club's **Events Committee**. **Leslie and Bud Moulson** report that committee

members (Bud, Leslie, **Herb McKay**, **Vicki Mowers** and **Carol Boyer**) have a busy tentative schedule in the works and will be reaching out to members to take charge of a run/event. The committee's role is one of coordination, not necessarily planning each event. They will be openly encouraging club members, old and new, to plan and assemble club runs, with ample support from committee members and those who have planned runs in the past. They will be providing lots of written support materials, like How to Organize a Run Guidelines, Safety Considerations, and a Run Planning Template. **Leslie is currently asking people to step forward to plan a run in April.** Traditionally, this is called the Brave Souls, but the Events Committee is open to all new ideas. They want to ensure a season packed full of fun runs—maybe a full day, our usual 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., pop-ups where a member posts a last-minute invitation to meet somewhere and drive for ice cream or a beer, Meet and Go, barbeques, car shows and community giving back opportunities.

For example, as Vicki mentioned in her Presidents' remarks, an ongoing program of collecting non-perishable food items for various food bank around Niagara. The first recipient of items collected from our movie night is Newark Neighbours of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Here is a list of general items that food banks like to receive:

Jam/honey, Apple sauce, Puddings (for kid s lunches), Granola bars, Cookies, Canned tomatoes, Ravioli/beefaroni, Chili, Rice, Sidekicks, Ramen instant soups, Coffee instant and ground, Ketchup/mayo/mustard, Sugar/flour/cooking oil, Shampoo/conditioner, Bar soap.

Kimprint: With the driving season just a few months away it's time to give a shout out to Kim Chevalier at [Kimprint](#).

Email: info@kimprint.ca

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We will be wanting to freshen up our club apparel, so visit Kim's website for an extensive catalogue of items you can customize with our club logo. Kim already has the necessary club artwork and can process your order promptly.

New Members: Two more enthusiast couples have joined our happy tribe.

First, welcome to **Gord Auld and Zosia Halstien** of Brantford. They have a 1951 MG-TD, which will get a good bit of exercise on the back roads on their way to our events.

Closer to home we welcome two more Southern Tier members—**Tom and Sylvia Little** of Port Colborne who are the proud owners of a '78 MGB.

Coming Up:

Feb 14th, Valentine's Day, and our monthly general meeting at Parkway Social's Ostin Room in St. Catharines. Bring your sweetie and enjoy a Valentine's Day treat.

The Tech Talk will be by yours truly, the topic...*Conservation vs. Restoration*, and I promise it won't be too tech and of general interest to both sides of the room.

Birthdays in February

2nd Leslie Colbeck

4th Patricia Ridesec

4th Stacey Fox

5th Edd Orr

5th Christine Sadler

8th Mike Hupel

14th Bruce Bowman

14th Franny Calkins

17th Marty Walters



Did we miss you? Let us know.

Electric Avenue:

The Moke returns: After an absence of 40 years, the Moke is back. Canadians can now buy an electric version of the beloved Mini Moke, but there's a catch. The one for sale in this country is not road legal and is being sold for off-road use only. Marketed by Moke America, it is available through Albion Golf Cars in Etobicoke.



Powered by a 20 HP electric motor with a top speed of just 25 miles per hour, one will set you back over 38 thousand dollars, a price that is apparently in line with other luxury golf cars. At these prices, they like to call them "cars" rather than carts.

Meanwhile the Moke Californian, marketed by Moke International, has been promised to U.S. buyers later this year. Theirs will be road legal, although just barely, with 44 horsepower on tap and a top speed of 50 miles per hour.

Both appear to be from the same manufacturer with different marketing arms. The cars are being manufactured in the UK and in their words, are intended for "a Worldwide audience who have time to take it slow and enjoy life's journey".

Question...is an electric Moke a woke Moke?

A retro take on a beloved British van: The Morris Commercial "JE" is a concept that many retro-lovers in the UK hope will move into production later this year.



It's based on the beloved Morris J-type (Side photo) which was produced from 1948 to 1971. This one will be electric with a promised cargo capacity of one tonne, a range of 200 miles and constructed from scrap carbon

fibre. The British Post Office and Red Bull have both expressed interest.

But the back story gives sufficient cause for skepticism. Chinese-born Qu Li heads up Eco Concept, which has been pitching the van for 5 years now. And she has history. She was a member of the "Phoenix Four" that acquired the assets of MG-Rover, drove it into bankruptcy, then walked away with well-lined pockets. The British government disqualified them from holding any corporate directorship.

On the positive side, Li has been a British resident for 30 years and holds PhDs in engineering. There is also a driveable prototype and a pledge that the company will take no customer money up front until a factory is confirmed, and that any monies collected will go into an escrow account until there is product rolling off the line.

Still, wise shoppers might want to wait for Red Bull and the Post Office to open their wallets first.

MG. Again: No new MG sports car for us yet, but China's SAIC has introduced its first purpose-built MG electric sedan, the **MG4**. Here's a look.



Photo: Top Gear

The MG4 is already on British shores and is currently undergoing testing in Australia, one of MG's markets, with sales expected to begin fairly soon. Projected price Down Under to be in the 50-thousand-dollar range.

Are our 50-year-old LBCs greener than electric cars? Harry Metcalfe, host of the popular YouTube program **Harry's Garage**, is a well informed hobbyist who recently produced a thought

provoking program on electric cars. He's a believer, but with well thought out reservations about the speed with which governments are trying to implement full electrification, and the environmental footprint of producing so many of these cars so soon. He questions if the older cars we hang onto for a long time are not presently greener than a rash of freshly manufactured battery electric vehicles. It's worth watching.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/rCywUzKJs30>

Finally: The moment when you discover that your tattoo artist knows squat about manual transmissions.



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Note: The *Flywheel* is usually submitted for proofreading several days prior to release date, so always watch your inbox for subsequent changes to published dates or details of events.