

PRESENTATION TO SARNIA STREET MACHINES

2018



There's a guy in Sarnia who owns a very nice 1964 Ford Falcon, all original except for a set of mag wheels and radial tires. It's a really nice car and he's very proud of it – it's lots of fun to drive. Years ago he joined a vintage type car club, thinking he would find like-minded car owners and a place where he could show off his car and enjoy himself. But that club wouldn't allow him to participate in any club events because – his car wasn't "original" in their opinion – it had mag wheels and radial tires. But they still wanted his dues!



One day he was at a local shopping mall where there was a car display by another car club. Much to his surprise he saw another Ford with exactly the same mag wheels and radial tires as his in the display! It was then he realized that he'd found the right car club to be a part of. That club was the Sarnia Street Machines.

Actually, the club was originally called the Sarnia Street Machine Association, but the name was changed in 1998 to reflect the fact they are a club that is a registered "non-profit" organization.

The big thing with this club, aside from their neat cars, is community service. The club is very family oriented and virtually ALL money raised goes to charity – none is used to run the club itself. Club members pay a small annual fee to belong, but they must pay for their own club shirts, hats, jackets out of their own pockets. They are definitely a colourful bunch.



They often take their cars to local seniors homes to put on a show the residents. On one occasion, they found out that one resident was a retired fireman, so the club took their fire truck to the home to the joy of the residents.



Yes, the club has their very own fire truck – a beautifully restored 1958 Mercury that was kindly donated to the club by Shell Oil. It's used regularly in Labour Day parades and Christmas parades. It even tows the club trailer to their events.



On another occasion, they heard of a senior who was very ill but loved old cars. They arranged for him to be sitting in a lawn chair in his front yard one evening when they were at a nearby nursing home, and then they paraded their cars past his house, around the block and back again. His family and neighbours were there too and you can guess the reaction they got from him. He passed away shortly afterwards, but with good memories provided by a bunch of really caring people.

One of the many unique things the club does is to help with the Multiple Sclerosis Society with their carnation drive. The club members help deliver hundreds of fresh carnations to local businesses and homes each Mother's day weekend, as part of the MS campaign to raise funds to battle this terrible disease. They even use their street rods for these deliveries. For their efforts, the MS Society presented the club with their provincial *Exceptional Achievement Award for a Community Group*, that rewarded the club's "commitment, initiative, energy and dedication above and beyond the norm."



Exceptional Achievement Award for a Community Group

“ Representing the club’s commitment, initiative, energy and dedication above and beyond the norm ”



Over the years, the club has generously supported many charities, such as the Sunshine Foundation, the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the Rebound organization. All these charities specialize in services for youth, and that has been the focus of the club's charitable efforts since the beginning.



SARNIA – LAMPTON
REBOUND

- For Development Of Youth -



Creating life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses



Making dreams come true for children living with severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses

The club was involved in charity work for so many different groups that they finally had to form a committee to decide what organization to focus on as a sponsor. They decided that any organization that received their help must meet a very strict criteria – it had to benefit children, that all the money raised by the club must stay local, and that the money was not to be used for administration purposes. They found just the right organization right in Sarnia – Pathways Health Centre for Children.

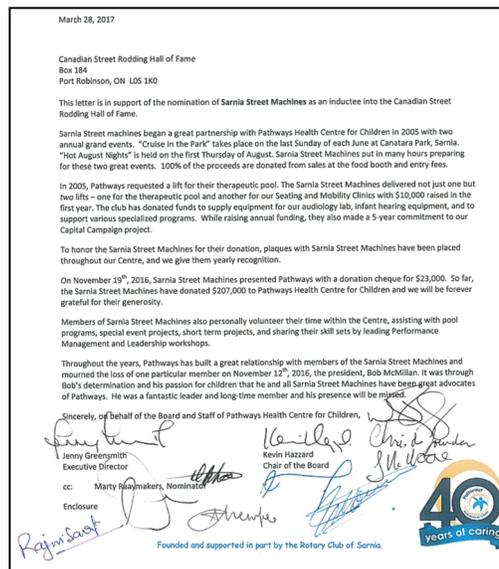
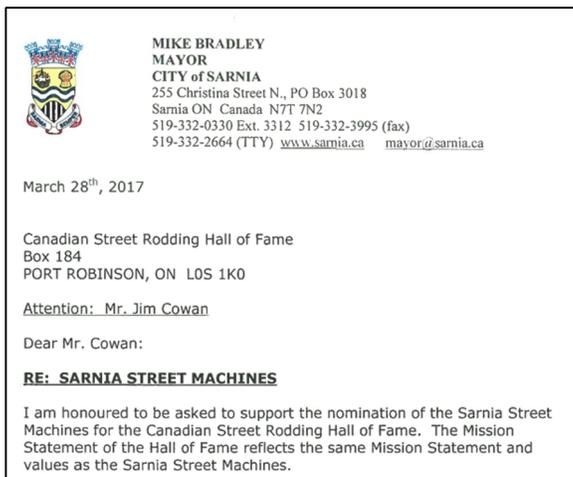


“ Supporting children, youth and young adults to achieve their potential through effective partnerships ”

To help out Pathways, each January they start planning for their Cruise in the Park car show in June, and a later show in August called Hot August Nights. How well does this work? In the first year of sponsoring Pathways, the club purchased not one but two lifts for the centre’s therapeutic pool at a cost of \$10,000. In 2014 the club presented Pathways with a cheque for \$14,000 and they just kept on going, with cheques for \$15,000, \$23,000, and \$18,000. To date, they’ve donated over \$230,000 to Pathways!



Yet another feather in the club's hat was their being named on the "Mayor's Honour List" by the Mayor of Sarnia, His Worship Mike Bradley in 2004. This list was established to honour citizens and groups in the community who have improved the quality of life or made a significant contribution to the City of Sarnia and Lambton County. The list is a tribute to the people and groups in the community who make a difference in trying to create a good and just community and society.



That was in 2004 and the Mayor still thinks very highly of the club – he even sent a letter with the original nomination package in March supporting the Sarnia Street Machine's nomination for induction into the Hall of Fame. A similar letter of support was sent by Pathways management, signed by all the members of the Board of Directors no less.

Speaking of their car show called "Hot August Nights" – you may know of another show by that name in Reno, Nevada. That show is much larger and draws over 6,000 cars each year while Sarnia's draws about 700. It seems the Reno folks are very proud of their show name – so proud they trademarked it, and they're very quick to let everyone know it.



...and don't
you ever
forget it!

It's a measure of just how successful the Sarnia Street Machines are in promoting their show that they recently got "cease and desist" letters from Nevada, complaining about their show's name. You know you're doing something right when you get that kind of attention from the big guys south of the border! The Sarnia club is not sure what's going to happen, but whatever they do you can bet their show will be just as big a success as it ever was.

Obviously, the club members are obviously no strangers to hard work. In 1998 they hosted the Canadian Street Rod Nationals (otherwise known as CANATS) for the CSRA, and then they did it again in 2000. Anyone who has ever been involved in putting on a show this size will know just how much work it takes, and to do it twice is quite an achievement.



This June they again put on their Cruise in the Park show, expecting about 500 cars.

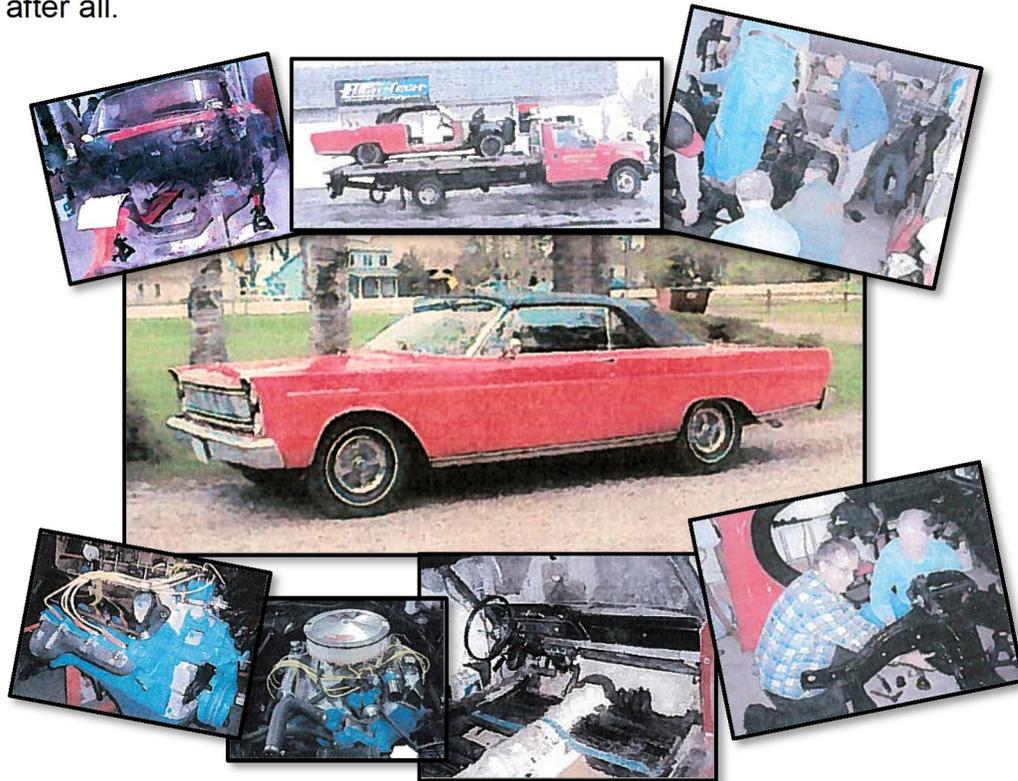
Unfortunately Mother Nature didn't think that was a good idea so it rained, and boy did it rain.

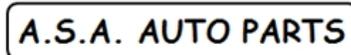
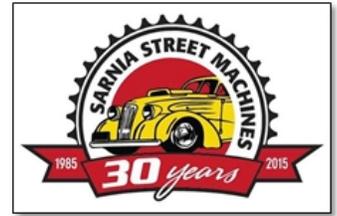


They still got about 100 cars and to everyone's credit, all the club members worked right through the rain to put on the show, rain or no rain. That takes dedication, something this club seems to have a lot of.

They also help their own too. One key member was Glenn Prior who joined the club 14 years earlier. Glenn had a very nice 1965 Ford Galaxie convertible that he'd been working on for years. It was all dismantled in his garage and he had lots of plans for the car – a repaint to the original colour, rebuilt engine and suspension, new interior, the works. But a chronic lung problem got in the way. Glenn ended up in the hospital breathing from an oxygen tank and he almost gave up on his dream car. That's when the club got involved.

The club members stripped the car and rebuilt everything that could be rebuilt, just the way Glenn had dreamt of. It took a lot of work from club members and from many local suppliers, and some not so local, who were generous with their support of the project. The car ended up in its original yellow colour and good as new, much to Glenn's amazement when it was presented to him. Unfortunately, Glenn passed away soon afterwards, but he never complained, and he got to see his dream come true after all.





The club has endured many challenges over the years, but one of the biggest was the loss of their long-time president Rob McMillan in late 2016. His leadership and incredible enthusiasm for promoting the club's mandate was an inspiration to everyone around him. He is dearly missed. In Bob's honour, the club held the "Bob McMillan Cruise and Poker Run" and raised over \$4,000, all for charity of course!



Now, no car club would be complete without – well, CARS – and they've got lots of them. Street rods, late models, muscle cars, drag cars, the lot. They've got some beautiful machinery and they're driven, just like good street rods should be.



The responsibilities of membership in the Sarnia Street Machines car club are significant and the expectations of members are high, but they've proven over and over that they are up to any task they're faced with. There's tremendous respect for each other amongst the members, and they have a lot of pride in the club.

This is a group of hard working, enthusiastic, and very generous gearheads who use their love of cars to better the community they live in, and by their example to others, to better the world around them.

Please join with me in welcoming the Sarnia Street Machine Car Club as the 2018 inductee into the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame.

Would the club president Jo-anne Thorne and all the Sarnia club members please come forward.