

## Road Test

# The last Tango in a Miata

By JIM ROBINSON  
Metroland Media

To this day, in my experience, nothing has caused quite the stir as the original Mazda Miata.

Now in its 25th year of production, I think I've driven one every year for the last 25 years, not to set some kind of record, but for what it offers – the “spirit of a sportscar”.

I didn't invent that slogan, Mazda did, but it sums up what this charming little two-seat roadster is all about – having fun.

You had to be there in 1989 when Mazda, out of the blue, debuted the Miata (now called MX-5) at the Chicago Auto Show.

It was a breath of much-needed fresh air.

It was the worst of times for the auto industry. The domestics in particular were palming off horrid automobiles such as the K-Cars, Topaz/Tempo and A- and J-body GM cars that, for the General, hastened its decline into near oblivion that almost resulted in GM ceasing to exist.

While the Japanese, to their credit, stuck to quality over



Mazda's cheery MX-5 Miata roadster has been in production for 25 years and is the largest selling sports car of all time because it's all about the fun of driving.

quantity, the same could not be said for the Europeans, especially the British.

Arguably, England had created what we consider today as the two-seat sportscar, boasting names such as Triumph, Jaguar, TVR, MG, Morgan and Sunbeam.

In truth, they were horrid pieces of yestertech with great cast iron lumps of

engines, wire wheels that needed to be “re-laced” every six months and carburetors going back in design to World War One.

The “platforms” were cold welded mild steel tubing or ladder frames with virtually no chassis rigidity or crash protection, as we know it today.

“Swaying like a reed in the wind” was a phrase I read long ago describing the chassis flex of an Austin Healey 3000, which was extremely accurate.

The worst of all was the weather protection, which consisted of a bunch of wire hoops over which was stretched a

**See 2014, pg. 3**

## Bratina Auto

82 Main St. N. Georgetown

To book an appointment **905-873-6127**

**TECH-NET**  
Professional  
AUTO SERVICE



Honest, Reliable Service Since 1989

Free Local Shuttle Service

[www.bratinauto.com](http://www.bratinauto.com)

## Road Trips! Make Sure Your Vehicle is Safe!

**OIL CHANGE  
MAINTENANCE  
SPECIAL**

(Includes 30 Point Inspection)

**\$49.95\***

\*Most Vehicles

Expiry August 31, 2014

081414



Ontario Drive Clean  
Test and Repair Facility  
for all light duty vehicles

**SERVICES OFFERED:**

- Brakes
- Steering / Suspension
- Computerized Alignments
- Exhaust
- Tires
- D.O.T. Safety
- ... and more

081414