

SHOW me your CURVES!

The Official
Newsletter of



Volume 14 No. 3
July, 2023

On the
road
again..!





Editor's Message



It's

July already! Where has the time gone? For the past couple of years, we were overly aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the uncertainty around social mixing and constant worry of exposing ourselves and others to the virus. It would appear that the worst of it is now behind us and we can begin to get out and enjoy the freedom from constant worry.

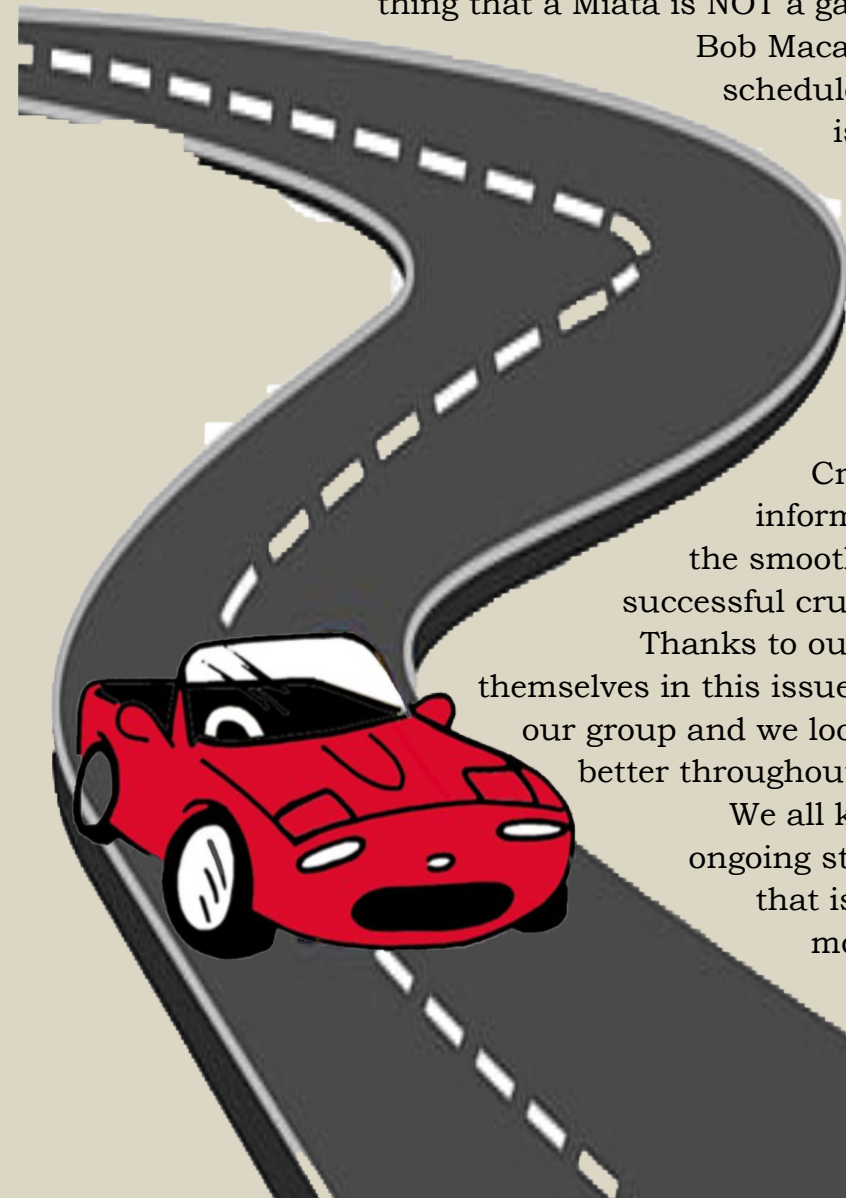
Since the AGM in April, our club has been on several cruises and ICR's, with many more in the planning stages for the summer and fall. Enthusiastic participation by the members is certainly contagious ... so I hope that you are promoting our activities with each other and encouraging active involvement ... in spite of the rising cost of fuel. Good thing that a Miata is NOT a gas guzzler!

Bob Macaulay sent out the most recent cruise schedule on June 2nd and a slight revision of it is included here on page 6. Please

mark your calendars and try to get out on as many of our cruises as possible! Bob also sent out a memo on June 13 to those who have been, or are thinking about becoming, a cruise director. The document entitled, "Guidelines for Cruise Directors" has lots of useful information and suggestions to assist with the smooth planning and running of a successful cruise.

Thanks to our new members who have introduced themselves in this issue. We are pleased that you have joined our group and we look forward to getting to know you better throughout the year.

We all know that Gail Lander has had ongoing struggles as a result of her stroke and that issue has required Cal to devote even more time and attention to his family responsibilities. In spite of that, Cal has made time to assist with the publication of the newsletter, and for that, I'm extremely grateful.



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Sponsors:

We are very thankful as a group to be able to have such good friends who 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.

Check out our new sponsor.

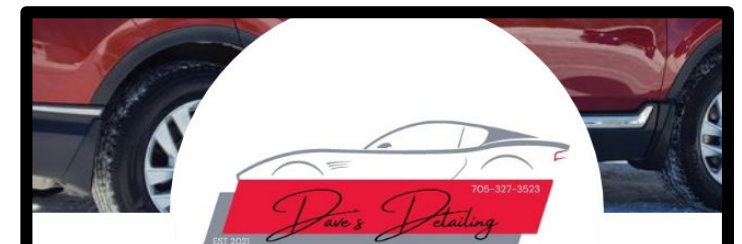


MoM Charity Cruise

It has become an annual event that one of our cruises be designated as a charity cruise for a particular non-profit group.

Last year it was the Manna Food Bank in Bracebridge.

This years recipient was discussed and decided upon during the AGM and the beneficiary with the most votes was Mariposa House Hospice, but the charity cruise event has not yet been finalized.



**2879 Upper Big Chute Road
Coldwater, ON**

As a recent new member of MoM, Dave would love to welcome you to his shop and allow you, a fellow member, a 20% discount on any of his services, mechanical or detailing.

**Call or Text today to book your appointment
705-327-3523**

Dave VanHuis serving Coldwater since 2021



Contact Council of Miataville



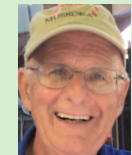
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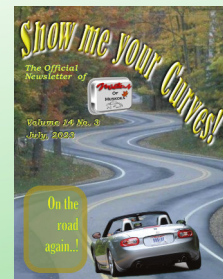


Is a quarterly publication by a Miata enthusiasts group known as the Miatas of Muskoka..... We are a small group that like to explore the twisty back roads and and lakes in Canada's premier vacation playground, Muskoka.

Visit our Website at

URL:<http://www.miatasofmuskoka.com/>

Or check us out on facebook:
miatasofmuskoka



Our Cover

It is so good to be on the road again.



AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Sunday, April 23, 2023

For the second year in a row, we utilized the facilities at the Terry Fox Auditorium in Gravenhurst. The announced start time was 1:30 pm, but folks started arriving shortly after one o'clock, undoubtedly anxious to catch up with old friends and meet some of our new members. Finally, after lots of socializing, catching up on everyone's winter activities (or lack of them!), getting our membership cards and chatting with Doug and Sheila about "The Buddy Holly Story", Bob Macaulay called the meeting to order to do some planning for the next cruising year. Bob had prepared and distributed (in advance) an agenda for the meeting so that folks had an idea of some of the proposed events. Doug had his computer and projector to assist with the planning process

and filled in dates and cruise directors as decisions were made. Doug also presented a seven minute slideshow of some of the cruises and outings held during the previous year which helped to pique everyone's interest in the 2023 cruising year. Later on, after the meeting, Bob distributed a revised list of dates, destinations and directors and then finalized the itinerary which was shared via email in June. Rick Beutler had done some extensive research during the winter and brought samples of various shirts and hats which people tried on. Rick explained the on-line ordering process and we all left the meeting anxious to order new **Miatas of Muskoka** clothing for the new season! It certainly was great to be back planning for the summer, even though it was early spring!

CLUB

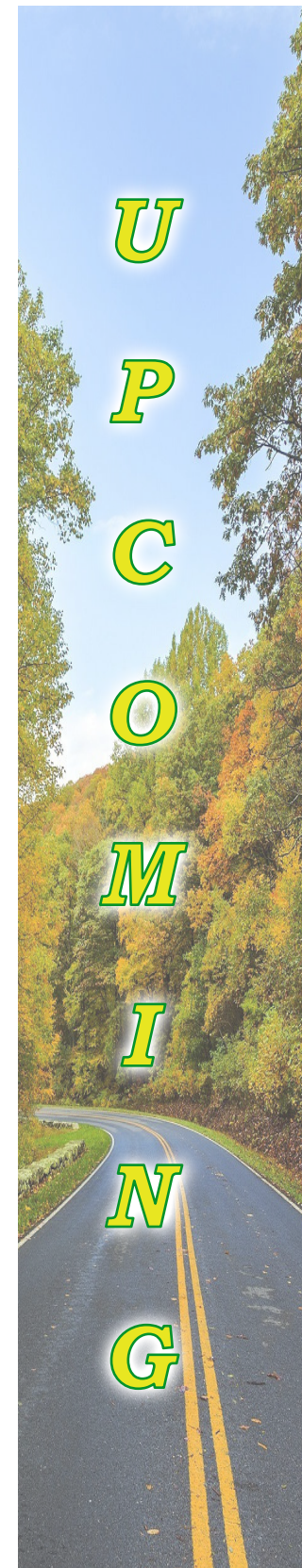
BUSINESS





Miata of Muskoka 2023 Cruise Event Schedule

May 15, 2023 (Revised)



Miata of Muskoka 2023 Cruise Event Schedule

June 11, 2023 (Final)

Cruise Event	Date(s)	Event Type	Cruise Director(s)
Spring Fling Cruise & Lunch <i>Mom's Restaurant, Midland</i>	Sat. May 6 th	Day-trip	Rick Beutler & Brian Atkinson ✓
Niagara Falls Cruise	Tues-Thurs. May 23 rd – 25 th	Overnite (2 nites)	Bob & Carol Macaulay ✓
Edenvale Airport/Museum Cruise & Picnic (Hwy. 26, Springwater)	Friday June 9 th	Day-trip	Phil Holdsworth ✓
Kawartha Lakes/Bobcaygeon Cruise & Lunch	Thurs. June 15 th	Day-trip	Rick & Shaun Fox ✓
King's Wharf Theatre Cruise & Picnic Lunch & Dinner	Sat June 24 th	Day-trip	Doug & Sheila Jackson ✓
Haliburton Picnic Cruise	Weds. July 5 th	Day-trip	Rick Vender
Whitstone/Magnetawan Cruise & Lunch (or picnic lunch)	Weds. July 26 th	Day-trip	Claude & Shelley Mikolainis
St Jacobs Cruise	Weds.-Thurs Aug 9-10	Overnite (1 nite)	Garry & Patty Walker
Honda Alliston Plant Tour Cruise OR Picnic Cruise (destination TBD)	Late August (date & avail to be conf)	Day-trip	David Funnell
Grey Cty./Waterfalls Cruise	Sept. 6-7	Overnite (1 nite)	Claude & Shelley Mikolainis
Kearney/Sand Lk. Area Cruise & Lunch (eastern Parry Sound Dist.)	Late Sept. (date to be confirmed)	Day-trip	Mike & Cathy Fedorowich
Fall Colours Cruise & Lunch (joint with Ottawa Miata club - UMN)	Thurs. Oct. 5 th	Day-trip	Michael Topping

ICE CREAM RUNS (ICRs) Generally the middle of 2nd and 4th weeks every month; one "regular" ICR and one "special" ICR each summer month. ICR days to vary (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday). Typically alternate starting points between Bracebridge (*Independent Grocer*) and south Orillia (*Rotary Place - 100 University Ave*), at 6:30 PM May & September, and 6:45 PM in June, July & Aug. (NOTE: "Special" ICRs may start from other locations.)
First 2022 ICR (regular) to be Wednesday May 17th at 6:30 PM

Dates for all ICRs will be as follows:

- May – Wednesday 17th (Orillia)
- June – Tuesday 13th (Orillia), & Wednesday 28st (Bracebridge)**
- July – Tuesday 11th (Orillia)**, & Thursday 27th (Bracebridge)
- August – Tuesday 15th (Severn Twp.)** & Thursday 24th (Orillia)
- September – Thursday 14th (Bracebridge) & Wednesday 27th (Orillia)**

We also again propose that one of the above ICRs each summer month be "special" (which of the above dates are to be "special" ICRs is indicated by ** above.) Each of these includes a short cruise and a special activity, as noted below (plus ice cream, of course.)

(cont'd)



Advance notices are emailed to members, with details of each special ICR. **Proposed 2023 "special" ICRs** are as follows:

a) **Mini-golf + lunch** - Cathy Gilbert to coordinate (Bracebridge) ... *Wednesday June 28th*

b) **Bocce "tournament" + potluck** - Bob & Carol Macaulay to host & coordinate (Orillia) ... *Tuesday July 11th*

c) **Corn roast** - Susan Wellman to host & coordinate (Severn Twp.) ... *tentative date Tuesday August 15th*

d) **Bowling + picnic lunch** - Ed & Judy Gigg to coordinate (Orillia)... *Wednesday September 27th*

REMINDERS:

1. Before each cruise (except the **regular** ice cream runs), an Event Notice with all details will be circulated to all members, both for your information and to obtain an RSVP response, to assist the Cruise Directors(s) with final planning and arrangements for the event. **Please respect the requested response deadline and provide a timely "yes" or "no" response by return e-mail, regardless of whether or not you will be attending.**

2. To ensure the safety of all cruise participants, CB radios are mandatory for participation in all MoM cruise events, except for the ice cream runs, where CBs may be optional, depending on group size; please remember to bring and use your CB for all cruises.

[NOTE: if you don't already own a CB, MoM now has 2 portable (hand-held) CB units available for temporary use on a one-time only loan basis, pending acquisition of your own CB unit.]

4. Please try and remember to cruise with your lights on for safety reasons, especially when travelling in a larger group.



Join us because of the car, you'll stay because of your friends



Haliburton Picnic Cruise

Who's Invited: All members and their guests
When: Wednesday, July 5th, 10 AM

Itinerary and other details:

We'll start at **Washago LCBO** (on Hwy. 169 opposite the Hwy. 11 northbound off-ramp.) **Meet at 10:00 AM, depart at 10:15 AM.** Our morning run will take about 1 hr. 40 mins., so be sure to use the washroom at the LCBO before we start. Route will be up through Coopers Falls and Houseys Rapids to Vankoughnet, then east on Hwy. 118 to Haliburton Village and Skyline Park scenic lookout, where we will have our picnic lunch. There are portable toilets there, and a relatively few picnic tables...**be sure to bring your folding chairs.** The afternoon route will be via secondary roads to scenic Panorama Park overlooking Minden, then to the Kawartha Dairy store on Hwy. 35 for ice cream treats. Muskoka folks can then head home via Hwy. 35 north to Hwy. 118 west, and the rest of us will head home through Minden, down scenic Cty. Rd. 2, Hwy. 35 to Norland, then west from there via Cty. Rd. 45 (Monck Rd.) to Orillia.

Drive time (from Kawartha Dairy) back to Orillia will be just over 1 hour. We should be back to Orillia by mid-afternoon.

All members please RSVP to Rick Vender by email at rjvender@gmail.com with a "yes" or "no thanks" by Sunday July 2nd, so we know how many cars to plan for and expect at

A few reminders:

- To ensure everyone's safety, CB radios are required for participation in all MoM cruise events; please remember to bring and use your CB [NOTE: if you don't already own a CB, we have 2 portable CB units available for use on this cruise on a one-time only loan basis, pending purchase of your own unit.]
- This cruise will take place "rain or shine." [There is a picnic shelter available in Haliburton's Head Lake Park if showers occur.]
- All participants should bring and wear their MoM name tags.
- Please make sure your car has a full fuel tank before we depart.
- The Cruise Director (Rick Vender) will lead one group, with one sweep already lined-up; when you RSVP, please indicate your willingness to lead or sweep a second group, in case we have enough members participating to require 2 groups of cars



Welcome! NEW MEMBERS

Moira-Jane and Robert Plexman

Joining the Miatas of Muskoka club is something we had planned to do before Covid got in the way, but we finally have done it.



Robert happened to be scanning the MOM website on a Sunday morning in early May when he read that the AGM was scheduled for later that day. That was sufficient to nudge us to attend and check things out. Our first impression was most positive – a friendly group of Miata enthusiasts who enjoy getting together and driving on roads that were intended for these cars.

We sent our membership application to Claude Mikolainis and signed up for our first outing, the Spring Fling Cruise and Lunch. It was a great day and gave us the opportunity to meet more members.

Robert has always been a car enthusiast, especially for the 1960's era British sports cars. While in high school, he and his friends bought an Austin Healey "bugeye" Sprite, took it apart and then back together again with a few bolts and washers left over. That was the first of many sports cars he has owned.

We drove practical cars in the 1980's when the kids were small, but the mortgage was high. Moira has shared Robert's enthusiasm for sports cars and was all for buying a Miata when we read the road tests in 1989 and placed our order, taking delivery in March 1990.



We tend to keep cars if we like them, and obviously we like the Miata. While it will never be the fastest car, the Miata is one of the best engineered and most balanced with its DOHC engine, double wishbone suspension, close ratio gears and short-throw gearbox, light weight and much more. It's also been bulletproof for us.

We have been retired since the end of 2008 and enjoy doing all the things we never had enough time to do when we were working. We keep the Miata at our cottage on Lake Muskoka where we try to spend as much time as we can. Robert had a 33-year career as an investment analyst and Moira retired as a school principal.

We enjoy driving our Miata, socializing with others, and ice cream so we know we are with the right group.



Susan and Gary Wellman

Gary retired from CN Rail in 2015 and I retired in 2013 from human resources in the tree/nursery industry. Gary didn't stay retired long, starting a business with my youngest son.

Our home in Barrie became too small for the trailers and equipment, so 5 years ago we moved to Severn. We have a 5-acre property with a small bungalow and small barn. Plenty of room for all the trailers and vehicles. Only problem was the empty barn. That barn wasn't empty for long! Miniature horses, miniature sheep and alpacas soon filled the area. We now take the animals to seniors' homes and to visit children with special needs. We also have several visits a week from various people.



Gary loves his tools and equipment. One day I came home to find a skid steer and attachments sitting in the driveway. I knew it was now or never. Time to get my special "equipment".

For many years I have wanted a 2-seater convertible for "me and my purse". The search was on. I looked at Kijiji and any other ads I could find. I decided on a MX5/Miata. I contacted a dealership in Yorkdale and had a bad experience with the salesperson. I contacted Harvey at Orillia Mazda and told him what I was looking for. In October

Harvey finally found "Chili" my red MX5 in Ottawa. The car was shipped to Orillia and sat in the showroom for many months. I visited that car every week, sometimes bringing in family and friends.

Thankfully Gord Bauldry tagged my car in the showroom. I am now a member of this wonderful group. I have been on a few cruises and have enjoyed every minute.



SPRING FLING POST MORTEM



MAY 6, 2023

The Cruise

Is Mother Nature a "Miatas of Muskoka" member? Saturday May 6th's weather said "Yes!", as we enjoyed a perfect mixture of mostly sunny skies with a high of about 15C+ on that day!

A sub-group of our members met in Orillia and paraded into Midland to join the rest of us by 9:30 am at the starting point in the [Huron Museum](#) parking lot (across from the [North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre](#) at 527 Len Self Blvd). This location allowed 28 members (including new members and guests) and their 15 cars (all 4 generations, in a rainbow of colours) to socialize and use the facilities. After our house-keeping meeting directions, a quick photo op, and CB's set to Channels 3 and 5 respectfully, we departed at 10:00 am.

Little Lake Park's calming water and scenery welcomed us, and we circled Midland to safely access Balm Beach Road and cruise through Perkinsfield, after which we were greeted by a breathtaking vista of Balm Beach and the Blue Mountains across the bay. Tiny Beaches Roads meandered through waterfront forested pathways past Cawaja Beach, Wahnekewaning Beach, and then the farmlands of Lafontaine. Lafontaine Road was a quicker straightaway that ended in Toanche at Champlain Road, and a spectacular view of Penetang Bay. We followed Champlain Road into Penetanguishene for our bio break at the Community Centre, and then descended Main Street past their town docks (home of the World-Famous Dock Lunch!). Then we followed along Beck Boulevard, Fox Street, and Broad Street to enjoy the view from the other side of Penetang Bay. Fuller Avenue provided access to Midland Bay's scenic view from the north-west, and we circled Midland's waterfront counter-clockwise to arrive at Tiffin Bay Parkette, where we followed Aberdeen Boulevard past Wye Heritage Marina. We arrived at our lunch destination [Mom's Restaurant](#) in Midland where 2 more members we able to join us. Although our noon arrival was about 30 minutes early for our reservation (and right at the start of their busy lunch time!), thanks to owner Louie and his team who were able to get us comfortably seated within about 10 minutes in our designated area. Their friendly team of servers and talented food prep staff expedited our diverse orders from the [open breakfast/lunch/dinner](#)



[menu](#), and delicious food arrived within a reasonable time despite some tables inevitably being served sooner than others. Thanks everyone for your patience! Meanwhile, we socialized with familiar and new faces, shared Miata stories, happily received our \$5 bills from Marina, and snapped up another photo op!



After lunch at around 1:30 pm, we headed east and north along Ogden's Beach Road, more winding waterfront roads through Midland Bay Woods, and into Port McNicoll's Paterson Park for a photo op in their waterfront parking lot. One of our guests, and then a local passerby, learned how to use Doug's camera to ensure all of us were included in those beach-front photos. We continued through Port McNicoll, past the docking site of the recently departed SS Keewatin, and quickened the pace along highway 12 east to our ice cream destination at [Mark's Ice Cream Parlour](#) in Waubaushene (at the Esso parking lot intersection of highways 12 & 400). Thankfully there were enough treats to provide a satisfying dessert and farewell to our 2023 Spring Fling Cruise, where we enjoyed each other's company, Miatas, and some of the most beautiful roads and waterfront scenery in the world! (See 'Map' and 'Detailed Directions' attachments for route and highlights *, **, ***, and ****).



Comments & Key Takeaways

Feedback from our participants included...

"We just want to say "Thanks" for a wonderful day on Saturday! We had a great time! Great route along some roads we hadn't travelled before, excellent lunch at Mom's followed up with ice cream at Mark's – it was a perfect day – good roads, good food and good company 😊."

"Great cruise! Suggest having each group run independently as needed through intersections etc."



to avoid having 1st group waiting for 2nd group, which can potentially delay the cruise."

"Thank you so very much for making the 'Spring Fling' an awesome Thing! We do a lot of poking around in our Miata, but had not been along the lakeshore on the final leg of your tour so we really enjoyed being introduced to that segment of the route in particular."

"Sending a big thank you to you and Brian for your time and effort in preparing a wonderful day for the Miata group. It was excellent."

"What a lovely day/outing with such wonderful people!"

"The weather was terrific, the lunch menu extensive, the roads interesting and scenic ... all contributing to a very successful cruise."

Since we enjoyed 28 members and guest in 15 cars divided into Groups I & II, and 2 more members for lunch, huge thanks go to:

-my partner Brian (I) for piloting our Miata so I could navigate our CB radio as Cruise Director;

-2nd Lead Claude & Shelley (II), Sweeps Cathy & Mike (I) and Rick & Shaun (II) for keeping us all on track;

-photographer Doug for the great pictures;

-Mom's Restaurant and Mark's Ice Cream Parlour for welcoming and feeding us so well;

-and, of course, all the wonderful MoM members and guests who attended and made it happen!

Cheers,

Rick





Niagara Falls Three-Day Cruise

Tues. May 23 – Thurs. May 25, 2023

by Cruise Director Bob Macaulay

A small but intrepid group of 5 MoM cars gathered at Rotary Place in southwest Orillia shortly after 9 AM on May 23rd, in preparation for departure on our 3-day/2-overnight cruise to Niagara Falls and area. Participants on this cruise included Carol and me in the lead, Susan Wellman & Gord Bauldry, Diane Phillips & sister Gisele (guest), Mike & Cathy Fedorowich, Doug & Sheila Jackson, Garry & Patty Walker, and Claude & Shelley Mikolainis. After the usual greetings, bio-break and drivers' meeting, the group headed out by 9:20, under mainly sunny but very cool weather conditions. We picked up 2 additional MoM cars at a crossroads gas station near the hamlet of Baxter, and our group of 7 cars proceeded on our planned "back route" across country southwest from the Barrie area toward our lunch destination. That route took us past Alliston, west through Loretto, along the scenic Hockley Valley to the outskirts of Orangeville, and southwest from there to the south end of Fergus, where we had an early Tim Hortons lunch. By the time we got there, the temperature had warmed to a very comfortable 20C.

We continued our post-lunch trek around 12:30 PM, skirting the north and west edges of Guelph via Hwy. 6 south to Hwy. 401, with a quick jog east on 401 to the continuation of Hwy. 6 south toward Burlington and Hamilton. Upon reaching Hwy. 403, which was extremely busy, we jogged a short distance east to the QEW, and "most" of the group then headed southeast on the QEW over the Burlington Skyway, and onward toward Niagara. I say "most", because, unfortunately, one of the group found themselves in the wrong lane to safely exit onto the ramp to QEW, as they were apparently boxed-out by the heavy 403 traffic, and forced to continue east on 403 toward central Burlington. Having no place on QEW to safely pull over and wait, the rest of us carried on; it was arranged via a quick cell phone call that the "stragglers" would meet us later at the hotel in Niagara Falls.



Thankfully, given the absence of any QEW traffic back-ups, it was an uneventful trip across Niagara peninsula to our Niagara Falls exit at Hwy. 420, and after a quick fuel top-up on Stanley Ave., we arrived to our hotel, the Comfort Inn Fallsview, at about 2:15 PM, and the other MoM car we had "lost" at the 403/QEW interchange in Burlington showed up about 10 minutes later. Total cruise distance for the day was about 300 kms, and total time "on the road"

was around 4.5 hrs. Our timely hotel arrival allowed us sufficient time to get checked-in and relax a bit, before 12 of the 14 of us headed out on foot for our walk over to the Niagara Parks Power Station, in time for our 4 PM guided tour (the other 2 stayed back at the hotel and relaxed in the indoor pool and hot tub.) Our walk over included a brief ride on the Niagara Parks Incline Railway which carries passengers from the Fallsview Ave./Stanley Ave./casino area down the escarpment to the vicinity of the Table Rock complex near the Horseshoe Falls. It was about a 15-minute walk from the bottom of the railway to the Power Station.



The tour of the decommissioned Niagara Parks Power Station was fascinating, very nicely showcasing the surprising sophistication – given its' construction almost 120 years ago, in 1905 -- of both the engineering/technology and the architectural design of this original Niagara Falls power generation facility. Our group was treated to a very detailed and informative 45-minute guided tour and thorough explanation of the history and technology of this plant.

Afterwards, we were escorted down 180 ft. below ground (via elevator) to the original tailrace tunnel where



the waters diverted above the falls to turn the generator turbines in the plant had been directed back out to the Niagara River below the Horseshoe Falls. This former tailrace tunnel is 2,200 ft. long, and now provides a pedestrian link to a new scenic viewpoint out to the river close enough to the bottom of the Horseshoe Falls that the abundant spray in the air necessitates the wearing of a poncho (provided as part of the tour admission fee) in order to stay dry.



Shortly after our return walk and Incline Railway trip back up the escarpment to the hotel, we gathered in the lobby and headed across the parking lot to our dinner spot, an Italian eatery called My Cousin Vinny's. Food was plentiful, and service to our group was cheerful (albeit a bit slow at times.) Everyone returned to the hotel with a full stomach.

The next day, after a hot breakfast at the hotel, we were "hosted" and toured around much of the eastern portion of the Niagara peninsula by several members of the Niagara Peninsula Miata Club. Led by Dan McNiven, their contingent included 5 or 6 cars. Despite the forecast of clouds and showers, the day started out mostly sunny. Dan met our group in the hotel parking lot about 9:20 AM, and after brief introductions and discussions, he led our MoM group of 7 cars to a staging area in a nearby golf course parking lot, where we gathered with Dan's fellow NPMC members, had a drivers' meeting to cover the day's cruise plan, divvied the combined group of 12 cars into 2 groups, and headed out on our cruise. The morning route included a nice riverside run down the Niagara River Parkway toward Fort Erie, then west and north toward St. Catharines, some scenic loops through the hills and forests of Pelham, Fonthill and Vineland, and ended up at our lunch stop west of St. Catharines. As the morning progressed, the sky darkened and the forecast showers did develop, but thankfully, they were very light and did not last long, and we were able to continue the route with tops still down.

Our lunch stop at 13th Street Winery included an interesting variety of offerings – aside from the wines themselves, there is a wonderful bakery, a gift shop, an art gallery, and a seasonal bistro-style outdoor restaurant where you order at a counter from an interesting, eclectic menu, and food is delivered to your table on the patio. Dan had arranged with the owner for our combined group to eat in a private room indoors, which was just as well given the gray, iffy mid-day weather. By all reports, the food was excellent, and many in the group took full advantage of the bakery and gift shop offerings.



We departed for our afternoon cruise around 1:45, skirting the south and east sides of St. Catharines, and stopped by Lock #3 on the Welland Canal just in time to catch a large (740 feet long!) ore-carrying lake freighter entering the lock. Seeing one of those mammoth ships up so close gives one a whole new perspective on just how large they are...and left me wondering just how powerful Lake Superior storms must be, to have broken up and sunk the similarly-sized Edmund Fitzgerald. The sky cleared and the sun came out as our cruise continued onward to an ice cream stop at the Avondale Dairy Bar east of St. Catharines, where most of the group enjoyed a very tasty treat from this famous local dairy and ice cream manufacturer. Then we headed northeast to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where we did a drive-through down the main street, and continued on, travelling south down the very scenic Niagara River Parkway, with brief stops along the way at the Brock Monument (Queenston heights), the famous Floral Clock, and the Whirlpool on the Niagara River. The combined group returned to our hotel parking lot at exactly the promised 4:30 PM, where we all said our good-byes and thank-yous to Dan and his NPMC club mates. Our total cruise distance for the day was about 180 kms, and our total driving time on the road was around 4 hrs.

After a quick trip up the street to top up fuel for the return journey home the next day, we all relaxed at the hotel, gathered in one of our rooms for some adult beverages and conversation, and then headed out for dinner shortly after 6 PM...this time, we took a short walk down the block to the chain restaurant TGI Friday's, where everyone enjoyed another filling meal. Afterwards, some of the group headed back to the hotel, and the rest of us took a short walk out to the top of the escarpment at the Incline Railway terminus, to take in this elevated view of the Horseshoe Falls (it never gets old!). Then, after a short walk back to the hotel,



we turned in for the evening, after saying our goodbyes to Claude & Shelley Mikolainis, who were heading off on their own later the next morning to have lunch with friends.

Our last day of the cruise, Thursday, dawned bright, sunny and fresh. After breakfast, everyone gathered in the parking lot for departure by 9 AM, and off we went with our remaining 6 cars. For the return leg west across Niagara peninsula, we deliberately avoided the QEW, since we had no deadline to meet at the end of the trip. Instead, we took a more leisurely route on secondary roads (including Lundy's Lane, Hwy. 20 and Reg. Rd. 65), all the way across to the west side of Hamilton...encountering many traffic lights and stop signs along the way, but managing to keep the group together throughout. We then turned north, crossed over Hwy. 403, and eventually had our morning bio-break at a Tim Hortons in the

hamlet of Peters Corners, on Hwy. 5, northwest of Dundas. Our morning trip continued northeast from there, through the village of Millgrove, crossing Hwy. 6 and zig-zagging on some nice secondary and tertiary roads through Flamborough, Kilbride and northern Milton into Wellington County, eventually stopping in the village of Erin for lunch at a Subway outlet in the downtown area.



After lunch, we departed easterly, through the hamlet of Belfountain and along the very scenic and twisty Forks of the Credit Road, and then northeast via Caledon Village, Mono Mills and up the hilly Airport Road to Mansfield, and eventually east through Baxter and Everett to the end point of our cruise, in the village of Thornton southwest of Barrie; there, most of us enjoyed a final ice cream treat, before everyone went their separate ways home after exchanging goodbyes. Total distance for the return trip was about 270 kms, total driving time on the road was approximately 4.25 hrs., and we were blessed with sunny skies and comfortable temperatures all the way back.

Many thanks to all who participated and helped to make this cruise a great success, and a special thanks to our sweeps -- Claude & Shelley Mikolainis down to Niagara, and Mike and Cathy Fedorowich on the way back home. I also should reiterate our appreciation and thanks to Dan McNiven of the Niagara Peninsula Miata Club, for all of the time and effort he put in to creating and leading such a nice full-day cruise for us on Wednesday of our trip. At the end, he mentioned that he and some of his clubmates may wish to venture north to our turf at some point, and I said MoM would be pleased to return their hospitality with a joint cruise up here.



Friday, June 9, 2023

by Cruise Director Phil Holdsworth

There were 16 Miatas and their passengers that gathered at 10.45 am on the morning of Friday, 9th June at the West Orillia Sports Complex, ready to participate in this cruise.

We were pleased to welcome new guests to the club, Robert and Moira Plexman, along with Alex "Sandy" McDowell. We also welcomed a guest of Cal Lander and a guest of Rick Beutler and Brian Atkinson.

At 11.00 am. we all set off with two groups of 8 cars each with Phil Holdsworth leading the first group along with his son, Alan, as his co-pilot and with Andrew and Selina Holdsworth leading the second group.

The forecast called for the possibility of showers for the morning of the cruise and indeed for the first half hour of the cruise, we had some light rain, enough to wet the windscreens, but not enough to put our tops up. For the rest of the day, the weather was perfect. The first part of the cruise was very pleasant driving through the countryside, but when we arrived at Edenvale, the traffic on Highway 26 was very heavy and the lady from the airport was kind enough to halt the traffic so that we could all cross over safely. After parking our Miatas, we had a very enjoyable picnic on their patio before taking an amazing guided tour of the facilities. There were many things to see but the main attraction, of course, was the full sized replica of the AVRO Arrow.

Afterwards, we made our way back again through the countryside and ended up having Kawartha Dairies ice cream at the Nicholyn Farms on Horseshoe Valley Road to finish the end of a perfect day.

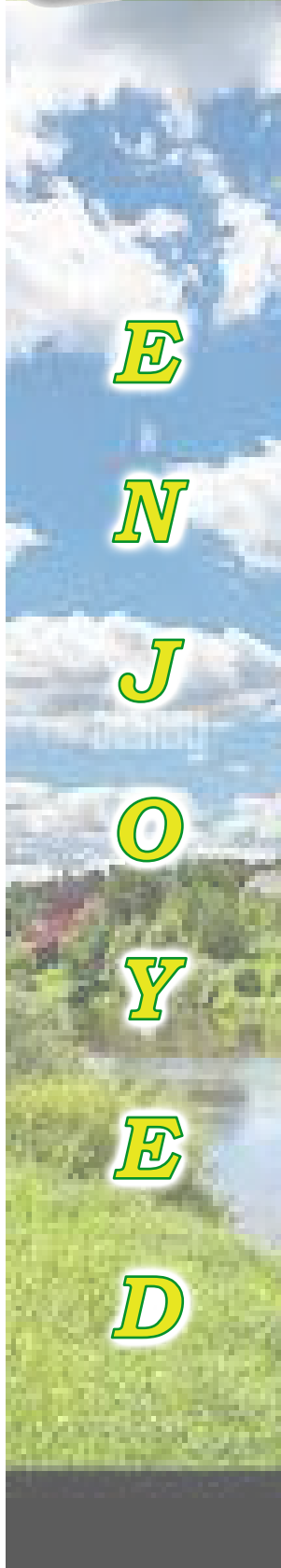


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Kawartha Lakes and Bobcaygeon Cruise



**Thursday,
June 15, 2023**
by Cruise Directors Rick
and Shaun Fox

We started out our day at Tudhope Park on the shores of Lake Couchiching with a partly overcast sky. After gathering for a few minutes of conversation, we held our drivers' meeting and prepared to start the cruise. The two groups of Miatas, comprising of 23 people in 13 cars left the park almost on schedule and with tops down, headed southward towards Brechin. From there we travelled west and then south along the cottage lined east shore of Lake Simcoe. An unexpected road construction project forced us to take a detour back over to Hwy. 12 and then rejoin the planned route a few kilometers south. We then carried on through Beaverton and south to County Road 10. We travelled east through Sunderland and Little Britain and then, through more construction on Hwy. 7/35, to our first "pit stop" of the tour at Tim Horton's on County Road 36 in Lindsay. After a short break and a caffeine boost for some, we carried on along CR 36 and then CR 24 to Bobcaygeon. We arrived at Bobcaygeon Inn



about 15 minutes behind schedule (thanks to all the roadwork). We enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Inn's restaurant, indoors, but with a view. Shoutout to Kelley at Bobcaygeon Inn for taking such good care of us!

Full and happy, we again put the tops down and left Bobcaygeon along CR 36. We then headed north along CR 507 (aka. *Miata Road* 507!) to Gooderham. With great discipline, we travelled this road without attracting the unwanted attention of any traffic enforcement officers, although putting a little more pressure on the accelerator was very tempting indeed! At Gooderham, we headed west along CR 503 to the village of Kinmount, where we stopped at the local park, our afternoon "pit stop". After the break, we carried on westward along CR 45 (Monck Road) to CR 169. We then travelled north to Washago for some Kawartha Dairies ice cream at Scoopz, the last stop of the cruise. We enjoyed ice cream and conversation in the shop and then bid farewell to our fellow cruisers until the next event!



Our thanks to Claude & Shelley Mikolainis for leading Group 2, to Ed & Judy Gigg and Bob & Carol Macaulay who volunteered to sweep for Groups 1 and 2 respectively. Not to be forgotten, the weather gods for not raining on us!

Zoom Zoom 😊
Rick and Shaun Fox





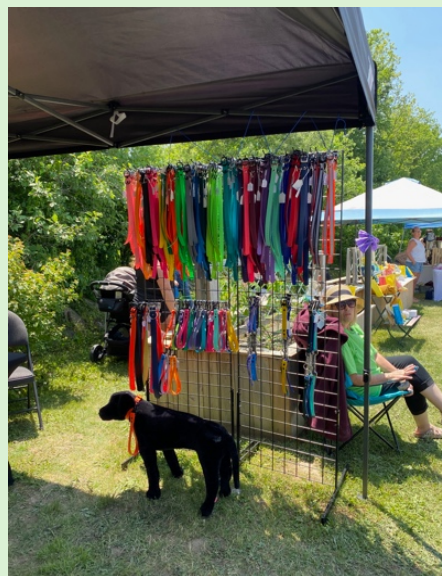
Unofficial Miata Excursion

Invitation from Susan Wellman

Saturday June 17, 2023

One of our newest members, Susan Wellman, has attended several of our club activities this spring and has quickly made friends with our group. She and her husband Gary live on a very spacious property north of Orillia. Susan cares for several alpacas and a llama, in addition to operating a couple of small businesses from her home. She organized a very well-attended vendor's market on her property and invited Miata Club members to come and see the animals, enjoy some refreshments and visit the numerous vendors. Some of us accepted her invitation and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thanks, Susan, for your invitation to join you and your family for this very interesting and informative event!



"The Buddy Holly Story" Cruise, Show and Dinner

Saturday, June 24, 2023

by Cruise Directors Doug and Sheila Jackson

The early morning weather on Saturday the 24th was miserable. The gentle overnight rain had switched to a downpour by 7:00 am and it looked like the cruise was going to be a soggy one. However, by assembly time, the weather had cleared and when we departed at 9:55 from the Orillia Sports Complex, we were able to drive with the tops down! The normally empty parking lot was filled to overflowing, due to the huge lacrosse tournament held indoors on the two arena floors. We drove a leisurely route through Oro and Medonte Townships, enjoying the hills and the new asphalt paving on the Ingram Sideroad. We wound our way through more of the pastoral landscape enroute to Elmvale and then again northward as we journeyed to Awenda Provincial Park. In the Park, we discovered more freshly paved roads! When we arrived at our designated picnic lunch spot, we discovered that the covered pavilion was occupied by a large children's birthday party group. Good thing it wasn't raining! Fortunately, some folks had put lawn chairs in the trunk, so we had a nice lunch and social time on the Penetang waterfront.



The nine "cruising cars" drove to the Kings Wharf Theatre, where we met up with seven other Miatas, plus two other cars driven by guests of the Jackson's who bought "last minute tickets" from some of our members who were unable to attend due to illness.

"The Buddy Holly Story" was an outstanding presentation!



The production featured talented musicians, lively dancers, youthful chorus members from the local area and, of course, a huge number of famous songs recorded by Buddy Holly. All of us were 'blown away' by the energy and the talent of the entire cast. The production ran longer than most shows, so we drove the regular highway route to our dinner destination, which presented a bit of a challenge because our group had changed from 9 to 18 vehicles! Thanks to the Macaulay's and the Gigg's, we all arrived more or less together at "The Coldwater Grill House", which is not in Coldwater at all, but in the hamlet of Fesserton!

Pre-ordering our food items from a limited-choice selection worked out well, for both us and the restaurant. The staff knew in advance what food items we wanted and could prepare for our group in the private dining area while serving their regular customers in the public dining room. By pre-ordering, we were able to get a discount, which is always appreciated. Additionally, the owner served a complimentary glass of dessert wine at the end of the meal, a gesture which was well received! We were especially pleased to have Gail Lander join us for both the show and the dinner, and Gail's comments to our group were heartfelt and touching. Everyone was so full after such a delicious meal that we abandoned the usual practice of going for ice cream to conclude a Miata Club activity! It was a very full day and one that we hope was enjoyed by all who participated.



Doug and Sheila



Santa's Village Special ICR MiniGolf

**Wednesday,
June 28, 2023**

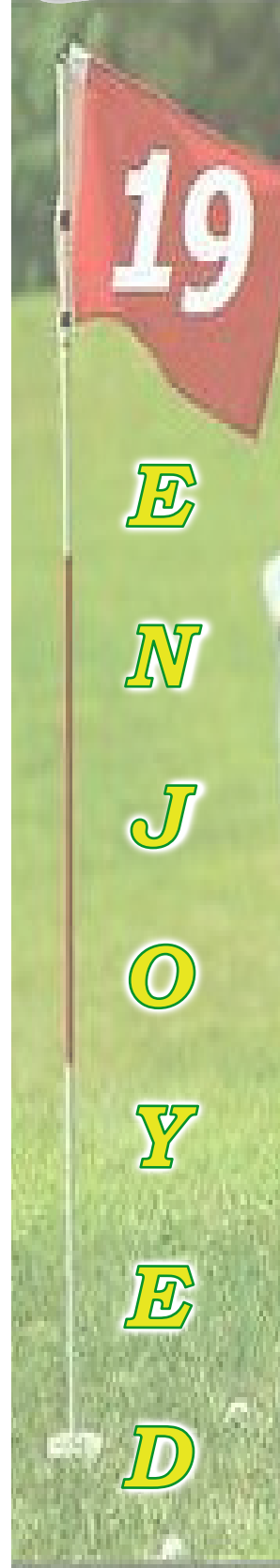
**by Cruise Directors
Cathy and Bill Gilbert**

Twelve cars set out from the old Zellers parking lot in Bracebridge on a hazy June morning. We were lucky that after two days of heavy rain, this morning was dry, although still quite smoky from the forest fires burning further north. We thought all was good until we received a call from the head Elf advising that a beaver dam had collapsed across from the Santa's Village parking lot and the road was closed. Water was gushing across the road and one lot was flooded.

After a slight change to our route, we took a slow trip along the river, with several stops for construction and were led in the back way to our picnic area, to avoid the rushing water.

The employee lot was totally flooded, water was up to the floorboards, or higher on some of the parked cars, and the tiny creek that snakes through the village was a rushing torrent. You can't mess with Mother Nature!

We were met by Ellen, the head elf, who had arranged picnic tables for us, under shade, and had the tables set with linens, elf hats and a buffet table where we were served. After a chorus of Jingle





Bells to sing for our supper, lunch was on!

The food was awesome ... bacon/potato or carrot/ginger soup, macaroni, potato or spinach salad, and choice of beef or chicken salad sandwiches. All that food, plus a drink and a great game of mini golf for \$25 + tax pp!

Lots of fun was had by the golfers, and a few holes-in-one were shot, including one where a ball shot bounced off a rock, onto another green and went straight in the hole. Low scores went to Bob Macaulay and Shelly Mikolainis. Prizes also to Rick Beutler and Gord Bauldry, and "most honest golfer" went to new member Moira Plexman.

Santa and Mrs. Claus came by to say hello and put us all on the Nice List.

After a brief walk around the park before closing, everyone headed for home.

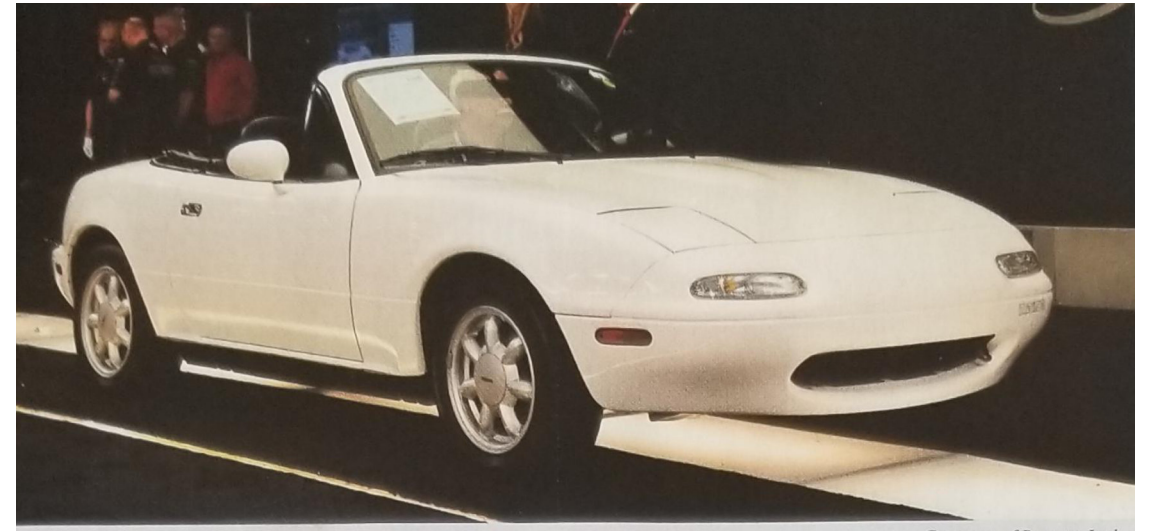


'1990 Mazda MX-5 Miata . Next Gen Market Moment

Sold for \$27,500,
Barrett-Jackson, Houston, TX,
October 20, 2022

Keith Martin's
Sports Car Market
The Insider's Guide to Collecting, Investing, Values, and Trends

Jeff Sabatini
MARCH 2023



"M iata is always the answer." Perhaps you've seen the saying printed on a T-shirt. likely being worn by someone younger than you at a car event. It's an expression of both the greatness and the ubiquity of Mazda's roadster. indisputably one of the best cars of all time. The MX-5 Miata debuted for the 1990 model year. at once reinvigorating the moribund 2-seat open sports-car class and obsoleting competition both new (Mercury Capri) and old (Alfa Romeo's venerable Spider). Inspired by the best quail-, ties of vintage British roadsters, particularly the Lotus Elan, ' but endowed with modern Japanese quality and reliability, the Miata was both fun and affordable, with a base price of about \$14,000. Its 1.6-liter, 116-horsepower inline-4 engine both looked and behaved like an updated version of the classic Alfa twin-cam 4, and its five-speed manual transmission delivered a precise and satisfying shifting experience. The car was a global hit, with Mazda building over 400,000 examples before the car was redesigned for 1999. First-generation Miatas are referred to as "NA" models, which were upgraded with a 1.8- liter engine in 1994. (Three subsequent generations have followed; the current-production MX-5 is the "ND.") Many Miata fans prefer the early NAs, as their lighter weight and quick- revving, 1.6-liter motors give the cars a purity that has arguably been





watered down as MX-5 has evolved. Regardless, from a collectability standpoint, an original 1990 NA stands at the tippy top among regular production models. There are, however, numerous limited-edition Miatas produced over the years, many of which included special paint colors. A turbocharged Mazdaspeed MX-5 was produced for two years during the second generation (“N B”), but most special Miatas were limited to cosmetic upgrades such as BBS or Enkei wheels, Nardi shift knobs and packages of optional equipment. Many of these cars can earn premium pricing in private-sale transactions among Miata die-hards, which is where they mostly change hands. It’s only recently that we’ve started seeing Miatas making “real money,” cracking into the \$20k range at public auction. At \$27,500, our subject car is among the highest sales on record, with only a handful of unmodified cars selling for more, the high-

water mark being a 1993 Limited Edition with 8k miles that sold for \$36,750 on Bring a Trailer in 2020. With 28k miles, our subject car is a truly low-mileage car, although not “in-the-wrapper.” It looks to be in impeccable condition save for an aftermarket stereo and shift knob. Its Crystal White paint is less common ~ and less desirable — than Classic Red, but with 24% of 1990 Miatas in the U.S. delivered in white, it is not rare. Just five years ago, you might have been able to buy a car like this for \$10,000. The market has escalated since. As with many driver’s cars, the supply of better-condition examples continues to get used up. The Miata has become a rite of passage, a car that every enthusiast should own and experience at least once. Although ranked by production numbers as the most popular sports car of all time, great early Miatas are no longer so easy to find. The buyer here paid up for opportunity. He should still come out just fine when it’s time to move on after crossing this one off the bucket list.

Hot Sinks. . .

Link to First Miata from Jim Inch:

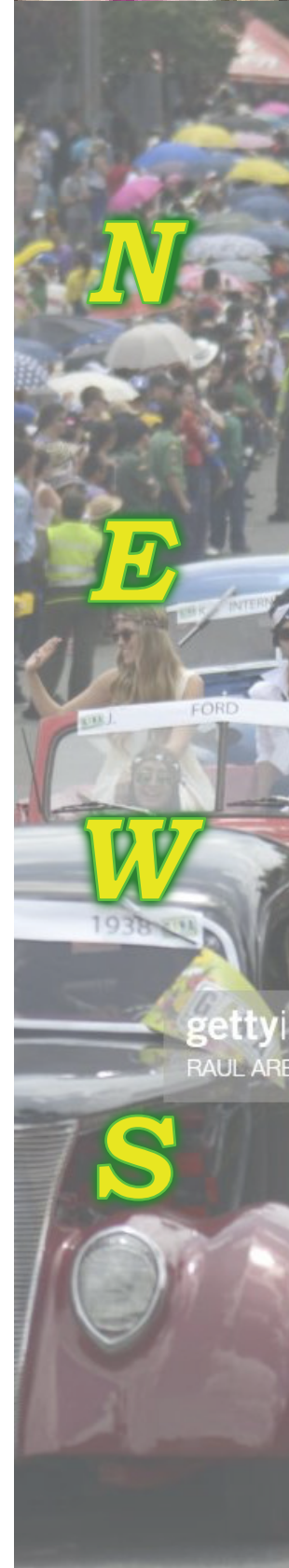
<https://www.hagerty.com/media/automotive-history/the-first-hand-story-of-the-first-mazda-miata/>

Link to Globe and Mail Article from Jim Inch:
Convertible Season Has Begun”

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/first-person/article-convertible-season-has-begun-time-to-cruise-in-my-favourite-miata/>

Link to Jim Inch’s Forwarded Article from Hotcars:

<https://www.hotcars.com/electric-mazda-mx-5-miata/>



Funky postage stamp-adorned Miata catching eyes in Red Deer

Jun 3, 2023

Everything Red Deer!
(rdnewsNOW/Josh Hall)
By Josh Hall (Twitter: @Vancan19)



Evan Bedford with his stamp-covered 2002 Mazda Miata.

Evan Bedford owns all of the postage stamps which adorn his 2002 Mazda Miata.

Wait, what?

That may actually be what you say to yourself if you catch a



glimpse of the Red Deerian’s car driving around the city.

The petite vehicle was purchased by Bedford five or six years ago, and he then got a unique wrap on it because, as studies suggest, grey/silver cars

are somewhat more likely to be involved in motor vehicle collisions (MVCs).

Now it’s a nice shade of blue, but with a very hard to miss tapestry.

“I considered racing stripes, but then I thought why not have some more fun with it? I’ve been collecting stamps since I was a kid in the 1960s,” says Bedford.

“One of my interests is the Isle of Man motorcycle races, so on both sides, that’s what’s featured. On the hood, we have military history, the trunk has science and technology, and there are explorers on the roof.”

There's also a very personal stamp on the hood, he shares.

"My Aunt Mary, back in 1965, was a post-mistress in a little village called Liss in England, and she actually cancelled that very stamp, the ink marks from which you can see," Bedford beams.

"My grandparents lived in England and they'd send over English comics and whatnot, so lots of stamps went back and forth. Working in the post office, my aunt also came across stamps from all over the world, so I've got some of those too. I lost interest in collecting more when I was a teenager, but they are fantastic little works of art."

Atop the car, a snazzy racing vent was attached by Bedford to enhance the air conditioning. There's also a stylized yellow and blue Canada flag in support of Ukraine, he points out.

And rounding out the car's extreme uniqueness, an Alberta licence plate reading 'ORWELL,' in reference to the famous author of 1984, George Orwell.

He's a part of history too, quips Bedford.

"It all looks ridiculous from 50 feet away, but if you look up close, the artwork on each stamp is quite amazing," the civil engineering tech admits, admiring stamps of bridges on the trunk.

"I suppose I get some looks, but I have to keep my eyes on the road. At gas stations, sometimes I get questions." Each year, Bedford puts his Miata into a summer car show hosted by Wetaskiwin's Reynolds Museum, and he's part of an Edmonton-based Miata club.



'ORWELL' and more stamps adorn the rear of Evan Bedford's car. (rdnewsNOW/Josh Hall)



and a subsequent trip in it to Ottawa in 2024.

by Josh Hall
(Twitter: @Vancan19)