



Crown Wheel and Opinion

(Special Tour of Alberta Mini-Issue)

The Quarterly or so Newsletter of the Calgary MG Car Club
Reboot! - Volume 1 Number 2.5 - August 2021



At the Prince of Wales Hotel – The Cars and the Ladies of the Tour along with Chester, the Doorman





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Editor's Letter – Dean Harrison

Every once in a while an event comes along that deserves to be promoted above and beyond others. It may be a one-time special celebration; it may take the place of another major event or it may just be more fun than any event should be. Such an event is the Tour of Alberta 2021. We hope it is the first of many more! Welcome to the first mini-issue of the Crown Wheel and Opinion. It is intended to serve 2 purposes:

1. Tell the story of the recent Tour of Alberta: Part One; and
2. Encourage more people to join us for Tour of Alberta: Part Two, Aug 27-29, 2021 !

Normally, we would have been going to Radium for BritsBest but COVID shut that down again this year. Looking to hold some sort of major event, our executive conceived and arranged the Tour of Alberta to keep everyone busy while we couldn't travel to BC. A small but enthusiastic crew of 8 CMGCC members took 5 MGs on a 900+ km July drive from Calgary to Waterton Park and back by the scenic and least direct route. They not only lived to tell the tale, they had zero car problems and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As you can see from the cover photo, the weather was just awful – it rained a bit around us on day 2 but never on us for the whole trip.

Part Two is coming up the last weekend in August (27, 28, 29). This time, the route wends its way North through Camrose, on to the beautiful Elk Island National Park, north around Edmonton and then back south through Drayton Valley and the foothills. Planned stops include the Reynolds Museum and Fort Saskatchewan so there will be plenty to see on route.

If you haven't booked to join us for Part Two, do so soon: full details are in the newsletter on page 7. Trish and I look forward to seeing you on route!

Till next time - *Safety Fast* – Dean

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Our objective is "to enhance the MG British style of motoring and the preservation of the MG marquee"

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On the Cover this issue: [The 2021 Tour of Alberta](#); say hello to Chester, the Doorman at the Prince of Wales Hotel along with the 3 ladies: Sharon Champagne, Helen Bhatia and Trish Harrison plus the 5 MGs that made the 900+ km trip.

Answer to Newsletter Quiz number 2:

1936 MG PB

Congratulations to those of you who identified it correctly and submitted the answer.

BTW – The Nissan (Datsun) Figaro was NOT the quiz entry – it was there just for fun!

Newsletter Quiz Number 3

**Both cars are 3 years older than the car in quiz #2
– anyone recognize these MG's?**

BTW – neither of these vehicles made the Tour.



Submit your answer to Newsletter@calgarymgclub.org

Presidential Ponderings –



Hi fellow MGers

For the mini-issue I am ghostwriting and telling John's story for him!
I'm not trying to put words in his mouth however as he did say most
of them to us during the tour!
The Editor

At our Tour stop in Lethbridge during Part One, John suggested a venue for dinner, the Coulee Brew Co. that was only a short distance from our hotel. According to Google about 1.7 km. A brewery with a restaurant/pub attached, it could supply the fluids normally required to support a MG Club event.

He also suggested that since it was a short distance, we should probably walk. The group agreed and we set off. After a few blocks, he rechecked the GPS routing for the restaurant and it now read 4.1 km to the restaurant! It also indicated we should retrace most of our route back to the hotel and a somewhat different direction.

After additional review of our location, we determined that we were not that far from the restaurant but there was a bit of an obstacle in the way: the CPR north/south mainline. Hence the new set of instructions.

Not to be limited by this barrier (or minor inconvenience depending on your point of view and/or footwear) we managed with a bit of scrambling on the part of some people to cross the tracks. We then made our way to Coulee Brew only to find they had stopped brewing their own beer during the pandemic but they were selling other local craft brews. Dinner did turn out fine as we had worked up a bit of an appetite and the cab ride back to the hotel made for some good natured fun. It also explained our president's firm resolution to refrain from more suggestions for the duration of the trip!

Our president does have a suggestion for Part Two though: that is JOIN US! We had a blast on the southern Alberta leg and we can't wait for the central Alberta loop.

Club News

New Regalia



The shirts are now available from the club at the bargain price of \$25.00. Just email: Events@calgarymgclub.org with sizes and to arrange for pick up.

Look for more about our newest support team member and our club swag in the next issue.

The Calgary MG Car Club has new regalia: in honor of the Tour of Alberta. The following photos feature our new Regalia Coordinator modelling the new t-shirts. Rumour has it, Duncan is looking to start a new career.



Tour of Alberta Part One:

The CMGCC Southern Alberta Summer Drive and Honeymoon Tour!



Thursday morning July 8 dawned sunny and warm. Eight members of CMGCC gathered by 10:00 AM with five MGs at Tim Hortons on Shawville Blvd. to begin the tour. Well, 6 and 4 on time. We cut Azim and Helen a little slack as they were newlyweds having just tied the knot the previous weekend! They had been pretty coy and quiet about it but the news broke and we all enjoyed the honeymoon!

After a quick driver/navigator meeting, we got away pretty close to on time, heading out to the roads of southern Alberta and our first rest stop/nature break at Aspen Crossing. (Some of us need more stops than others-it's an age thing)

It was warm (hot) but our route took us east of Highway 2 and south to Vulcan where a great lunch was had by all at the Legion. We were even invited to come back for there parade later



The Newlyweds – at the Prince of Wales
Hotel

in the summer!

The afternoon saw us travel further east toward Lake Newell then south to for ice cream in Vauxhall and gas in Taber before continuing to Lethbridge and our first overnight stop. (See the ghost written President's update on dinner.)

Friday, July 9: After an evening of tour chat and discussion of the drive in Charles and Sharon's room the previous evening we met up and walked to Denny's, just down the block, for breakfast. Then, it was back on the road for the relatively short leg of the tour to Cardston and Waterton. The Cardston stop involved a bit of walking around the downtown area and thoughts about a future drive to the Carriage Museum. Then on to Waterton. We arrived early in the afternoon and paused for refreshments at the Lakeside



Chop House and Wine Bar. (Highly recommended by the way – great patio with some shade overlooking the lake) Charles, our intrepid organizer then called to the Prince of Wales Hotel and secured dinner reservations for our crew. We took a short scenic tour of Waterton (you can't go that far in town!) and headed up to the hotel.



We drove in past the main entrance to the hotel. As Trish and I got to the entry, we were car 5, we were greeted by a loud whistle and waving arms from the doorman. "Could we get the other MGs back to the front of the hotel? - You all get parking right here by the building!" Chester, the doorman, then joined us for pictures by the cars and an exchange of stories about cars, hotels and

anything else. He filled us in on hotel executives, history and the area. You hardly noticed the effects of the fire in town, they have done a marvellous job of recovery. Dinner at the hotel was the highlight of the trip. Sea Bass, Elk Ragout and other dishes meant we ate well.



After dinner it was another short drive to our accommodation in Pincher Creek. A quiet evening for everyone as we had a longer drive the next day.

Saturday. July 10: Our last day on tour, we had a quick breakfast at the local A and W then proceeded west and north toward the Cowboy Trail. Stops at Chain Lakes and Longview for a break and then lunch. We hit the Twin Cities Hotel and Saloon before the bulk of the motorcycles arrived. So, we got a place to sit inside. Saturday was the hottest day of the trip so the refreshment at the saloon was an absolute necessity.

The Cowboy Trail proved to be the most 'eventful' portion of the drive as both the traffic and the idiot factor on the road increased as it was now the weekend.

We had a final stop for ice cream in Black Diamond where the group split to head home. All of us a bit weary but ready to keep going. Nobody really wanted to end the tour and go home! All the discussion centred on now getting ready for Part Two!

Tour Statistics:

- **8 club members**
- **5 MGs (3 MGBs, 1 MGC and 1 MG Midget)**
- **900+ km of driving**
- **Car problems by all participants: - 0 I repeat 0 – not one car related issue on the whole trip!**
- **Weather: warm to hot all trip, NO rain (Well 2 spots on the windscreen)**
- **Smiles – limitless**



Trish Harrison and Sharon Champagne share tour thoughts at Chain Lakes.

CMGCC Upcoming Events:

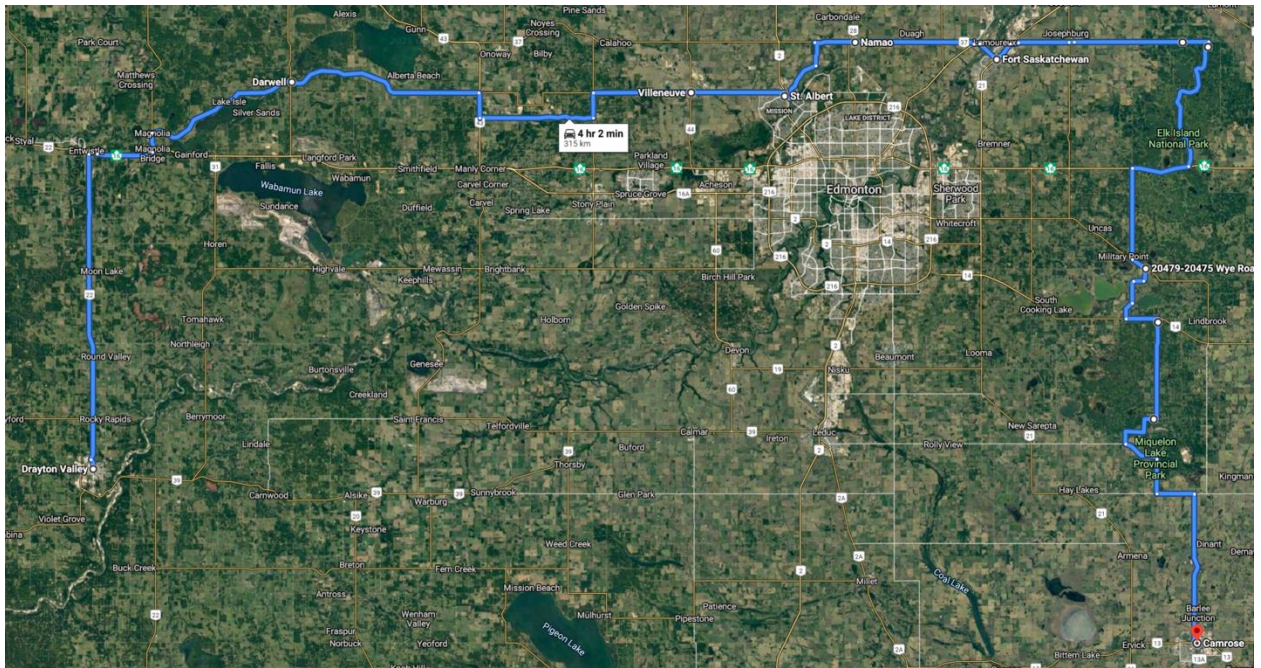
Tour of Alberta: Part Two

August 27, 28, 29

Let's face it: our cars are made for summer touring! To this end, you're invited to join with other club members for a long weekend tour of central Alberta. Guests are welcome too: you don't have to own an LBC to participate.

Friday August 27 will see us depart in the morning from north Calgary (rendezvous point to be finalized), heading north on prairie roads, to east side of HWY 2. We'll take a leisurely pace with a stop or two for coffee in the likes of Trochu and gas in Bashaw, before arriving at the Reynolds Motor Museum in Wetaskiwin for lunch. Folks can spend as long as they like here, as our first night will be just down the way in Camrose. (A block of rooms is reserved at the R+R Inn and Suites: more info below.) For those that wish to spend some time on things other than motors, the Camrose and District Centennial Museum is on the roster.

For day two, we'll head to Elk Island Park and then Fort Saskatchewan for lunch, before overnighting in Drayton Valley. The map below shows our route:



On Sunday Aug 29, our day three drive will take us on Route 620 over the Brazeau Dam, and then onto Caroline for lunch. Each day's drive is planned for approximately 300 km of driving, with convenient stops for comfort breaks and to see places of interest.

All club members and guests are welcome and so far we have eight vehicles lined up including MGs, a Triumph, and Mini. If you are interested in joining us, here's the full information on hotels:

Friday 27 Aug: R & R Inn & Suites, Camrose, 6508 48 Ave, Camrose, AB T4V 3A3, Ph: [\(780\) 672-2292](tel:(780)672-2292)

People who have already confirmed their attendance (you know who you are!) should call and make a reservation in their own name, taking one of the eight rooms booked by Dick Avern's for the Calgary MG Car Club. You will need to use your own credit card and should get the group rate of \$79.97 + tax incl breakfast. Cancellation date for room hold is Aug 21. If you have not already confirmed with Dick or Charles, that you are attending, and wish to stay the night you should call and book your own room and ask if you can also get the group rate. At time of publication, there were still vacancies.

Sat 28 Aug: Super 8, Drayton Valley. 3727 50 St, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1S4, Ph: [\(780\) 542-9122](tel:(780)542-9122)

People who have already confirmed their attendance (you know who you are!) have a specific reservation number. Eight rooms are held in the name of Dick Avern's as a block booking, each with a separate booking reference. These rooms are currently held with Dick's credit card: so if you're one of the lucky tourists that signed up early, when you get your booking reference please either contact the Super 8 and change the guest name to your own, and add your own credit card, or be aware that the cancellation date for held rooms is Aug 26. (Funnily enough, Dick is happy to help with bookings, but not pay for all rooms!) If you haven't already indicated you are coming on this trip you can make your own reservation and ask if you can get the block booking rate of \$84.15 + tax incl breakfast.

Of note, we are all aware that hotel rates fluctuate based on demand and season. The planning for this trip involved lots of shopping around and conversations about suitable venues, and then securing the best block booking rate available at the time of making room holds. Please be sure to keep your club events organizers informed of your plans for this trip.

BE THERE!!

Please look to our calendar for other upcoming events, it is always the best source of the most current information and confirmation of what will occur this year. Go to the club events web page <http://calgarymgclub.org/main.html#Events>

Upcoming In Crown Wheel and Opinion:

What to Look For:

The Competitive Side of the LBC – Solo Events, Track Days and other diversions

Member Profiles – who's who in our zoo!

Association updates – NAMGBR, MGOC, NAMGAR, and those 'other' marques.

More Tech, More Pictures, More Stories and Definitely More Fun!

The Back Page:



Need I say anything more?!

