



# Flywheel

Spring is in the air.

March 2023 Vol.4, No 3



Eye Candy. Nov 2020 Popup run

Vicki Halliday

**Presidents' Musings:** As we sit to write the presidents' comments for March, the snow has melted, blue skies have made an appearance or two and March is near. In like a lion, out like a lamb, we are all looking forward to spring-like weather.

Some of our brave souls have been arriving at Cars and Coffee on Wednesday mornings with their LBCs. If you find yourself out and about in your LBC, please snap a picture and share with the group—it is wonderful to see these cars out so early in the year. Pictured below is Tim Clarke's beautiful Gilbern Invader...bonus points to anyone who can tell Sean the year.

As more cars are getting dusted off and rolling out of their winter slumber, we would like to encourage members to call a few friends, send us a message through social media or groups.io, or let us know at coffee when you are going for a drive. We would love to see more popup runs this year. Back in 2020 the NBCC had some fantastic runs that were last-minute ideas by a member who would "call a friend or 5." Let's see if we can bring back the popup runs.

Speaking of “bringing back” a big thank-you to Jim Martin for his fantastic Tech Talk about Conservation versus Restoration. Very informative talk that was thought-provoking and captivating with a little of Jim’s clever humour sprinkled throughout. Thanks, Jim, for sharing with the group.

NBCC was showing a lot of community love this month with their donations of nonperishable items from the general meeting in February. The food was delivered to **Lincoln County Community Fridge** where staff were very excited to receive the large bin of donations.

In closing, we would like to wish everyone a happy St. Paddy’s Day and may you all find a pot of gold at the end of the road.



Tim Clarke’s Gilbern Invader

**Editor’s Ramblings: We have come a long way.** In recent years our Niagara British Car Club has become much larger and more sophisticated. We now have many more ways to reach out to, and engage with, our members. How? Well, you’re reading one of them right now. The *Flywheel* did not exist before Covid. In 2019 we completely revamped our website, and our webmaster **Pete Moffett** is refining it on a constant basis. We also have a QR code so that potential new members can find it with their smartphones. We have a club chat group and are on Facebook and Instagram. We have business cards and club brochures available to any of our members to reach out on an individual basis to potential new members. We now have recruitment tables at major British car events.

And we have been finding new members effortlessly, simply by sipping coffee on Wednesday mornings. Our Cars and Coffee (Niagara British Coffee Club) at Tim Horton's has been a delightfully successful recruiting tool. With all of this, we have seen explosive growth in our membership over the past three years. To better accommodate that growth, our new Events Committee is putting together a busy season so that there will be something for everyone. Onward!

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting** The usual seasonally light turnout, but that meant more Valentine's cake and flowers for those who showed up. Our thanks to **Leslie Moulson** and **Vicki Halliday** respectively, and to the others who brought goodies to the table.

There were two significant points of business. First, our new Events Committee has been diligently working to deliver a full and early calendar of events so that our members can plan their year. **Bud Moulson** delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting what we can expect, and it's exciting. Their calendar of firm and proposed events is shown below. It will be continually updated on both our website and here in the *Flywheel*.

Second, **Pete Moffett** described the need for a stronger insurance package for our club, even more so now that we have so many more members. Currently our club insurance only protects us for static events. If something should go badly wrong while we are driving our cars during a club event, and one of us is deemed responsible for injuries or damage, both the club and its officers along with others involved with the run could be sued. That would likely be ruinous and it's too big a target to be wearing on our backs. We are currently considering joining an existing consortium of Ontario British car clubs that have already pooled their resources to purchase better protection. It would cost more than we now pay, but much less than a lawsuit. Our March meeting will have a Q&A on the subject, and our April meeting will have as our guest speaker, Steve Sherriff, one of the principal people involved in setting up the multi-club consortium. Pete is not

exaggerating when he says this is the most important issue the club has ever dealt with.

The evening ended with a Tech Talk by yours truly, Conservation vs. Restoration, and the challenges that those considerations present to automobile museums in preserving their wheeled artifacts. My thanks to **Pete** and **Sean** for their help in wrangling the photos.



Pleasant Manor, 2019

## **Events committee/Club Calendar:**

**Our thanks go out to our hard-working Events Committee, Leslie and Bud Moulson, Carole Boyer, and Herb McKay and Vicki Mowers, for giving us a clear road map of the 2023 driving season.**

Events marked with an asterisk (\*) are still in development and/or subject to change. There will be further specifics for each event as it approaches.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Brave Souls Run.** (Peter McGuire and Jim Kekenj)

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** (Sunday) **Ancaster British Car Flea Market.** David Jones has booked our table. Herb and Carole coordinating. Helpers are welcome.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Blossom Run.** (Garry Lemon and Dave White)

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Opening BBQ,** weather depending. At Joy and Bruce Bowman's

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Saturday) **Locust Lane Winery**. Static car show with other clubs.  
Rain date, June 11<sup>th</sup>. (Dan Garry)

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Dunneville Mudcat Festival** parade and car show.  
(Pete Moffett)

**Mid July Sweet Run**. (Jim Collacott)

**August 12<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Peach Festival and Kinsmen Car Show**, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Organizer needed.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** (Sunday) **Grand River Cruise**. (Linda Collacott and Carole Boyer) \$75 each, minimum of 30 people required.

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** (Monday) **Marshville Festival**. (Jim Martin) Run organizer required.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** (Sunday) **Bronte British Car Day**.

\***Closing BBQ**. TBD

\***Grease Monkeys**. TBD. Sean is working on it.

\***Ad Hoc events** (member driven)

- Meet and Go are semi-sanctioned runs on the Tuesday following our general membership meeting. 50/50 draw winners are tasked with setting up a short run, usually ending with some sort of food stop...food truck, ice cream, etc.
- Popup Runs. These are spontaneous or short notice runs by individual club members. For example, you decide to take your LBC out for a drive and would like some company. You can privately invite individual club members or put a general notice out on the club chat group. Let them know where and when and simply see who shows up. Such runs are not club affiliated. We've had some good ones.



Nov 2020 Fall colours popup run.

Photo Vicki Halliday

**New Members:** Welcome to new members **Nabil Khairallah, David and Cheryl White, and Larry Peebles.**

**Nabil** lives in St. Catharines and describes himself as the “owner of an XK150 FHC and a TR3A, sadly both not running at the present time. The XK was bought soon after our arrival to Canada in 1985, the TR a bit later, in 1989. The Jaguar was driven whenever conditions allowed until the acquisition of the Triumph, when it was relegated to the back of the garage where it stays till this date. Through the years I was fortunate enough to enjoy other interesting British cars, all daily drivers, namely a Lotus Super Seven S 3, Jensen Healy, Austin 10 and Rover P6 3500. Apart from the pleasure of driving these cars, each has left me with cherished memories lasting till this day.”

**David and Cheryl**  
hang their hats in  
Niagara Falls. Dave  
tells us

*“We are both retired  
but still keep busy.  
We both have  
always had an  
interest in old classic  
cars. Our interests  
are dogs and cats,  
gardening, golf, and*



*reading. I am a retired mechanic, and still keep busy in my home garage.  
We used to own 2 Jaguar XKE roadsters ('65 and '69), several Volvo P1800  
and ES models, a Sunbeam Alpine, and a Spitfire. I am presently looking for  
another British car.”*

Full credit to David for jumping into club activities so quickly. He will be helping Garry Lemon with our May Blossom Run

And a big club welcome to **Larry Peebles.**

Larry is on his second 2007 Jag XK but likes the older stuff. He writes, *“I'm certainly interested in seeing the others and swapping tales about mechanics, service, and parts sources, etc.*



*My wife Martha and I are retired. Martha was a security analyst at IBM. I'm a Chartered Accountant. Most of my career was in oil & gas and industrial chemicals. I've been busy during the pandemic. While I'm not working now, I try to help out small businesses and individuals who are in trouble, usually with the CRA. We've been residents of St. Catharines for 26 years. I'm originally a northerner from Iroquois Falls (north of Timmins) and Martha is from Montreal. In my hometown we said*

*that we had 10 months of hockey and 2 months of bad ice. Our average snowfall was 16 feet.*

*My last name, Peebles, descends from the town of Peebles and the County of PeeblesShire in Scotland. After emigrating, until my generation, the Peebles were US citizens. We were represented on both sides of the Civil War.*

*My first car was an MGB GT. Later I had a TR6 and a Jag E Type (sure wish I still had that). My retirement present to myself is the current 2007 Jaguar XK.*



*Regards, Larry”*

We look forward to meeting all of our new members.

## Birthdays in March



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Martin
- 6<sup>th</sup> Kerry McCallum
- 9<sup>th</sup> Bud Moulson
- 10<sup>th</sup> Tammy Goddard
- 11<sup>th</sup> Rachel Leesley
- 24<sup>th</sup> Joy Bowman

Did we miss you? Let us know.

**Meanwhile, Down Under** our eastern member Scott Norris is currently enjoying the sunshine in Brisbane, Australia. And his MG hire car.



Lucky Sod! Given the location, we briefly considered posting this shot upside down.

**The top 4 reasons why driving is so enjoyable.** As we get ready to pull the covers off our cars for another season of enjoyment, here is a question. What really makes an enjoyable drive? [This Toyota Motors article](#) outlines **the top 4 reasons why driving is so enjoyable.**

1. **Studies say that driving makes you feel good...** Professor Linda Steg and her team at the University of Groningen researched the leading motivators behind driving. Their findings suggested that people are more driven to drive (pun intended!) due to the perceived status and feelings driving evokes than they are due to the practicality of driving itself. In other words, even if taking the subway makes your commute shorter, you may still choose to drive simply because you like the way driving makes you feel. Another study published in the journal *Innovation* found that drivers who enjoy driving for recreational purposes, like taking long road trips, also enjoy driving for non-recreational purposes because driving causes them to elicit joy.
2. **The joys of instant torque...** What is torque? It's spinning that giant wheel on *The Price Is Right*. It's twisting a cap off an ice-cold beer. It's a physics term to describe a twisting force that tends to cause rotation. In cars, torque is the force that pistons put on the crankshaft, effectively making it as well as the wheels turn. So, when car companies mention torque, oftentimes alongside horsepower stats and measured in pounds-feet, they're referring to the engine's rotational force. Instant torque means the driver doesn't have to wait for the motor to spool or rev up because every one of its pounds-feet are available as soon as the driver puts their foot on the accelerator. And that instant acceleration feels good.

3. **You get an adrenaline boost...**When you turn your car on and begin to accelerate, even just slowly off your driveway, you produce adrenaline, which causes a multitude of effects within your body. Your blood pressure rises, your heartbeat speeds up, your body temperature increases, and you may even start to feel a tingly sensation. It's exciting, it's intense, it's adrenaline. While it may be a rush, it is equally important to always adhere to your local speed limits and to keep yourself and others safe.
  
4. **It's personal...**Some people say driving is meditative, while others prefer to jam out in their cars to their favorite music. Either way, driving can be an incredibly personal experience, and the reasons you love driving could differ greatly from your neighbor. Maybe you're a young adult who loves driving your first car, or maybe you just love taking road trips. Either way, if you're reading this article, we probably have one thing in common: we love driving. Keep in mind, that in order to enjoy driving, you don't have to drive fast, you just have to drive. Because when it comes to driving, we often prefer to take the long way home. And when it comes to enjoying driving, it's more about the journey than the destination.

Thanks to club member **Russ Kwiatkowski** for forwarding this. Although originally penned for Toyota, it applies to any vehicle that delivers enjoyment, even those that leak oil.

**Tech Tip:** Russ also found this little gem in the Classic Motorsports online magazine. For those of you who have Weber side-draft carbs on your cars, priming them after they have drained over the winter can be a chore. Check this out: [An easy fix to keep side-draft carbs from losing their prime.](#)

**On the Tube:** Here to get the juices flowing for our coming season, Harry Metcalfe of Harry's Garage gives us an insider's look at Italy's historic Mille Miglia. Join Harry on his trip as he drives his Alfa roadster through some astoundingly beautiful and remarkably untravelled back roads in Italy. He also finds some primo spots to watch the amazing cars that enter this event. A very enjoyable 57 minutes.

[Italian road trip special; guide to the Mille Miglia in my Alfa Spider](#)

**Jigsaw Puzzles:** Our Prezzy's are starting up an automotive-themed jigsaw puzzle library, and Vicki was making the rounds at our last meeting. If you can't wait for Vicki and her cloth bag, here is a handy source of online jigsaw puzzles.

[thejigsawpuzzles.com](#) has thousands of puzzles, including a large folder of cars, at least a couple of dozen of which are of British vehicles. Check it out. In the meantime, here is a shortcut to one of them: [Jaguars in their natural habitat.](#)

**Daylight Savings Time** is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

What does that mean?

We are an hour closer to hitting the road!

### **Finally: Salt Lick Pete**

Before you take your treasured ride out for the first run of the season, make sure the roads are clear of killer residual salt. Salt Lick Pete is your answer. A day before your planned run, contact Pete and tell him your intended route. Pete will personally test the road surfaces for salt and let you know if they are safe to drive on.



Pete is also available for assessing the salt content in prepared meats and MSG in Chinese restaurants.

Book now! (905) LIK SALT -or- [liksalt@petemoffett.ca](mailto:liksalt@petemoffett.ca)

## Your Niagara British Car Club

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You can find an Instagram link beside our Facebook link at the bottom of the home page of our website: <http://www.niagarabritishcarclub.org>

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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.