



VETTE NEWS



Newsletter of the British Columbia Corvette Club

EDITION 1

SUMMER 2021

DAN-O-MITE: TURNING A DREAM INTO REALITY

BY ALEX DOWNIE



Dan Ward and his new '56 T-Bird, with '59 Corvette in background

This month's Member Profile features Dan Ward, long time member who always knows how to dress up for a party! I had the pleasure of interviewing Dan during a warm spring afternoon at his Cultus Lake cabin. I asked Dan the following questions about his interest in Corvettes and collectible cars:

Which was your first Corvette?

My first Corvette was a 1959 that I bought on June 7, 1969, when I was a dapper 20 year-old college student. I paid the princely sum of \$2,325, which was a good sum of dough back then. This is the only Corvette I have owned and I still own it today! During the last 52 years this car has travelled 556,000 miles, gone thru 3 or 4 colour changes, and is now powered by it's fourth motor, a dual-quad 1966 327 Corvette engine.

Do you remember your first ride in a Corvette?

I sure do! That was back in 1968 while I was attending Vancouver City College when fellow student Ian 'Madman' Watson took me for a wild ride in his metal flake gold '61 Fuel Injected

Corvette. This ride I will never forget, with cabin-filling tire smoke and three near-death close calls! That was the day I decided I just HAD to have a Corvette of my own!

Which other collectible cars do you own?

I just bought a 1956 Thunderbird, originally out of California. I also own a 1965 Ford Mustang notchback.

When did you join the BCCC?

I belonged to the club from 1969 to 1971. After a break of some years I rejoined in 1986 and have been a member ever since. I served as club President for one year in 1991.

What advice would you give someone who is looking to buy a C1?

You ought to have enough mechanical aptitude to understand how these cars work. No computer chips here, just plain old-school automotive technology. These cars are fairly easy to work on and do basic repairs. If you're not mechanically inclined then make sure you have a fat wallet to pay for repairs and

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Dan-o-Mite**



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Electric Corvette**



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The Frost Rally

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Editor:

Alex Downie
amdownie@shaw.ca

Associate Editor:
Bruce Hitchen

bruce@directimpactmedia.ca



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restoration! Network with other C1 owners to learn what to look for when buying one, and how to keep it on the road.

What has been your favourite part of being a BCCC member? The camaraderie between club members. Making new friends and enjoying good times and activities centered around our mutual interest in Corvettes.



**CLICK HERE TO SEE A VIDEO
ON DAN'S BABY BIRD**



LATEST CORVETTE NEWS



**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE
BCCC CALENDAR**

THE FIRST ELECTRIC CORVETTE

BY GREG BALLANTYNE



A little bit of history on the "First" Corvette "Electric Car". Approximately 1000 of these "go cart" promo cars were special ordered by GM as sales incentives for Chevrolet dealers in 1963 at a cost of around \$285.00 U.S. The cars were built by Barry Toy Craft of St. Paul Minnesota with the all fiberglass bodies commissioned to be built by Luger Industries, a Bloomington boat building company. Only roadster bodies were built, no split window coupes.

The idea was for the dealers to take the promo cars to schools, malls, trade shows etc. and offer tickets to all the kids to come down to the dealers and drive the go-cart on their lot. Of course, parents had to drive the kids to the dealerships, where conveniently the adults could view the real Corvettes (and other cars) on the lot and take them for a test drive.

These Corvette promo cars came only in one color, Riverside Red. Powered by a 12-volt battery, the motor drives a V-belt pulley via chain to drive the left rear wheel.

The tube chassis included independent suspension of the wheels to travel over bumpy or uneven ground. This system also allowed the seat to lean to the left or right as you turn in those directions. A toggle switch on the dash selects the forward/neutral/reverse modes. Top speed is about 5 mph.

Very few of these promo cars exist today. I was contacted by the curator of the Peterson Automobile Museum in Southern California who was interested in using my Corvette promo car as part of a display of different types of junior cars. Before this could come together, the museum undertook a major renovation which postponed the exhibition. Hopefully, one day soon it will happen.

I think the future "EV Corvette" will be just a wee bit faster than their '63 junior car!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our next car show when I can again exhibit my "Mini Corvette" next to the full sized version!



DAVID COE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2021

Corvettes are polished and prepared!

The Executive will be starting to meet in person (within Covid guidelines) by the end of June.

In the second quarter we had two guest speakers. In the "War Stories" category Vic Nightscales was able to give us an illustrated presentation of his exciting racing career.

Our second presentation was in the Tech Talks" category and Leigh Heppner, the General Manager of our flagship sponsor, Preston's G.M. gave a fascinating talk on the unveiling and engineering of the Corvette C8. This presentation by Leigh, which was also illustrated by photos, had the added advantage of allowing us as members to get to know Leigh better.

Immanuel Kamar will be back with his presentation on paint protection, graphics and car wraps. As we did in June, we will put him on the agenda first and commence our next meeting precisely at 7:00 p.m. on July 7th.

Marc Chenier is definitely the "to go to" person if you have any Corvette trivia questions. He has won all three contests to date. The winners for May were –
1st place - Marc Chenier
2nd place – Gary and Dorothy Clarke
3rd place – Vic Nightscales

For those of you who want to do some soul searching, the correct answers are:

1. Why was the Corvette originally built out of fiberglass? –
Answer: It was cheaper for short production runs, it had a weight advantage and it sounded exotic at the time.
2. Which was the biggest seller in 1955 – the Baby Bird or the Corvette?
Answer: 16,155 "T" Birds sold, 700 Corvettes.

3. Original code name for the Corvette was? Answer: Project Opel.
4. What was DeLorean's proposed name for a proposed Pontiac two seater?
Answer: Pontiac, Banshee, Firebird.
5. The car proposed in question #4 was actually built for four years, what was its' actual name?
Answer: An Opel

Corvette Trivia Questions for June

1. The 1967 Corvette had a feature to indicate that this was a car not just for show and short cruises. What was that feature??
2. The Corvette Mako Shark had a feature that was meant to replicate the shark. What was this feature??
3. The C6 Corvette retained a styling feature found on first generation Corvettes as a nod to legacy. What was this feature??
4. The Corvette LT-5 engine was the result of Chevrolet working with two other companies in its design and production. What were the names of those two companies??
5. What two factors that differentiated the C5 design from the C4, made it easy to design a roadster (convertible) version??

Congratulations to all Members who have anniversaries and birthdays in JUNE.
[Click here to see the full list.](#)

I am looking forward with great anticipation to the opportunities we will have this summer to socialize and get together with our Corvettes.

Thanks again to each person on the Executive, and to all Committee Chairs for making this happen for us all. See you at the next meeting!!

David Coe,
President, BCCC

I feel that I am becoming a part of our club's history by participating in the first reincarnation of our Vette News that hasn't been published for a number of years. This publication is also more tangible evidence of the commitment of your 2021 Executive, to promote unity through communication and having fun.

I am proud to say that even with the rigour of Covid restrictions in place, in the second quarter, we have still managed to have all our meetings (although using Zoom) and have even managed to have two successful rallies, thanks to Vic Nightscales and Rosalie Sinden; and Al and Sally Frost.

Since it is now about halfway through my term as president, I will also comment on the first quarter by saying that although it may not have been evident to everyone, there was a great deal of activity going on within the Executive with respect to organizing and planning, such as job assignments within the Executive (covered by job descriptions), the selection and documentation of committees and committee chairs, plus of course the huge task of event planning in a Covid year.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that we will be approaching normality by the fall, and I feel that we will still be able to have a fairly full summer even with the Covid restrictions which will be in force at various times, so make sure that your



FROST RALLY

BY AL FROST

The Rally started on time at 1:00pm although I was a bit worried about a couple of the entrants who called a bit earlier to tell me they were not able to find us. They were however, not far away and made it in time to have a brief chat with their neighbours. At the time I was thinking, This is not a good start for these guys. This was the first time in over a year that we have been able to talk in person and it felt good. Everybody was Covid compliant, socially distanced and mostly stayed in their cars.

There was a mix of Corvettes and SUVs Maybe 75/25. Vic Nightscapes drove his C8 which looked impressive!

18 members were registered for the Rally. One car couldn't make it on the day, one car left due to illness, and one car overheated and made it's own way home, leaving 15 cars to make it to the finish. Along the way, a few cars got somewhat lost, one car missed page 3 & 4 completely and one couple is possibly talking to a divorce lawyer as we speak. All in all, a typical BCCC Rally from my



point of view.

Here are a few of the comments written on the answer sheets:

Question: "What is "Round the Bend"

Answer: Me, at this point.

Question: "What kind of bars might you see from the road?" (At this point the cars were driving alongside the Fraser River.)

Answer: The answer should have been SAND or something similar. Instead, this quick thinking navigator said "Chocolate

Bars". And it's true, there could have been some discarded candy bars, so the answer wasn't completely wrong. I'll have to watch my wording on the next Rally.

1st place: Nigel & Marie Wheway

2nd place: Vic Nightscapes & Rosalie Sinden

3rd place: John Zarecki and DeeDee Shannon.

Thanks to all of the participants and I hope to see you and more at the next Rally in September.

CANADIAN GRAFFITI BY BRUCE HITCHEN

We are organizing an American Graffiti style event on the evening of July 17th. This rolling car show takes advantage of our warm summer evenings with cars driving the Lougheed/Barnet corridor from Rocky Point in Port Moody to Freemont Village in PoCo. Cruise the strip while making stops along the way at local restaurants.

The route can be driven in either direction with drivers making as many circuits as they wish. This gives participants the opportunity to show off their cars, on and off the road. In addition to BCCC Members, the event is open to all car enthusiasts but we ask that all participants make a donation with proceeds going to SHARE Community and Family Services. With your donation, you will receive a commemorative pin with a graphic of the event.

Some restaurants along the cruise route are offering incentives to those wearing the pin. Coquitlam White Spot is offering 10% off and A&W at Freemont Village in PoCo is offering free Root Beer. Updates to come as more restaurants are expected to offer a promo. We will be collecting donations at the Coquitlam White Spot at 3025 Lougheed Hwy. If you are willing to volunteer to collect donations, please email [Bruce Hitchen](#).

CLICK PHOTO TO SEE THE CRUISE ROUTE 





JUST FOR FUN - MEN VS. WOMEN

SUBMITTED BY HARV SCHMIDKE

Oil Change Instructions for Women :

1. Pull up to Quick Lube when the mileage reaches 5000 km since last oil change.
2. Drink a cup of coffee.
3. 15 minutes later, pay with Visa and leave with a properly maintained vehicle.

Money spent: Oil Change: \$50.00 + Coffee: free Total: \$50.00

Oil Change Instructions for Men :

1. Wait until Saturday, drive to auto parts store and buy oil, filter, kitty litter, hand cleaner and a scented tree, for \$50.00.
2. Stop at liquor store to buy a case of beer.
3. Jack car up. Spend 30 minutes looking for jack stands.
4. In frustration, open another beer and drink it.
5. Find jack stands under kid's bikes.
6. Place drain pan under engine.
7. Look for 13mm box end wrench.
8. Give up and use crescent wrench.

7. Unscrew drain plug.
8. Drop drain plug in pan of hot oil: splash hot oil on you in process. Cuss.
9. Crawl out from under car, wipe hot oil from face and arms. Throw kitty litter on spilled oil.
10. Have another beer while watching oil drain.
11. Spend 30 minutes looking for oil filter wrench.
12. Give up; hammer a screwdriver through oil filter and twist off.
13. Cleverly hide old oil filter among trash in trash can to avoid environmental penalties.
14. Install new oil filter making sure to apply a thin coat of oil to gasket surface.
15. Dump first litre of fresh oil into engine.
16. Remember drain plug from step 9.
17. Hurry to find drain plug in drain pan.
18. Throw kitty litter on first litre of fresh oil that is now on the floor.

15. Wipe eyes with oily rag. Slip with crescent wrench and bang knuckles on frame removing skin from knuckles.
16. Begin cussing. Throw crescent wrench.
17. Clean up hands and bandage as required to stop blood flow.
18. Cuss for 5 more minutes because wrench hit car trophy. Drink Beer
19. Clean up hands and bandage as required to stop blood flow. Drink Beer
20. Dump in 5 fresh litres of oil. Drink Beer
21. Lower car from jack stands.
22. Test drive car.
23. Get pulled over: arrested for driving under the influence.
24. Call loving wife to post bail.
25. 12 hours later, get car from impound.

Money spent: Parts: \$50.00 + DUI fine: \$2500.00 + Impound fee: \$75.00 + Bail: \$1500.00 + Beer: \$20.00

Total: \$4,145.00

But you know the job was done right!

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

Gai Berryl	June 4 th	Jane Gfeller	June 29 th
Glenda Bisig	June 24 th	Walter Gfeller	June 18 th
Gary Clarke	June 27 th	Jim Pearce	June 23 rd
Karen Conibear	June 9 th	John Sulentich	June 20 th
Maggie Cox	June 18 th	Al Thomasson	June 29 th

SUBMISSIONS

This BCCC Newsletter is being published quarterly in digital format and distributed via email to all BCCC Members. We are looking for content so if you have something to add then please send us your story and we will schedule it for publication. The type of stories we are looking for could include an article on: a recent Corvette Club event that you participated in, Corvette News, stories about Corvette Culture, or an article about your personal Corvette story. We will review and evaluate all submissions for inclusion in a future editions. If you have any feedback or ideas for reoccurring topics then we'd love to hear from you. Email

amdownie@shaw.ca