



The Dashpot

April 2019



March Meeting News: A wide variety of pictures and slideshows and videos and movies were presented and enjoyed. A look back at the events and activities of 2018; some old vehicles that could be considered to be "Art"; some funny incidents; some hilarious signs and some really odd situations (most involving MGs and other automobiles). One particularly odd car was the Bugatti Chiron on display at the Toronto Auto Show.... it was made from Lego!!! [Click here to view the 8-minute story on this vehicle.](#)

Club members had the opportunity to renew their membership [\$35] and receive their copy of the OMGC full-colour calendar 2019-2020. May I remind you, the **membership renewal price goes up to \$40 if you don't renew before May 31st** - so if you have not yet renewed, please act quickly to do so.

Take a peek at page 2 of this edition of **The Dashpot**. This article was sent to me by club member Mike Price. MG's at the first speed event of the Ottawa Light Car Club (later MCO - Motorsport Club of Ottawa) at the Carp airport in 1952.

[Click here to view the MCO book "The First 50 Years" in PDF format.](#)

Looking Forward:

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](#)

May 31- June 2
[Adirondack Adventure](#)

June 8
[OMGC Photo Op Day](#)

You can view and download previous year full-colour calendars from the Ottawa MG Club website. Visit www.omgc.info Click on the "News & Events" tab Click on the "Club Events" dropdown selection Click on any of the various year selection items to view the full-colour calendar of that year in PDF format: 2018-2019 2017-2018 2016-2017 2015-2016 2014-2015 2013-2014 2012-2013 2011-2012 2010-2011 2009-2010 2008-2009

Forest Park Optimist Club TRIVIA 2019
Club member Tony Edge would like you to know about this event that helps the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation
[Click here to see the event flyer](#)

SATURDAY MAY 4th is "Drive Your MG-eh! Day"
The folks at NAMGAR are hoping clubs will take pictures of their event and send them along to NAMGAR
(c/o the Editor MGA Magazine)
Club member Adrian Sawyer leads this event for us this year. Bring your cameras!!!!!!

Happening In Ogdensburg NY
[The Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce presents the 16th Annual Car -B-Que. A combination Barbeque and Cruise-in, along with a fun filled day of entertainment, featuring door prizes, live music, raffles and much more, on the grounds of the Dobisky Visitor's Center on Riverside Avenue on Saturday, June 8th, 2019 at 10 am.](#)
[Classic car registration is only \\$8.00!](#)

The next Regular Monthly Meeting of the Ottawa MG Club is [Thursday, April 18](#) at [The Glen in Stittsville](#)

The Need for Speed and an Airfield at Carp (1953-1955)



The Second World War left various relics dotting the Canadian countryside including Royal Canadian Air Force airfields. The roar of aircraft engines had long since stopped echoing from between the hangars, but the tarmac was intact and begging for action. Flat and barren, these airfields offered ideal opportunities for budding racers to hone their driving and technical skills.

As luck would have it, one of these abandoned airfields was discovered in Carp in 1952, and the OLCC racers were saved the weekly long journey to racetracks such as Edenvale, located 21 miles west of Barrie. While still a government-owned field, the red tape was cut to allow regular use of the facilities for low-key speed events. On the heels of the 1000 Islands Rally, the first of these impromptu meets took place on October 19, 1952, drawing about 12 entries. A makeshift course was laid out using the perimeter of the runways, and after deeming the event a success, further plans were immediately made to improve the facilities.

Among those to take up this competitive road racing spirit was Frank Currie, who normally entered both his road vehicles, a Vanguard station wagon and a Fiat Topolino, in different classes.

"We used to go out as often as we could in the early evenings or on Saturdays to get in as much unofficial practice as we could between events. Russ Bradley, who was starting what would become Bradley Air Services, flew planes out of there, so it was not uncommon to have a plane land beside you as you were tearing down one of the runways. Both pilots and racers respected what each other were doing, and the unwritten law that everyone knew, was that the racers were to always move over to their right when they heard a plane above. Practising at night was out of the question of course, because there were no lights on the field anymore, and with the poor lighting on the cars you had a very good chance of running into a deer while you were out there."

The 1952 election marked a significant change in the club's focus. Low-speed and social events still existed, but a move to organize and compete in events of increased publicity and speeds quickly gained support. This new direction towards road racing is clearly illustrated by the radical change in the format and content of *The Link* at the time. Road racer and artist Bill Campbell became the new Editor, and he began creating hand-drawn illustrations of purpose-built racing cars for use on the cover pages. Each illustration came with an accompanying



LEFT: A wave of MGs comprised one of the grids for the first OLCC speed event at the Carp Aerodrome. (1952)