



THE WAY WE WERE

This circa 1922 photo shows station employees Ray Coles (left) and George Alcott (second from left) with the crew of the Toronto Suburban electric train standing outside of Georgetown Station. The railway operated from Toronto to Guelph, passing through Georgetown and Acton, from April 1917 until August 1931. This building stood at 29 Main St. South, the present site of Goodfellas Pizza.

EHS photo

OPINION

EVs - IT'S NOT 'IF' BUT 'WHEN' THEY'RE COMING

I EXPECT NEXT CAR WILL BE ONE, WRITES TED BROWN



TED BROWN
Column

For years, I've been a member of the Golden Horseshoe Mustang Association (GHMA).

The group is comprised of Ford Mustang owners from all walks of life, with

Mustangs ranging from vintage 64 1/2 models, right up to present day.

They meet monthly at the Ford headquarters in Oakville and have a guest speaker for each meeting. They also organize club activities like car shows, cruises and a trip to the Woodward Dream Cruise in Detroit each August.

A couple of weeks ago, I heard a most interesting speaker. His name is Tim Burrows, and his presentation is titled Tim Talks Tesla. (www.TimTalksTesla.com)

Most people know the Tesla is one of the leading electric automobiles on the market today. And Tim talks candidly about being a Tesla driver.

OK, I know exactly what you internal combustion engine fans are thinking.

"Whoa! A Tesla driver promoting electric automobiles at a Mustang special interest group gathering? Man, that's sacrilege!"

Interestingly I found his presentation a perfect fit.

Let's face it, electric cars are on the way - it's not a matter of if they're coming, more a matter of when.

And Tim's presentation to a classic car group was most appropriate - they're all car junkies.

I drive a late model Mustang seasonally for fun. And I have a daily driver I drive the rest of the time. I also own a 1967 Mustang project car - something to tinker with when time permits.

In spite of owning two

Mustangs I'm a driver first and like most, I'm interested in saving the environment and saving money at the gas pump to boot.

I liken it to someone who owns a horse and hitches him to a buggy once in a while to take the grandkids for a ride. That horse isn't a replacement for the family car, rather a fun diversion - as are the Mustangs, or any other collectible car.

Switching to an electric car doesn't make one a traitor to the internal combustion engine - it makes you progressive.

Tim used analogies about driving an EV (electric vehicle).

He said when you get up in the morning, and step into your EV, the batteries are 100 per cent charged. It's like having a full tank of gas.

That's because it's been on the home charger all night.

So off you go to work, no

worries about stopping for gas on your way.

Later, when you return home, you plug your EV into your home receptacle and the built-in timer begins the charging process in the wee hours of the morning, while you're asleep - and electricity is cheaper.

Next morning, another full tank.

Tim also compared the performance and range of his EV to a conventional car. His Tesla has a 400-horsepower electric motor and he travels about 450 km on a charge.

I found his range interesting. My Mustang has a 400-plus horsepower motor and I too can travel about 450 km on a tank.

One difference - I'm paying \$1.45 a litre for premium gas, while he's paying the equivalent of about \$0.25 per litre for electricity. And I'm still travelling to a gas pump to fill up.

I'm hardly scratching

the surface of the EV vs. internal combustion discussion, like the reduction in range in cold weather, battery maintenance, etc.

But it still makes sense, especially following the recent Saudi Arabia oilfields bombing.

More and more auto-makers are developing EVs. We'll be driving them sooner than we think.

And like those pricey transistor radios we paid exorbitant prices for in the 1950s, later to cost a couple bucks - I'm betting EVs will also become affordable.

I'm a few years away from changing vehicles, but I expect my next car will be an EV.

But I hope one thing can remain - that I'll still be able to attend a Friday cruise night behind the wheel of a classic.

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