

MAL KIESWETTER

Canadian street rodders lost a good friend in 2004 when Mal Kieswetter of Kitchener, Ontario passed away.

Mal founded a used car lot in 1978 and then was sales manager at Jackson Motors, a Chrysler dealership in Kitchener. Through Mal the Canadian Street Rod Association got a much needed Dodge pickup to tow their concession trailer to promote CSRA at the many shows the trailer appeared at.



Mal went street rodding with a '29 Ford roadster called "Playtime" that was supposed to be a "driver". However, after Paul Horton and master fabricator Lloyd Stewart got finished with it, it ended up on the ISCA show circuit where it won top honours.

This got Mal in the mood for more show stopping street rods, so after meeting car builder Boyd Coddington he decided to shoot for the big one – the famous Ridler Award.

The result was a spectacular '32 3 window Ford coupe called "The Gambler". At Mal's insistence, Ontario's own paint wizard Ken Kay did the body work and paint on the car.

And it worked - the Gambler won the prestigious Ridler award in 1988, and was the ISCA Grand Champion as well. The car was only the third Canadian owned rod to ever win the coveted Ridler award. And as a thanks for all the help with the car, Mal had bronze models of The Gambler made and gave one to each person who worked on the car. Now that's class.

Mal was the owner and operator of Kieswetter Motors in Kitchener for over 25 years, and for several years he was also a partner in a full service street rod shop in Cambridge called "Toys for Boys". And Mal finally his street rods to drive – a chopped '35 coupe and a '36 sedan.

Like most street rodders who have become successful in business, Mal wanted to help out his community, and through his dealership, sponsorship dollars flowed to many local charities.

Mal's influence on the Canadian Street Rodding scene will last a long time. - Welcome Mal Kieswetter to the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame.