

Come for the cars. Stay for the fun: a historical overview of the British Motoring Festival, and a glimpse at what to expect at this year's event.

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The British Motoring Festival is more than a car show ... especially on Saturday, when it is open to the public. The setting itself is a good reason to visit. The **Kings-Edgehill** campus is the oldest independent school in the Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom, founded by United Empire Loyalists as **King's Collegiate School** in 1788, and granted Royal Charter by King George III in 1802. It boasts 65 acres of lawns, trees, playing fields, gardens, and historic buildings.



The first BMF was held in 2010, and every year since. Each year the opening ceremonies (held around 11 AM on Saturday) feature the Town of Windsor's **Town Crier**, Lloyd Smith - Canada's longest serving appointed Town Crier. He brings lots of color, pomp and ceremony to this event. (adjacent picture taken in 2016, with piper Mark Bond)

He is joined each year by the Mayor of Windsor, and the Headmaster/Principal of Kings-Edgehill School. Singing Britain's national anthem and a toast to the Queen (a wee spot of Guinness) concludes the official observances.

Throughout the afternoon, a live band plays Celtic music, for all to enjoy. **Emerald Tide**, featuring James Devine, the lead singer and guitarist, have been a crowd favourite for the past few years!



Also, available throughout the day, are food vendors, offering lunch, snacks, and drinks. Even if you're not a gearhead (or "petrol head", as they say in the UK), you will enjoy the cars on display in this show. You'll see many classic cars including the MG (A, B, C, TD, & midget), Triumph, Austin-Healey, Jaguar, Mini Cooper, Morris Minor, Sunbeam Tiger, Singer, Jensen & Land Rover, as well as trucks and motorcycles. The owners of these very special vehicles are only too happy to tell you all about them, if you you'd like to learn more. Visitors can get "up close and personal" with most all the vehicles: check under the "bonnet", admire the dash board, take pictures, etc.

2014



2012



2015



Entertainment is everywhere at the BMF (not just with the cars and owners) most years we have been fortunate to have the talented and very funny duo of BATANS members, Mark and Margaret Bond, to amuse us. They have performed **skits** as “Mr. Bean & the Mrs.” and have been joined by other BATANS members in their renditions of: “Creative Uses for Old Car Parts”; Jeopardy, The Dating Game, etc. There is no limit to their imaginations! Laughter just might be the most contagious of all emotional experiences. Laughter boosts the immune system, decreases stress hormones and increases immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, thus improving your resistance to disease (and it’s all free at the BMF!).



2014



2016



2010



Another very popular “sport” at the BMF is the **Valve Cover Car Race**. This very competitive endeavor turns grown men and women into excited adolescents anxious to defeat their opponents. A valve cover is the metal cover that is found on the very top of an engine. They come in all shapes and sizes. Members can paint them and decorate them, but they must comply with certain restrictions such as weight. As the track is only built for 2 cars, there are many qualifying races before a winner is named.



2016

This year, events for registered participants will include a Friday evening **Street Party** in downtown Windsor (open to the Public); an **awards banquet** on Saturday evening at Kings-Edgehill; a British-style **breakfast** on Sunday morning at the Spitfire Arms; and generally a car **tour** to interesting areas, within a 40 km. radius of Windsor, on Sunday.