

ROSALIE'S MGB
Fraser Cox, Pictou NS



When Rosalie and I first met she was driving a Vauxhall Victor and I was driving an Austin Healy. British automobiles have been in our family ever since. Over the years we have owned many different LBC's but our favourite is the MGB.

In 1979 we read that production of the MGB was coming to an end with no replacement in the works. We were living in Belleville Ontario at the time so off to Toronto we went to acquire our first brand new MGB roadster with overdrive. The dealer had one left and the colour was Vermillion. As our intention was to keep this car forever we immediately had it undercoated. This became known as Rosalie's MGB. That fall we went on a little road trip to Myrtle Beach.

In the early 80's our 2 sons came along so we decided to add a seat belt to the back shelf in the "B" and the MG became their summer cruiser. Rosalie would take them to the beach, for groceries, to tennis and to the strawberry fields where one of our ignition keys still resides.

As life progressed the MGB got very little use, some years it never left the garage. In 2005 we had joined BATANS. In 2006 after we had retired, we rented a trailer and moved the "B" and ourselves back to Nova Scotia. That first fall in NS the BATANS fall tour was going through our area so we agreed to lead the group through New Glasgow and onto Antigonish. Here we were in our MGB with a group of people we had just met, leading them in their LBC's through some of the back roads we had driven as kids.

As we started across Big Island, our "B" just up and quit. This was a first for this car. What to do?? Before I could process what had happened, someone said "open the bonnet". Then everyone gathered around and before long the problem was diagnosed and a temporary fix was arranged. Rosalie and I were so impressed with the expertise of the group we decided to continue on, confident that these people could fix anything.

That winter I did some trouble shooting and found that the wiring harness had burnt from the steering column on up under the dash. Having worked in the automotive trade and on numerous other LBC's I was able to repair the harness and all is well.

Over the years we have had many great trips with our MGB and BATANS. Some of the highlights were the back roads of the Maritimes, Isles de la Madeline, Quebec, and Stowe Vermont. The MGB is a great car to tour in and we have always managed to get it home under its own power.

The 1979 roadster is still in like new condition. The paint, interior and many other components are still original. The odometer accurately reads 80,000 km. We drive it mostly on top down days and Rosalie still takes it to the British Motoring Festival in Windsor NS each year.