

A Classics retrospective

Looking back: 20 years of cars, music and memories

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Special to The IFP

It's hard to believe it's been 20 years since Classics Against Cancer (CAC) first set up in Cedarvale Park in Georgetown.

The world was different then. Do you remember the late 1980s well? It's different for every person of course and I can only give you my impressions.

For starters, Georgetown was smaller and had no actual car show of its own that was an annual affair. There were cruise nights at the Hood Drive Inn burger joint in Acton and the occasional show and shine at the mall. There wasn't a car show that was an event with awards, judging, music, food, entertainment—an entire package.

That started with CAC number one on Father's Day, 1988. I'd just graduated from high school and had entered Centennial College pursuing my Automotive Technician and Dealership degree. Neil Young, Steamer Emerson and a number of auto enthusiasts including members of the Tachmen Car Club helped make the event happen. The first show was a rousing success and set the stage for 19 more spectacular events.

Over time the show grew in size, and special exhibit tents became a perennial draw. Under the big tent were some of the most exotic and fantastic cars ever made. Car fans had chances to see Duesenberg, Mercedes Benz SL300, 2002 Ford Thunderbird show car, Packards, Cadillacs and many other valuable classics, new and old. Musical entertainment was smoking from the very beginning with Men Without Hats, Patsy Cline and Elvis impersonators being crowd



favorites. CAC also brought in strong local talent with chart action such as urban music legends Choclair and Bishop. Rounding out the package over the years was the Terry Sumsion Trio and Rolly Rocker & the Hemi Heads.

The Neil Young award is the highest honor you can win at the show. CAC founder, Neil Young, personally selects the vehicle for this trophy. It is a fitting tribute to the man who had a vision to celebrate the automobile and the popular culture that goes along with it. The Neil Young Trophy marked the transition era of Classics Against Cancer when new show organizers stepped up to continue this worthy venture to raise funds for assisting Cancer victims in Halton Hills.

In the early years, the show contributions

went to the Canadian Cancer Society. When our branch was moved to Oakville, con-

cerned citizens stepped up and established Cancer Assistant Services Halton Hills, (CAS-hh), to provide the needed help to unfortunate victims requiring transportation to various health and recovery services. The transitional era of CAC experienced growth and strong, loyal support by virtually every employer in Halton Hills. Moe Lamothe was the show organizer for many years during this vibrant stage.

Recently the Georgetown Optimists Club joined forces with show organizers to keep the best car show in southwestern Ontario growing. This year's show has a return to roots vibe with a Strawberry Social and concert pianist Bob Reid playing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's a tip of the hat to the inaugural show in 1988 when the strawberry theme last appeared. We think it's a great way to celebrate Georgetown's Homecoming Year 2007. So come out this Father's Day and take in the cars, trucks, rock and roll oldies and remember the good times.



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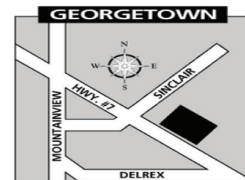
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