



# VERDRIVE

The Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club



## Richmond Car Show

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June 1998

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## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, John Day**

We're suddenly nearing the midst of our driving season (woefully short as it is up here), and the efforts of several weeks have come and gone with another Richmond Car Show. It was a close call with the weather (again!), but we made the most of the day and had another great show. The vendors were particularly pleased to be in the Show Barn, and with our own members selling used goods, the 'Auto Mall' was a big hit. My deepest thanks go to all our members who acted as volunteers at the gate, and to those on the executive who worked as a team to put the show together. Ed will have a more detailed assessment of the day's attendance and results later in the newsletter.

I have been thinking that while there have been various events and activities people have attended so far this season, there is precious little, beyond Richmond, we have done as a club. We (primarily I, as current president) have lost sight of the best aspect of joining and being part of a club – to participate as a club in as many activities as time, weather and our other commitments permit. I hope to improve this situation as soon as possible.

Another thing which concerns me somewhat is the recent series of 'letters to the editor' in the Toronto club magazine, the Ragtop. In it, a couple members criticized what they observed to be the presence of a 'secret society', or a club within a club, where people talked amongst themselves and didn't encourage others to join in. This scared me a little, and I tried to see whether a newer member might accuse the OVTC of the same. Being a longer-term member, it may be harder for me to see this, but if any of you have this

impression – even a little – please let us know by dropping Ed or I a letter or E-mail.

I think we have a great club. I know we have the best cars! We can still try to make the club bigger, stronger and better. I welcome anyone's comments at any time. As the major renewal period for the year is upon us, this was the best time to air my feelings. I put it to you to contact myself or anyone on the Exec with your comments. Cheers!  
JD.

### **Life in a 2-TR household**

I am slowly getting used to the TR3A and its driving impressions, after 19 years of driving a TR6. The 6 was off the road when I first got the 3A, so it was a few days before I attended to its problem. Once I got the 6 up and going, what immediately struck me was the difference in ride height – I felt absolutely tall again compared with the 3A! Everything felt so much softer and cushier in the TR6. Considering there's 18 years between the two cars, it's fair to say there is a generation's difference between the two. It was nice to have full synchro back again too, as the 3A is non-synchro in first. That took some getting used to.

### **Summer Activities For The OVTC**

As I mentioned above, there has been a lack of general activities available for members to do in a group format. I was thinking of what things we could plan to do as a group. Perhaps the first start is to bring back the Sunday Fun Runs. It used to be that each Sunday, those who were free would meet at the clubhouse at 2:00, and by 2:15 we were off for a drive in the area, up to a couple hours out of town. This often took in a local pub, like the Ashton Pub

or The Swan in Manotick. There were also other more elaborate activities, like the tour we made at Hart Breweries one Sunday a few years back. This is the sort of thing that, while not mandatory, does offer people a fun activity to use their car in if they choose. We can talk more about what people would like to do at the June meeting.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **June 21** Antique Auto Club of Ottawa, Billings Estate Museum
- ◆ **June 22 OVTC Meeting**
- ◆ **June 27 - 28** Sports Car Show / Vintage Races, Le Circuit, Mont Tremblant (514-933-1716)
- ◆ **June 28** Smiths Falls Car Show
- ◆ **June 28** British Car Day, Bowie, Md. USA
- ◆ **July 1** Canada Day Car Show, Arnprior *Jeff Patterson 839-2891*
- ◆ **July 2** Heron Gate Mall Cruise Night
- ◆ **July 4** Rocco's Cruise Night, Stittsville
- ◆ **July 5** Evolution of Wheels, Museum of Science and Tech
- ◆ **July 4-5** Boots and Bonnets Rallye, Kingston *John Day 723-9876*
- ◆ **July 18-19** Motorsport Club of Ottawa, Porsche Invitational, Corel Center
- ◆ **July 19** Croquet Match hosted by the MG Club and Len Fortin, Greely
- ◆ **July 25-26** Brits in the Park, Lindsay, On.
- ◆ **July 26** Kingston AutoFest, RMC Fort Henry
- ◆ **July 30 -Aug 3** 13th TTC Canadian classic, Sarnia/Point Edward, On.
- ◆ **Aug 2** Thousand Islands Car Show, Brockville
- ◆ **Aug 1st, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 29th, 30th**, Motorsport Club of Ottawa, Corel Center
- ◆ **Aug 2** Brockville Car Show
- ◆ **Aug 2** Embrun Volksfest
- ◆ **Aug 7 - 9** Roadster Factory Summer party and TR8 get together, Pennsylvania, USA
- ◆ **Aug 8 - 9** Festival de l'Auto, Lasalle, Qc.
- ◆ **Aug 9** Aylmer Car Show
- ◆ **Aug 9** Winchester Dairyfest Car Show
- ◆ **Aug 16** Mustang Car Show, Stirling Ford Ottawa
- ◆ **Aug 23** Moggies on the Grass, place to be confirmed
- ◆ **Aug 23** Boots and Bonnets British Car Day, Kingston *Jeff Patterson 839-2891*
- ◆ **Sept 5-6** Perth Fair Car and Truck Show
- ◆ **Sept 6** Rockland Car Show
- ◆ **Sept 10** Heron Gate Mall Cruise Night
- ◆ **Sept 12** Rocco's Cruise Night Stittsville
- ◆ **Sept 13-14** Watkin's Glen, NY, *Bob Thomas 267-4561*
- ◆ **Sept 17-20** British Invasion, Stowe, Vt.
- ◆ **Sept 20** 15th Annual British Car Day, Bronte Creek, Oakville, On.
- ◆ **Sept 19-20** Antique Auto Club of Ottawa Car Show, Nepean Sportsplex
- ◆ **Sept 26 - 27** Carp Fair Car Show
- ◆ **Sept 26** Chelrod Car Club Rallye, Chelsea, Qc

Watch for a new event coming to Canadian Tire, Merivale & Hunt Club in early September. This is a cruise night for collectable foreign cars (i.e. Triumphs). This is being co-ordinated by our own Paul MacDonald who will keep us up-to-date on the progress.

## IN MEMORIUM

(by Harris Popplewell)

Ron Audette, a past OVTC member and a friend of mine for 30 years, passed away suddenly in Nepal, on December 5, 1997. Ron is survived by his wife Dee, and their two children, Rebecca, and Josh.

Ron was a humanist who spent his life in the service of others. He chaired the World Literacy Organization out of Toronto after graduating in anthropology from the University of Guelph in 1971 and, since 1979, he furthered his service to others through his work with CIDA. He had many friends and colleagues world wide, and was greatly respected for his contribution to others and his "zest" for life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Ron was always a British sportscar buff. He and I spent many an hour in the university pub from 1967-1971 reminiscing about our past cars; for me, my first, a 1959 TR3A and for Ron, a 1961 MGA. Ron, while at University of Guelph, drove a 1965 Sunbeam Alpine. Later, he latched on to a used E-Type 2+2, while I prided myself in my new 1971 MGB. In 1975, after I bought my dream car (my present TR6) Ron came across his dream car, a 59 TR3A. This car was recently purchased from Ron's wife, Dee, by John Day.

I know that Ron would be pleased to see his car stay in the OVTC where it will receive the TLC it so rightly deserves. For me, to see Ron's car at OVTC events will be a reminder of the pleasures and long friendship we shared.

## OXFORD MILLS CAR SHOW

Sunny skies and warm weather greeted participants and visitors to this popular show. There was an interesting mix of vehicles, both two wheeled and four. Everything from vintage and classic sportscars to hot rods, muscle cars of the sixties and seventies to heavily modified cars. Vintage motorcycles were well represented with BSAs, Triumphs, Harleys, Ariels and many more.

Our club was well represented by a number of Triumphs. This show was also the "coming-out" party for John and Lori Day's new TR3A. Next year I'm planning on going early so as to be able to get in the show area. When I arrived this year at the correct time the gates were closed and the yard was full. Good work by the organizing committee.

## BYWARD MARKET AUTO SHOW

This is a very interesting show mainly due to the location in the Byward Market. The exposure is HUGE what with all the people milling about who are either there to see the cars or to pick up produce (and get drawn in by the attractions).

Your Triumph Club was represented by Jeff (TR7), Bob (TR6), Paul & Kathy (TR8), John (TR8), Ed & Viv (TR4). We had a choice location on York Street sharing the area with our friends from the MG Club as well as the other classic sportscar clubs. This show draws many diversified and interesting cars that you don't see every day. In particular the Alphas, Jags, early Vettes, Packards and, well, you get the idea. All in all, a good show.

## THE OVTC SPORTING AND CLASSIC AUTO SHOW AND FLEA MARKET

In spite of mother nature's best efforts to dampen our show, we persevered and triumphed! A great show was had by all participants, vendors and visitors. As the day progressed I kept a running count of the showcars and came up with a total of 116. This included another strong turnout by our club members to the tune of 39 Triumphs. (3 TR3, 2 TR4, 2 Heralds, 4 Spitfires, 4 GT6, 13 TR6, 5 TR7, 5 TR8, 1 TR7/8). There were lots of real nice sportscars to see including Healeys, Lotus', Jags, Morgans, lots of MGs, Land Rovers and a couple of Daimlers.

The event is an opportunity for each club to host a display and compete to win THE trophy. Once again, for the second time and second year in a row your Triumph club won. Our theme, which was thought up by our chief engineer, Steve Bourne, was called "Triumph on the Web", and in fact was Paul and Kathy's TR8 poised on a spider web. Thanks to Steve (and his brother) for all his hard work and energy in this project. Second place went to the Morgans who once again had an excellent display, if not a little sick. You had to see it. I thought it was real good, a little silly, but you had to chuckle.

Our show this year saw more vendors than in previous years. This was due to the hard work of your president. The barn was a very busy place with lots of people walking out with less cash than when they went in and a smile on their faces. From the conversations I had with most of the vendors they were pleased and will return next year.

Thanks go out to all the executive who spent many hours behind the scenes ensuring a successful event. Thanks

also to all of the OVTC members that were there to help in all the ways that they did. It is us and only us that ensure that Eastern Ontario/Western Quebec host one of the best damn Sportscar Shows in Canada. WAY TO GO!

### OVTC - HUDSON SPORTS CAR CLUB B.B.Q.

(by Bob Thomas)

On Saturday, May 23rd Alex and Karen Bustard hosted a get together for our club and the Hudson Sportscar Club at their home on the St. Lawrence River.

Although the turnout was less than hoped for, seven of us were there from the OVTC, and Ian Tierney represented all the other marques. Craig Ross and his friend Dave came in Craig's beautiful MGA from the Hudson Club.

There was a lot of tire - kicking, a tour of Alex's shop and a tonneau cover installation (mine) by a friend of Alex's, Jason Edge.

The day was capped off by a BBQ, ice cold refreshments and more car talk, with a hill covered in British cars as a backdrop. Alex and Karen have offered to host a similar event in May next year. Hopefully with longer lead time, more members will get to experience their hospitality and to see Alex's "hobby gone mad".

## Bytown British

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**Ned Loughrey**

*We'll keep your sports car on the road!*

## THAT TIME OF YEAR

Yes it is folks, we need your money. Dues are due! We can't bring you Billy Graham, but we can offer you the best sportscar club on the planet. For the measly sum of thirty dollars you get a monthly newsletter packed with information concerning past and upcoming events, monthly meetings bringing you technical information to help you with your on-going restorations, comradeship with other Triumph car-aholics, membership card offering discounts at various establishments and much, much more folks! Where else would you look for that long sought after part and find that the guy (gal) sitting next to you in the meeting, has it in his (her) garage. For only \$30 Canadian (about \$21.00 U.S.) you get all this and more. Send in your dues to Jeff Patterson, 114 Delaney Drive, R.R.2, Carp, On., K0A 1L2 or bring your cheque book to the next meeting on June 22nd. Thanks.

## WANTED

TR6 fuel filler cap assembly in very good or excellent condition. Call Bob Thomas at (613) 267-4561.

## CLUB MEETING - MAY 25th

It was a sell out with our largest participation to date this year. Over thirty members were present. After the usual tire-kicking the evening started with our guest speaker, Mike Griffin. Mike's business (Thorough and Classic Cars) is vehicle appraisals. An appraisal is necessary for all vintage (and not so

vintage) vehicles for not only insurance purposes, but for resale values, estate sales, etc.

Mike explained to us that there really are no standards for appraisals. Mileage is a consideration, as is condition, such as original paint, matching serial numbers, original parts, quality of restoration, and so forth. Exercise caution when dealing with insurance companies, Mike says. Be sure to read over the policy and ensure all the *i*'s are dotted and the *t*'s crossed. Need an appraisal? Mention the **OVTC** and you will receive a 20% discount.

It was a busy evening with Brian Mills stepping up next and offering his words of wisdom concerning wiring and electrical systems with our British cars. Basically what Brian was saying was do it right the first time and save yourself lots of trouble down the road. Thanks Brian!

## NEXT MEETING - JUNE 22, 1998

For this one time only, due to the kids playing baseball, our meeting will commence at 8:00 PM. For our July meeting we will be taking ideas of where we can meet at an outdoor patio and keep an eye on our cars. Have an idea? Let us know. The same general location (more or less) is preferred. See you there!



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AUTO-BIOGRAPHY • SHANNON LEE MANNION

# Tiny TR4 a restoration triumph

Ed Kaye was a single guy in his teens when he started working at Wackid Radio 25 years ago. He appreciated the stylish lines and power of the TR4 band drove a series of them through the late '60s and early '70s until he got married and started a family.

The Kaye family grew to include three children, which necessitated several moves over the years. However, no matter how many times he packed up things, Ed hung on to the boxes of TR4 parts he'd saved from former Triumphs.

"I knew I was going to get another one, I just didn't know when." Little did he dream that it would take nearly 20 years to realize his goal.

Today, Ed Kaye revels in driving his TR4 along River Road from his home near Manotick. He is now sales manager of industrial products at Wackid's, but under the baseball cap that shields the grin on his face, he's just a guy in a sports car having a great time.

**Wheels:** Do people recognize your car as a Triumph?

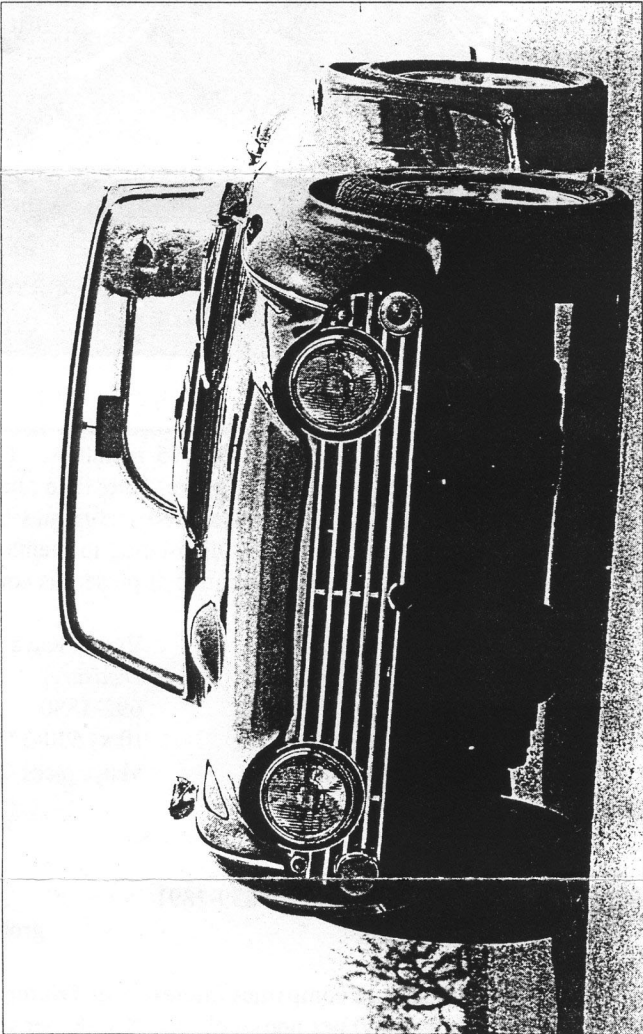
**Kaye:** It's funny the response I get. Some people walk around back and see the TR4 insignia and then they know what it is. The younger generation haven't a clue because the car is twice their age.

**Wheels:** I understand that there aren't that many TR4s left? What happened to them?

**Kaye:** People drove them in the winter and the salt got packed in around the sill plates and they rusted out. There is only one other in the Ottawa Valley Triumph Club and I've seen another in town and this is about it.

**Wheels:** How did you come across your car?

**Kaye:** I started looking for a TR4 in 1989. I went as far as New York to see one but it wasn't any good. I finally



LYNN BALL, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

**Ed Kaye found his TR4 tucked away in a Kingston barn in 1991. It needed a lot more work than he realized, but bombing around in the rare English sports car is a dream come true.**

found what I was looking for in 1991 in Kingston. It was a typical car-in-a-barn find, tucked away, having not been driven for years.

**Wheels:** Your photos from that time show a respectable-looking car. What kind of shape was it in?

**Kaye:** It looked good but there were problems with the engine and the interior was done in shag carpeting. When I started taking it apart, I discovered that it was a mess. It turned out that it needed a lot more work than I ever dreamed of. The fenders were totally gone. I had to order four new ones from an outlet in Texas; I

**Kaye:** You can see that it is nicely ap-

pointed. The chrome valve cover is standard. It came with either SU's or Strombergs and mine are SU's with Weber carburetors. I added headers and dual exhaust.

**Wheels:** Did it come with those rims?

**Kaye:** No. In 1965, it would have come with stamped steel wheels or wire wheels. I added the Era Halibrand mags to compliment the oversized Yokohamas.

**Wheels:** What else did you do in your restoration?

**Kaye:** I put Koni shocks all round and sway bars front and rear. The seats are out of a 1966 because they are nicer

than what came stock in 1965. I had a friend who is a woodworker build the dash from bird's eye maple and he made a matching shift knob as well. I added the roll bar, seat belts and Moto Leda steering wheel.

**Wheels:** Where is the top?

**Kaye:** The actual top is in the trunk. This takes up room in the trunk but it leaves more space in the car. The hardware is behind a back panel and it flips up. I mainly use my tonneau cover and this keeps out dust, rain and prying eyes.

**Wheels:** What most impresses you about the TR4?

**Kaye:** I like the power that comes with the big four cylinder engine. It came standard with 110 horse power but after modifications, mine has 125. It only weighs 2,000 pounds so will do over 110 mph and does 0-60 in under 10 seconds.

**Wheels:** What are you working on now?

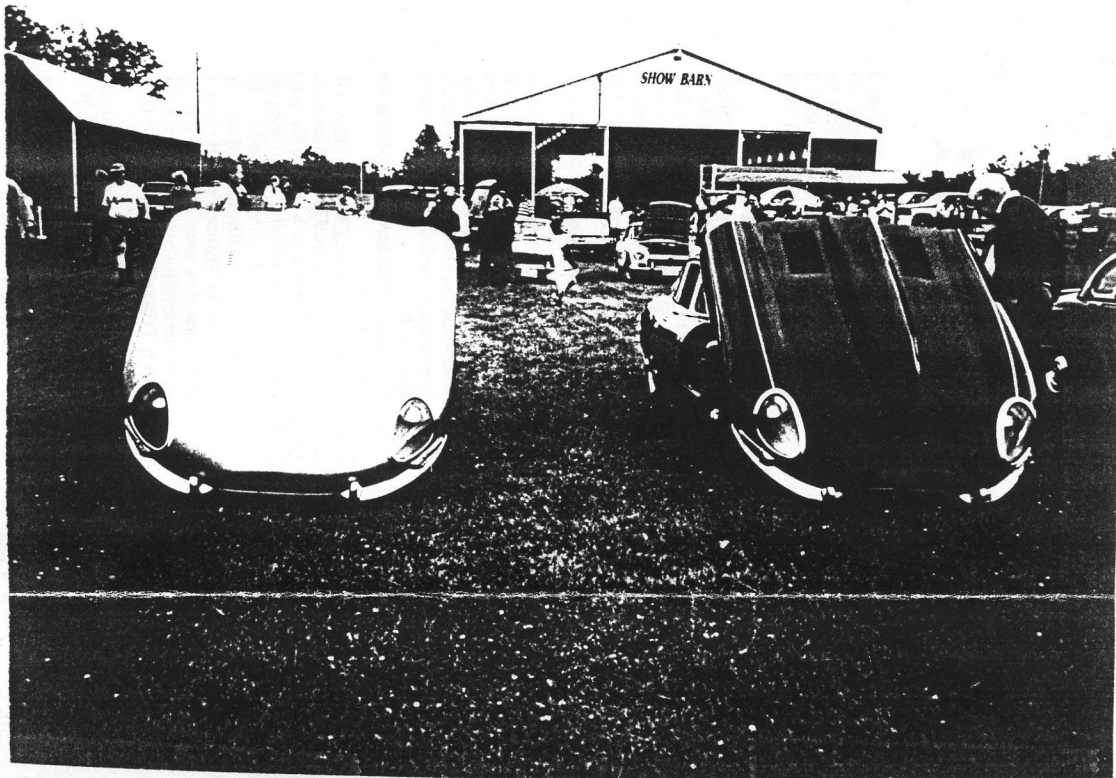
**Kaye:** After the TR4 was finished, my wife, Vivien, and I looked for a car for her. We found a 1972 GT6 MK3 that I've been working on for the past three years. It'll be on the road for the Richmond Car Show on June 14. There will be Triumphs of all types at the show this year because we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of when Triumph came out with their first car.

**Wheels:** You are a real Triumph aficionado. Ever owned a Triumph motorcycle?

**Kaye:** No. At first my mother wouldn't let me drive a motorcycle and now my wife won't.

*We welcome your nominations for cars and people to profile in Auto-Biography. Write to Wheels, The Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., P.O. Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4.*

*E-mail: wheels@theottawacitizen.southam.ca Fax: 726-1198.*



The Ottawa Valley Triumph Club is comprised of approximately 75 members. The Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Manordale Community Centre, Knoxdale and Carola, at 7:30 p.m. Meetings include technical seminars, video presentations, restoration techniques and much more. The Club also publishes a monthly newsletter, *Overdrive*, which is distributed to members. *Overdrive* is also exchanged with newsletters from other clubs. The OVTC Executive at present is comprised of:

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Membership is open to all individuals and companies interested in Triumph sports cars. Membership is \$30.00 per year (June/May) per household and \$60.00 per year, corporate. Please send membership application to: 114 Delaney Dr., R.R. 2, Carp, ON K0A 1L0

*The OVTC is a member of the British Car Council and is affiliated with the TR Register (UK)*

