***MOTOR CITY INDUCTION TEXT***

When you first approach the building it's rather unimpressive.

It's a plain, squat, block structure that belies the creativity and dedication that happens under its low roof.

In fact, if it wasn't for the above ground lift at the rear of the building you wouldn't know that a group of hard working hot rodders call this their second home.

And if neither of their appropriately painted vehicles, (including a GM motor home emblazoned with Autofest advertising) was not parked out front, you may never know that this unassuming complex is the headquarters of one of the most active groups of gear heads in the country: the

Motor City Car Club.

When you enter the building you are immediately aware that the members take pride in the clubhouse. There are obviously lots of activities going on and cars are being worked on but everything is neat, clean and orderly.

Rules are obviously respected.

The members have high self-esteem for the facility and it shows.

Enter the small club room and you are instantly assailed by history.

The age old question begs to be asked: If these walls could talk what stories would they tell? Well, that question gets answered as these walls do talk and they tell many tales.

But the tales they tell are more than just the history of the Motor City Car Club, they vividly illustrate many of the components that have built street rodding in Canada over the past decades.

There is the certificate of membership into the National Hot Rod Association, dated 1962 and signed by Wally Parks.

There are awards and acknowledgments from the International Show Car Association , the Canadian Street Rod Association , the National Street Rod Association and other automotive organizations.

There are pictures and awards from virtually every car show and event within reach of Oshawa.

And there are many, many awards, honours and recognition from civic and community groups.

These tell the saga of the Motor City Car Club.

But to really tell that story we need to go back. Back to 1959.

John Diefenbaker was Prime Minister, the St.Lawrence Seaway opened and the Canadian economy boomed.

Alaska and Hawaii joined the USA as the 49th and 50th states.

Montreal beat Toronto to claim the Stanley Cup.

And on the automotive front, Lee Petty won the very first Daytona 500 race while Hudson and Nash merged to create American Motors.

Bonanza premiered on television in COLOUR, a first, joining the other top programs of the day including Dragnet, 77 Sunset Strip and American Bandstand.

And if you went out to the drive-in you'd see movies the likes Ben Hur, Some Like It Hot and Rio Bravo.

You listened to the tunes on your AM radio by Bobby Darin, Frankie Avalon, Lloyd Price, Connie Francis, the Coasters, the Crests and the king “Elvis”.

Yes it was a great time in history.

The world indeed was a safer, saner, much larger place and everything was new and optimism was in the air.

Riding that wave was the whole car culture.

Cars were fun again and clubs were being formed across the country bringing like minded people together to work on their cars and enjoy driving and the emerging forms of motor sport.

Two active car clubs existed in Oshawa, Ontario at that time.

The Kontinentals (with a “K”) and the Igniters.

The Kontinentals were very interested in drag racing and in 1962 they became Charter Members in the newly formed National Hot Rod Association (that certificate still hangs on the club house wall).

The Igniters were more into personalizing the looks and performance of their cars, showing them and driving them.

Both clubs realized that to move things forward they had to help clean up the image of what many saw as “crazy young hot rodders”.

They wanted to show everyone that it was possible to expand the car culture and illustrate that car clubs could have a positive effect on the community.

With those facts in mind, the two clubs joined forces becoming the Motor City Car Club in 1962, an appropriate name for a club located in the shadows of General Motors in Oshawa.

Both groups had club garages which they used and enjoyed, where they hung out and worked on their cars. With the merger, the Igniters moved in with the Kontinentals. It was obviously the right decision as over 50 years later they're still going strong and show no signs of slowing down.

In 1959 the Igniters hosted the very first car show held in the parking lot of the Oshawa Shopping Center. It was a chance to display the member's cars and promote the club.

In 1963 this event moved indoors to the Children's Arena under the banner of the Motor City Car Club.

This interest in car shows found Motor City being Charter Members in the International Show Car Association in 1968 (another one of those plaques that hang on the wall).

The clubs involvement went on for years working with Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Famer, Bruce Robertson at his Speed Sport car shows and continues today with the Motor Rama Car Show held each March at the International Center in Toronto.

But the car show involvement didn't end with their hosting and working responsibilities.

Many members displayed their cars at ISCA shows all over North America, original Kontinental Bob Reynolds and Motor City member Vince McCloskey actively competed for the International Championship with their cars.

While Reynolds, Bob Clarke and Hall of Fame Alumni Gary Challice worked as professional judges throughout North America with ISCA. Challice went on to be the driving force behind bringing car shows back to Toronto and with the help of the membership of Motor City they have resurrected the indoor events in Toronto.

Original member Bob Reynolds relocated to Detroit to work full time with Bob Larivee and the International Show Car Association before taking a position with NSRA, the National Street Rod Association.

With the rebirth of Street Rodding in the late 1960's, out door events, where you actually drive your car, became in vogue and Motor City Car Club was at the leading edge of the movement.

In the summer of 1971 they booked the Flying Dutchman Motel in Bowmanville and hosted the International Rod Run and Lawn Show. It was a blast and well attended.

They worked with service clubs and the city to put on a truly memorable weekend event. The club continued to host this activity into the early 1980's when the cruise nights and one day shows saw the demise of many weekend long events.

Throughout this time Motor City membership was actively participating in street rod events everywhere. Supporting CSRA as a founding member club and running the safety lanes at many Canats. No less than 3 current Motor City members served on the board of CSRA over the years, starting with Bob Clarke who, at one time, was the Eastern Ontario Director, Gary Challice formerly headed up the Car Club Division and Mike Kalynko who took on the responsibilities of being the President of CSRA.

In 1992 the club was approached by the Region of Durham to help with their 20th Anniversary Celebrations. Because of the regions long and rich automotive history, they asked Motor City to put on a car show. The guys said “sure” and Autofest was born.

From the first event held at General Motors headquarters to today's week long extravaganza centered at Lakeview Park on the shores of Lake Ontario, Autofest has grown to become one of the premier automotive events in the country drawing 1500 local and international participants and garnering extensive media coverage across North America.

None of this would be possible without the full support and cooperation of the membership and their families.

It's not all work being an Motor City member.

They are an active club and travel extensively to rod runs in Canada and the USA. To illustrate their support for street rodding and Canada, they sponsor the very successful “Canada Country” event within the event at the NSRA Regional meets in York, Pennsylvania, Kalamazoo, Michigan and Burlington, Vermont.

One of the highlights of their international street rodding involvement was working with Street Rodder Magazine and hosting a stop over at their club house for the Street Rodder Magazine /PPG Rod Tour in 2007 for the Kalamazoo Nats North to Burlington North East Nats portion. This marks the only time this event has ever gone outside of the USA.

Proof of the organizing abilities of the membership of Motor City, was arranging travel on the 407 toll highway for the participants on a “no charge” basis.

Recently the club has taken over the HASC (Historical Automotive Society of Canada) swap meet held annually in December at the International Center in Toronto.

This is one of the “grand daddy” swap meets in the country and was in danger of closing as the HASC membership was struggling to continue to host and manage the event.

Motor City stepped in and worked with HASC to assume total responsibility for the undertaking. It remains one of the “must do” events in the area and thanks to the hard working membership of the club it will continue.

There is a lot of camaraderie amongst the 25 members of Motor City. They have their club house with a well equipped shop for building and maintaining their cars and there is a bond of friendship within the membership.

There are monthly meetings, committee activities, a club safety check day at the club house and a social schedule that includes; cruises, barbecues, a Canada Day celebration and a family Christmas party.

In many ways, Motor City functions much like a service club.

They are firmly rooted in their community and it goes back to their very beginning and the goal of improving the image of car guys and car clubs.

Back then they took their interest in model cars from participating at local car shows with displays to running a model car contest for “at risk” youth at the Bowmanville Training School.

For over 20 years the club has been very involved in the RCMP's “Race Against Drugs” in Whitby.

They have also been involved with the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, CIBC's “Run For The Cure” and hospital visits where members bring smiles to many as they dress up in home made clown outfits and act the fools as only clowns can.

They freely give of their time and vehicles for display at local schools and Senior Centers and even find the time and money to support the Mayor's Golf Tournament for charities.

On top of all of this, they have gotten very involved with Soap Box Derby and for 15 years have organized, inspected and run Canadian Soap Box Derby Racing Association sanctioned events.

The club even owns cars so that all the kids can race.

They have recently completed a two seat racer that allows handicapped kids to enjoy the thrill of soap box racing.

When you look at all these involvements, its hard to believe that there's more. But there is!

Twenty three years ago the membership of Motor City Car Club chose to focus their financial support on one very special charity, the Grandview Children”s Center, a facility for physically and mentally challenged youth.

Over the years they have donated more than **$300,000.00.**

These monies have been primarily raised through many of their activities and events and the hard work and dedication of the members.

They have a room at Grandview Children's Center named after them and they have their name “Motor City Car Club” engraved around the pool as living testimony to their caring and generosity.

The City of Oshawa recognized the outstanding contributions of the Motor City Car Club in 2004 when they presented the club with the Civic Pride Award at a black tie ceremony attended by the city dignitaries and politicians.

A truly remarkable achievement for any group!

Accolades aside, the club functions professionally, they are a small group with membership, capped at 30 and although membership is skewed to traditional street rods, the club is open to all vehicles. But it takes a strong commitment and a year of probation to become a part of this special group.

The responsibilities of membership are significant and expectations are high. There is tremendous respect for each other and pride in being members of Motor City Car Club.

Shared interests and passion aside, it's friendship that truly cements the club together.

I want to share two examples that clearly illustrate that special bond within Motor City Car Club membership.

Bill Hurrie was a member and he was working at putting an addition on his families cottage when he suddenly passed away. The members got together and went up and finished the job so that his family didn't have to worry or contend with the issue at that difficult time.

Gary Challice needed to attend to his chopped Merc. After years and many miles it was getting tired and needed work. But he was going through his own difficulties and was struggling to find the time to get at the car. He dropped into the club house one day and there were over a dozen guys working on his car. It was apart and being sanded when he walked through the door.

A pretty amazing group of people!

“You get out of it what you put into it” is the credo that drives the members and they live it daily.

They are proof that great things can be accomplished with a little inspiration and a lot of perspiration.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Motor City Car Club as the 50th member of the Canadian Street Rodding Hall of Fame.

I ask President Doug Stapleton to come forward and receive the award from Hall of Fame Chairman Jim Cowan on behalf of the membership of Motor City Car Club.