



The Dashpot

March 2019



I can almost see Spring on the horizon; it's so close; and, whether it actually gets here in time or not, these are the events that remind us it is on it's way

February Meeting News: Several club members were presented with British Car Council Long Distance Award dash plaques for achieving the necessary minimum 3000 driving miles (5000kms) in 2018. There were 10 OMGC recipients for 2018 - just a couple less than the MG Car Club of Toronto (we usually have more than the MGCCT). But we sure outdid them when it comes to total driving miles since the creation of the BCCI LDA awards in 2003. MGCCT topped out at about 600,000 miles, while the OMGC reached almost 950,000 miles since 2003. Also presented was the British Car Council Order of British Car Enthusiasts medal for 2018 - to club members Geoffrey & Helga Dix. Congratulations to all the winners.

And, of course, a special long distance award was presented to club members Bill & Andrea MacTavish for driving more than 10,000 miles in their MGB in 2018. They were only the 2nd club members to drive more than 10,000 miles in a season [slightly more than club member Tony Edge who was the first club member to drive more than 10,000 miles in a driving season back in 2016]. Folks were reminded of the upcoming membership renewal period, which will start at the March meeting. Remember, membership renewals are \$35 IF PAID BEFORE MAY 31; and \$40 if after May 31. With your renewal, you will receive a copy of the OMGC full-colour calendar for 2019-2020. Thanks to all club members who sent pictures for this one.

Looking Forward:

Mar 21
[Monthly Meeting](#)

April 13
[OMGC Driving Season Kick Off](#)

Apr 18
[Monthly Meeting](#)

April 21
[Ancaster British Car Fleamarket](#)

April 27
[OMGC Spring Tune Up](#)

May 4
[OMGC Drive Your MG-eh! Day](#)

May 16
[Monthly Meeting](#)

The Future Of Flight

Here is a link to a Facebook entry about a spectacular way to get around

<https://www.facebook.com/spacetime.mc2/videos/1664619696989926/UzpfSTY4Mjc1Njk3ODoxMDE1NjkyMDYyNjgzMTk3OQ/>

[it's not an MG, but it is very interesting]

The Sacred Octagon

Club member Mike Price tells me: "I watched a program on English cathedrals last night. Ely Cathedral has a tower shaped like an octagon which is reputed to be the finest in Europe. This is proof positive that they were thinking of MG's in the 12th century (despite the black plague) and we are justified in referring to the "Sacred Octagon" on the front of our cars. Now if we could only get a bunch of Triumph guys to visit Ely and gaze up at the light shining down from Heaven through the Octagon, they would see the error of their ways.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ely_Cathedral

The next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Ottawa MG Club
is [Thursday, March 21](#) at [Carlingwood Family Restaurant](#)

This is our Annual Photo & Video Night meeting

[a look back into 2018 event pictures and other thrilling videos]

See page 2 of this newsletter to read the story of Bill & Andrea MacTavish and their Mega-Long-Distance-Award.

OMGC Mega-long-distance award – Bill and Andrea McTavish

Bill and Andrea MacTavish (aka Wifey!) racked up 10,846 miles last year in “Monty”, their 1970 MGB Roadster. This amazing total is due in no small part to their epic 24-day summer road trip to visit their daughter in BC, via upstate New York, Michigan, North Dakota, Montana, Osoyoos and Hope, BC, arriving in Pitt Meadow, BC after 7 days on the road. Nine days of quality family time (and fixing Monty time) later, they set off on a three-day drive to Winnipeg to attend a wedding, and after two days there, hit the road for home via Thunder Bay and Sault St. Marie.

During all this time, they dealt with several breakdowns involving various systems and components (and yes, one of them was the fuel pump – that’s a pretty common one); blistering heat; vicious meat eating flies; swarms of blood-sucking mosquitoes; wildfires and smoke in the BC interior; spectacular mountain views through the Rockies; the three-day unrelenting, but strangely beautiful, vastness of the prairies; and the rocky outcrops, lakes, forests, and curvy hilly roads of North Western Ontario.

Reading their travelogue (which will be posted on our website if it’s not already there) I got to wondering where they would have ended up after 10,846 miles, if they’d just kept going **. Then I thought, “where might they have ended up if they had headed east instead of west and kept going for 10,846 miles”. Using Google maps and an actual globe, I deduced that they would have travelled through Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. Then, disregarding the fact that MGs don’t float too well, they would have crossed the Atlantic, driven through Ireland, England and several northern European countries to Moscow, all the way through various parts of Russia, including Siberia, to the coast of the Bering Sea. Getting the knack of floating by now, they arrive in Alaska and continue on through Anchorage, to Whitehorse in the Yukon. And that, as the crow flies, is as near as dammit to 10,846 miles.

In presenting Bill and Andrea with the OMGC Mega long-distance driving award, I noted that this award is slightly bigger than the one we gave to Tony Edge in 2016, because he only did 10,145 miles.

(At this point, Bill interjected with a travelogue update: as they neared home, he suggested that it would be fun to keep going all the way to Halifax, and then they could say they had done Canada coast to coast. Andrea’s response? “You can drop me off at home!”)**