

Volume 2, Issue 4.

August 2018/September 2018



Corvette Club of Windsor

NEWSLETTER

President's Report

Hello Corvette club members. I hope everyone has enjoyed this 2018 driving season... it was very hot and we had substantial amounts of rain yet there were plenty of days to get your Corvette out and go for a drive. Our September presentation to the hospital was the last presentation for Bryan Hansen our outgoing Show Coordinator. I'd like to thank Bryan for the wonderful job that he has done these past years coordinating our riverfront show. Tom Malott will be our new coordinator for the riverfront show. Tom already has some experience with this endeavour as he did assist Bryan this year to learn how this show remains a success.

After 13 years of being the corresponding secretary in charge of the River Front Registration, Ron Packer has retired from this position. I would like to thank Ron for his outstanding work these past 13 years. This position remains open and we will be having a meeting in regards to this on October 25 at the ice park. Anyone who is interested in this position or even assisting someone in this endeavour please come to our meeting on Thursday, Oct 25th at 6:00pm.

Our Christmas party for this year is set for November 30. Mark your calendar for this event. The cost for this event is \$35.00 with \$10.00 being returned when you show up for the dinner. Please remember to bring an unwrapped toy (approximate value \$25.00) for the children at Drouillard Place (for anyone aged 16 or younger).

We have 30 people booked for our upcoming trip on October 11 to 15 to Tennessee and North Carolina. Lynda Reaume, our trip coordinator for this event, has done a fantastic job organizing this event.

Our next Corvette Club Meeting is Thursday October 18 at Central Park Athletics 5:30 for those who would like to have dinner. Meeting starts at 6:30. I hope to see everyone there.

Dan Reaume. President Corvette Club of Windsor ☐

New Members

Brian and Brenda Popp

Hello, I met Ed Jones on a recent river cruise in Portugal and he suggested that I join the Club. I am a retired CA and Brenda is a retired teacher. I have owned a Corvette since 2003, the first being a black 2003 coupe and my current 2014 model. We are looking forward to meeting up with Club members.



Brian & Brenda Popp



Club Events

July 30 & 31, 2018

Ron Fellows Driving School



Ed Jones, Dan Reaume, Daryl Desjardins and Gary Mannarino

On July 30 31 Ed Jones, Dan Reaume, Daryl Desjardins and Gary Mannarino flew to Pahrump Nevada to learn all about their new C7 cars. The class also included an extensive amount of driving time. The seat time was about 40% of the class and not enough i might add.

Classes begin at 7 AM at Spring Mountain Resort in 113 F heat. The entire group of 17 students sit and discuss the format of the school and then we are broken into 2 groups after a brief test drive on the track.

Next after a brief learning session 1/2 of the group leaves and go to the track. The other 1/2 remains and is taught some driving skills. Then in 30 minutes we switch and the other group goes out to the track and the other group come in to class time.

That is the procedure for the entire 2 days 30 minutes track time 30 minutes class time. We learned about the ABS brakes system on a skid pad. We did donuts on an oval and spun the cars out on a figure 8. We also learned all the controls and settings on the new C7 DIC and the proper use of the mode selection, don't leave your car in track mode.

The class is 2 days long and cost \$1000.00 if you purchase a new Corvette. The class must be taken within one year of taking delivery or you will pay \$2500.00. The price includes 2 days accommodation and 3 meals day one and 2 meals day two.



The track is located 55 miles west of Las Vegas in the desert.

Spring Mountain has resort lake with jet packs. Condominiums and a club house with exercise equipment, swimming pool and over 125 brand new Corvettes including ZR1's, ZO6's, Grand Sports and standard Stingrays.

Spring Mountain is also home to the Cadillac driving school.

There are 3 racetracks on the property with plans to ad 80 track side condos and a new 9 mile track.

The 4 of us had a great time and want to return again.

Aug 3, 2018

Downtown Essex Dream Cruise-In

No information.

Aug 11, 2018 - Bothwell Car Show Flea Market Swap Meet – Bothwell, Ontario

No information.

August 11, 2018

Corvettes America

Five Club members caravanned up to Clarkston Michigan for the Corvettes America, 18th anniversary, Corvette car show. This was the first year they have moved from the parking area at Bowman Chevrolet. The show was held at Everest Academy, 5935 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, Michigan. The five who went were Ron Packer, Hugh and Willie Pilon, Gary and Jenny McGuinness, Brian Deloge and Peter Roberts. This show is different in that each generation is parked together. Makes for a great comparison especially in judging or for people's choice. Ron Packer won second place for his modified C5.



I talked to Connie Harper, who is a club director, to get some background on Corvettes America's of Michigan.

Corvettes America officially started in January 2001. It is officially an international club because Joe and Liese Sabelli who live in Windsor, Ontario are members. Liese had lots of fun joking around with old friend and member Ron Packer. There are currently about 150 members, although not all are active.



Sidenote - Dennis Hill and Ron Packer joined the America's Corvette Club of Michigan in 2006 shortly after Ralph Thomas and Joe Sabelli (former member of our club) joined. The club was then sponsored by Cauley Chevrolet who also owned the Ferrari and Maserati dealership next door on Orchard Lake Road. The Chev dealership closed and was picked up by Bowman Chev in Clarkston after a short stint with Matick Chev. Their sponsor since 2014 is Bowman Chevrolet in Clarkston, Michigan. Richard Heldenbrand

has been President of the club for about 10 years, whereas Ed Osterman has only this year taken over as show chair. What a great job everyone in the America's Corvette Club did.

They have a very friendly club and run a successful show every year. Also their members represent at our show every year. An example of clubs working together was the five Americas Corvette Club members, including two ACC Canadian members, joining Gary and Jenny on their trip to the Steel Town All Chevy show in Pittsburgh.

C1



C2



C3

C3 & C4



C4



C4 Callaways
Alternating interior
& exterior colours



C5



C6



C7



Ron Packer
receiving award



August 12, 2018

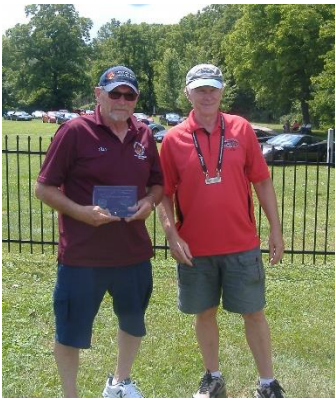
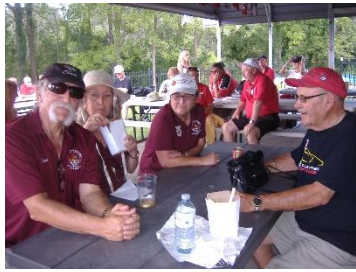
London, Ontario Concours Car Show



Presented by Corvettes of Western Ontario, this was a Concours show with the three categories of Signature Concours; Concourse Prepared (open hood) and; Street Show and Shine (closed hood). This was a well attended show by Corvette Club of Windsor with about half the attendees driving in a caravan in the early morning from a meeting point in Tilbury, while the other half slept in after staying over in London. The venue has several nice features. There is both grass and asphalt parking to display the cars. The Legion ladies put out a nice breakfast and lunch, plus there is air conditioned space inside the building to escape the sun.

It is interesting to note that Les and Mary Jane Tetler are members of CWO. Explained by the fact that they used to live in London. This was very definitely a "Packer" weekend. First, Ron Packer won a trophy for second place, modified C5 at Corvettes America show in Clarkston, MI on Saturday, August 11. Then on Sunday, August 12, in London, it was Marilyn Packer's turn. She won 1st place for C3 Show and Shine and then won the top prize, best in show award. Ron had to elevate and disguise his voice to accept the awards for his wife, Marilyn. Other Club members were fortunate to win several awards as follows: Les and Mary Jane Tetler, 1st place, C6, Street Show and Shine, closed hood; Hugh and Willie Pillon, 2nd place, C4 Concourse Prepared, open hood; Brian Deloge, 2nd place, C5, Concourse Prepared, open hood; Ron Hillier, C6, 1st place, Concourse Prepared, open hood; Peter Roberts, 2nd place, Concourse Prepared, C5 Custom (modified), open hood. Congratulations to everyone.





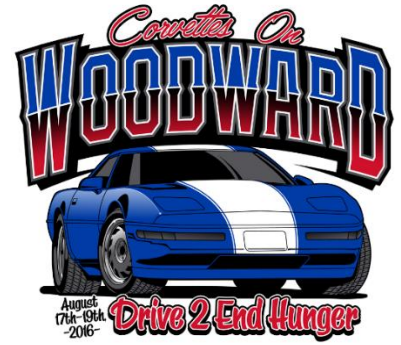
August 15, 2018

Larry Courtney's Corvettes on Woodward



This year Corvettes on Woodward's marquee event has a new home after a one-year hiatus. Staging for the all-Corvette cruise down world-famous Woodward Avenue to the Open Hands food pantry. The Masonic Lodge and the Church of the Latter Day Saints now marks ground zero. It's located just north of 16 mile road on the west side of the street. Staging begins about 4:30pm on Wednesday,

August 15th and the caravan plans to leave by 7:30pm. A \$10 donation gets you into the fun. Don't forget to bring additional food donations as well.



August 15, 2018

Muscle & Moose Lodge Car Show



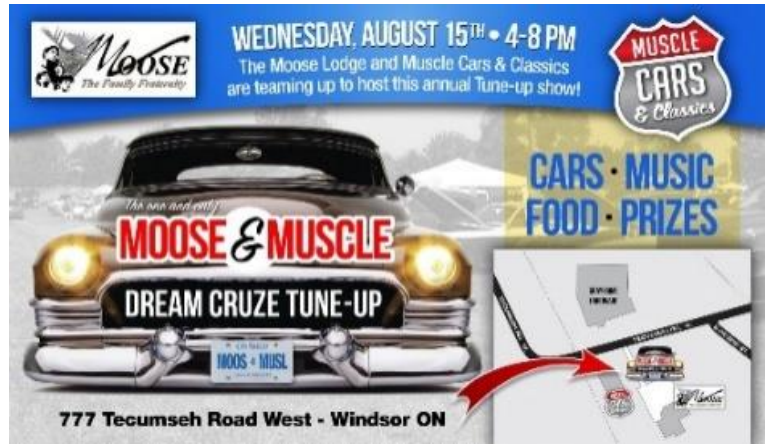
Since Premier (Dan Kane) has decided to not host their Dream Cruze Tune Up on August 15th, Muscle & Moose decided to partner up with their next door neighbour, The Moose Lodge, and host it for this year.

Ron Packer reports along with pictures Moose and Muscle Dream Cruise Warmup on Wednesday afternoon August 15th • 4-8pm.

Rob handed out many door prizes with a grand prize of a very nice jacket. 😊👍

The Moose Lodge provided food - for \$2.00 you received a great burger and for \$2.00 more you received more fries than you could eat 😊👍

We had 5 members in attendance.





August 16, 2018

August Club meeting.

Dan opened meeting punctually at 6:30 pm at the Central Park Athletics meeting room. There were 27 members in attendance. Les gave the minutes from the last meeting and Gary presented the financials. Bryan Hansen reminded everyone about the hospital cheque presentation at 11:00 am on September 6. He needs 10 cars to be there between 10:00 and 10:30. Ouellette Dream Cruise participants to meet at the church Turner and Tecumseh Rd East at 5:00 pm on Friday, August 17.

Those going to Woodward Dream Cruise, just go. Peter only member going to Back to the Bricks Corvette Reunion in Flint, Michigan. More show reminders by Les: September 2 Heritage Village; September 3 Furgolar Furlan; September 8 Wheels on Wyandotte; September 15 Stoney Point Sportsman's Club; September 16 Reaume Chev show and cruise LaSalle; September 30 Applefest Ruthven, ON.

Christmas party to be on Friday October 30 at 6:00 pm. Reminder to bring unwrapped toy as gift for Drouillard House. Tom Mallot has some last years show T-shirts for sale. 2017 - \$5 and 2018 \$15 each. Next years show will not be a Concours show, we will wait until 2020 when the club is 45 years old. We are still looking for a volunteer to take over Show Registration from Ron Packer. Lynda to take pictures at club party of members and send to Dane to post on website. Peter to talk to Dan about doing a member profile for the Newsletter. We welcome Ron Jeffery back from his heart surgery. Marilyn gave away a souvenir booklet about '73 Corvette. Dan Reaume won.

August 17, 2018

Ouellette Car Cruise

The participants for the 3rd Annual Ouellette Car Cruise featuring classic and vintage vehicles rendezvoused at Civic Terrace next to Windsor's Riverfront Festival Plaza beginning at 1:00pm on Friday August 17, and the Cruise kicked off at 6:00pm down Ouellette Avenue. Sorry, I have no pictures or more of a story.



August 18, 2018

Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise

What more can I say? The biggest car show in the world – 40,000 vehicles (half parked on the side of Woodward from 8 Mile Road almost to Pontiac) while the other half cruises up and down Woodward all day and most of the week before Saturday. Pictures by Les & Barry from their walkabout.





Here is one of the more unique vehicles at Woodward – interesting - back end is supposedly the front.

Bob Bobbis' friend in the Prowler club made it.



August 14 -18, 2018

Back to the Bricks, Flint, MI Classic Car Show sponsored by Buick plus Corvette Reunion.



The five-day extravaganza begins on Tuesday, August 14 with the “Bricks Flicks”, at the US-23 Drive-In theatre on Fenton Road. Wednesday through Thursday there is rolling cruise from downtown Flint to the city of Grand Blanc, MI. On Friday, August 17 there will be a free concert and dance party with a Motown theme. On Saturday, August 18 there is the 3rd biggest Classic Car show in North America, which includes the 14th annual Corvette Reunion at Back to the Bricks where there will be up to 900 ‘Vettes on display.



Part of the Back to the Bricks Car Show is the Corvette Reunion put on by Gary Drago. He tries to display an original Corvette from every year since 1953 in his Heritage Collection. This year I was fortunate to be selected for my 1999 convertible.



I started the weekend by enjoying two free hot dogs at the ELGA Credit Union sponsored free lunch on Friday, then over to the Swap Meet on Saginaw Street. I was the only car from the CC of W to travel to Flint, but I was to meet Enzo’s friend, Terry Jamieson and his wife Halina to drive over to a “meet and greet” at the Brick Street Bar and Grill in Grand Blanc. We drove through a rain storm but it cleared by the time we got there to join a hundred or so

Corvettes on the lawn. Beer, food and live band made the evening short. Up for a 6:45 am entry into the show, where Terry was also a Heritage exhibitor. Terry is a member of the Durham Corvette Club and he introduced me to a friend of his from Wasaga Beach Corvette Club, Emil and Halina Petko. The car show is so huge it took

me two and a half hours to walk around. The entire downtown area of Flint is closed off, about 1.5 kilometres long by 4 blocks wide. Some of the cross streets are for special vehicles, like about 80 Model A Fords, 30 or so 1950 and 1960 RV trailers, half a block of nothing but hearses, several early cab over tractor trucks. There is a central



plaza with sales booths as well as a dozen drag race cars which are fired up for a “cackle fest” of noise.

As a finale in the Corvette Reunion, Gary Drago presents his “top 75” trophies to the top 10% of the Corvettes. Just a fabulous weekend.





Special note from Terry Jamieson “.....What Enzo and Karen are doing is meeting myself, Halina and you in Flint next year so don't forget to bring your wife.” I guess I know what I am doing next August.

Some notes regarding Durham and Wasaga Beach clubs. Durham is east of Toronto, in the Pickering Oshawa area and has been going forever. According to Halina Jamieson there are about 60 plus members “....most of whom are expected to be off parole soon.”

Halina Petko is the Wasaga Beach CC Secretary and reminds us that they have the longest fresh water beach in the world. Unfortunately their membership is declining with only about 20 members currently. Their Spring Fling car show in May 2019 will be returning to Wasaga Beach after previously being at the local Chevrolet dealer.



Amazing Story

When I was at the Corvette Reunion at Back to the Bricks in Flint, Michigan I ran into someone



I had not seen for about three years, Steve Stone from Madison, Wisconsin. He has a 1963 roadster he has owned since new. He had a '56 Chevy that he sold so he could buy the 'Vette. His dad co-signed with his mom's approval, he worked two jobs and the rest became history.

Now so far you say nothing unusual, except this car has 564,000 miles, **yes five hundred and sixty four thousand miles**. He and his wife, Marilyn, married for 30 years, have travelled to every state in the continental US, except Alaska, as well as all of the Canadian provinces. He was part of the Bloomington Gold driving two laps around Indianapolis in 2017. He is now on his 4th engine, a 356 CID with the old engine in the garage. This has been a NCRS car. The

front clip and the windshield have been replaced several times. Springs, U joints etc. also have been replaced. How many tires he does not know, nor does he care.

Steve has refused \$100,000 US for his car. He says "It is **NOT** for sale". I wonder how many miles will be on the car when I next run into Steve.



August 19, 2018

Corvette Club of Windsor summer party at Ron and Carole Hillier's place in Leamington.

Another beautiful day for a summer club party. Fortunately Ron and Carole have lots of lawn at their place on Highway 77 in Leamington. There was plenty of room to park 26 Corvettes around the property, plus one “tin” car belonging to Hugh and Willie Pilon. In all fairness to the Pilon’s they were just returning from a trip in their Cadillac. I asked Ron how he came to be out in the “sticks” when he told me he grew up on a working farm only a quarter mile up the road from his current place. He bought the lot and then Ron and his dad built their bungalow, complete with a two and a half car garage. Ron does his own landscaping and creates a beautiful garden. In 2012 Ron had a pole barn built to store more stuff. It is not an ordinary pole barn, but an architectural work of art, Clapboard siding, a cantilevered roof overhang, storage for his 5th wheel RV, plus a huge “man cave”. Now I really have the wrong



name here because Carole and Ron go out to the “man Cave” for morning coffee and do their Sudoku and cross word puzzles from the Windsor Star.

56 guests had appetizers when they arrived and sat around for lengthy chats. Later Ron cooked hamburgers and hot dogs to go with salads and desserts brought by the members. Meanwhile Tom Mallot was trying to get into the RV for a nap. Great time had by all. As Dan Reaume said; “Everyone enjoyed themselves. However, it would be good if we could encourage more members to participate where they would get to know more people and be involved in the club”.





Lone tin car parked by Hugh and Willie Pilon on way home from their trip.



The pole barn



The house

[Moe Dupuis knows how to say it on Vettes of Essex Kent Facebook](#) Great day for the annual Windsor corvette club bbq great food hanging with many great friends and enjoying a wonderful day .Special thanks to Ron and Carol Hillier for putting on the BBQ. It was a lot of hard work and greatly appreciated.

August 22, 2018

Wildwood Golf & RV Resort

Wildwood Golf Course, McGregor

Don't know whether to call this Jenny's or Lynda's "Not cooking tonight". Anyway, regardless of the name, it is dinner at Wildwood at 6:00 pm Wednesday, August 22.





August 23-26, 2018

Corvettes at Carlisle, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

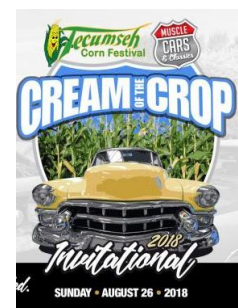
No information.

**CORVETTES at
CARLISLE**

August 26, 2018

Cream of the Crop Car Show presented by Town of Tecumseh and Muscle Cars & Classics, Tecumseh, Ontario

Presented by Muscle Cars & Classics, the Invitational Car Show showcased the best of the best classic and muscle cars in Windsor-Essex. The show included a variety of local-area celebrities and their vehicles. Participating cars and their owners were selected to join the event after attending various weekly cruise-ins and annual car shows from across Essex County. Invitations to the Cream of the



Crop Invitational strengthens the car show community by encouraging enthusiasts to display their vehicles at their best throughout the show season.

I spoke with Rob Menzies, owner of both Corvette Depot and Muscle Cars & Classics and he told me he had been approached by the Tecumseh Corn Fest committee to rejuvenate their annual car show and come up with something new. The Invitational concept made this come true. Rob told me 6 people went to about 30 local shows and cruise-ins to select 50 unique cars. I was one of 6 judges who each had to decide the merits of eight nearly perfect cars based on Show & Shine criteria. Let me tell you it was a task – I had two cars which both scored 84 out of 85 which just went to show the high calibre of these beautiful cars.



There were two dragsters featured in the celebrity tent and I chatted with the drivers. Chelsea, the older on the left, drives in Top ET and has posted speeds of 165 mph in the quarter mile.

Her sister, Carlie, centre in the left picture, drives the Junior dragster at 85 mph in one eighth quarter mile. They make up the driving portion of Duffy Girls Racing, competing mostly at Grand Bend. They do their own wrenching along with their father's help. Their home is in Amherstburg.



Jim Crichton displayed his 1966 Chrysler 300 convertible along with the 1956 Pontiac LaSalle police historical vehicle committee in the celebrity tent also. Jim Crichton told me that the title "Cream of the Crop" as a definition of these hand picked cars fits well with the name Tecumseh Corn Fest. As a "car guy" Jim appreciated the value of displaying the 50 best cars in our region which were all driven in to the show.



There were several "best" awards, plus favourites by Duffy Girls Racing, LaSalle Police Historical Vehicle Committee and Tecumseh Mayor McNamara. Jim Crichton acted as master of ceremonies.



Bill Darmon, owner Xcentric Motor Sports

Jim Chrichton, broadcaster, CTV News

Judges cars

Alex Chevalier, employee, Xcentric Motor Sports

50 of region's best in Cream of the Crop Invitational – notice display signs in front of each car



Corn Fest regular activities



August 27, 2018

Labour Day Car Show – Fogolar Furlan Club

Presented by RaceWindsor, JH Restorations, and Windsor District Labour Council.

No information besides the heavy heat and the lingering memories of that blistering day on the open fields of the Fogolar Furlon Club Labour Day show.

Labour Day Car Show
 Monday, September 17th, 2018
 Fogolar Furlan 3pm.
 SEPARATE CAR SHOW AREA
 \$5.00 DONATION
 RACEWINDSOR JH RESTORATIONS
 FREE Refreshments
 KIDS ACTIVITIES
 ENTERTAINMENT
 DOOR PRIZES
 DONATING CARS & PHOTO TAKING START AT 1PM
 For more information about this event or to become involved with any of Windsor's Great Shows, visit Auto Events Car Club At 818-842-7444.

August 31, 2018

Lynda organized a **club meal outing** at Sutton Creek Golf Club in Essex on Friday, August 31. They are one of our great sponsors! **Pictures by Lynda**



More pictures from Barry Renaud



September 2, 2018

Canadian Transportation Museum hosted their Automotive Flea Market & Festival of Cars but I have no further information.

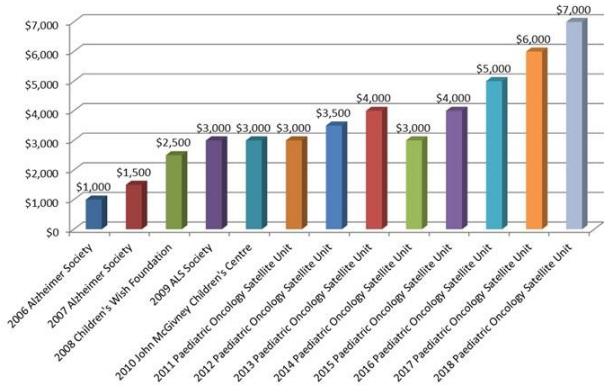
September 6, 2018

Hospital cheque presentation

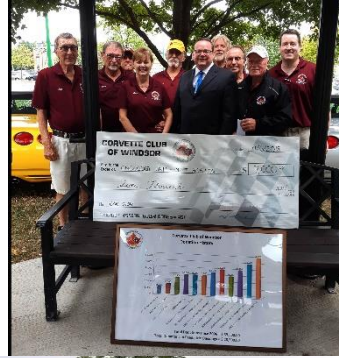
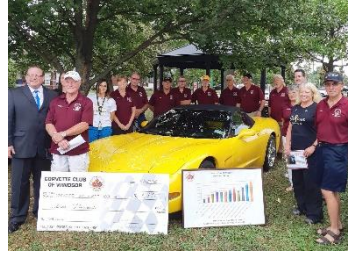
Donation day was September 6, 2018 at 11 am on the lawn in front of the hospital. We had 11 cars to support our donation of \$7,000.00.



Corvette Club of Windsor Donation History



Total Donations since 2006 = \$ 46,500.00
Total Donations to Paediatric Oncology = \$ 35,500.00



Pictures Gary McGuinness and Debbie A. Anderson – thanks.

September 8, 2018

8th annual Wheels on Wyandotte car show – Olde Riverside

Pictures by Barry Renaud





September 15, 2018

5th Annual Car Show

**Shine & Show on the water front
Stoney Point Sportsmans Club**



No information.

September 15, 2018



Full Service Automotive

HOT RODS & RACE CARS, CUSTOM/CLASSIC RESTORATION, MOTORCYCLES & CHOPPERS, KIT CARS, BODY/COLLISION REPAIR, CAR ARTWORK & FURNITURE, CAR AUDIO PRODUCTS & INSTALLATIONS, SPECIALTY PAINT & PIN-STRIPING

There were 15 member Corvettes at the Xcentrick Autosports Open House on Saturday, September 15.



We were given free reign to wander all around their complex, feasting on donuts and coffee provided by Xcentrick. I happened to overhear Marilyn Fahringer talking to Jessie Darmon, so I made some notes. Marilyn asked Jessie how long Xcentrick had owned this building and was told since 2013 and they had been in the vacated General Motors Transmission Plant building previously.

How the company started is an interesting story. Bill Darmon and his family are originally from Guelph (moved to the Windsor area in 1992) and Bill worked in the aerospace industry as well as racing stock cars at Flamboro and Cayuga. Bill even bought CASCAR from Tony Novotny from 99-01 which put a damper on his racing career. When living in St. Joachim, around 2006 or 2007, he and his son Chris got to build a 1937 Jaguar SS Convertible kit car in his home garage and the success of that project caused him to start a kit car and restoration business full time.



They now have a thriving "small family" business with 10 employees. Jessie, Bill's daughter, has a marketing background and performs administrative functions as the President of the Company. Chris, Bill's son, is Vice President, and is in charge of design for the company. Chris has grown up under the hood of a car and has even raced Open Wheel Modified cars at Delaware when he was younger. His specialty is designing and working on all of the fabrication, modification, body and paint needs, like their 1953 Buick convertible restoration. Bill Darmon is the Secretary/Treasurer and runs the sales side of the business.

Jessie escorted me through their shop. First there are metal working machines like lathe, brake, English wheel, MIG welders and loads of small tools. Next is a 10 bay mechanical shop almost full of project vehicles in various stages of work. Then there is the design and sewing station for upholstery work with the seats and door panels for the '53 Buick.

Now we come to the electrical and wiring section and what do we see here?



A 2012 Fisker Karma, owned by a local tool and mold proprietor.



They are installing Lamborghini door hinges, but there is no kit available for this car, so Chris has to modify the fenders and brackets to accommodate the swing up doors. True custom work.



Then we have several motorcycles – fat wheeled custom Harleys in various work stages. Bill has bought one that needs work after being laid over on it's side while at speed. Note here that Xcentrick is the high end custom paint supplier to Thunder Road Harley Davidson. They have access to an amazing custom artist for the airbrush work. Now we are in the paint shop where they mix PPG water based and chemical based paints. They even do textured finish for bed liners, wheel wells and trunk floors.

The body shop has frame off restorations undergoing full paint or special floor pan replacement and paint. The frame off body of a '65 Vette gleams in it's birthday suit. This car is being painted just like the original in that it is a bare body. Jessie told me that a frame off restoration takes 8 to 10 months to complete.



There is also a 1953 Buick Convertible which is being put back to 100% original, that is all except the upholstery. Story on the '53 is that it and a '56 Buick were bought from the wife in a divorce dispute for peanuts. Bill has a partner in the '53 restoration who is running all over finding only ORIGINAL parts for this job. The idea is to take this car to the Barrett-Jackson auction. Who knows what dollars it will bring!



Thanks to Ron and Barry for the pictures



September 16, 2018

Reaume Fall Car Cruise, Front Road LaSalle, ON

Show opens 9:00 am – Cruise 10:30



The boys and their toys get ready for the cruise.



Pedal to the metal ...errrrror plastic, except maybe the Model A !!!



September 16, 2018

Autocross Chatham – John D. Bradley Centre, Chatham., Ontario.

The Club had an invite from Bob Small’s friends at the Upper Canada Region of the Porsche Club of America to join in the fun on Sunday in Chatham. Sadly I have no more information.



September 18, 2018

"Jennies not cooking tonight" at Springwell Pub.

Sorry no information



September 19, 2018

Mid America Corvette Fun Fest, Effingham, Illinois



Dana and Doris Willis saw this car at the Mid America Funfest in Effingham Illinois on Saturday, September 19. Doris asked the lady who owns the car if it was wrapped. She said that her husband painted the car himself. The car is described by Doris as impeccable!



September 20, 2018

Sorry this is such a long story but there is so much to tell.

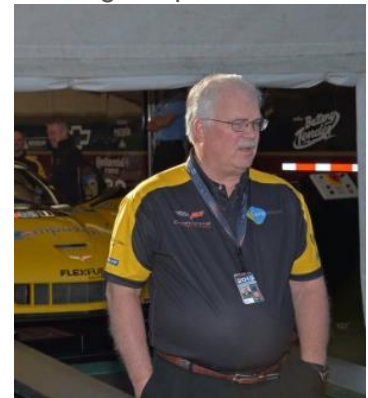
Pratt & Miller Engineering and Fabrication, also known as *Corvette Racing*, is an automotive company formed by *Gary Pratt* and *Jim Miller* in 1989. This is the company running the *Corvette Racing #3 and #4 yellow Corvettes* racing in the *IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship* and *#63 and #64 cars* in the *24 Hours of Le Mans*. They have won 8 times at Le Mans.

So when *Larry Courtney* told me about arranging a tour through *Pratt & Miller's* shop I had to be first on his list of 30 lucky folks to go. As I drove into the parking lot I was greeted and told where to park by *Tim Ryan*, director of Security and Safety. Later I was to learn the importance of security to this operation. I entered the lobby where there are several race cars and models on display. They have literally run out of window sill space to display, my guess, a couple of hundred trophies. Not just small ones but major wins and manufacturer championships at places like *Le Mans*. There are also a bunch of guitars from their *IMSA* wins.



Here I was greeted by two ladies, *Lisa* and *Chantelle*. *Lisa* has worked for *Pratt & Miller* for 12 ½ years and she told me it was a great place to work. She told me they have been in this building since around 2003 after they moved from *Wixom*. We then spent a half an hour listening to and questioning *Gary Pratt*, VP and team manager, on the details of his business. It was now that I learned that the facility is a lot more than a “shop”. We were

in the Headquarters building which is dedicated to Motorsports. Within a very short distance are two other buildings, one on *Grand River* where they do prototype development for the military and the third on *Trident* where they do Robotics. Today we were only seeing the Motorsports section.



On the lobby walls there is a pictorial of their progression through the various brands of race cars, *Pontiac Oldsmobile* etcetera until they get to “*Corvette Racing*”. Their current program is now in its 20th year. In 1998 they started with *C5s* and there has been a continuity of the program since 2002. Interesting to note they promote from within. Their racing *Crew Chief* now runs the manufacturing department. They have developed a lifetime of “real world” experiences. They learned a while back that they needed more engineering assistance. Starting with one engineer they now have 155 on the payroll. Team execution is key. Development of spares, technology and engineering is critical to performance. They

have a practice pit stop area with wall which we would see later in our tour. I was told everything is secret and nobody tells the truth. One example was development of faster pit stops where they did not practice in front of the competition at *Le Mans* before the race and then had the *BMW Crew Chief* bug eyed with disbelief during the race. Of course by the next race everybody had copied the development learned from the *Corvette Racing* team.

We also learned about strategy. It was better for the team to have 5 second place finishes in a row and win the manufacturer's championship than to battle for a first place, possibly wreck, and even if won a first it would not be enough. Now as I said earlier there are several hundred trophies on display. We then learned more about the engine mods. Basically it is a LS7 block with the bottom cut off to suit the dry sump. It also has different main cap support and General Motors performance cylinder heads. They have great support from GM Powertrain. In the racing environment they are controlled by things like fuel delivery, oxygen sensors, etcetera to obtain their homologation certificate. Engines are stripped down to make sure that everything complies. This is what happened in France.

Another feature that was on display in the two story lobby was the models. These look to be about 25% full size and are used for wind tunnel testing. Other items where they were looking for that unique advantage were items such as refueling. They found out they could dispense fuel 3 seconds faster if they lowered the fuel intake point so that the pressure increase would improve delivery by 3 seconds. This practice was then changed by the rules committee.



We were then split into two groups and Dan Binks was our leader.

Dan Binks is the Crew Chief of Corvette Racing and sometimes he is in a dilemma when asked to loan say the 2005 Le Mans trophy. Where is it in all the multitude of gold on the window sills. He has come a long way through the race car ranks from driving a bug eyed Sprite. We were told that a used C5 race car was worth \$1 million dollars now when it originally cost about \$150 thousand.

He emphasized how the team had won 8 times at Le Mans. If they can win a 3rd year at Le Mans over Ford it will be a true feather, especially in Dan's cap, since he had worked with the Rausch crew on Ford race cars. Talk about trophies, in 2001 they had a wooden display cabinet built that would maybe hold 20 trophies. Now they have walls and window sills full of trophies, maybe 200 or more.



We then were escorted in to the design area of the business. Starting with the base car they have to re-engineer nearly everything within the rules and safety criteria and get the vehicle weight down by about 800 pounds to 2850 pounds. There is a complete design department with engineers to do this. Pratt & Miller works in conjunction with Chevrolet Engineering and they have access to all of their computer-aided design & drafting software. Here Jeremy Faus, who is in charge of design, showed us the 3D CAD drawings of the base chassis. The rules allow movement of suspension mounting points to be modified up to 25 mm. The computer simulations show the team exactly what the aerodynamics, modifications, fascia and under body will look like. The objective is to be as light as possible but still retain safety. The body components are made with carbon fibre and the roll cage with chromoly steel tubing. This combination proved controversial because they could not find a reliable way to fuse the aluminum chassis to the steel roll cage. They had to develop a unique Morse joint connection which was reliable and structurally sound. The aluminum part was attached to the frame and the male steel tapered part was inserted the aluminum and then welded to the steel cage. We also were shown crash simulations on the computer. The engineers here could visualize and predict exactly what would happen in a mishap. Here we learned the motto strong enough and light enough to do the job. Reliability is critical. It costs about \$10,000 per hour to run a race car – people, fuel, parts etc.

Next came a complete machine shop where they create components for the cars. We then moved on into a large garage area for tear down and build-up of several race cars. This is an example of a perfect garage: clean; organized; and very orderly. There were the two Corvette Racing Corvettes, the real ones, as well as a couple of new build Camaros. There also was the pit stop training centre where they practice all year round. The standard is change 4 tires in 13 seconds with only 4 guys over the wall. As I said earlier they practice 500 times a year, develop the best technique, video and time all movement. We were told it is sort of like the ballet and dance lessons. There was also a rack with the driver's nomex all on hangers. They change front brakes twice and the rears once at the 24 Hours of Le Mans race. Front brakes are good for about 8 hours and the rears about 16 hours. I think they told me they could change pads and rotors on both front brakes in about 34 seconds. Wow!! Complete set carbon fibre brakes which would last a complete 24 hour race would cost

\$50K, however, the rules do not allow this. For the standard pads they run exhaustive durability tests to find the best product. They also practice driver change procedure so everyone knows where they should be placed and not interfere with the tire change or other operations going on.



Interesting picture on the wall in the lobby showing the crowd from the podium at one of the 8 wins at Le Mans.

A couple of other unique features on these cars is the race cars use a smaller transmission than the original Corvette. It is unique in that it uses paddles under the steering wheel that control a "clutchless" air shift. To accomplish a clutchless shift the computer stumbles the

engine for the up shift and blips the throttle for the down shifts. The steering wheel resembles a television remote control in that it has about 12 buttons for communication and driver control.

When you look at the roof of the race car there are the three driver's names painted on, but there is also a fourth name tag. It belongs to a boy with cancer whose "Make a Wish" request was to be associated with the Corvette Racing team. His name will stay on the car all year plus they took the race cars to his house where he could show off to all of his friends and neighbours.

We saw a military prototype vehicle which was pretty imposing. Also in this area was a brand new C7.R being prepared to go the FIA World Endurance Championship in Shanghai, China. The car, supplies and crew are going to fly to China, They have 60 tons of equipment going.

I have been to, worked in, and seen many race cars facilities, but this is the most advanced and sophisticated shop I have ever seen, More than impressive. Thanks again for the experience. Continued good luck to Corvette Racing.



<<<Running hard



<<<Secrets displayed



Ouch !!!!! >>>

September 20, 2018



Monthly club meeting at Central Park Athletics was started promptly at 6:30 pm. Brian Popp was recognized as a new member. Pizza party/meeting to be at Boston Pizza on Manning Road Thursday, November 15 at 6:00 pm. Reminder of Christmas party on November 30 – bring unwrapped toys valued



at \$25 or less for kids under 15 – 50/50 boys and girls. Cost \$35.00 – get back \$10.00 when attend. Shirts, hats etc will be available for pick up at Corvette Depot on Saturday, September 22. Cars to meet 9:30 to 9:45 am at Corvette Depot on Tecumseh Road East. There were 15 Club cars at Xcentric Motor Sports open house. Les read the minutes from the last meeting. Ron Jeffery received another welcome back after his heart surgery. Brian reported about the \$7200 donation to the hospital. He said none of the kids could come out but he handed out hats to relevant family members. Marilyn sent the information to the Windsor Star for a story. Gary gave the financial report. The club needs a Registration Coordinator as Ron has resigned. Ed Jones, Lynda Reaume and Bob Small to work with Ron, but they are



looking for more help. There will be an orientation meeting to assist volunteers in taking over the position. Richard going to CCCC meeting and will advise them we will not be doing a sanctioned event for 2019, unless we can get the registration organized. Larry Courtney's Corvettes on the Island on Sunday September 23 are to meet at the Tunnel Duty Free at 9:00 am. Sunday September 30 car show in Ruthven. Meet at CTC in Essex at 7:30. We were advised that club member Dennis Hill's cancer has returned. Peter had two posters from Pratt Miller Corvette Racing to hand out. Lucky draw winners were Richard and Brian, Lynda is contacting locals in Tennessee and North Carolina to check on conditions following the hurricane regarding our Tale of the Dragon trip in October.



September 22, 2018

Rob Menzies, a Corvette Club of Windsor member, is the owner of Corvette Depot, which supplies restoration parts and accessories for Corvettes. Rob also has a division called Muscle Cars and Classics providing supplies for all the tin muscle and classic cars. Unfortunately I could not get to the Corvette Depot open house until after lunch, so I missed most of the fun and about half the cars. Nice event with local cruise in display of local show cars; discounted apparel & accessories; door prizes & giveaways; and discounts on food and drinks, well attended by club members.





September 23, 2018

Corvettes on the Island - Belle Isle, Detroit

Some of our members met at the Tunnel Duty Free to attend Larry Courtney's new event called "Corvettes on the Island" taking place on Belle Isle in Detroit in the same paddock area used for the Detroit Grand Prix.



I have no more information.

September 29, 2018

Rayzer Automotive annual car show and BBQ, North Talbot Road, Windsor.

A handful of cars met at Tim Hortons on Walker Road and travelled down to Rayzer Automotive, early enough to get all cars parked together.

**RAYZER
AUTOMOTIVE**



There were a number of unique cars present - Porsche, Ferrari, Lamborghini, a new ZR1, mustangs, vettes and many other performance vehicles.

Ray was very appreciative for our support as a club at the show and thanked us for it.

I believe this was one of the largest shows he has presented in recent history.

Lots of raffle ticket prizes were distributed.

Good weather and enjoyable day.

Ron Packer

September 30, 2018

Ruthven Apple Fest Car Show – S&S Storage beside Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Ruthven

Cars met at Canadian Tire in Essex for run down Hwy 3.

No information.

September 30, 2018

As many of you know, a boy named Kaleb Houle in Windsor was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer for the 3rd time in 4 years. The car community in Windsor/Essex held a fundraiser car show at St. Clair Shores Plaza help the family. There was a barbecue, 50/50 draw, and donation box.



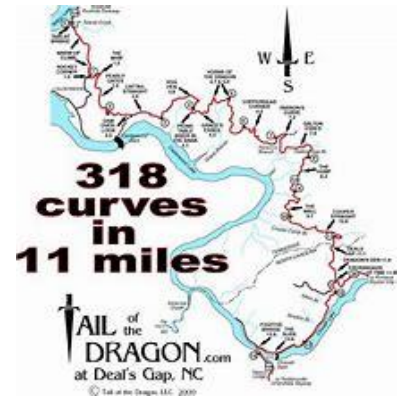
No information.

Upcoming Events

October 11, 2018

Tail of the Dragon Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

There are 12 Member cars plus 6 Legends (Detroit) member cars heading down to Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina to take in the Tail of the Dragon and some other beautiful roads.



Cautionary "tale" (couldn't resist) about driving the Dragon. Don't race, don't go faster than your sight line ahead of you, and most of all, don't cross the yellow line.... Be safe! per Mike Giroux referring to the accident between a Triumph Thunderbird and a Corvette convertible after crossing over a double yellow centre line on US-129 in Tennessee – Tale of the Dragon 5 years ago. Don't let this put you off our trip, just follow Mike's rule – "Be Safe!".





Cartoons & Sayings





Love it, or hate it. What do you think?



Corvette general news

Who says the mid-engine C8 can't fly ? Try this at Nürburgring !



Hidden secrets

Happy Birthday, Corvette! America's Sports Car Turned 65 on June 30, 2018

Here are some pictures of the original Corvette assembly line at the Flint truck plant. There are no fancy conveyors and utilizes wooden carriers running along rails. I have seen better in the old Willys Plant in Toledo and Henry Ford sure had better in the early 1900's, but then they were building a lot more than 300 cars a year. How Corvette has progressed!





They kept everything simple then – 2 door convertible, Polo white, 150 hp 235 cu in (3.9 L) Blue Flame in-line six (16), 3 Carter sidedraft carburetors, 2 speed Powerglide automatic transmission – list price \$3,498.00. Only two options – AM radio, signal seeking \$145.15 and heater \$91.40.

True example of KISS principle.

'Glass Condolences



How sad it is.....



C5 Corvette Crashes in Newfoundland

By
[Keith Cornett](#)

Jun 15, 2018



Photo Credit: [Earl Noble / VOXM.com](#)

Up north in the Canadian province of Newfoundland, emergency workers responded on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm to a [single car crash](#) involving a red C5 Corvette convertible.

The crash occurred along Waterford Bridge Road in St. John, NL just past the Corpus Christi Church.

Luckily, the male driver and female passenger were uninjured in the crash, but the same can't be said about the Corvette.

The driver lost control of the Corvette when jumped the sidewalk and hit a sign before coming to rest in the middle of the road. Debris from the crash was scattered nearly 100 feet and the hood, fender and front bumper were torn from the sportscar. The accident also completely sheared the driver's side rear wheel leaving just the middle section of the wheels still attached to the car.

No word if the driver was ticketed or charged by authorities.



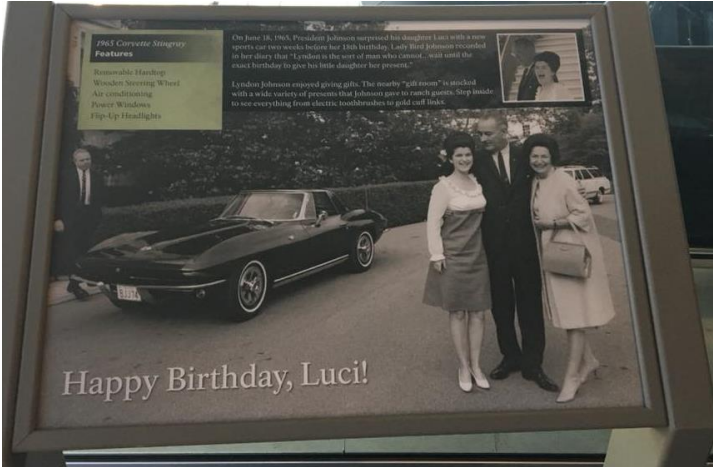
Photo Credit: [Earl Noble / VOCM.com](#)

Tips and other Fix It ideas

There goes the Bear (Barry Renaud) doing more yard work! LOL.



Lucy Bains Johnson and 65 LUCI



Thanks to
Brenda Myers



Pick me up in your C4 Vette pick up! Bar.



Back at you Bar

Now this is a Mako Shark - X2 Thanks again Barry Renaud



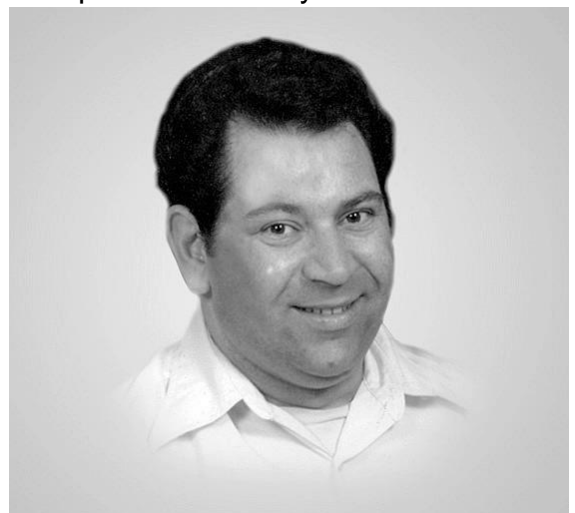
Condolences

Club member Ken Gray's father passed away and he wished me to post the obituary.

Kenneth GRAY

GRAY, Kenneth Benjamin Sr.

Peacefully on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at the Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital, Warren Campus at the age of 76 with family by his side. Ken Sr., longtime companion of the late Laurel (July 12, 2018). Cherished father of Ken



(Tomoko) and Abby-Jo (Montreal). Beloved grandpa “GPG” of Chloe and Samuel Belanger and Bruce, Benjamin and Bianca Gray. Dear brother of James (Skip)(the late Dolores), Donald (Donny of California), Edward (Barbara), Michael (Anne), Gregory (Elise), Joyce Furlong(the late Tony), Patricia Holden (the late Tom), Darlene (Sue of Massachusetts) and the late Beverly Tsukayama (Bob), Patty and Pam. Sadly missed by many nieces and nephews in Canada and the United States. Veteran of both Canadian and American Armed Forces. Worked for ICL cartage for 22 Years and Wayne County Correctional Facility for 15 years. Ken will be sadly missed by all those whose lives he has touched.

Visitation will take place at the

VICTORIA GREENLAWN FUNERAL HOME

1525 Hwy #3 Oldcastle, ON

519-969-3939

on Sunday, September 2, 2018

Peter Roberts editor



Club Executive Committee

President: Dan Reaume

Vice President: Ron Jeffery

Treasurer: Gary McGuinness

Membership Director: Bob Small

Web Master: Dane Kelly

Recording Secretary: Les Tetler

Activity Directors: Ed Jones

& Lynda Reaume

Corresponding Secretary: Ron Packer

Merchandise Coordinator: Tom Malott

Quad C Representative: Richard Neal

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