

Yellow Jackets motorcycle club marks 65th anniversary

By Phil Gravelle
Special to The IFP

Former members of the Yellowjackets Motorcycle Club are getting together to celebrate their glory days.

Organizers are reaching out to anyone who may have been part of the Georgetown-based club in the 1950s and '60s, for a reunion on the weekend of Sept. 12-13.

It has been 65 years since a group of bike enthusiasts first met at Don Hutcherson's barbershop and later in Jim Buck's garage, creating a social club with a focus on competition.

They will ride out from the Acton Legion at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, headed for Rattlesnake Point. Dinner will be at Ares Restaurant at 5 p.m., with a breakfast meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

The organizing team includes former members Dan Martin, and Wayne Wilson with his wife Marg. The club has not been active since 1968, but they still get about 25 people out to reunions.

Martin was a member of the old Georgetown Police Force and is now retired after serving with Peel Regional Police.

A former Harley rider, he's now on his third Honda Gold Wing—with heated seat and grips, navigation system, airbag and six cylinders putting out 120 horsepower. At 76, he still rides with the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club and the Southern Cruisers Riding Club.

In 1953, the Yellowjackets held their first Observed Trials on the river flats at Norval. Each competitor started with 1,000 points and started losing them as they traversed the course. Jim Buck was the first winner.

Hundreds of spectators would come out to watch the thrills and spills of their hill climbing meets on Glen Lawson Rd. east of Acton. Riders came from across southern Ontario, each getting three tries



Dan Martin on his motorcycle with Wayne Wilson have put out the call to former members for a Yellow Jackets reunion, Sept. 12-13.

Photo by Phil Gravelle

at the steep slope in each class.

"We used to be able to have some fun in those days," said Martin.

One highlight of the meet was the Flaming Wall Crash—a rider would burst through a cedar wall that had been soaked in gas and oil, and set ablaze. It was a stunt that Wilson says, "hurt a bit."

There were Field Days with events such as the slow race (last one across the finish line wins) and the competition in which a bike would drive by a suspended mustard-dipped wiener and the passenger would have to take a bite. This got harder as they lowered the wiener.

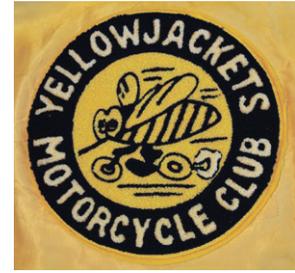
They were proud to have led the Players 200 Parade prior to the international Grand Prix race at Mosport, and to have hosted the Ontario Enduro Championship, in which riders would carry a saw and axe in a sidecar to deal with obstacles.

They'd get together for some sliding around the plaza parking lot, or get dressed up for the annual Church Parade, starting at the Delrex Market Centre and proceeding with police escort to St. John's Anglican Church in Stewarttown.

Police escorts were not always so friendly. One time, about 1957, a half-dozen of the members took a ride into Milton. The police chief let them know they were not welcome, and personally escorted them back to Georgetown. The chief had probably watched *The Wild One*, a 1953 Marlon Brando/Lee Marvin film about a nasty group of bikers invading a small town.

The Georgetown club always promoted its good reputation. They were a registered with the Canadian Motorcycle Association, and presented themselves at public events in gold satin shirts, black ties, and black pants with a gold stripe.

For more information, email mwwilson01@gmail.com.



Couple starts online petition to prevent future monster homes

Continued from page 1

While Nesbitt and Anderson are unhappy with the height of the new home as well, Josipovic said it too falls well within the Town's regulations.

"The maximum permitted height is 11 metres measured from average grade to the midpoint of the roof. The proposed height of this building is 8.4 metres," she said.

The fact the house meets all local requirements provides little comfort for the couple, who have now started an online petition that "demands an

end to monster homes being built that impede on neighbouring properties in Halton Hills." By press time it had garnered 39 signatures.

"If nothing can be done to stop this, then maybe we can help other people stop this from happening to them," said Anderson.

Added Nesbitt, "If it can happen to us, it can happen to anybody."

Josipovic said the Town is committed to responding to concerns such as these from the community.

She explained senior staff will be

consulting with the mayor and councillors on the issue, with discussions potentially focusing on a review of the current Town zoning bylaw.

A review of the rules that govern in-fill development would be welcomed by Ward 3 councillor Dave Kentner and Moya Johnson, who've both been over to visit Nesbitt and Anderson about their concerns.

"I really do think there may be some things we can do to soften the impact on neighbouring properties," said Kentner, noting he has been looking to other

municipalities and their urban design guidelines for examples. "We have urban design guidelines, but I don't think they really address this issue. This is a new phenomenon in Halton Hills where people purchase a perfectly good home, tear it down and build something new. I can think of eight to 10 other examples in Ward 3."

The couple posted a large sign on the fence at the front of their property last week that boldly voiced their displeasure with the situation. Town bylaw enforcement staff has since told them

to remove the sign as it contravenes the local sign bylaw.

Josipovic explained the bylaw provides a list of sign types that are permitted in a residential area, such as real estate or election signs.

"Their sign is not on that list," she said.

While the word on the street was that the property is owned by the aforementioned companies, Josipovic told the *Independent & Free Press* it's actually owned by one person, but she

Continued on page 12

HASSELL

AUTOMOTIVE SALES & SERVICE

45 Mountainview Road North
Georgetown, Ontario
905.877.7958

e-mail: hassellsauto@bellnet.ca
www.hassellautomotive.com



- Auto/4 cyl
- Certified & E-tested • A/C
- Power Windows/Steering
- Alloy Wheels
- Power Door Locks

\$13,100
+ HST/LIC



2012 Ford Focus SE

- Auto/4 cyl
- Certified & E-tested • A/C
- Keyless Entry
- Steering Wheel Controls
- Fog Lights
- Folding Rear Seat

\$12,700
+ HST/LIC



2007 Chevrolet Cobalt LT

- Auto/4 cyl
- Certified & E-Tested
- Sunroof/Moonroof
- Spoiler
- AM/FM CD Player
- Cruise Control

\$6,300
+ HST/LIC



2007 Saturn Ion Quad

- Auto/4 cyl
- Certified & E-tested
- Bucket Seats
- Sunroof/Moonroof
- Spoiler
- Cruise Control

\$5,500
+ HST/LIC

CALL

Dave

