

# A mini-reunion in Cedarvale

It was 20 years ago it all started.

A bunch of car guys in town had an idea to hold a car show, and decided Cedarvale Park would be the best venue, with its scenic atmosphere, and a lazy creek meandering through.

They decided Father's Day would be the perfect day for this show; the day dedicated to dads.

In addition, this same group of car guys decided they should charge admission, so they could donate it to a worthy cause. They decided to donate the proceeds to help cancer patients.

And so the annual Father's Day Classics Against Cancer Car Show was born.

I've been involved in this show for more than a decade— first as a volunteer judge, and later as 'Chief Judge', the person who rounds up the three dozen judges and assembles them in teams of three to judge the various classes.

Most think I assemble the judges to judge the show, but I must confess to another purpose—it's my mini-reunion with a pretty good bunch of guys and girls held covertly at Classics every year.

Of my 36 judges, about 30 are regulars, many of them back every year to enjoy a day crawling all over cars at Cedarvale Park.

They hail from all over Ontario, as far south as Niagara, as far north as Barrie and others from Brampton, Mississauga and, of course, many from Halton Hills and Milton.

Some of my judges have been judging at Classics longer than I've been involved.

Rain or shine, they land at Cedarvale Park around 7 a.m., ready to help get the cars properly parked and displayed in their appropriate classes, and direct the entrants to the food booths so they can enjoy breakfast.

My judges are a diverse lot, coming from all walks of life. Most are men, but since I took over as Chief Judge, I've convinced a few women to venture into that male-dominated arena.

The girls are super judges, with a great eye for detail. Let's face it, most girls love cars, too.

Of course, some of my judges are mechanics.

## Ted Brown



Those guys have dedicated themselves to repairing cars and trucks, so it's only natural they appreciate judging them as well.

Others are retired, some are teachers, doctors, lawyers and one is a retired minister. (He had to wait until he retired to judge, since it was tough for him to explain to his congregation that he had to miss church on Father's Day.)

And not only are my judges' backgrounds unique, so are their interests. Some love to judge the old classics from the turn of the century, lots enjoy the fire-breathing muscle cars of the '60s and '70s, while others like the trucks, the British vehicles, or the street rods.

Being a judge isn't always an easy job, trying to objectively assess as many as 20-plus cars in a class, while the car owners are trying to subtly look over their shoulders for a peek to see how they scored on the judging sheet.

It can also be quite warm at the show, and I regularly make the rounds in a golf cart, keeping my judges stocked with lots of water and anything else they might need to beat the heat.

At the end of the show, my judges return to the judging booth, turn in their scoresheets and pick up their 'goodie bags.'

They might be a diverse lot, but they all share one common thing, which brings them back to Cedarvale, every year on Father's Day.

It's their passion for the automobile.

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