

The Old Car Detective

Bill Sherk



'Brand new' Model A Ford in Nova Scotia

Fred Embree of Northport, Nova Scotia, is the proud owner of a car that was built 77 years ago. He bought it in pieces and now it's like new again:
 "Back in the 1940s, I told my wife Jennie I would love to own a brand new Model A Ford. We were raising a family back then and couldn't afford it.

"Two years ago, I was looking through Old Autos newspaper and came across an ad from Mike Dobson, who was selling a 1931 Model A Ford in parts. I bought the car and Vic Mattison of Pugwash, N.S., went up to Oshawa and brought it home for me.

"I took it completely apart and bought all new parts from George Moir in Alberta and Dixie in Ontario. Vic Mattison put it all back together for me and painted it. My wife Jennie picked out the colours – two-tone green. Go Glass in Amherst, N.S., installed new windows and upholstery and the car is now 95 per cent brand new.



Fred and Jennie Embree with their 1931 Model A Ford coupe.

A, a 1925 Model T Ford, a 1949 Chev 1/2 ton truck, and a 1964 Plymouth Valiant (American model), and we have all of them on the road in the summer.

"We belong to our own Cumberland Car Club and have a lot of fun going here and there. It's a lovely club with 80 to 90 members and we visit many different places with our antique cars."

The Model A Ford was built from 1928 to 1931 and was powered by a flathead four-cylinder engine producing 40 horsepower from 200 cubic inches. The transmission was a three-speed floorshift affectionately known as a "crashbox" because it had no synchromesh and you had to double-clutch while changing gears.

To keep the price down, it had no fuel pump and relied upon gravity to bring the gasoline to the carburetor from the fuel tank inside the cowl between the firewall and dashboard. The fuel filler cap was directly in front of the windshield.

The Model A Ford was available in a variety of colours and body styles. The two-passenger business coupe had a Windsor factory list price of \$585 and the 4-passenger sport coupe with rumble seat was \$630.

"I won't tell you what it cost, but I finally now have a brand new Model A Ford and my wife and I are very proud of it. We were married on November 19, 1942, and recently celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary.

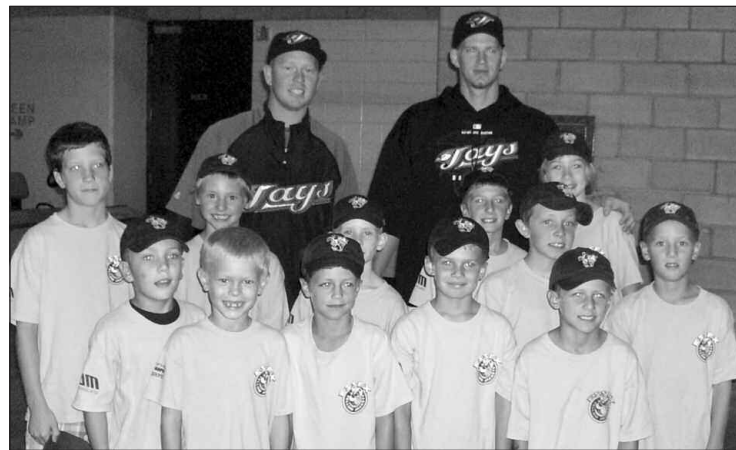
"We have been in the old car hobby since 1972. At present, we own our 1931 Model

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Essex Rookie Travel team takes OBA championship



The Essex Rookie Travel baseball team took the 2008 OBA Championship for D Division. Here, Essex players pose with Toronto Blue Jays pitchers Jesse Litsch, left, and A.J. Burnett, before game time Sept. 7.

Photo courtesy of Chris Mastroianni

On Labour Day weekend, the Essex rookie travel team went to Exeter to compete in the OBA Division D championships. The team played six tough games and won all six on its way to victory.

In the final game the Essex team played the host team, Exeter. It was an exciting game as Exeter took a five-run lead in the first inning. Essex stormed back with six runs of their own and, from that point on, let their outstanding defense take over, capped with an outfield diving catch by Liam Bergeron "grounding" any chance of a comeback from Exeter. Essex won 21-11.

Although the Essex players won all six of their games, there were several intense moments during the tournament that the team had to overcome, including having to come from behind and rally with two outs in several innings. Everything that the team worked on all year seemed to come together at the right time. All the players played their hearts out and deserved their championship rings.

In addition to Liam's catch,

a few more highlights included: two clutch double plays turned by Noah Fuerth and Cale Cooper; a relay throw out at the plate led by Kade McKibbon; and Game 4, which included six home runs, outstanding base running by all players, and a stellar defensive and offensive performance by the coaches' player of the tournament, Kale Ambrose.

Special thanks to all the families and friends for all their support all season long. The team was rewarded with tickets to go see the Toronto Blue Jays vs the Tampa Bay Rays on Sept. 7. Thirty-two players and family members travelled to the Rogers Centre. The players were all dressed in their yellow game shirts and had big smiles on their faces as they met some Blue Jay players and were able to get a couple of autographs before the game. The Yellow Jackets and other OBA champs from across Ontario were welcomed onto the outfield to parade across the warning track. The kids were waving to their generous fans out there.

Once this was done, the

team was in for an even bigger surprise. Since Essex drove the farthest that day, the Blue Jays personnel had awarded all the players and coaches a chance to sit in the TD Canada Trust comfort zone (which are those big green leather chairs in the front row). They took turns sharing these seats and also enjoyed complimentary pop, hotdogs, peanuts and popcorn. What could get better than this!

Oh, the Blue Jays beat the Rays 1-0. What an awesome day for an awesome group of kids. Great season!

Congratulations to the Essex Ram Rookie Travel 2008 Ontario Baseball Association Division D Champions: Kale Ambrose, Liam Bergeron, Cale Cooper, Jasper Drouillard, Sam Fenton, Noah Fuerth, Josh Koning, Tanner Langlois, Noah Lauzon, Daniel Mastroianni, Jessica MacPherson, Kade McKibbon, Coaches Dan Drouillard, Pat Fuerth, Bill Fenton and Grant Bergeron, and Manager Carol Cooper. Ontario Champs!!!

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As a thank you, if your story is published in this column you will receive a copy of Bill Sherk's book "60 Years Behind the Wheel: The Cars We Drove in Canada 1900-1960". To share your stories or photos e-mail billtsherk@sympatico.ca or write Bill Sherk, 33 Oak St. E., P.O. Box 10012, Leamington, ON N8H 2C3.