

JIM RYAN

It's said that you should not underestimate the determination of a quiet man. Anyone who has met him will tell you that it's hard to get a word out our 2020 inductee, but ask his friends about him and the stories start to flow, fast and long.

Jim belonged to one of the earliest car clubs in Niagara, the Road Lions, where he drove the club's '55 Chevy drag car at the old Kohler Drag Strip in Cayuga, and he was was a huge influence on getting many others into street rodding over the years.

Jim went on to become a premier body man and opened his own body shop, all the while assisting local car clubs with running the Last Chance car show in Welland, Ontario. With Jim's help, this popular car show contributed over \$20,000 to local charities in 2018 and over \$36,000 in 2019!!

Jim's impact on street rodders and on his community was never more evident than when his body shop burned to the ground and he lost everything, even his shop dog Bear.

His insurance didn't cover all his losses, so local street rodders and merchants put on a car show to raise funds for Jim, and raised thousands of dollars to help him get back on his feet. The local fire brigade and a local K9 training centre even gave him a new puppy to help him along!

Jim's back in business with his new shop and lots of toys to play with. The parking lot is filled with his collection of street rods, still with a big drag racing focus. Just like old times.

Jim has a nickname too - "Ding". It has something to do with his being run over by a truck as a child. But he survived, and he says he'll keep on building street rods until *"it until it isn't fun anymore"*.

We know Jim still has a lot of street rodding in his future, and we're proud to welcome him into the alumni of the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame. Welcome Jim.

