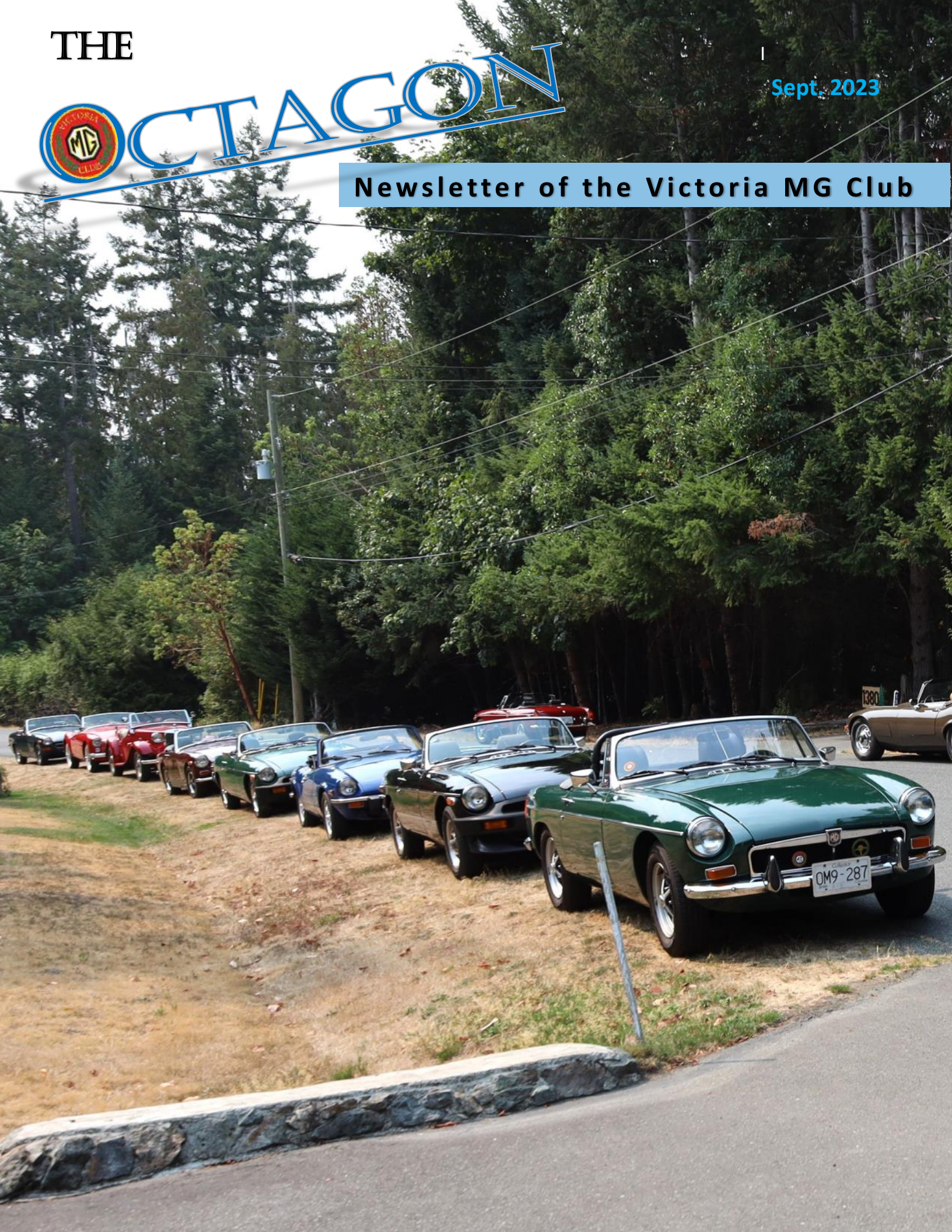


THE

OCTAGON

Sept. 2023

Newsletter of the Victoria MG Club





INDEX

Page	
2	Index, Club Executive & Information
3	Editor's View
4	The Driver's View President's Message
5/6	Garden Tour
7	Vancouver Pre 1956 MG unClub
8/9	Abbotsford BC Car Show
10	On the Road MG 2023 in Calgary Newspaper Artical
11	The Question!
12/13	MG Dancing Girls - Answer
14	Classifieds
15	The Road Ahead
16	Regalia
17	Membership

PLEASE— Mark events on your Calendars

Cover Photo: Line-up at the Garden Train Residence (Patricia)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Penny Cox

**Thanks to the following for their contributions to this month's newsletter
Ken Lockley, Malcom Baster, Randy Slade, Malcolm Ives, Stu Moore,
Eric Williamson, Richard Turner, Terry McFarlane**

*Extraction from the Societies Act Constitution of
THE VICTORIA MG CLUB"*

The purpose of the society is:

1. a) To promote the enjoyment of MG cars:
- b) To encourage the preservation, maintenance and use of MG cars and:
- c) To conduct gatherings of a sporting or social nature for enthusiasts of the MG marque
- d) To encourage involvement of British and other marques in the Club

EXECUTIVE

President

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president@victoriامجclub.ca

Vice-President

Gayle Adams

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Historian

Position Vacant

NOTM Ice Cream Runs

(North of the Malahat)

Malcolm Baster
spmanor@msn.com

OCTAGON DEADLINE:

Submissions:

Cut-off - 10th of the Month

Ads: 2 month maximum unless renewed.

NO PDF's please - they are not that easy to process.

Please use a Word type program





Hi all,

Well, this has certainly been a busy summer for our club and weather-wise it has been great. I am sure that that will soon change and we will once again be rained upon — the ground certainly needs it.

Yesterday we went to the OECC event at Enrico Winery. As per usual the venue was excellent .. everyone had a good time. I am looking forward to receiving photos and putting a story into the next edition of The Octagon for you.

On Oct. 1st the venue will be at The Cowichan Valley Marine Center. This center is very active in the building and restoration of older boats (rather than cars). They have an incredible workshop and their skills are amazing. To me, this is the heart of the center and it is a great place to visit and learn. If you are able to come out on this run, you will much more than likely find it a very informative and enjoyable experience.

The news the other evening truly caught my eye, when they played the video of a gentleman who took his African Watusi Bull for a ride in his car. This story has gone right around the globe—it really is both amazing and funny. (It would have been even funnier if we had seen this on the freeway whilst we were in Calgary!!!)

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a44974511/police-pull-over-ford-with-bull-inside/>

If you click on the above link (or paste) you will get the best link about the episode. According to his wife, there is a bond between the owner and the bull, strange but true.

In the meantime, if you have something you wish to share with others please send it along. It was wonderful getting the piece from member Richard Turner re the photos he purchased in Australia. (Ref: Pg.11). I did not hear from anyone regarding this, but Derrick dug out his MG Books and we found a terrific piece regarding the 'ladies' and the MG race cars.

We hope to see you on the next planned runs. So, from the above note, 'looking forward to seeing y'all real soon!!',

Safe Motoring,

Patricia Sparks Editor





The Driver's View!

VMGC Presidents Message: September 2023

Well, it would appear that the summer is coming to an end. Hopefully we will get some rain in this area.

As a club we have had a great summer with lots of events. Lots of members participating in events, and best of all we've had some great drives in areas that many of us have not driven in before and discovery of places I'm sure we will in the future revisit or drive the same route.

The Garden Railway was an amazing place for us to visit and the event had a great turn out of members. It is amazing some of the things that we see on these trips and the amount of work and time that people put into their hobbies.

The trip to Gayle's summer place was great and very well attended. It was a perfect day!!

On a Side issue our backyard project is coming along and thinking about the note above I realize we have put a lot of time into the backyard! Once the cooler weather sets in, that will hopefully give me time to work on cars in the workshop.

I will keep this short this time around as I have to get to the store and buy some eavestrough that I need for the backyard project. Rain will come eventually!

Drive Safe and make every drive the perfect drive"

Malcolm



CLUB VISIT TO A “GARDEN TRAIN” LAYOUT



Heather—checking things out!



Workers constructing new buildings



A movie crew hard at work



Our Hosts



Keep an eye on the tracks



The Group: including our hosts Werner & Ingrid, who graciously offered to let us enjoy their amazing layout—mostly self made train set, parts, buildings, effects, and what have you. All the little trees, bushes, etc., are plants and Werner prunes them to be kept to scale for the set, Werner is not only a gardener, but an amazing engineer, who loves the challenge and knows how to get it right! A big thankyou to our hosts, and to Ken for arranging the event. *(Missing, Jordon & Son who left early—total 23 participants, plus hosts)*

AUGUST 20 /23 TOUR:

By Ken Lockley—Events Chair

What a fun day we had, starting with just six cars from “Tims” up town location but gather more cars as we head North on West Saanich Rd. We ended up with 13 cars at Werner and Ingrid’s Oceanspray Drive home. Our host welcomed our club members and we all had a interesting time seeing the creative craftsmanship that Werner has put into this Garden Gauge layout. The mixture of pictures below show off what we saw and the fun at all made.

The day was finished off with a meal at “ Mary’s Blue Moon “ café. This facility has really worked well for the club twice this year. Thanks Gayle for doing the food arrangements .



Below: Werner explaining the cog rail-road climbing to a high elevation in a short distance



Werner accepting our Club Mug as a thankyou gift for hosting our members . Thanks Werner!!!



“Vancouver Pre-1956 MG UnClub” *By Eric Williamson*



Lineup at the Crow and Gate

This group of guys and gals are a loose association of enthusiasts of pre-56 MG's whose Head Cat Herder is Colin Fitzgerald of Octagon Motors fame. The group calls themselves the Vancouver Pre-1956 MG UnClub.

August 23rd revealed a band of T Type enthusiasts thundering off their respective ferries to meet at the Crow and Gate pub for lunch. Three and a half hours later after considerable banter mostly outside in the car park we wended our way to their hotel in Chemainus.



12 cars at Cow Bay (only part of group can be seen)

The next day we drove through Cowichan Bay and stopped for an impromptu car show of our 12 marvels which drew quite the crowd. We had a J2, TC's, TD's and TF's in the gathering. We then wended our way to the Fox and Hounds, Ladysmith, for more food! Everyone parted in good cheer and I was left somewhat smug as I did not have to do battle with BC Ferries.



Marshall blower on a TC.

What a nice bunch of people, very knowledgeable and a great resource.

Eric Williamson

ABBOTSFORD B.C., CAR SHOW

Photos & Story by Malcolm Baster

The first 7 pics are at Douglas Park, the next page shows the
Movie Set and Story



Story Overleaf:

ABBOTSFORD B.C., CAR SHOW cont:....



[This photo is taken at the International Movie Services](#)

The Abbotsford BC Car Show which I recently attended during Heritage Weekend in Langley. This is an annual event staged by the combined Canadian XK Jaguar Register and Canadian Classic MG Club, and I must say it was very enjoyable.

It started with a welcome reception on Friday evening at the Langley Jaguar Land Rover dealership. Then Saturday saw many gleaming, shining MGs and Jaguars on the display field at Douglas Park. After that we had a tour of the Canadian Museum of Flight at Langley airport where I was allowed to blast around the skies of southern England (in a simulated sort of manner) in a Mk 9 Spitfire, and sit in the cockpit of a (real!) F104 Starfighter and pretend like mad.

After the show came the big banquet and a very informative talk by a member of the MG half of the club about MG's motorsports history. On Sunday we all went to Aldergrove for a picnic on the grounds of International Movie Services, a business owned by a member of the Jaguar part of the club.

The company rents military and law enforcement items to movie companies and can supply everything from tanks to shoes. A three storey building houses thousands of military uniforms from the 18th century to today. The inventory available is quite staggering.

Then off to the ferry and home.

Malcolm Baster

(Definitely a must-do for next year's VMGC events! Ed)

On the Road: MG2023 in Calgary

Annual convention of legendary sports cars attracted participants from across North America

Author of the article: [Greg Williams](#)

Pub: Aug 12, 2023 <https://driving.ca/newsletters/>

Photo: [Duncan MacFarlane](#)

Link to Calgary News/ Driving.ca article is:

<https://driving.ca/column/on-the-road/on-the-road-mg2023-in-calgary>

Permission to reproduce obtained from Managing Editor, Postmedia/Driving

In mid-July Calgary was overrun by MGBs. Well, perhaps not quite overrun, but more than 160 MGs — and not all of them B models — congregated in the city to attend MG2023.

“Every year, the North American MGB Register runs a convention somewhere in the U.S. or Canada,” says John Towler, vice-president of the Calgary MG Car Club, an affiliated NAMGBR chapter. “This year it was our turn to host. We were actually supposed to do it in 2020, but it was cancelled due to COVID.”

In 2022, the NAMGBR’s 30th anniversary convention was held in Peterborough, Ontario. At these MG conventions, enthusiasts fly in from around the world, or drive or trailer their MGs, to participate in sharing the love of products built by Morris Garage. Vancouver Island MGB aficionado Terry MacFarlane drove his 1969 MGB last year to the convention in Peterborough, putting more than 7,000 miles on the odometer round trip. This year, he drove the same car to Calgary from his West Coast base. “I started with a 1956 MGA in 1960,” MacFarlane says. “I drove it for four years and used it both as a racer and a daily driver, competing at the Westwood circuit in Vancouver.”

After selling that MGA, MacFarlane waited a few years before buying a brand new MGB in 1973. He kept and drove that MGB for 12 years before selling it, and then focused on sailing. “When we sold the 27-foot Cat-

alina sailing vessel, I bought this latest MGB, a 1969 model, from a seller on Gabriola Island,” MacFarlane explains.

The car had been restored and painted some 40 years previously but had been parked for close to 20 years when MacFarlane picked it up. While the body was in OK condition, mechanically it needed updating. “It needed brakes, and I rebuilt the engine and rebuilt the transmission with an overdrive,” MacFarlane says, and adds, “I’m 82 now, and don’t do as much crawling around underneath but do enjoy some of the assembly work.” What he thoroughly enjoys is driving his MGB, relishing the opportunity for long road trips. The Peterborough excursion last year went off without a hitch. This year’s journey to Calgary was relatively uneventful, too, but “the only issue I had was one of the three windshield wiper blades parted company.”

Thank you to the Editor of “**Driving**” section of the Calgary Herald, who gave me permission to reprint Greg Williams’ very interesting story about VMGC member Terry MacFarlane and his car.

Approximately 170 British cars arrived at Heritage Park to take part in the show that was part of the North American MGB Register’s annual convention, MG2023, hosted by the Calgary MG Car Club. **The Calgary Car Club**, which is about the same size as ours, did an outstanding job. Our thanks to everyone.

Patricia, Editor

Terry wrote to say:

I like to drive my MGB and put approx. 2,100 MILES on my car for this trip. Previously I participated in the BRBC Run and put on 1,800 MILES. All in all the car performed ‘excellent’. However one little problem

while it was raining my driver's wiper blade was coming apart, the rubber blade was slowly sliding out of it's frame. I had to stop and remove the whole wiper, and swap it with the passenger blade. Yah I got wet. “*Boo hoo*”, says Terry!



Two photos submitted - The answer to the great question!



The two photos shown are prints purchased in Australia by member, Richard Turner.

The first shows what was, apparently, a day's production of MG's.

The second print, not as well known, is of racing cars and Richard writes: -

“This is a print I picked up in an antique fair in Australia - any ideas from MG members where and what this is. I am told one of the ladies was a famous actress”. Richard Turner.

(See the History and answer on the Next two pages} Ed.



**The following is another photo of Racing - (The rear car has “Austin” on the Grill}. This photo was probably taken at the Killarney Race Track near Cape Town, S.A., (which was sand in the early days). Table Mountain is in the background . Patricia, Ed.
(Thanks for track i.d. help from Doreen Hall in Salmon Arm Story Next Page)**



News story found in the Revs Institute website: <https://revsinstitute.org/news/mgs-dancing-daughters/>

News & Stories

MG's Dancing Daughters

Apr 26, 2019

In the News



By Morris Cooper

The 1939 Le Mans race car "Leonidis" that has a home at Revs Institute and its historic connection to the Collier family makes it fitting to recall the rather bold move by MG to enter three new 847cc PA cars in the 1935 running of the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

What better way was there for MG to put the brand front and center in the minds of the public than to have these cars driven by six accomplished women racers. And the Revs connection? C. Miles Collier (father of Revs Institute founder Miles C. Collier) attended that Le Mans race and later purchased one of those three MG PAs.

Captain George E.T. Eyston was chosen to head up MG's 1935 all-women Le Mans team, which was initially called "George's Young Ladies," but was later made famous by the media as "Eyston's Dancing Daughters."

Eyston was a World War I hero and a very accomplished MG race driver. He had raced at Le Mans in 1928 and 1929 and also held a high-speed endurance record. Eyston later captured the 1937-1938 land speed record of 357.5 mph, which he wrested from Malcolm Campbell's famous Blue Bird.

His job was to put together a successful team of six women racing three identical MGs. One journalist had named Eyston's team the "Dancing Daughters" after the very popular MGM silent film of that name — the movie that first made Joan Crawford a Hollywood star — although other reports suggest the nickname was derived from a then-popular variety (vaudeville) act.

Either way, the Dancing Daughters had an impressive finish of 24th, 25th, and 26th in that 1935 Le Mans race, covering 1,576 miles in a field in which 29 cars did not finish. The only repair required during the entire race for all three MGs was a single tail light bulb.

In those days, the night section of the 24-hour race was particularly dangerous. One writer has described the headlights on these cars as being less powerful than the flashlight app on an iPhone. Facing challenges like that, these remarkable women proved themselves as serious racing talent, and they gave the MG PA the reputation of being so bulletproof that they could be driven all night...by women!

Paired two-to a race car, the talented racers were:

Margaret Allen and Coleen Eaton

Doreen Evans and Barbara Skinner

Joan Richmond and Joan Simpson.

Their efforts were laudable, but soon after the Dancing Daughters' victorious return to England, MG's William Morris (Lord Nuffield) closed the racing division, and labor strikes in France cancelled the 1936 Le Mans.

After the race, the MGs were upgraded to PB specification by boring out the engine to 939cc, which is why the car is now designated PA/PB. Chassis 1167 was then purchased by C. Miles Collier in 1935 and a Marshall supercharger was fitted per his request. The car served as his personal daily driver until it had a collision with a New York taxi. Collier then had the MG redesigned with the help of John Oliveau in 1937 and fitted with a new aerodynamic body. A year later Collier won the Automobile Racing Club of America's "Round the Houses" race at Alexandria Bay, NY. In 1939, Collier returned to Le Mans, this time to race the MG, which was likely named after the Spartan warrior King Leonidas, with his friend and co-driver Lewis Welch. After a promising start in the French classic, a ruptured fuel tank seam forced the team to withdraw the car from competition in the 8th hour of the race.

Many very famous race drivers began their careers in MGs, and the brand was honored by the 2018 Amelia Island Concours as "practically the founding marque of American sports car racing." Among the stellar MG racers of yore are the Collier brothers, Briggs Cunningham, Phil Hill, John Fitch, Ken Miles, Carroll Shelby and Richie Ginther. And, of course, the six Dancing Daughters.

Editor notes:

It took me awhile, plus with Derrick's help by hauling out the most relevant MG Books he could give me to read, I was able to piece together MG's Dancing Daughters, then went into Mrs. Google to find out all about them, never expecting to learn that the team was named after the silent film of that same name, which had starred Joan Crawford. So the people in the photo are not movie stars, but are the three drivers (seated), 3 co-drivers (standing & wearing their white, beige and black coveralls) Mr. Eyston, and an unknow gentleman behind and Mr. Eyston.

Patricia . Ed.

MG's Dancing Daughters

Continued

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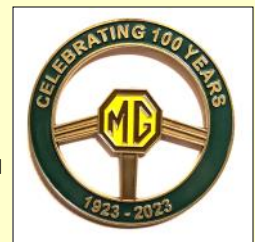
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As this is the 100th Anniversary of the MG—and we are the MG Club—we encourage questions/ answers or an article on the MG (any model). A wonderful way to remember little (or big) events that helped to create the MG Car (maybe your car) that we still love today

.....

Please continue to send in interesting questions, happenings, or items that you come across.



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR THOSE THAT MAY BE INTERESTED IN GOING TO THIS NAMGAR Event, the MGA, which is the featured mark in this group, has given us the following information. (Please remember that all MG Marques are welcome to attend!)

July 15 - 19, 2024 GT – 49, Welches, Oregon, U.S.A.

It is time to let your members know that next year's GT will be in the Pacific Northwest. This such a beautiful area of the country you don't want to miss it. There is no time like the present to start planning for next year's GT. Make sure you share the date and location with your club members. Keep abreast and up-to-date by following the NAMGAR website at www.namgar.com



NAMGAR - North American MGA Registry



Planned runs for the MG CLUB:

- Sep/27 **Ice Cream Run Get Together**, (this event is in the Cowichan Valley)
For those that would like to enjoy a Wednesday afternoon Ice Cream Run, we will meet at the North east corner of the Valleyview Mall (corner Trans Canada Hwy and Cowichan Bay Rd, for a 3:00 pm departure. Destination: Sweet Meadows Market - Or if you wish, you can join us at the destination.
Contact: Malcolm Baster e: spmanor@msn.com Taking care of business—North of the Malahat!
- Oct.1/23 **Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre** (guided) Reopened after months of renos.
Lunch next door at the Vine Restaurant. Deck overlooking Cowichan Bay.
- Nov.5/23 Club celebration of “Guy Fawkes” 4PM– 7:30 PM at Heather and Randy’s Home .
Pot Luck dinner—Please bring your own BBQ items. A group drive to Randy’s will be organized
- Dec/10 **1—4:00 p.m. Club Christmas Luncheon** . 6 Mile Pub location Voted on at August General Meeting.
Prices and Menu will be forthcoming
- Jan. 1/ 24 **Annual New year’s Burn**

OCTOBER 1/23 Directions:

We will meet at the Western end of the Juan de Fuca Rec Center parking lot at 9:45 AM with a start at 10:00 AM. Malahat Drive to the Cowichan Bay turnoff. We’ll park as close as we can to the “Maritime Centre” for an 11 am opening. Upisland drivers can meet us at the Centre. We plan on using The Vine Restaurant, which is next door, for Lunch. Any changes in plans will be sent to you 4-5 days before the event.

Events Team: Chair: Ken Lockley - Gayle Adams and Stu Moore.

Ken www.events@victoriamgclub.ca

Stu www.membership@victoriamgclub.ca

Please let the team know if you have an ideas on things you would like to see or do.

REGALIA

Name Badges

Always \$ 7.50



Ball Caps

\$ 25.00

Call Stu for info. 250-588-8682 They can be ordered.



Jacket

14 \$ 10.00



Grille Badges

17 \$ 15.00



M.G. Mugs

3 \$ 15.00



100 Year Grille Badge

2 \$ 22.00



Stu has contacted a company
that can embroidery the badges
onto shirts

NAME BADGES ARE VERY HELPFUL AT CLUB EVENTS

PAYING BY E-TRANSFER:

You now have this option.

E-Transfer your \$25.00 directly to:

treasurer@victoriangclub.ca

We have auto deposit for the club account - no password required

PAYING BY CHEQUE:

\$25.00, made out to the **VICTORIA MG CLUB**

Please fill out the following form and mail it, together with your cheque

to: **VMGC, c/o R. Draeseke,**

405—105 Gorge Rd East V9A 6Z3 Victoria, B.C.

IF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES PLEASE EMAIL

membership@victoriangclub.ca Thanks a million. (Follow the Application Form on this page.)

Victoria MG Club Membership Renewal and Application Form

PAYING BY CHEQUE:

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner Name: _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

e-mail Address _____

Partner e-mail Address _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Cell: _____

Club Use Vehicle(s): _____

We have an on-line membership list which is NOT TO BE USED for solicitation, or distributed to non-members. It is meant for communication by Club Members only. So, by applying for, or renewing membership in the VMGC, I agree that I will not use other members' personal information for any commercial purpose. Please accept my/our membership application/renewal



Always happy to oblige, Stu is at the ready if you want to sign up and become a member!!

New Memberships are always welcome!

The runs are happening!!

Keep well,
Stay Safe

Stu:- membership@victoriangclub.ca

***Welcome to all the new members that have
just joined - and to those that have
renewed their memberships -***

Thank you!

