



Through The Windshield

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December
2010

Upcoming Events

December

Please Note: Monthly Board Meeting and General Meeting have been cancelled for the month of December

11th	Members and Volunteers Christmas Party
19th	Breakfast with Santa and Car Raffle Draw, 8am-2pm, Santa arrives at 10 am!



31st

11th

12th

15th

12th

Dec. Continued

New Year's Eve Party

January

Board Meeting, 7pm

General Meeting, 7:30pm

Auction, Salon D

February

Valentine's Day Dinner and dance

Pot Luck

- Sat. Dec. 11th
- Dancing and live entertainment by local singer, Claudette Pinard
- This event is only open to HVSO members, staff, volunteers and steady clientele who may not be members. Not open to the general public.
- Affordable cash bar, silent auction, and lots of fun!
- Bar opens at 5pm
- Dinner at 6:30pm
- Please call Kim Brimmer at 519-776-6909 to let her know what dish you will be bringing.
- Door prizes still needed for this event as well as for our New Year's Eve Party.

Building a Car Collection

One day when I was working up in Hamilton, Ontario for Big V Drug Stores, I was sitting having a coffee break when one of the girls asked if anyone wanted to buy an old car. My (mind) said that I should get a hobby so I said, "What kind of car is it?" She replied it was a 1927 Essex. (My mind asked, "What is an Essex?") So I asked

how much did she want for it. She replied, "\$200.00" So I reach in my pocket and gave her \$200.00, sight unseen. What I got for my money was a 1927 Essex Hot Rod, big hemi motor, firewall gone, chassis gone, wheels not there...what I got was an Essex Body.

(Continued on page 2)

Car Collection



An example of a
1927 Essex

The year was 1972 and we had just bought a new home. The property had no garage, so I had to build a \$2,000 garage for my \$200 car. After it was finished I got a Big V stake truck to go and pick up my Essex and bring it home. My daughter had just earned her driver's license and wanted to drive the Essex to school, but after seeing the car, changed her mind.

My first job was to find out who made this car and where I might get more information. I was told that there was a car club in Windsor who might help me in my new project. It was called the HVSO and held meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. The meetings were held in an old barn behind the unemployment building. The president at the time was Harry Bergman. The car club members assured me that my Essex was built by the Hudson Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan.

After more inquiries, I spoke to Douglas Markham, president of the HET home chapter, and I was invited to a meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. Nancy and I went and found some interesting Hudson people. We joined the club and enjoyed everyone we met. One especially helpful person was Hans Jacobsson, who knew Essex cars inside and out. He came over to our home whenever I called, I was president of the club one year and had meetings in Windsor every year for some time, which led to the Fun on Wheels Freedom Festival.

After a few years of traveling and building drug stores, I eventually found all the parts for my Essex in a barn at Atwood,

Ontario. Working in my free time (which was very little) in the basement and the garage, things started to go together. I had the motor rebuilt, and every part sand blasted. Car parts were lying all over the place!

When I was building a store in Kingsville I saw an old car sitting in a gas station that turned out to be a 1927 Essex, the same car I was putting together at home. I had to have this car to help me get mine together and to tell everyone that I had two identical cars. After driving the '27 Essex and digging around for prices, I bought my second old car.

Through my HET club meetings I met Hoe and Elsie Szezengeto, who had a '35 Terraplane 4-door sedan (which the club now owns). He talked me into joining the HVSO. We became very good friends, traveling all over Michigan and Ontario. I also found a '51 Hudson Wasp owned by Doug Pajot. When he no longer wanted it I bought it, bringing my collection of vintage cars to a total of 3.

In 1979, the HET club held the National Meet in Dearborn, Michigan. I was at the banquet door when a member from Hamilton, Ohio asked me if he could get an announcement made at supper time. I asked him what it was and he said that an older member at home had a 1919 Essex Touring for sale. After my research on Essex cars I knew that this was the first Essex built. I said, "Can I buy you a drink?" and the rest is history.

I now have four old cars sitting at home.

Bob Patterson

?

*In what year was a
radio first offered
as an accessory in
automobiles?*

Answer below

The Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who, in this place did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see: no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree. No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand. On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary. I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one-bedroom home.

His face was so gentle, the room in such disorder; not how I pictured a Canadian soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read, curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world the children would play, and grown-ups would celebrate, a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder, how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye. I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice, 'Santa, don't cry. This is my choice.

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps.'

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep. I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

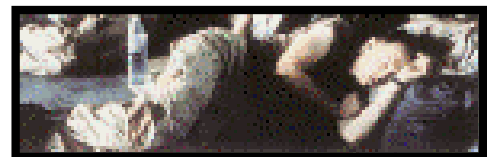
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave, on that cold dark night, this guardian of honour, so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over and with a voice soft and pure, whispered 'Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure.'

One look at my watch and I knew he was right. 'Merry Christmas, my friend, and to all a good night.'

This poem was written by a peace-keeping soldier stationed overseas.



Up to 86% of soldiers returning from deployment suffer from sleep disturbances, even after 45 days at home where they are "safe."

**Strange
Tradition:**

What started off as an act of vandalism has become one of the most interesting traditions in Sweden. For over 40 years, the town of Gavle has erected a giant goat made of straw to mark the beginning of the holiday season, but every year vandals do everything they can to burn down the goat before Christmas Day. Since 1966 the straw goat has survived until Dec. 25th only 10 times. People disguise themselves as Santa or elves to get past the guardians and ignite the straw monument. (And I thought my turkey was all that went up in smoke on Christmas...)

Summing it Up

The following is a story written for the Essex Voice, appearing on Nov. 4, 2010

Under the stars on Devil's Night, the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village was transformed into a small, quaint village circa 1812. Over 300 participants grabbed a magnifying glass, a pen, and their thinking caps in an attempt to solve the suspicious and possible supernatural homicide in the murder mystery, "Point of Death."

To help the participants get into the Halloween spirit and murder mystery mode, chilling Halloween music played over the PA system throughout the village. The weather was crisp, yet calm...perfect for an after dark suspenseful event.

Katherine Clark was recruited to write the storyline for this year's event, to create the crime that the sleuths would enjoy cracking. She is known as A.V- K.C. in the writing world. Clark currently lives in Windsor and is a teacher at Mt. Carmel-Blytheswood Public School. She wrote the published children's book, "Odd Maud and Even Ivan".

For years, Clark has participated in the murder mystery and last year she approached CTMHV manager Kim Brimner about writing one of the storylines.

When writing "Point of Death" Clark said she wanted to make a connection between each generation, so families could enjoy the mystery together. She also wanted to link the murder mystery and the popularity of the latest vampire craze.

Walking up and down the trails at Heri-

tage Village and listening in on some conclusions the sleuths had come up with was a delight, Clark said, adding that watching the characters she created for the murder mystery come alive through the CTMHV volunteer actors was also an amazing experience. "I wanted people to totally enjoy it and have fun with it," she said.

Brimner was thrilled with the turnout. She noted that the fall murder mystery, which CTMHV has hosted for over 15 years, usually attracts a great crowd because it is held so close to Halloween. She plans to hold another murder mystery at the museum in May and hopes to draw out a large crowd then also.

Clark said that the CTMHV is the perfect location to host a murder mystery event. The sleuths move from building to building on the heritage site, interacting with the 15 townspeople, played by CTMHV volunteers, in an attempt to try and solve the mystery.

The gossip girls were onsite giving some of the sleuths some insight on the incident, or in some cases, spreading rumors to make solving the crime a little more challenging.

Top sleuths were awarded door prizes for their inquiry efforts at the end of the evening. Clark said that the story line is set during the War of 1812, shortly after Major-General Sir Isaac Brock had died. Clark noted that the famous historical figure died in mid-October of 1812 at the Battle of Queenston Heights. She tied him into the story by adding his brother (continued on page 5)

Murder Mystery Drama a Hit

(continued from page 4) into the play as the shopkeeper in the village. She added Brock into the story to make a local historical connection.

Clark added that the whole murder mystery experience, from writing to seeing her characters come alive throughout the village was a lot of fun.

Can You Name the Top 10?

It happens to all of us, especially at this time of year, when everywhere you go, there is usually Christmas music playing in the background, and *wham* one is stuck in your head for the rest of the day. Chances are, it's one of the all time top 10: **Here Comes Santa Claus**, by Gene Autry, **The Christmas Song**, by Nat King Cole, **Rudolph the Red Nosed**

Reindeer, by Gene Autry, **Peace on Earth** by Bing Crosby and David Bowie, **White Christmas**, by Bing Crosby, **Holly Jolly Christmas**, by Burl Ives, **All I Want for Christmas is You**, by Mariah Carey, **Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire**, by Nat King Cole, **Santa Claus is Coming to Town**, by Bruce Springsteen, and **Last Christmas**, by Wham.



Sam the Snowman from Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, was designed to look like Burl Ives.

Motivational words from the Past

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.

You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.

You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot establish security on borrowed money.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they will not do for themselves.

The above passage was originally written by William J.H. Boetcker, Presbyterian minister, (1873-1962). He was a notable motivational speaker, and is credited with being the forefather of today's "success coaches."

One very rare Matchbox car is the 1966 Opal Diplomat, which is valued at \$9,000. If only you had bought one for the original price of \$.48



The wise William J.H. Boetcker, born in Hamburg, Germany, was an outspoken political conservative.



We'll take any yarn you may have, but of course, earthy, neutral colours are best for that true pioneer look.

"...all have the question in their eyes, 'What is that smell?'"



Our wooden frame can make 10 tapers at a time.

From the Education Desk

A Call for Donations

The education program has a request for all you "Santas" out there. The children have taken very well to quilting in the Holden Cabin, and I would like to add knitting to our list of activities. We have the cutest little spool knitters that go unused because I don't have enough yarn on hand. Once we get enough knitted roping from the spool knitters, I intend to have the children wind and stitch the ropes into placemats, floor mats, and table runners.

Now, if any of you ladies are like me, you begin a knitting project with the best of intentions and it goes forgotten once frustration sets in. Are you willing to donate that yarn to the education program? Any yarn weight is fine; in fact, varied weights and colours make the finished products look more authentic.

Candle Making with Kids

The above words may be enough to strike fear in the hearts of many, but this has always been and remains one of the most highly anticipated activities in our village program.

Upon entering the jailhouse (this is currently the appointed area for candle-making), the children are surrounded by the sweet and heavy odour of melted beeswax. Some hold their noses, and all have the question in their eyes or on their lips, "What is that *smell*?" I explain that it is the beeswax that we will be using to make hand-dipped candles, and I immediately have their undivided attention.

After hearing the hard and fast rules of

candle-making safety, one by one, or in small groups, they approach the cast iron pot with intense concentration, determined to go home with the best candle ever.

After several rounds of dip-in-wax and dunk-in-water, the candles take on the shape of warped yellow beans on a string and the kids are absolutely delighted. Meanwhile, the chaperones and I keep order and hold back long hair, as each child hovers cautiously over the hot pot. Suddenly, no one minds the smell anymore, and our happy little pioneers return home with a smile and a candle and a story to tell.

MaryAnn

Dodging Bullets

It had to happen sooner or later; and I really set myself up for this one: Last week, while conducting a presentation in the Clark Cabin to a group of third grade children, I mentioned that all members of a pioneer family had many chores to do, the father being the one who did the heaviest physical tasks. "Of course, Mom worked hard too," I explained, "Unless she was at the end of a pregnancy." (*Why, oh why did I say that?*) Immediately a little girl's hand shot up and she asked, "But how does the mother **GET** the baby?"

Amid a few chaperone snickers and a bit of stifled laughter, I managed a short answer; something about first you get married and then you decide to have a baby. "Next question?" I announced, and thankfully, the kids' minds had moved on. Lesson learned.

What Does Octane Mean?

Most cars use four-stroke gasoline engines. One of the strokes is the compression stroke where the engine compresses a cylinder-full of air and gas into a much smaller volume before igniting it with a spark plug. The amount of compression is called the compression ratio of the engine. A typical engine might have a compression ratio of 8:1.

The octane rating of gasoline tells you how much fuel can be compressed before it spontaneously ignites. When gas ignites by compression rather than because of the spark from the spark plug, it causes knocking in the engine. Knocking can damage an engine, so it is not something you want to have happening. Lower-octane gas like regular 87 octane, can handle the least amount of compression before igniting.

The compression ratio of your engine determines the octane rating of the gas you must use in the car. One way to increase the horsepower of an engine of a given displacement is to increase its compression ratio. Therefore a high performance engine has a higher compression ratio and requires higher-octane fuel. The advantage of a high compression engine is that it gives the engine a higher horsepower rating for a given engine weight—that is what makes the engine “high performance.” The disadvantage is that the gasoline for this engine costs more.

Octane History

The name “octane” comes from the following fact: When you take crude oil and “crack” it in a refinery, you end up getting hydrocarbon chains of different lengths.

These different chain lengths can then be separated from each other and blended to form different fuels. For example, you may have heard of methane, propane and butane. All three of them are hydrocarbons. Methane has just a single carbon atom. Propane has three carbon atoms chained together. Butane has four carbon atoms chained together. Pentane has five, hexane has six, heptane has seven together.

It turns out that heptane handles compression very poorly. Compress it just a little and it ignites spontaneously but octane handles compression very well. You can compress it a lot and nothing happens. Eighty-seven-octane gasoline is gasoline that contains 87% octane and 13% heptane (or some combination of fuels that has the same performance of the 87:13 combination of octane/heptane. It spontaneously ignites at a given compression level and can be used in engines that do not exceed that compression ratio.

During WWI, it was discovered that a chemical called tetraethyl lead (TEL), if added to gasoline, would significantly improve its octane rating above the octane/heptane combination. Cheaper grades of gasoline could be made usable by adding TEL. This led to the widespread use of “Ethyl” or “leaded” gasoline. Unfortunately, the side effects of adding lead to gasoline are:

- Lead clogs a catalytic converter and renders it inoperable within minutes

(continued on page 8)



“A high performance engine has a higher compression ratio and requires higher-octane fuel.”

Octane

- The Earth became covered in a thin layer of lead, and lead is toxic to many living things (including humans).

When lead was banned, gasoline became more expensive because refineries could not boost the octane ratings of cheaper grades any more. Airplanes, however, are allowed to use leaded gasoline, known as AvGas. This gasoline's performance rating



is 100, which is not the percentage of actual octane in the gas. The addition of TEL boosts the compression level of the gasoline—it does not add more octane.

Currently, engineers are trying to develop airplane engines that can use unleaded gasoline. Jet engines, by the way, burn kerosene. So I hope this little write-up sheds some light on gasoline and what the term higher octane really means.

Mickey Moulder

Clark Cabin Needs a Fireplace Fix

Based on epidemiological studies in children, wood smoke has been implicated in increasing respiratory illnesses.

Picture if you will, a group of seven year old children, sitting together on a lovely braided rug, cozied close to a crackling fire. They are being read a traditional story from the days of early settlement while sipping warm sweet tea. Each child clutches a freshly baked sugar cookie. Sounds so nice...the problem is, there is no crackling fire and the kids are cold and cranky.

Since taking over the education program, I have been hoping that sooner or later, someone would be able to fix the Clark Cabin fireplace for us. When there is a fire going, the smoke from the chimney fills the cabin to the point where breathing is dangerous. It's so bad that the smoke billows out the front door when

you open it. There's no way I would let my child in there, and I won't make someone else's sit there either. So, I opt for no fire at all, and we cut our visit very short.

Is there a kind soul out there among our readers who can either fix our fireplace or knows someone who can? Many people have looked at the problem, but none had the time or skills to fix it.

The kids and I would be forever grateful, and they will surely enjoy their visit to Heritage Village so much more.

God bless you and call me at the museum.

MaryAnn 519-776-6909



We want to keep our young visitors safe. Please help!

Just for Fun

A senior citizen in Florida bought a brand-new Mercedes convertible. He took off down the road, flooring it to 80 mph and enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left on his head. "This is great," he thought, as he roared down I-75.

He pushed the pedal to the metal even more. Then he looked in his rear-view mirror and saw a highway patrol trooper behind him, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. "I can get away from him with no problem," thought the man, and he tromped it some more and flew down the road at more than 100mph, then 110, and 120 mph! Then he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing."

He pulled over to the side of the road and waited for the trooper to catch up with him. The trooper pulled in behind the Mercedes and walked up to the man. "Sir," he said, looking at his watch. "my shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked at the trooper and said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper, and I thought you were bringing her back."

The trooper replied, "Sir, have a nice day."



There are more of these sold at Christmas than at any other time of the year...what are they?

Answer below.

Christmas in our Village

Although Heritage Village is officially closed for the winter months, several car-ing volunteers have responded to Claude and Nicole's call for help to come out anyway and decorate the buildings for the holidays.

As of this writing, the train station, Boudreau Cabin, Clark Cabin, Holden

Cabin, Waggott House and Barber Shop have been decorated with evergreens, ribbon, pine cones and other Christmas sparkle. Bring your family out to see the village and don't forget your camera. If you haven't selected a family photo for your Christmas cards, a village building could be the perfect setting for this year.

The museum building looks great too, thanks to the efforts of many people: Kim Brimner, Dave and Barb Tanner, Bill and Lynda Thoman, Jack and Sue Irving, Mia Bergman, Mary Catherine Langlois and her friend Larry, Ed and Phyllis Jeffries, and Don Appleyard. They filled the place with Christmas cheer everywhere you look.. Thank you!



Diamonds

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“Through the Windshield” is published in Essex County by and for the members of the Historic Vehicle Society of Ontario and the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village. Its purposes are to present business topics and varied items of interest, and to promote a spirit of cooperation amongst our members and families, as we strive to preserve our past in the present for the future. Any mistakes or errors in this newsletter are not necessarily the fault of the editor.

Our sincere and deepest sympathy goes to the family and friends of **Don and Eileen Beneteau**, on the passing of their grandson, **Kevin Beneteau**. May you be comforted by the support and prayers of all who love you.

2010/11 HVSO Board of Directors

Chairman:	Harry Bergman
Vice-Chairman:	Mickey Moulder
Secretary:	Mickey Moulder
Board:	Ted Brown
	Jack Irving
	Rick Laplante
	Karl Melinz
	Jim Moir
	Dave Tanner
	Sean White

Did You Know?

In Greek, the word Christ is represented by the letter “X” That’s why we see X-mas.

Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.

“Jingle Bells” was first written for Thanksgiving and was later adopted for the Christmas season.

Traditionally, Christmas trees are taken down after the feast of the Epiphany.

Electric lights were first used on trees in 1895.

The Nutcracker is the most famous Christmas Ballet.

Holly berries are poisonous.