



CANADIAN STREET RODDING HALL OF FAME

*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



2020 Inductee
(CLUB category)

HIGHWAYMEN
CAR CLUB

Kitchener
Ontario

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the early 1960's there were already a number of car clubs in Ontario, and six young high school friends from Kitchener really looked up to the older members in these clubs. However, the clubs wouldn't let them join – too young they said – so they decided to form their own club. And just like that, the Highwaymen Car Club was formed. It was 1961 and the basement of Don Hishon's home was their first clubhouse.

In those days, hot rodders still didn't have a very good reputation in the eyes of the public, so one of the first things the guys did was to create a roadside assistance program for the public when they had car trouble, and they handed out courtesy cards to promote the club.

They eventually moved from the basement to a former firehouse for a club house and then to an old church they renovated into a spectacular clubhouse.

...THEN



...NOW !

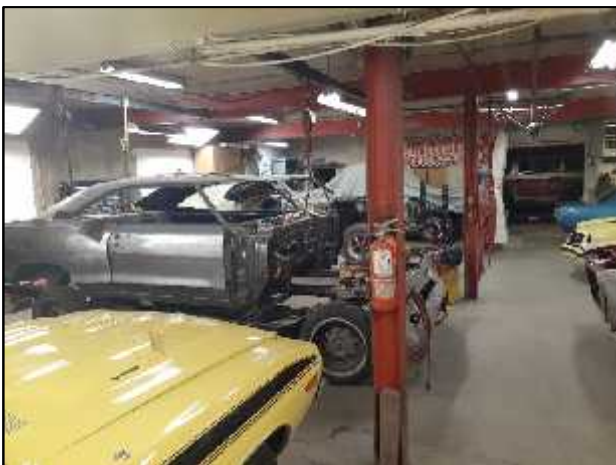


It now features a spacious meeting area complete with a fully-equipped kitchen and even a pool table, and on the lower level of the building there's room for tools, toolboxes and accessories.

A separate, connected building encompasses a wash bay, a hoist and room for up to nine of the club members' vehicles. Don't we all wish for such luxuries!

Meetings are held twice monthly, and a couple of times a year they open up the clubhouse to huge groups of rodders for NASCAR races and a garage crawl.

To make sure their members are serious about joining the club, they pay an entrance fee of \$500 that allows them to use the shop space and tools, and they have to attend club meetings.



Over time as the club grew in size, they established themselves as a community-based, non-profit organization and they were finally able to give back to their community.

They held club dances, rallies and cruise nights and an annual car show called Graffiti Car Show to raise funds that were donated to charities such as Make-A-Wish Canada, where they have donated over \$48,000.



\$ 48,000
raised so far !



The club is also a regular donor to the Kitchener Waterloo Access Ability organization and they even maintain the organization's bus for them and provides drivers as well. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the club wasn't able to have their usual Christmas party, so instead they made a big donation to Waterloo Region's Winter Food Drive that provided meals to 4,500 people during these challenging times.



4,500
meals !

The club put on the Canadian Street Rod Nationals (or CANATS as it was better known as) in 1987 and their special guest was none other than Big Daddy Ed Roth in his little three wheeled Globe Hopper, fresh from a trip to Alaska! Of course, Big Daddy brought along his little buddy, the famous Rat Fink, to ride shotgun all the way.



One member of the club also organizes the “Cruising on King” show that sees a main street in downtown Kitchener shut down for a huge show that has run for over 25 years.



The club attends many shows, cruise nights and national events both here in Canada and in the US, taking home multiple “Club Participation” awards in the process, and promoting Canada along the way. The club spreads the word on the benefits of street rodding at car shows near and afar.

Today the club has about 30 active members, many of whom have been in the club for years. So long that they have old photos of members to compare to the same guys today – how times change.

...THEN



...NOW !



Of course a car club wouldn't be much of a car club without cars, and the Highwaymen have lots.



The club's members have accumulated many awards for their rides, right up to a winner of both the Ridler award and the ISCA Grand Champion in 1988.

"The Gambler"

1988 Ridler Award
and
ISCA Grand Champion



owner Mal Kieswetter
~ Highway Car Club ~



The club believes that by supporting local charities they can generate a positive attitude within the community towards street rodders. For many years they have supported and promoted street rodding by providing a family environment for their members so that the hobby will be preserved for future generations.

Folks, that is exactly what the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame is all about. Welcome Highwaymen Car Club to our alumni, and congratulations.



Welcome to the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame

HIGHWAYMEN CAR CLUB

