

drive shed

CLASSIC AND ANTIQUE VEHICLES

High on the HOG

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Listen carefully amid the roar of motors on Sunday August 21 and you might just be able to hear the thanks of grateful children as the Milton Harley Owners (HOG) host their fourth annual Erinoak Charity Ride. The event will raise funds for Erinoak; a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting children and youth with physical, developmental and communication disabilities. "While provincial funding is Erinoak's principal source of revenue, fundraising activities, such as this poker run, allows us to expand and undertake new initiatives on behalf of the young people we serve and their families," says Mary Ross, Community Relations Coordinator for the centre. "(HOG) are local heroes for what they are about to do for Erinoak's kids."

The ride is a poker run, whereby riders take a self directed drive along an established route while putting together a poker hand from a set number of cards drawn at each stop.

Stops will take place at Christie Conservation Area and in Waterdown, before concluding for a barbecue and prizes at the Mohawk Inn in Campbellville.

Registration is from 10:00 to noon on the 21st with the first rides leaving from Jacox Harley Davidson in Mississauga between 11:00 and 11:15. Cost to enter the event is \$20 per person or \$80 in pledges and includes breakfast and a \$10 coupon from Jacox. Pledge forms are available at www.miltonhog.ca and the barbecue at the end of the poker run will be presented compliments of the Milton Harley Owners Group.

"We anticipate the Erinoak Charity Ride will be one of the premier rides of the 2005 season and we will be hosting HOG chapters from all over Southern Ontario to support this worthwhile cause," says Pat Jacox, owner of Jacox Harley Davidson. "It will be a great time for all and we look forward to a good turnout."

Johnny B. Good

BY DONNA DANIELLI

Call him by his given name; John Anthony Bordignon and legions of radio fans might look at you blankly. But mention his more commonly known moniker of Johnny B. and watch the realization come quickly.

John is known to many as the previous host of the immensely popular "Guy's Garage" show on what was once MOJO Radio, Talk Radio for Guys. "Ian Grant, the first program director for MOJO asked me if I liked cars," says John explaining how he made the switch from producer of the daily "Ripkin!" show to host of his own program. "I said I love cars and so they asked me to host "Guy's Garage", which ran for three and a half years and was the most popular Saturday show."

Early in the program's history, John was joined by co-host Rob Forte. "The chemistry was perfect because I'm all whacked and he's all calm," laughs John. "As well, Rob is a certified automotive technician and instructor with thirty years experience. He gets really mad when I say that because he says it makes him sound old, which he isn't. The fact is, he was working in garages at the age of thirteen."

Fans of the show, who were disappointed when the station's format changed and John and Rob were released from the show, are heralding their return on their new show, NEWSTalk 610 CKTB's "Driveline", heard every Saturday afternoon. "I kept bugging 610 until they finally said okay," John jokes. "Driveline is an extension of what "Guy's Garage" was. We're truly a radio magazine show." Every week, the duo offer a comprehensive look at the automotive industry with news, racing coverage and a popular call in format. "It's an inside look at the auto world," John explains. "I want "Driveline" to be the kind of show that instigates conversation. We like to bring the newsmakers on the show, to have the actual executive responsible for marketing or the engineer responsible for creating the vehicle, on the air." It's that inside look with the people behind the cars that John feels sets "Driveline" apart. "It's important for people to get a nuance of the person behind the story to understand the issue better. People are turning on the radio to be informed or to be enter-

tained. I try to do both. And you can call us if you have a rattle under the seat of your car and we'll try to help with that too."

John is also the host and producer of another show on 610 AM that's quickly making a name for itself, "Taps". "It's a show about the hospitality industry. We cover things like beer, wine, fine cuisine, entertainment and local establishments," John sums up. "I really try to produce it the way that I do "Driveline". We want to have fun. We have a segment called Beer of the Week. We focus on the different craft brewers in Ontario and drink beer." He laughingly admits that it's sometimes not that tough a job to have, either talking about his passion for cars or having a cold beer on the air. And although "Taps" has only been on the air for six months, John has already seen some high profile guests visit him in the studio. Comedians Howie Mandel and Carrot Top, as well as musician Tom Cochrane have all stopped by for a chat. "The contacts that I've made have allowed me access to a high calibre of guests. They really enjoy themselves because my interview style is outgoing and non-confrontational. I try to get into who the person really is," says John. When not hosting one of his shows, John is kept busy writing a regular column for the show's companion magazine "Taps" which is available nationwide at Chapters and Indigo stores.

High on John's agenda is to make sure that he keeps producing and hosting shows that are not only popular, but also offer that little more to his listeners. "You have to break down the boredom of talk radio," he says, disdaining what he refers to as a cookie cutter approach to programming. "If people are giving you the time to listen to you, you better do the best you can do. You can't have a bad day in radio." Fortunately, for a host as charismatic as the man known to so many as Johnny B., that's not such a hard task. "I just like to bring it, it's a big adrenalin rush when the microphone turns on," he explains. "I love radio, it really gets in your blood."

For more information or to contact John directly, check out the website at www.drivelineradio.com.



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