

The First Annual Canadian British Classic Charity Run
Rocky Shore Run
The True Story
By John Kearsley

The 1st annual Canadian British Classic Charity Run this year was called the Rocky Shore Run which described the scenery on the route perfectly. Our charity for this year was Camp Trillium, a camp for childhood cancer patients and their families. This year's event was run September 22-24 and began at the Cambridge Holiday Inn in Cambridge, Ontario.

Friday night involved a kickoff dinner, route directions (so no one would get lost) and general information for the nine teams entered this year. After an introduction of the teams and the organizing committee, Ian, a representative of Camp Trillium, presented CBCCR with a plaque showing their appreciation for the \$8500.00 we raised for them this year. All teams were welcomed by the Elmira Optimist Club who sponsored this run and helped with insurance, book keeping and mailing.

Saturday, 5:00 A.M, my alarm clock went off. As the song 5 o'clock somewhere went through my mind, I knew Allen Jackson did not have this in mind.

The meeting place was Timmy's by the Holiday Inn at 6:45 a.m. for a 7:00 start. This year we had 2 Triumph Spitfires, 1 Jenson Healy, 1 MG TD, and 1 MG TC, 3 MGB, and an MG 4.

The cars got off at 7:15 am., only a little late.

Our first stop was at the West Mountrose covered bridge for a photo opportunity. The bridge as a background for the cars made for an excellent picture.

Then we were off through some of the local countryside. After nearly 15 miles an MGB met with some trouble. The owner Jack Holmes saw that he didn't have any oil pressure and pulled right over. The oil line from the engine to the oil pressure gage had broken and sprayed oil all over the engine bay. Holmes and two other cars went back to Elmira. They were able to make repairs and meet up with us later in the run.

The rest of the group continued on. A cloudy sky but no rain was the mainstay for the rest of the morning as we went through some of south western Ontario's small towns.

At Grand Bend we started to run along the Lake Huron shore line and had our next Timmy's stop. (Do you see a theme yet!).

Just after Godrich, the MG TD suffered a flat tire and was a bit panicky as the other MG (with the jack) drove over the hill and away. It didn't take long for the leader to notice, and the tire was quickly changed and both teams were back on the road within an hour.

Later three cars that were running together decided to meet up in Kincardine for lunch. The sun was shining for a little so a couple of teams went to the beach for a picnic lunch while others went to a tavern. The day continued to be pleasant so most of the teams put their tops down after lunch.

Not able to get the correct fuel in Kincardine we stopped in Port Elgin for fuel.

The run up to Sauble Beach was a very nice part of the tour. The colours of the trees were perfect with the tops down. As we approached Lions Head we decided to stop at the town park for a pit stop and leg stretch. The run was quite an uneventful trip down

to Wiarton. But once through Wiarton the road twisted and turned following the lake shore. It seemed like a picture on a post card at every turn.

After one of the most scenic parts of the trip we arrive in Owen Sound at 5:00 pm. After every one checked in we had an impromptu social hour reminiscing about the first long but exciting day.

Before the run a lady had contacted me wondering if a MGTD was on the run. It seems that her husband is ill with Lou Gerhig's disease and since their dream of owning an MG TD is probably not in their future, she wondered if there happened to be an MG TD on the run and if her husband could see it. Fate had it, that one of our teams was driving their MG TD and Saturday evening we had the gratifying experience of seeing this gentleman enjoy a short jaunt around the block in it as he was not feeling up to par that day but felt that he could sit in it for a short spell. The tears and smiles of his wife showed us that we British car owners exemplify the best in human nature. This trip in particular not only helped kids with cancer but adults too.

After fun evening we headed to bed early to get rested up for the journey on Sunday. And we needed that rest as the teams were ready to head out on the road by 7:00 a.m. the next day.

Twenty minutes out of Owen Sound, we stopped for a photo opportunity with our support team of Art Franklin and Bob Aldous taking the shots. A few brave people left their tops down after the pictures, but the ominous black skies had the rest of us not taking any chances. Those brave people were regretting their decision later in the morning when the rain did come.

As the person who planned the route of this expedition, one would think that I would know where I was supposed to be going. Unfortunately, one wrong move and I was as lost as everyone else. A brief forty-five minutes later, we were back on route and heading into Collingwood.

With heavy rain, dull skies and road names that kept changing, the route on Sunday kept the navigators busy constantly checking their directions. After a few hours of strenuous concentration, our lunch break at Kelsey's in Barrie was a welcome change. We might note that Barrie had the cheapest fuel on our route.

After lunch we headed back towards Cambridge passing through Alliston, Grand Valley and Fergus. Thankfully the rain stopped during this portion of our run and we enjoyed smooth sailing to the end at Saginaw Country Club in Cambridge where we said good-bye to new friends and running partners.

All in all, the cars were reliable and completed the tour. My 76 Spit experienced some problems when I lost my horn when a car pulled out in front of me and my brake lights were intermittent.

Everyone had fun and is looking forward to next year's Lake View run along Lake Erie and Lake Huron when we will be raising money for the Canadian Diabetes Association camps for children. We look forward to seeing everyone September 21-23 2007. For information about our run, check out our website cbccr.org.