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Preserving our automotive heritage

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Conrad LeLièvre's 1963 Mercury Meteor is equipped with a Ford 351 Windsor V-8 engine and a five-speed transmission; it was assembled by Stuart Burke of Hachet Lake. (Conrad LeLièvre)

Whether it was the early McKay automobile out of Kentville and Amherst, or the first Toyotas assembled in Canada at Point Edward, Cape Breton, the automobile has had a significant impact on the Province of Nova Scotia over the last century.

To celebrate this impact, the Provincial Government has proclaimed July as Automotive Heritage Month.

Hobby car clubs across the province will be celebrating during the month at show and shines across the area.

The automotive hobbyist is alive and well in Nova Scotia with well over 14,000 antique and classic cars registered in the province.

In order to ensure the continued enjoyment of the motor vehicle hobby by Nova Scotians, the National Association of Automobile Clubs of Canada (NAACC) is working, in conjunction with the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Engineers Nova Scotia and motor vehicle enthusiasts across the province, to revise the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA).

Although antique autos are covered under the current MVA, other classes of vehicles such as modified vehicles, raised and lowered vehicles, kit cars and antique motorcycles are not adequately addressed in the existing legislation.

Due to this lack of clarity, builders of these custom vehicles in Nova Scotia, or buyers who wish to purchase one outside the province, often do not know exactly what is required to obtain vehicle registration.



Nova Scotia

Proclamation

Automotive Heritage Month


WHEREAS *the National Association of Automobile Clubs of Canada has designated July, 2013 as "Automotive Heritage Month" in recognition of the contributions of automotive hobbyists to the economic and cultural life of Canada; and*

WHEREAS *Nova Scotia has a distinct heritage of automobile innovation and production, and recognizes the impact of the automobile in the creation of the provincial highway system and a road network that make Nova Scotia communities more accessible to both residents and tourists; and*

WHEREAS *Nova Scotia has many active clubs dedicated to automotive hobbies and welcomes many visitors who come to our province in antique auto tours and to explore our automotive heritage;*

THEREFORE I, Darrell E. Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia, do hereby proclaim July, 2013 to be "Automotive Heritage Month" in the Province of Nova Scotia.




Darrell E. Dexter, Q.C., M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Signed at Halifax, Nova Scotia

Questions such as what kind of lights can be used, how wide can the tires be, or even what name it gets registered under can take weeks, if not months, to get answered.

Hobbyists can spend weeks going in one direction, only to have to change it completely when they try to get license plates for their pride and joy.

The NAACC and its partners are working towards having suitable construction and certification guidelines established under the Motor Vehicle Act.

We all realize that it takes time to get changes made to legislation, but if you don't start somewhere, nothing will ever change.

It is hoped that such guidelines will both help preserve the enjoyment of these customized vehicles as well as ensure the safety of their operators and the motoring public in general.

Also, help preserve the hobby for the future, bring a kid to a car show. It's not only for grey hairs.

If additional information on this subject is required, please feel free to visit the NAACC web-site at www.naacc.ca or contact the Nova Scotia Director of the NAACC at lelievreeng@ns.sympatico.ca.

Conrad LeLièvre is Nova Scotia Director for NAACC (National Association of Automobile Clubs of Canada).

About the Author

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