

# Spring Fling 2012

BY DAVID FIDLER

**H**aving missed the last two Spring Flings, I was eager not to miss this year's event, staged by our friends at the MG Car Club of Toronto and held at the Fern Resort, Orillia. I must say, I was totally impressed with the Resort's location, on the east side of Lake Couchiching outside of Orillia, an area I was hitherto unfamiliar with, because I usually flash right by on Highway 11, on my way to Algonquin and The Muskokas. I won't make that mistake again!

My wife Gloria and I left Mississauga after lunch on Friday, May 25th and picked up a caravan along the way, consisting of Scott & Dawn Douglas, John Morton & Nancy and Dave Tushingham. We took

Highway 48 through Beaverton and then 12 up to Orillia and the resort. It was a very pleasant drive, with sunshine and warm temperatures, although there was a noticeable cross wind most of the way, which meant having Rosie's side windows up.

We arrived late afternoon and, after check-in and a quick freshen up, took a look around the resort and said our hellos to some earlier arrivals, mostly from the MG Club, and watched as the rest of the TTC contingent arrived. I think I counted 22 cars from our club and perhaps a couple less from the MGCCT. A very respectable turn out, which made for a fun week-end.

After cocktails, we decided to eat at the resort and found the menu to be good



around we stopped for coffee in Bala Falls and then continued on through Port Carling to Rousseau and lunch.

At the Crossroads restaurant we displayed our cars in a field adjacent for the annual Spring Fling Participant's Choice Car Show. The tradition was continued to have MG owners judge the Triumphs and vice versa, always a lot of fun and an opportunity to learn a bit more about the "other" marque. There were some very fine MGs there, as to whether or not any were "factory stock", I hadn't a clue, so I relied on



Who said that Triumphs and MGs don't mix? (and throw in a Bug Eyed Sprite for good measure)

value, but also very interesting in terms of selection and concept. Basically, you could choose anything (or everything!) on the menu for a fixed price of \$30... however the choices were very "70s", such as prawn cocktail etc., which was in keeping with the general decor of the resort, but not to everyone's taste. We ate heartily and had a great time. The MGCCT provided an excellent hospitality/registration suite, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated, and after a nightcap at "Chez Morton", we retired reasonably early, in anticipation of an early start and a great drive the following morning.

Breakfast was served using a similar concept to dinner, and it was fantastic. Everything from a full English and pancakes, to fruit, yoghurt and muesli for the more

health conscious... or all of it if you so desired. Reminiscent of an "all you can eat" buffet, but served to your table. Needless to say, we all left the table quite full and so, it was off to wash the cars for the guys, while our ladies enjoyed the sights and amenities of the resort.

For the drive around Lake Muskoka and Rousseau, cars were arranged in five groups of eight cars and each group had their photo taken in front of the Fern Resort, before heading off behind an assigned MGCCT "Leader". This was an ingenious system, which kept the groups manageable and (mostly) together for the whole drive... which totaled around 200km by day's end... it was also the only way to ensure that an MG was always in front of a Triumph, very cunning indeed! On the way



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Right: Paul and Tish Boyd strike a pose before leaving on Saturday's driving tour. Inset, later the same day Paul picks up an award (he seems to share the same taste in sartorial colour combination with Tish)



the "bling factor" and general presentation to sway my votes.

After a very tasty fish & chip lunch, washed down with a full bodied, but unpretentious pint of Chateau Guinness 1759 (just the one officer, I was driving), we gassed up and got ready for the return trip to Fern Resort. This was essentially a "go your own way, in your own time" part of the tour, so our original caravan from the drive up to Fern formed, along with Clive Huizinga and a couple of others and I led the group down through

Bracebridge and onto RR 17, which is Muskoka Beach Rd. past Taboo Golf Resort... a great driving road if you're ever in the area... lots of tree covered lanes and twisties, ending up in Gravenhurst for ice cream at Scoops, beside the steam boats. A pretty spot to take a breather and a pit stop. We lost John Morton along the way, so he decided to head straight back to the resort. After our ice cream, we headed back too and arrived in time to change for cocktails and the Awards Dinner. The rest of the evening was spent socializing and having more fun, plus another visit to the hospitality suite.

Sunday threatened rain for the journey

home, but even after a leisurely breakfast (there were some things on the menu I hadn't tried yet) and a saunter around the property, the sun still shone and our caravan didn't find rain until we stopped in Orangeville for coffee and to go our separate ways. Gloria looked concerned as I drove off with the top still down, while large drops of rain fell on Rosie and ominous black clouds lined our route home. She was very surprised that you can drive a TR6 in heavy rain, with the top down, and not get wet... and frankly, so was I! **RAGTOP**