

*The Official  
Newsletter of*



# Show me Your Curves



*Volume 13 No. 1  
Jan. 2022*



# Editor's Message

By Doug Jackson



## Happy New Year!

At this time last year, I wished everyone a happy and safe year ahead and expressed the sincere wish that all of the worries and concerns about the spread of COVID-19 would be behind us. We all know what has happened in the past twelve months, so I find myself making the same wish for 2022 – perhaps a little more optimistically because of the high percentage of the population becoming immunized.

The club activities for the past year were very much governed by the rules and guidelines established to keep each other safe from serious illness. The leaders of our Ice Cream Runs and the Cruise Directors for the club outings are to be thanked for adhering to safety protocols

and keeping club members safe. During the period between the pandemic's third and fourth waves, the guidelines were relaxed enough to permit our group to go to restaurants on the Walter's Falls trip and the Year-End Dinner. Let's hope that this current wave diminishes enough for us to plan for the AGM in the springtime. There are just a few club activities to report upon in this edition, but additional material has been supplied through the scrutiny of car magazines by Cal Lander, Michael Topping and the owner of the yellow car in the "Caption Needed" article, Jim Inch. Thanks for gathering interesting information and sharing with the rest of us!

Thanks, too, to Cal Lander for his invaluable assistance in preparing the newsletter. His work is greatly appreciated!

Doug Jackson





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## Sponsors:

We are very thankful as a group to be able to have such good friends that are willing to give our organization a helping hand. We strongly urge the membership to give your business to these good folks. They have been a great ongoing support to us throughout the years.



<https://www.orilliamazda.com>



<https://www.moffattsmazda.com/>

## And don't forget . . . Jack's Auto

**Aaron Oliveira, General Manager of Jack's Auto in Huntsville welcomes any Miatas of Muskoka member to his shop offering a 15% discount off all labour as well as offering a "bring your own parts" service. That's right you can source your own Miata parts from specialty vendors and if desired have them installed at Jack's. Jack's Auto Repair was rated one of the three best repair shops in Huntsville.**

**Please show your support to our most northern Sponsor.**

**Jack's Auto Repair  
17 Bickley Country Dr,  
Huntsville, ON P1H 1Y4**





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## Show me Your Curves

is a quarterly publication by a Miata enthusiasts group known as the *Miatas of Muskoka*... We are a small group that like to explore the twisty back roads and scenic lakes in Canada's premier vacation playground ..... Muskoka.

Visit our Website at  
URL:<http://www.miatasofmuskoka.com/>

Or Check us out on Facebook: [miatasofmuskoka](https://www.facebook.com/miatasofmuskoka)

### Our cover

Most, if not all of our members tuck up their rides for the winter.

That is not the case for everyone. Some as in this photo love to use them in the winter as well .

Each to his own, I say.



## Watch for Notices About:

### **February Blahs Luncheon**

– notice from Lynda Gigg announcing the date and location of our first event of 2022 (likely early to mid-February)

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

– notice from Bob Macaulay announcing the date and location of the AGM (likely late April)

Some events, like the Spring Fling and the Fall Colours Cruise, are traditional and will probably continue to happen, as long as we have cruise directors willing to do the required planning and promotion. Other day trips develop because of an interest or a destination initiated by our members. To assist the Council in presenting a plan or a proposal at the AGM, please send Bob Macaulay some of your ideas about places we could visit or activities we could enjoy together during the 2022 cruising season. The Council will be meeting on January 15th to start the planning process. If you have some good ideas or wish to volunteer or assist in some way, get in touch with Bob (info on page 4).

Of course, watch for notices about COVID-19 and the guidelines recommended or mandated. Our club activities are dependent on them!

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# Final Ice Cream Run of 2021

Tuesday, Sept. 28



Earlier in the week, the weather during the evening of the 28th was

forecast to be cold, with possibilities of showers or drizzle, so no one knew what the response might be for the final ICR of the year. As the day wore on, the skies cleared, spirits brightened, and car owners made their way to the West Orillia Sports Complex. Five cars arrived all at once, then more

and more until we had a group of ten. It seemed like folks just wanted to socialize on the last outing as they stood on the parking lot, but,

eventually, Bob Macaulay got everyone to fire up their engines. We went on a relaxed pace on several roads, some in the countryside and some following the shoreline of Lake Simcoe. We arrived at Carthew Bay Pub and Scoops and enjoyed KD ice cream outside on the lawn and the picnic tables. We stayed there until after dusk settled, stretching the last ICR as long as possible.





# Fall Colours Cruise

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

by Michael and Sue Topping,  
Cruise Directors

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Our Annual Fall Colours cruise can be summed up in three words; Colours, Curves & Construction

The timing, although later than most years in the past, was perfect as the Colours were near their peak and absolutely everywhere. And what type of cruise in Muskoka does not contain plenty of Curves with lots of sights to be seen. Also included (at no charge) was a little Construction on the final leg of the journey before lunch which only helped in making our MoMers just a little hungrier.

Although the weather forecast did look promising, the beginning of the cruise was greeted with some sprinkling, but we were able to go topless by keeping the cars on the move and we experienced clear sailing the rest of the trip.

Starting at the LCBO in Washago, the 15-car caravan (in two groups) meandered their way along the east side of the major lakes with a brief pit stop at the docks in Rosseau for a critical Bio





break before making our way to the Seguin Valley Golf Course near Parry Sound.



The golf course was busy but were able to accommodate separate parking for our babies and shuttle us up to the clubhouse for a very enjoyable lunch with a lovely view of the colours over the 18th green.



The final leg of our journey exposed most of the colours towards through Rosseau, Port Carling and Bala but, unfortunately, upon arriving in Gravenhurst, we discovered Tastebuds was closed so we had to forgo the ice cream. After saying our farewells, individuals split into all directions to recount the cruise and began thinking about next year's event.





## YEAR END DINNER

November 2, 2021

by Lynda Gigg

The 2021 Year End Dinner had a little planning hiccup. MoM was originally booked for Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Urban Dish in Barrie. However, they had an unexplained fire. Plans quickly changed to Lot88 in Orillia. 33 MoM members descended upon the Memorial Street restaurant for a 5:30 start time.

Upon my early arrival, Dwayne, the Manager of Lot88, said he thought we were booked for 7PM not 5:30. My heart jumped into my throat, missed a few beats and then he admitted they were ready and was just kidding. I was able to breathe again!

The MoM group trickled in and took their seats. Our wait staff were attentive and made sure everyone got their needs met.



On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for their positive comments and emails regarding the Lot88 experience. Dwayne was such an easy manager to plan with, accommodating changes as they happened. Now the non-snowbirds will meet in February someplace in Muskoka. If you have suggestions for a MoM luncheon, please email me at [lyndagigg@gmail.com](mailto:lyndagigg@gmail.com)  
KEEP WELL  
Lynda



From beverages, through the main meal, to dessert, staff responded to everyone's request. MoM members socialized throughout the meal, given that it had been quite a while since we were in a restaurant together. Once the crème brulee was consumed members continued to chat with each other. It was so fabulous to see everyone before the white stuff flies.



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# Caption Needed ... and Captions Received

## The Challenge from the October Newsletter:

Good friends of ours who live in Bobcageon visited us during the summer and drove their very attractive yellow car to our place. Naturally, as Miata owners, we wanted to bookend our cars with theirs for a photo. Here is the challenge:

What is the make and model of the yellow car?  
Write an appropriate caption for the photo of the three cars.



Captions and Comments Sent to Doug:

*What's between an NA and an NC? An SS! (Saturn Sky)*

*A thorn between two roses.*

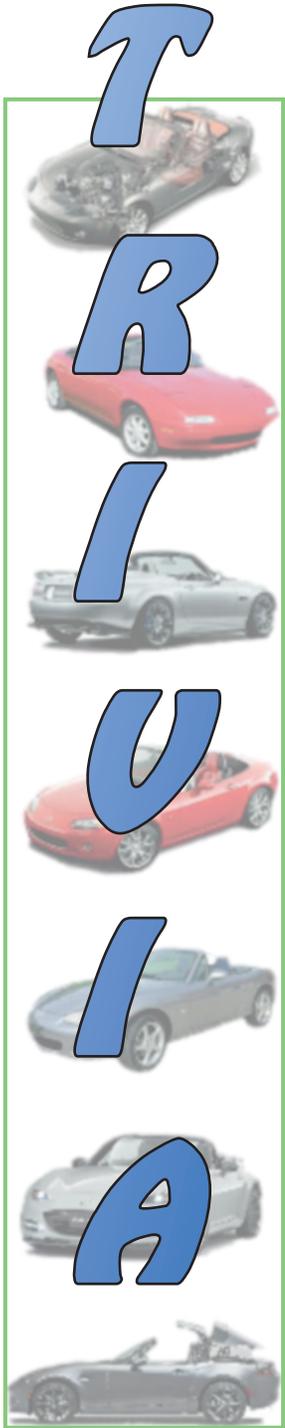
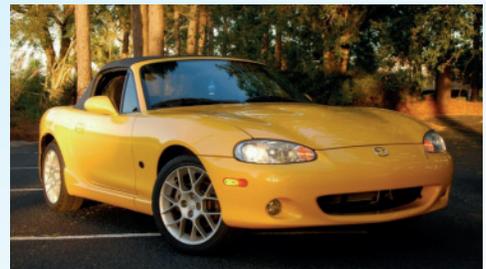
*Two brides and a bridesmaid.*

*Good Try, Saturn Sky*

*The car in the middle is really a 2002 NB, but wearing a Sky Hallowe'en costume*

*You're not quite a 2002 Special Edition in Sunburst Yellow, but a good attempt*

Three people made reference to the 2002 NB and Terry Day sent a photo (below.





# COMMENTS

## *Joffre McCleary's Letter re Muskoka Signs*

**Editor's note:** *One of my good buddies, who sadly is not a Miata owner, but who has owned a fleet of Subaru's over the years, has often written "Letters to the Editor" of various newspapers in our region, calling attention to a wide variety of issues. I thought his recent letter regarding the huge number of unnecessary signs lining the roads that our Miata drivers love to explore was worth sharing with you. No pictures accompany this article; there's nothing attractive about a forest of signs in a forest of trees.* **Doug Jackson, Editor**

### **"Hwy 117 should be designated as one of the natural scenic wonders of Ontario" – Joffre McCleary**

***MuskokaRegion.com***  
***Monday, August 16, 2021***

***(Editor's Note: Robert Lacroix is the Ridout/McLean Wards councillor for Lake of Bays Township. A copy of the letter was sent to MuskokaRegion.com for publication.)***

Hello Mr. Lacroix,

Often, I travel highway 117 between Bracebridge and my property on Paint Lake Rd. and have been amazed and appalled by the proliferation of unsightly billboards along this section of highway. Five years ago, one or two signboards took away from the pristine natural beauty of the area, but recently a dozen or more unsightly billboards have made an appearance drawing the travelers' attention to the faces and names of real estate agents, contractors or whatever.

Hwy 117 should be designated as one of the natural scenic wonders of Ontario, a favoured tourist attraction as visitors travel to Algonquin Park, but

commercial interests have been allowed to deface the landscape — shame. A moratorium should be placed on the erection of signboards in order to protect the scenic beauty of the area. The ones already erected should have their permits revoked or given a 10-year window after which they should be dismantled. These unsightly signs should never have been granted permits. If the District's regulations need to be changed then so be it — the District councillors are stewards whose responsibility is to protect our landscape from visual litter.

Hwy 11 from Gravenhurst to Bracebridge is one of the ugliest, least scenic in North America, a tourist's dead zone

largely because of the thousands of signs and billboards that have been allowed to proliferate along the route, some only 10 metres from the shoulder of the road. Simple unnecessary visual clutter. I noticed that Pace Law, a major Toronto firm with a branch office in Bracebridge, erected three signboards in a row displaying the face of their CEO, sorry, I prefer pine trees, rock cuts, and streams. How did this pass Council?

The Ontario government has established a blue sign option for those wishing to advertise their resort, recreational site, or dining establishment — they are of a reasonable size, allow only two colours, and are understated and discreet — they are effective. I suggest that the District of Muskoka adopt a similar approach.

Hwy 11 is beyond saving, but the natural beauty of Hwy 117 and those like it in Muskoka need to be protected. Tourism dollars reap a greater reward than the paltry sum paid into the District's treasury by those who purchase signboard permits. But to realize the reward, the scenic beauty must be preserved. Councillors have a responsibility, not to the few entrepreneurs who feel the need to put their faces and names on billboards, but to the residents and future generations who enjoy the scenic unspoiled vistas of Muskoka.

Protect what's left.

**Joffre McCleary**  
*Twp. Lake of Bays*



**Actually , kinda  
looks like  
a lot of fun!**



# Canadian Underwriter

YOUR GUIDE TO INSURANCE SUCCESS. SINCE 1934

## Here are the latest trends in insurance fraud

December 8, 2021

by Jason Contan

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“Re-venning” of stolen vehicles — where thieves steal a vehicle, put what appears to be a legitimate vehicle identification number (VIN) on the front dash and then sell it to an unsuspecting customer — is increasing as a fraud trend, Équité Association told Canadian Underwriter Tuesday.

Équité Association released its list of **Top 10 stolen vehicles in Canada** Wednesday. Bryan Gast, the association’s vice president of investigative services, noted that re-

venning is increasing as a fraud trend. Other continuing trends include rising electronic auto theft across the country as more vehicles are equipped with technology like push button start, and high-end SUVs that continue to be stolen for export.

Insurance Bureau of Canada’s (IBC) investigative services division was **transferred** to Équité Association, a new company, in September. The association integrates IBC’s investigative services division with the Canadian National Insurance Crime Services (CANATICS).

Gast discussed the latest fraud trends in an interview Tuesday in advance of the release of the Top 10 stolen vehicles list in Canada. Regarding re-venning, Gast said there are ways consumers can protect themselves.

For example, in Ontario, vehicle sellers legally need to provide a used vehicle information package that



contains the vehicle and its history in the province. CARFAX also allows consumers to check VINs to ensure the vehicle history jives and to compare electronic records and hardcopies to “make sure that the hardcopy one hasn’t been manipulated,” Gast said. And the **Canadian Police Information Centre’s website** allows consumers to look up VINs to see if the vehicle is on file as stolen.



“You’ll really get double victimized when you’ve paid money for a vehicle, then you won’t get that money back,” Gast said. “And then once it’s determined to be a stolen vehicle, that vehicle is going to be seized, [so you’ll] be without your vehicle, too.”

Another trend is that high-end SUVs continue to be stolen for exports. While some vehicles are stolen to commit another crime or to be used to go for a “joyride,” many others are stolen by organized crime groups to be sold to unsuspecting consumers in Canada, exported or to be stripped down for parts that are then sold.

Rising electronic theft is another concern. Thieves can conduct ‘relay attacks’ by trying to intercept the radio frequency from the key fob to the vehicle and then program a new key fob to fit that car, Gast explained. To protect themselves, consumers shouldn’t leave fobs unprotected at the front entrance of their homes. They can place their key fob in a metal box or a bag pouch to limit or diminish the radio frequency emitted from the fob.

“There’s other electronic methods that we’re starting to see,” Gast added. “Probably more prevalent than [relay attacks] is the OBD port.”

This involves criminals breaking into the car’s onboard diagnostic system port and programming a

key fob for the vehicle. “It’s something that’s definitely prevalent now.”

Regionally, there is a variation in the types of vehicles being stolen. For example, in Ontario and Quebec, SUVs are stolen more than other types of vehicle. In Alberta, pick-up trucks are stolen more often, likely due to work involving the oil and gas and construction industries.

But just because your client owns a vehicle that’s not on the Top 10 list of stolen vehicles in Canada, that doesn’t necessarily mean their vehicle is safe. “They still need to take the precautions because all vehicles can be stolen,” Gast said.

Here is the 2021 list of Top 10 stolen vehicles in Canada:

No.	Make and Models	Most Common Model Year Stolen	Vehicle Type
1	Ford F 150 / F 250 / F 350 / F 450 Series	2018	Pick-up
2	Honda CR-V Series	2018	SUV
3	Chevrolet / GMC Silverado / Sierra 1500 / 2500 / 3500 Series	2005	Pick-up
4	Dodge / Ram 1500 / 2500 / 3500 Series	2019	Pick-up
5	Lexus RX350 / RX450 Series	2017	SUV
6	Honda Civic Series	2019	Sedan
7	Toyota Highlander Series	2019	SUV
8	Chrysler / Dodge Town & Country / Grand Caravan / Caravan / Voyager	2017	Van
9	Toyota Corolla Series	2017	Sedan
10	Honda Accord Series	2018	Sedan

\* Contains data licensed by Insurance Bureau of Canada

*Feature image by iStock.com/deepblue4you*





# Designer Of The Mazda Miata, Shunji Tanaka, Dies Aged 75

**DEC 20, 2021**  
**BY GERHARD HORN**  
**IN DESIGN**

**Thanks for everything, Tanaka-San.**



Shunji Tanaka, the chief designer of the original (NA) Mazda MX-5 Miata, has passed away. The announcement was made on Facebook by a close friend and chairperson of the MX-5 Club Tanaka was a member of, Mr. Katsuyuki Satake. A translation

power for the MX-5 in future, but we're sure the fun element will be retained. For now, it remains true to its origins.

Despite being head designer of the Miata, Tanaka did not get as much attention as the lead engineers, Toshihiko Hirai and Takao Kijima. These two men were responsible for making the Miata the epic driving tool, while Tanaka was responsible for the exterior and interior design.

While the Miata certainly deserves praise as a driving tool, the design is as much a part of a very successful and lucrative roadster. Before the Miata came along, the roadster had all but died out. It continued the ethos of British roadsters but rectified their build quality and reliability issues for a complete package like no other.

by a fellow enthusiast alerted CarBuzz to the news with a simple statement, "I'm so sorry to announce that Mr. Tanaka, the Chief Designer of NA MX-5 has passed away on Dec. 12th at the age of 75." Apparently, Mr. Tanaka's last words were, "I have no regret in my life."

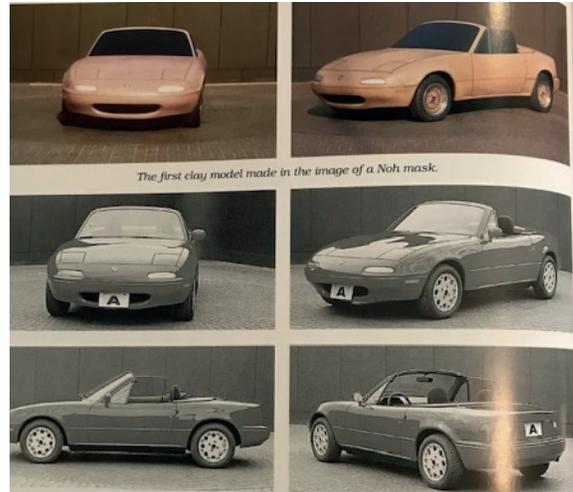
It's unclear what Tanaka died of, but he was right, not having any regrets. He gave the world the seminal small sports car. The Miata is the Porsche 911 of small sports cars and has a legacy and reputation some manufacturers can only dream of.

It remains the world's best-selling sports car and one of the most affordable ways for automotive enthusiasts to have fun. Mazda may be moving over to hybrid





lightweight sports car. He didn't beat around the bush. He also said the US team must have "eaten too much steak and forgotten the delicacy of Japanese cuisine." You can see the difference between the California concept and Tanaka's clay model



in the photos above, with the redesign taking influence from his wife's love of Japanese Noh masks that seemingly change expression depending on the angle they are viewed from. Whether his comments were too harsh or not, history speaks for itself. The NA Miata is a driving and design icon, and Shunji Tanaka was responsible for half of that. Rest in peace Tanaka-San. Your legacy lives on in the heart of every Miata fan.

The NA Miata was such a hit, an entire book was written about it when it turned 25. As you can see, the famous pop-up headlights and smiling face were always a part of the design, inspired by the Lotus Elan. According to Tanaka, the concept for the Miata was a "Swinging Time Machine." In short, it was a symbol of freedom and meant to provide a thrilling open-top experience that brought the driver closer to nature. Many people don't know this, but the first concept was designed in California. Mazda approved the project, which sparked the initial design phase. After completing the project, it was shipped to Japan, where a disapproving Tanaka met it.

According to interviews with Tanaka, he thought the design was too Americanized, and there was no way to identify it as a





## *In Japan, Father Christmas Drives A Mazda MX-5 Miata*

**BY ROGER BIERMANN  
SPORTS CARS**

*Santa's sleigh is small,  
lightweight, and has a droptop.*

Think of the happiest car you can, and you'll likely think of the Mazda MX-5 Miata. It's almost impossible to see the smiling face on any of the four generations and not grin broadly at the sight. But that's not the only way the Miata brings joy to people's lives. In Japan, cheerfulness of a different kind is spread around this time every year, as an army of Miata-driving Santas spreads Christmas cheer to Japanese children. That's because the Mazda Roadster Club of Japan has made a tradition out of decking their cars with tinsel and decorations and taking local kids out for a drive as the cars parade through the streets.

This year marks the 13th annual running of the Santa Drive. What originally started in Yokohama when the city asked various

organizations for Santa-themed charity over the festive season has blossomed into something more, as even Mazda HQ is now in on the action, starting in 2018 and continuing with its own run every year since.

The parade, which features Miatas decked in Christmas gear driven by Santa of all ages, doesn't just bring a smile to the faces of kids that get to ride along, but raises money for a good cause too, raising funds for single-parent





families in the Tokyo, Yokohama, and Hiroshima areas.

All in, around 280 families took part in this year's festivities. In Japan, convertibles are not a common sight, despite the Miata and other historic greats like the Honda S2000 hailing from the country. The MX-5 Miata is one of the last remaining Japanese drop-tops after the demise of the Nissan 370Z Roadster, with no confirmed replacement at this stage for the Z cabrio. Despite rumors suggesting the next-gen MX-5 will go hybrid, we can be sure that the famous roadster will live on as a convertible. The 2021 running of the parade carries special meaning, as just a few



short weeks ago Shunji Tanaka, the designer of the first-gen Miata, passed away at the age of 75.



## *Fire-Ravaged Mazdaspeed Miata Somehow Still Works*

**DEC 10, 2021  
BY KARL FURLONG  
SPORTS CARS**

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*It survived a serious house fire and lived to tell the tale.*

The Mazda MX-5 Miata isn't only loved for the fact that it offers sports car thrills at an attainable price, but also because it's one of the most reliable cars you can buy. It's been decades since the first MX-5 was launched but Mazda

has successfully managed to maintain the car's simplicity into the 21st century and not weigh it down with needless electronics or complex powertrains.

As dependable as the little Mazda is, one would think that even the MX-5 wouldn't be able to survive a savage fire that left the model you see here a total mess. But Miata fan Jacob Snell has given this severely burned drop-top - a MazdaspeedMiata - a second chance.

In a Facebook post shared with the Mazda Miata Club group, Snell says: "long story short this MSM was [the] victim of a house fire and I got to it before the scrappers did." The fire itself was anything but mild as the Miata's entire body was damaged. The hood had several holes burned right through it and the interior looks like it spent a fair amount of time in an enlarged oven, with a properly melted dashboard.



Using the amusing hashtag #crispyspeed to update followers on the progress of this salvaged Mazda, Snell said that all it took to get the Miata running again was to pull apart some melted wires.

To drive home the message that this Miata is very much still alive, he took the roadster for a few entertaining smokey burnouts - excuse the pun. Unsurprisingly, the car has captured plenty of attention wherever it goes as it simply beggars belief that it's still functional. Remarkably, Snell says that the windows and air conditioning still work, although you'll probably encounter an unpleasant whiff when using the latter. The heating and lights are also operational. In time for Christmas, he decided to decorate this battle-hardened Mazda with a few trimmings. Against all the odds, this Mazdaspeed's life is far from over.





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## ***Forwarded Links to Magazine Articles***

***Sent by Jim Inch***

### ***Mazda MX-5 Miata: Buyer's Guide for Every Generation***

<https://www.roadandtrack.com/car-culture/a35292695/mazda-mx-5-miata-buyers-guide-every-generation/>

### ***No, the Mazda Miata Isn't Being Discontinued in 2022***

<https://www.thedrive.com/news/43244/no-the-mazda-miata-isnt-being-discontinued-in-2022>

### ***2022 Mazda Miata Debuts with Kinematic Posture Control Brake Torque Vectoring***

<https://www.cnet.com/google-amp/news/2022-mazda-miata-debuts-with-kinematic-posture-control-brake-torque-vectoring/>

### ***Original Miata MX-5 Designer Shunji Tanaka Passes***

<https://www.autoblog.com/amp/2021/12/21/shunji-tanaka-mazda-mx5-miata-designer-dead-at-75/>