

A Trip To The British Invasion in Stowe, Vermont and Other Locales

On Wednesday, September 14, three members of the Windsor Detroit MG Club and their wives set out in their British cars on what turned out to be a wonderful two week cruise to the north east of Canada and The United States. Departing at 8 in the morning from Windsor Ontario were Dave and Lynne Hornby in their red 1998 Morgan Plus 8, John and Miriam Woodall in their green 1976 MGB and Dale and Lise Brown in their red 1972 MGB. Both MG's were fitted with overdrive transmissions and the V-8 powered Morgan also had a 5 speed. So highway travel was mostly smooth quiet and quick.

The weather was misty on departure but that would be almost the worst it would be for the whole two weeks. We drove northeast along the 401, bypassed Toronto on the 407 and after rejoining the 401, exited onto Highway 2 at Port Hope. We stopped at a British Pub for lunch and then our car tops came down for the rest of the ride to Kingston. We passed through wonderful scenery through Prince Edward wine country and even had to take a car ferry as the highway continued on the other side of a lake. We had a great night visiting some English style restaurants in downtown Kingston.

Thursday morning saw us boarding a large car ferry over to Wolfe Island. This is where Lake Ontario empties into the St. Lawrence River. We crossed the island, boarded another ferry and landed in upper New York State. We took the back roads and had lunch in a small town called Morristown where Napoleon's brother had settled. After that we took another top down drive and pulled into Lake Placid. Home of the winter Olympics twice, we wandered the streets and had a wonderful dinner overlooking a lake and watched the sunset.



Friday started early. We drove with tops down again through a little fog down windy roads, hills and mountains and came to the ferry on Lake Champlain. We boarded and had an hour and a bit ride and time to look at our maps for our arrival in Stowe for the British Invasion. Great driving again.

We got to Stowe in time to check into our Vermont Inn (reminiscent of the one in the Bob Newhart show) and then head over to registration at the car show field. We headed out for a self guided early afternoon tour of the countryside and made it back a short time after. They had a hospitality tent set up where we enjoyed wine, craft beers, appetizers and a visit by the King and Queen. After that all the cars headed to the downtown main street that was closed off for parking for us. Shops and restaurants were open and they had a live band playing British Music. It was a wonderful time for participants and the local townspeople.



The next day, Saturday included the car show with over 600
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cars overlooking the mountains all around. There were lots of vendors, food and many different kinds of competitions going on such as the best dressed English lady, or best hat etc. The girls took a short walk downtown to do some more shopping while the guys watched the Award Ceremony. We had another fine night and later relaxed at the Inn.



Sunday started with a guided tour of the countryside including Smuggler's Notch and then another car show where all remaining cars lined up by color. So there was voting for the best red car for example. That was fun. There was also a tail gate competition. Sunday was a drive by for all the winners in class from the previous day. They pulled up in front of the stage and were given a microphone to speak a little about their cars. Our Dave Hornby won first in class for one of two Morgan groups. Congratulations! Another nice night at the Inn followed dinner out with fellow club members Jeff and Jan Zorn and others. If you have never been to the Stowe British Invasion, it is well worth the trip.



For the next week, we travelled into the Eastern Townships of Quebec. This is an area directly north of Vermont and on the east side of the St. Lawrence Seaway. We stayed in Magog but took day trips to other towns and cities in the area such as Sherbrooke. We stayed at another fine B&B.



After a few days, we left and drove north east to Quebec City for a few days. If you have never been there, it's like a page out of Europe. Stunningly beautiful and friendly.

But finally it was time to head home. We came back to the Kingston area and did some wineries in Prince Edward County followed by a couple more days in the cottage country of Muskoka Lakes north of Toronto.

Fantastic weather, scenery, roadways and absolutely no trouble with any of the cars. We sure learned to pack for limited space and we got better as the time went on. It also helped that one of the wineries offered free shipping!

We travelled over 3600 km and had a great time with wonderful friends.

