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Catching the Love Bug

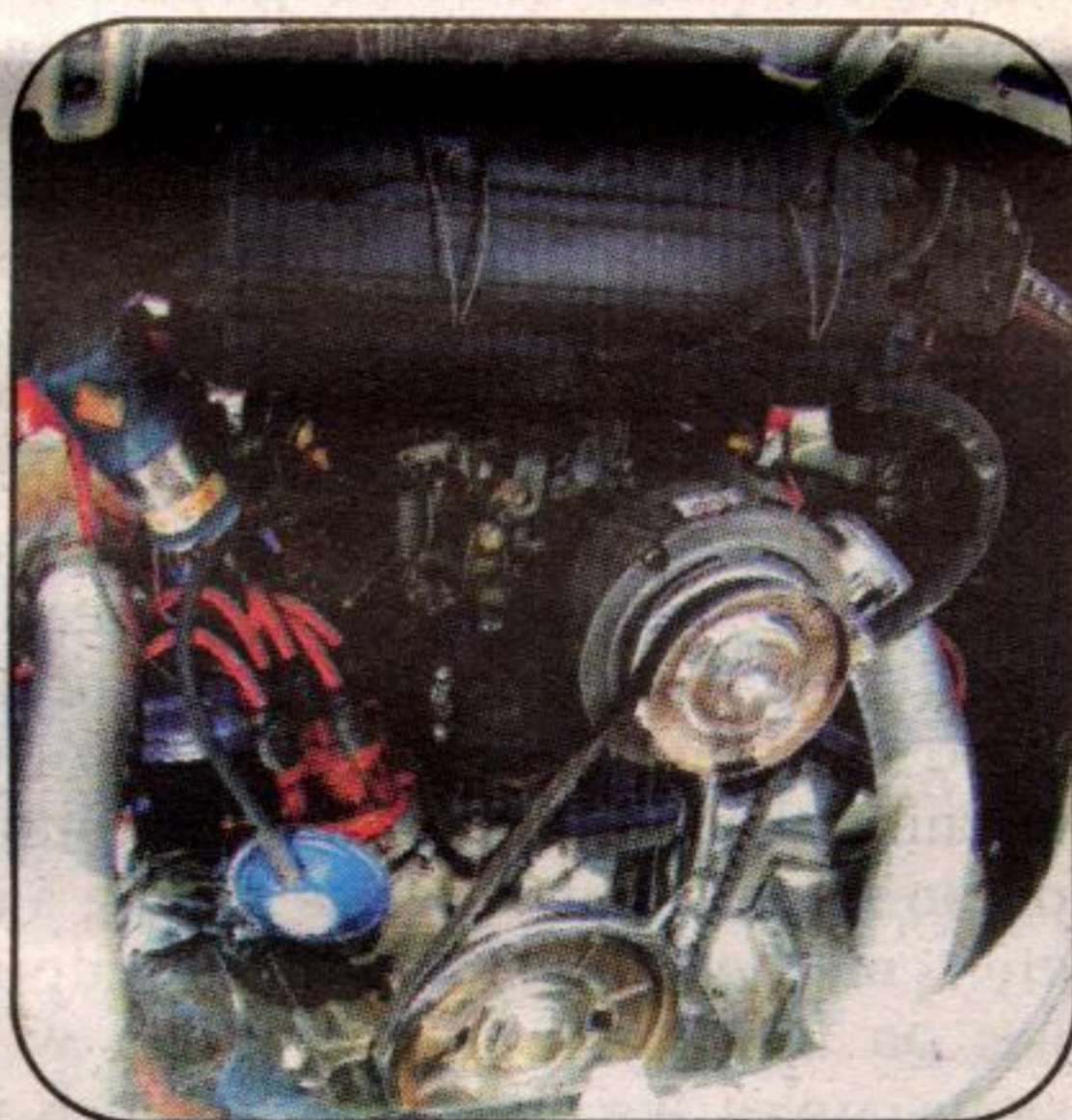
STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANN KORNUTA

People cannot help smiling at Barry as he drives his 1973 Volkswagen Beetle that is tricked out as Herbie the Love Bug. Accurate down to the number fifty-three decal and bright red and blue racing stripes, Fire Fighter Barry Kory spared no expense creating a little "love bug" of his own.



Get a look at that! Its Milton Fire Fighter Barry Kory in his restored 1973 Herbie Love Bug!

Volkswagen, plainly translated into English as "the people's car", was one of the most popular cars to be ever manufactured. More Volkswagen Beetles have been sold than any other individual model of car. Herbie made his first on screen appearance in "The Love Bug", which was applauded by family audiences everywhere in 1968. Today, Herbie is taking the spotlight in Disney's newest Herbie instalment, "Herbie, Fully Loaded".



The Herbie engine close up.

The real Herbie car has various gadgets like doors that open automatically, and gears and pedals in the rear. Barry's Herbie is no exception. "The only thing that this Herbie has which isn't featured in the classic movie is the CD deck I put in," Barry said.

Barry bought the rusty old Volkswagen as a gift for his wife back in 1998. The outside body of the Beetle was rusted and in desperate need of some TLC. "It was drivable when I got it, but we left it in the garage doing nothing for a long time," Barry said. After some time, Barry decided he was going to fix up the Volkswagen and the idea came to him to transform his Beetle into Herbie. "It was just a thought I had," Barry explained. "When everyone thinks of a bug, they think Herbie and I set my mind on creating my own little Herbie car."

Barry spent his weekends ripping out seats and ordering parts from Hamilton's Marks Bug Barn. "The paint job was done right here in Milton by the folks at Milltowne Collision. After the paint, it was just a matter of making the Herbie decals so everyone would recognize him. The decals were made by a friend of mine from a printing company, all to spec," Barry said.

Herbie hit the roads of Milton in June. Every Sunday Barry gets into his little love bug and drives him out the Classic Cruise Nights at the Canadian Tire in Milton to meet with other car enthusiasts.

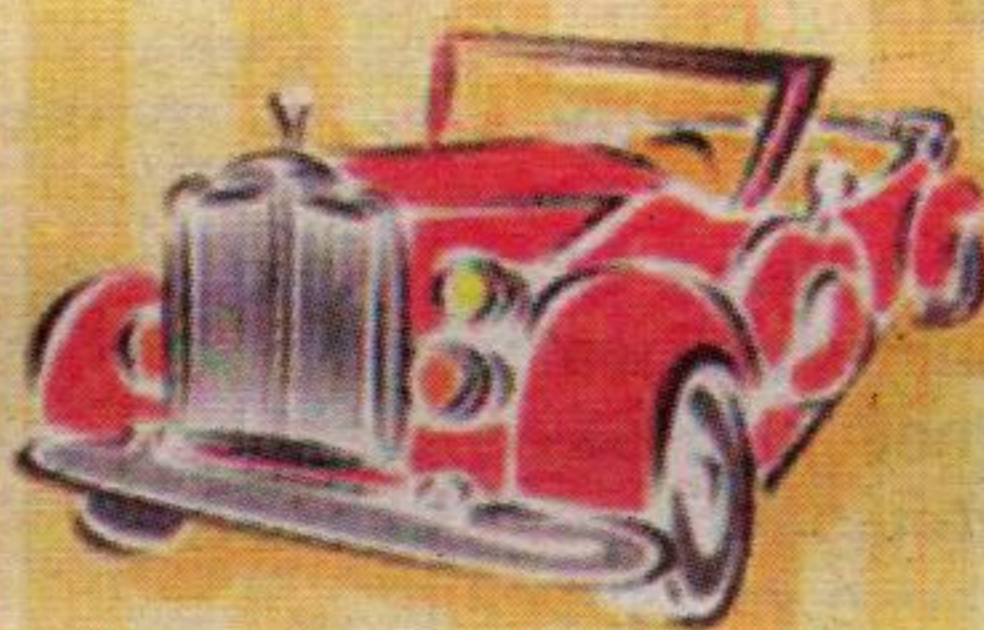
Herbie is creating waves of attention wherever Barry goes. "It looks to be a very interesting summer with Herbie," Barry explains. This past Canada Day weekend, Herbie made an appearance at the highway 5 Drive Inn Theatre. "It was something to be sitting in Herbie watching the new movie," Barry explained. "It is also a great feeling driving the car and seeing people's faces light up when they saw the car."

If anyone wants Herbie to show up for a charity event, you can arrange it with Barry by calling the Milton Fire Department at 905-878-9251 or by email at barry.kory@town.milton.on.ca.

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