



## **CANADIAN STREET RODDING HALL OF FAME**

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*Recognizing those who have made significant  
contributions to street rodding in Canada*

### **PRESENTATION TO THE CANADIAN STREET RODDING HALL OF FAME INDUCTION GALA OCTOBER 15, 2022 BRANTFORD, ONTARIO**

#### **~ GREATER MONCTON STREET RODS ~**

Everyone knows about the Atlantic Nationals held in Moncton, New Brunswick each year, but there's a lot more to this event than meets the eye. There is a car club behind this great show and their story is a good one.

The club was started in 1983 when Ontario's Bill Merkley moved to Moncton and met with several local street rodders to start a club. They created a constitution and membership rules and they were off. The name of the club was also nailed down – the Greater Moncton Street Rods.

The first club event was at the Speed Sport Show in April, 1984 with a 4 car club display.

They even had to drive their street rods through a major spring snow storm to get there.

The club started out small in 1985 with a car show called the Fun Run. It should have been a big show but a hurricane came through and they only had about 20 cars. As time went on the "Fun Run" got bigger and bigger, putting more demands upon the club. A committee was formed in 1999 to handle the increased demands of organizing such events.

Soon their annual Fun Run was acknowledged as the high point in the region's summer car show series.

Then in 1994 they reached another milestone – in co-sponsorship with the Canadian Street Rod Association and the City of Moncton the club hosted the Canadian Street Rod Nationals or "CANATS".

At the time it was the largest and most successful car show in Atlantic Canada and the four day show drew participants from all parts of Canada and the United States, as far away as Florida and the Yukon.

This show was also the introduction to the public of the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame with the induction of the first 25 people into its alumni, in honour of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CSRA.

By 2000, the club decided they finally had the talent and resources to hold an annual national car show and they decided to go BIG – they created the Atlantic Nationals Automotive Extravaganza. In eight short years it has become the largest automotive event in Canada drawing street rods from all over North America.

So, what's the point in having a hugely successful car show if you can't help out a few folks?

As a not-for-profit organization Greater Moncton Street Rods donates the proceeds from all of its shows to a variety of deserving charities. So far they've donated over \$600,000 to charities! These charities include the Children's Wish Foundation, the IWK Children's Hospital, Friends of Moncton Hospital, Georges Dumont Hospital, Codiac Viking Aquatic Club, Juvenile Diabetes, Kids Help Phone, and Camp Goodtime to name a few.

The club used their experience with CANATS to launch a five-year fundraising program to raise money to help purchase playground equipment for disabled children in Moncton's Centennial Park, an automotive-themed, wheelchair accessible water theme park.

This Splash Park is the culmination of several years of proceeds from the Atlantic Nationals, and it's their way of saying "thank you" to the city of Moncton for hosting this great event.

Now, these guys and gals really know how to have fun at a car show. In 2005 they introduced the first annual 24 Hours of LeLawns at the Nationals. Note the spelling – that's not a misprint!

This is a charity event where teams of five drivers and two pit crew entered a 24-hour lawn tractor endurance race on the asphalt path around Moncton's Centennial Lake.

This race had everything from stock riding mowers to an all-out V twin powered monster.

All of the costs for this event were paid for by the host club and sponsors, so 100% of the team entry fees went to the Moncton Fire Department and then to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. A great time was had by all, with many of the entries ending up in the lake before the event was over.

The club has continued its commitment to community projects in the Maritime region, supported by the street rodding hobby. They are an inspiration to everyone who comes in contact with them.

Please join me in welcoming the Greater Moncton Street Rods car club into Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame.