

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 2022

The days are getting cooler, day light is getting much shorter and another Thunderbird season for 2022 is coming to a close. Soon we will be putting our beloved Thunderbirds into hibernation for the long winter months ahead. Covid is still with us but despite the threat during the 7th wave we had a successful turn-out at most of our Thunderbird events. Let's hope that the covid pandemic will be behind us in 2023 and we can have an even better showing of Thunderbirds at club events.

Oil Heritage Museum Tour: On August 20th, 11 Thunderbirds and 1 rebel Jaguar (looking for a meal of birds) travelled to the Oil Heritage Museum in Oil Springs, Ontario. This was a very informative day for our members on the history of the oil industry in Canada. The staff at the oil museum was very pleased to have the pleasure of our attendance. After about 2 hours we departed the museum and as we were exiting the grounds a staff member did a video recording of the Thunderbirds leaving the museum. The video will be on their website in the near future.

After a very informative time at the oil museum we travelled a short distance to Southwest Region Co-ordinator, Brett Kahler's residence very close to Petrolia, Ontario for a barbecue. Brett and Pam Kahler really put themselves out for the Thunderbird members with a great barbecue, it was really outstanding. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and swap Thunderbird stories. Brett recently purchased a package deal of 3 classic vehicles that need restoration; a 1957 Oldsmobile, 1959 Edsel Pacer and I think a 1937 Desoto. A lot of time and effort was put into this event and I know that the members that were in attendance really appreciated Brett and Pam hospitality.

Sadly, things never change. We provide different events for SOTC members in their area but it's the same members that participate in these SOTC events. 58% were executive members that attended this event. 75% of the members were from London and area. 3 families from Southwest Region including the host/hostess attended this event. According to our club roster 19 members in the southwest region could have attended this event.

Despite the dismal turn-out Brett and Pam were not discouraged. Brett stated that this was his first event for our club and he really enjoyed the opportunity to provide a Thunderbird club event in his region. Brett advised me that he would attempt another event in his region. Thanks Brett and Pam, a job well done.

Twenty-Third Annual All Thunderbird Show: This show was held July 15, 2022. I spoke about the show in the August newsletter. I forgot to mention that numerous door prizes were donated by many SOTC members. Some donations were door prizes and others were selected for the "silent auction". The list of donors is very long and if I mention all the donors I may inadvertently leave someone out and offend that person. There is one particular person that I would like to thank. Ex-SOTC member, Barry Clarke donated the framed and matted prints (40th anniversary poster and the retro studio print). Both brought the most dollars for the "silent auction". Barry owned two turbo coupe Thunderbirds but has moved on to the AMC brand and owns a beautiful AMC Javelin. The 50/50 draw and the "silent auction" were more than enough to pay for our main Thunderbird event in Lambeth.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th, 1.30 p.m. at the BMO Centre, 295 Rectory Street, London, Ontario. Meeting rooms are located on the second floor. All members are welcome to attend. Several positions are up for re-election. If you are unable to attend but would like to voice your concerns, contact one of the executive members listed in the 2022 roster.

SOTC Website: We had some problems with the website in the later part of 2021 and into early 2022, with our web master forgetting to take along his computer system for our website to his winter home in Mexico. The web master has really made up for this mistake with great updates to the website provided by Website Contact, Ron McLennan. Ron has taken numerous photographs at club events during 2022 and they have been uploaded to the SOTC website. Take the opportunity to view the website at www.sothunderbirdclub.org .

Thunder News Publication: I do not think that our SOTC members know how fortunate we are to have a newsletter printed by two Thunderbird owners. Plus Membership Co-ordinator, Ken Campbell sold printing products to numerous companies during his career, including our two printing companies. A coincident, I think not!

Jim Baxter owns "Thunderbird Printing" and he owns a 1966 Thunderbird hardtop that is highly modified. You can really hear Jim's Thunderbird when he comes to the Plunkett cruise nights in London.

Jeff MacLennan owns "Capital Colour Graphics" another printer who owns a black 1955 Thunderbird that has been restored with the assistance of Membership Co-ordinator Ken Campbell.

Tori, is Jim Baxter's daughter and her title at "Thunderbird Printing" is graphic designer. Tori makes everything work, fit, text, photos, format, she makes all of look us novices look good. Too often we just take things for granted the effort that is put into the Southern Ontario Thunderbird Club. I have contacted Tori and have told her how much we have appreciated all that she has done for the Thunderbird club.

Jim's company "Thunderbird Printing" donates the envelopes. Jeff "Capital Colour Graphics" does the T-Birds that appear on the front and rear covers. Jeff changes the covers frequently, as you may have noticed with the lightening scenes. The covers are a really outstanding feature. Jeff also donates the April rosters.

On A Very Sad Note: An elderly gentleman in the Burlington area was coming to the end of his life; He always admired the "55-57" Thunderbirds but could never afford to purchase one. His last request was to ride in a 56 T-Bird. The family contacted one of our members in the London Region, who in turn contacted Fred Foster, our Hamilton/Niagara Co-ordinator , Fred was able to make arrangements for this gentleman to ride in a 57 willow green Thunderbird which was previously owned by Dave Sawchuk. Dave borrowed back the T-Bird for this memorial ride. The gentleman was thrilled with his Thunderbird ride and the contact with our members. As planned he passed away on August 24th.

Thunderbird, on that sad note, do I need to say more -

Dan